



TO BE READ TWICE IN OPEN LODGE



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OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION NUMBER 11 November 15, 2016

TO: Grand Lodge Officers, Grand Trustees, Worshipful Masters, Past Masters, Wardens, and Brothers of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons, Jurisdiction of Alabama

GREETINGS:

“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.”

Isiah 9:6

On November 4, 2008, the United States of America made history by electing the Honorable Barack Obama as its 44th President. Now, eight years later, President Obama is fast approaching the close of his second term. Over the past eight years, President Obama has accomplished many great things that have helped to make this country a better place to live. In the midst of his many accomplishments he has endured some of the utmost disrespect ever rendered a President of this great country. Through it all he has prevailed and his great legacy will speak for itself. I applaud our great Commander in Chief for all that he has done. He has served this country with honor and dignity and has been a source of inspiration for us all.

Not many days ago, the citizens of this great country went to the polls and participated in the democratic process of voting. In what has been labeled a “stunning upset”, Donald Trump, the Republican nominee, was elected as the 45th President of the United States of America. His election has been met with much uncertainty and many protests throughout the country and abroad. Nevertheless, God is in control. He sits on a throne much higher than any world leader. His word says, “...the government shall be upon his shoulder”.

Our 146th Annual Communication of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons of Alabama was very extraordinary and very well attended. Our attendance at our Annual Communications continues to increase each year. I salute R.W. A. Derek Bowman and all the dedicated Brothers of District Fourteen for all their hard work, dedication and hospitality rendered during our 146th Annual Communication. I want to thank all the Grand Lodge Officers, Worshipful Masters, Past Masters, Wardens and Brethren for your outstanding participation and decorum exemplified during our Annual Communication. Your conduct at the session is appreciated and is to be commended.

Our 146th Annual Communication was filled with many highlights; some of which were our Hall of Fame Induction, as well as, our statewide raising. This year we added five inductees to the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alabama Hall of Fame and raised twenty-two good men to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason. The class was named in honor of the late Benjamin E. Beasley, Jr.

Our Third Annual Prince Hall Americanism Weekend was another great success. Brothers and Sisters attended in impressive numbers and supported the Grand Lodge. The Grand Lodge Officers and Grand Chapter Officers were proud to make a \$3,000.00 scholarship donation to Alabama State University on the football field prior to the game. Thanks to all who supported our Prince Hall Americanism Weekend.

GRAND LODGE OFFICERS

“Great team can accomplish great works.”

Lailah Gifty Akita

The following is a list of the Grand Lodge Officers for Masonic year 2016-2017, both elected and appointed:

Corey D. Hawkins, Sr., Esq. (33), Grand Master
Robert W. Glenn (89), Deputy Grand Master
Woodie Pugh, Jr. (139), Grand Senior Warden
Matthew Hardy, Jr. (406), Grand Junior Warden
Dr. James Gray, II (490), Grand Treasurer
George D. Echols (408), Grand Secretary/CCFC
Morris E. Tooles, II (408), Grand Trustee 3 years
Victor B. Pettus (32), Grand Trustee (Chairman) 2 years
Andrew J. Fuller (6), Grand Trustee 1 year
Tyrone C. Means, Esq. (345), Grand Attorney
James L. Ford (345), Grand Senior Deacon
William Dean Anderson (67), Grand Junior Deacon
Acie Hale (14), Grand Senior Steward
Walter Greene (431), Grand Junior Steward
Rev. E. Baxter Morris (7), Grand Chaplain
Charles L. Motley, Jr. (624), Grand Standard Bearer
Robert L. Goodloe (46), Grand Sword Bearer
Freddie L. Armstead, Jr. (26), Grand Marshal
George Wilson (199), Grand Pursuivant
Godfrey Johnson (75), Grand Tyler/Assistant Convention Coordinator
Dr. Belfondia Pou (772), Grand Medical Registrar
Charlie Axle (82), Grand Orator
Dr. L. Ken Collins, II (319), Grand Historian/Corporate Liaison
Dr. Marxlyn David (71), Grand Musician
Kevin Howard (216), Grand Recording Secretary
Johnny Isaac (398), Chief of Security/Special Deputy
Gregory L. Clark (218), Convention Coordinator/Corporate Liaison
Quinton Burrow (59), Aide to the Grand Master
Armar J. Wagner, Sr. (33), Assistant Grand Recording Secretary
James Littleton (67), Class Organizer

GRAND DISTRICT DEPUTIES

The following are the Grand District Deputies for Masonic year 2016-2017:

District Number 1 Maurice Edwards (3)
District Number 2 John Mayfield (772)
District Number 3 George Gibbs (243)
District Number 4 Billy Joe Stallworth (196)
District Number 5 Jimmy L. Farmer (218)

District Number 6 Billy Morris (444)
District Number 7 Erwin Chambliss (408)
District Number 8 Donald R. Parks (345)
District Number 10 Dexter Madden (876)
District Number 12 Rev. Richard Wilson, Jr. (642)
District Number 13 Alvin Crawford (213)
District Number 14 A. Derek Bowman (112)
District Number 15 Kenneth Hardy (178)
District Number 17 Anthony J. Johnson (50)

Our Grand District Deputies are the lifeline between the Grand Lodge and the Subordinate Lodges. They are the vocal pieces and the representatives of the Grand Master in their particular districts. **All Worshipful Masters, Wardens, and Brothers are expected to cooperate fully with their Grand District Deputies. All Grand District Deputies are expected to attend to their respective duties diligently.**

TRAVELING AGAIN RECLAMATION PROGRAM (TARP)

Our Traveling Again Reclamation Program (TARP) has been an asset to this great organization. “Out of Bounds” Brothers are continuing to come back home to Prince Hall Freemasonry. Let us continue to welcome those Brothers back and encourage more to come.

Members suspended **before** June, 2002, can reinstate by paying the following:

\$20.00 reinstatement fee
\$10.00 taxes
\$25.00 registration
\$50.00 assessment—**Have two years to pay the remaining \$150.00**
\$105.00 TOTAL

Members suspended **after** June, 2002, can reinstate by paying the following:

\$20.00 reinstatement fee
\$10.00 taxes
\$25.00 registration
\$50.00 assessment—**Have two years to pay the remaining \$200.00**
\$105.00 TOTAL

The two years to pay the assessment will be closely monitored by me. Those who do not pay the assessment will be suspended again for non-payment. If a Brother had already made payments on his assessment to the Grand Lodge he will be credited for his payment(s). Reinstatement does not include endowment and burial. A Brother can only rejoin endowment and burial by restoring. If a Brother's lodge no longer exists he is to be referred to his Grand District Deputy to help in completing the paperwork to get him on another lodge's roll.

Brothers continue to go out and reclaim our lost membership. This is an excellent way to rebuild our lodges. **I have extended TARP through July 31, 2017.**

SELMA MARCH

For the fourth consecutive year and in an effort to be more involved in our communities, to remember our past, and to look to our future, I am calling on the entire jurisdiction to converge on Selma, Alabama, on Sunday, March 5, 2017, to participate in the 52nd anniversary of the historical walk across the Edmund Pettus Bridge. I am asking all brothers and sisters to meet at 119 Washington Street, Selma, Alabama 36701, diagonally across from Washington Street Marketplace, at 11:00 a.m. The bridge crossing re-enactment will begin at 2:30 p.m. A large crowd is expected; therefore I am asking all brothers and sisters to arrive at the designated time. Please bring plenty of water, snacks and lounging chairs as they will be needed, particularly by our elderly brothers and sisters. All brothers are to participate in the March dressed in proper masonic regalia to include a black suit (including the jacket), white shirt and solid black tie. It is very important that we assemble in Selma, Alabama in mass numbers. Last year we had over 1,100 brothers and sisters to attend. Let us do our best to continue to increase our numbers this year. Consider this March as a time to remember for the seasoned brother and a history lesson for the younger brother. I am counting on you to help make this another great success.

GRAND LODGE TAXES

PLEASE BE REMINDED THAT IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT EACH LODGE SEND ITS GRAND LODGE TAXES TO THE GRAND SECRETARY BY DECEMBER 1ST AND BY MAY 30TH. All Worshipful Masters of all lodges are requested to send all Grand Lodge taxes to R. W. George D. Echols, Grand Secretary, Post Office Box 3967, Auburn, Alabama 36831-3967, as soon as possible. **A \$25.00 late fee will be assessed to each lodge if the Grand Lodge taxes are received more than 30 days past the due dates.**

SOUVENIR JOURNAL

Our souvenir journal efforts for 2016 were a great success. I congratulate and thank all who participated. The souvenir journal information for 2017 is enclosed with this Communication and will be available on the website. Please pay strict attention to the new deadline date of **June 1, 2017**. **All subordinate lodges are REQUIRED to purchase or to sell a full page ad or two half page ads.**

2016 HALL OF FAME INDUCTIONS

Posthumous Inductions

Bro. Ralph David Abernathy (Civil Rights Activist), Pride of Linden No. 520

Bro. William C. Handy (Composer & Blues Musician), Centennial No. 19

Bro. William H. Mack (Outstanding Service to Masonry), Imperial No. 619

Other Inductions

Bro. Dennis Via (Outstanding Service to U.S. Armed Forces), Holding No. 459

Bro. James I. Sneed (Outstanding Service to Masonry) Pride of Shiloh No. 53

2016 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEES

Applicant Name	College/University	Amount Given
Alexandria Harper	Auburn University	\$1,400.00
Steven Gutzmore	Troy University	\$1,400.00
Ericka McClendon	Troy University	\$1,400.00
Savion R. Hill	University of North Alabama	\$1,400.00
Orielle A. Caudle	University of Alabama Birmingham	\$1,400.00
Jordan Finklea	Alabama Southern Community College	\$1,400.00
Endowed Scholarship	Alabama State University	\$3,000.00

Applicant Name	College/University	Amount Given
Scholarships	Alabama A.&M. University	\$5,000.00

WINNING LODGES of the YEAR
RURAL LODGE of the YEAR

1st Place– Goshen Lodge No. 132
Brother Cad Ford, Worshipful Master

2nd Place- Liberty Star Lodge No. 333
Brother Andra Hayes, Worshipful Master

3rd Place- Keystone Lodge No. 40
Brother Guy King, Worshipful Master

CITY LODGE of the YEAR

1st Place– Pride of North Birmingham Lodge No. 319
Brother Timothy Sanford, Worshipful Master

2nd Place- Phoenix Lodge No. 428
Brother Carlton Jones, Worshipful Master

3rd Place- Morning Star Lodge No. 50
Brother Jimmy Benson, Worshipful Master

WINNING DISTRICT DEPUTIES of the YEAR

1st Place Winner
R. W. Morris E. Toolles, II, Grand District Deputy of District No. 7

2nd Place Winner
R. W. Anthony J. Johnson, Grand District Deputy of District No. 17

3rd Place Winner
R. W. Kenneth Hardy, Grand District Deputy of District No. 15

SOUVENIR JOURNAL FUNDRAISING PROJECT
External and Internal Fundraiser for Temple Renovation

Awards for Making the Largest Monetary Contributions

WINNING DISTRICTS FOR SOUVENIR JOURNAL AD SALES

1st Place – District No. 7
R. W. Morris E. Tooles, II, Grand District Deputy

2nd Place - District No. 14
R. W. A. Derek Bowman, Grand District Deputy

3rd Place – District No. 5
R. W. Jimmy Farmer, Grand District Deputy

WINNING LODGES FOR SOUVENIR JOURNAL AD SALES

1st Place – Milton W. Howze Lodge No. 408
Brother Erwin Chambliss, Worshipful Master

2nd Place – York Lodge No. 642
Brother Charlie J. Square, Worshipful Master

3rd Place – Magnolia Lodge No. 218
Brother Jimmy L. Farmer, Worshipful Master

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

1.) Every Lodge is required to display its current roll on the Secretary's desk at every meeting. Every Brother has the right to look at the roll to make sure his money is being sent to the Grand Lodge. Grand District Deputies, make

certain that when you visit a lodge that you check to make sure that a current lodge roll is displayed on the Secretary's desk.

2.) The healing of a clandestine or irregular made Mason must be approved by the Grand Master and requires a dispensation. You may send a Request for Dispensation form to me at the Grand Lodge Office. Please check the "other" box and type or print: to heal and then list the individual(s).

3.) Every lodge should have a copy of the Jurisdictional Regalia Guide. It is also available on the website. This guide is to be strictly adhered to by all members without any exceptions.

4.) Every lodge should have a copy of our Anti-Hazing Policy. This policy is also available on our website. Every lodge is to be in full compliance with the Anti-Hazing Policy. No ceremonies or initiation procedures should be used other than what is in our official ritual, *Lester's Look to the East*. Non-compliance will result in suspensions and/or expulsions. Please familiarize yourselves with this policy thoroughly.

5.) When you renew your license plates please remember to purchase a Prince Hall Grand Lodge license plate. A donation of \$41.25 of the \$50.00 fee will go to the Prince Hall Legacy Foundation for scholarship purposes. We should be proud to show the world that we are Prince Hall Masons.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

During this holiday season, and always, let us be thankful for the many blessings the Grand Architect of the Universe has bestowed upon us, and let us remember the less fortunate. Let us pray for peace and prosperity for our families and for our beloved Grand Lodge during the holidays and for the upcoming new year. Also, please pray for Prince Hall Masonry worldwide and the United States of America. This great organization, as well as this country, stands in the need of constant prayer. Last, but certainly not least, please remember the true reason for the Christmas season, the celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior. I wish each of you a Happy Thanksgiving, a very Merry Christmas and a Blessed and Prosperous New Year!

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the Grand Lodge to be affixed and the same to be attested by the Grand Secretary on this 15th day of November 2016, A. L. 6016.

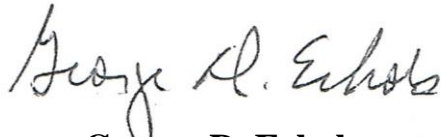


Corey D. Hawkins, Sr., Esq.
Most Worshipful Grand Master
of the

Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge
Free and Accepted Masons of Alabama



Attested:



George D. Echols
Right Worshipful Grand Secretary
of the

Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge
Free and Accepted Masons of Alabama