



TO BE READ TWICE IN OPEN LODGE



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OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION NUMBER 12 January 24, 2017

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:

“We must never forget that Black History is American History. The achievements of African Americans have contributed to our nation’s greatness.”

Yvette Clarke

The Honorable Barack Hussein Obama, the 44th President of the United States of America, has successfully and eloquently completed his second term in office. Although he was faced with many obstacles and forms of disrespect, he always took the high road. President Obama has been a shining example as to how we should conduct ourselves when faced with adversity and hate. He seemed to always remain calm when disrespected and when treated as less than a human being, let alone, as Commander-in-Chief of this country. We should all commend and applaud President Obama for his successful tenure as President. His legacy will last until the end of time. We are blessed to be citizens of this great country,

even more to have been citizens under the leadership of the first Black President of the United States of America. This is just the close of a chapter and not the end of the book. May God continue to bless the 44th President of the United States, the first lady Michelle, as well as, Sasha and Malia.

We have approached another Black History Month. It is my sincere hope and prayer that we, as a people, do not limit or reduce ourselves to studying and teaching our history only one month out of the year. We are far too important and accomplished than to belittle ourselves. We are makers of American, as well as, World History. We are an integral part of the makeup of America and should be regarded as such. Let us not depend on others to tell our story, let us tell our story.

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.

STATEWIDE RAISING

Our first two statewide raisings at our annual Grand Lodge Communications have been huge successes. Combined we have raised almost seventy brothers to the sublime degree of a Master Mason. We will have another statewide raising at our upcoming Grand Lodge Session. Lodges can bring their Fellowcrafts to the Annual Communication to be raised on that Tuesday afternoon. It is not mandatory for those lodges that have Fellowcrafts to bring them to the session; however, I am asking for each lodge's support in this endeavor.

REGIONAL MEETINGS

The schedule for 2017 Regional Meetings is as follows:

Saturday, March 4, 2017 – Region #2: District Numbers 2 and 12— Grand District Deputies Lurie Walton (#2) and Richard Wilson (#12) at 10:00 a.m. at Eastern Star Baptist Church, 112 Curl Road, York, Alabama 36925.

Saturday, March 11, 2017 – Region #5: District Numbers 13, 14 and 15—Grand District Deputies Alvin Crawford (#13), A. Derek Bowman (#14), and Kenneth E. Hardy (#15) at 10:00 a.m. at Martha Gaskins Middle School, 200 Dalton Drive, Birmingham, Alabama 35215.

Saturday, March 25, 2017 – Region #1: District Numbers 1, 3 and 4—Grand District Deputies Maurice Edwards (#1), George Gibbs (#3), and Billy Joe Stallworth (#4) at 10:00 a.m. at Mount Gilead Baptist Church, 1151 Congress Street, Mobile, Alabama 36603.

Saturday, April 15, 2017 – Region #4: District Numbers 7, 8 and 10— Grand District Deputies Erwin Chambliss (#7), Donald R. Parks (#8), and Dexter Madden (#10) at 10:00 a.m. at First Baptist Church Montgomery, 347 North Ripley Street, Montgomery, Alabama 36104.

Saturday, April 22, 2017 – Region #3: District Numbers 5 and 6—Grand District Deputies Jimmy Farmer (#5) and Billy Morris (#6) at 10:00 a.m. at Greater Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church, 12 Martin Luther King Drive, Headland, Alabama 36345.

Saturday, April 29, 2017 – Region #6: District Number 17—Grand District Deputy Anthony J. Johnson (#17) at 10:00 a.m. at Big Shiloh Baptist Church, 133 Maple Street, Madison, Alabama 35758.

Worshipful Masters, Wardens and Brothers are expected to attend their Regional District Meetings.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

1.) IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT EACH LODGE SEND ITS GRAND LODGE TAXES TO THE GRAND SECRETARY BY JANUARY 15TH AND BY JUNE 15TH. 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.**

2.) The souvenir journal information for 2017 has been disseminated and is also available on the website. Please pay strict attention to the deadline date. **All subordinate Lodges are required to purchase or sell a full page ad or two half page ads. All Grand Lodge Officers and Grand District Deputies are required to purchase a full page ad.** Let us make this year's souvenir journal the best ever.

3.) **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.

4.) 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).

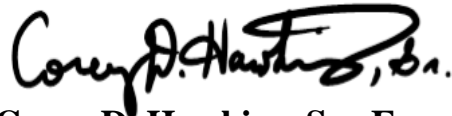
5.) Every lodge should have a copy of the Jurisdictional Regalia Guide. It is also available on the website. **This guide is to be strictly adhered to by all members without any exceptions.**

6.) 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.

7.) 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.

8.) Please continue to make use of our Traveling Again Reclamation Program (TARP). It has been extended until July 31, 2017.

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 24th day of January 2017, A. L. 6017.

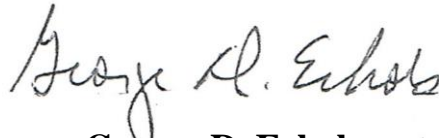


**Corey D. Hawkins, Sr., Esq.
Most Worshipful Grand Master
of the**

**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
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