



TO BE READ TWICE IN OPEN LODGE



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OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION NUMBER 8 November 23, 2015

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:

“And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.”

Luke 2:10-11

The 145th Annual Communication of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons of Alabama was one to remember and one of the best attended in a number of years. Kudos are given to R.W. A. Derek Bowman and to all the dedicated Brothers of District Fourteen for all their hard work and support. The hospitality extended by the host district was beyond measure. I also commend all Grand Lodge Officers, Worshipful Masters, Past Masters, Wardens and Brothers for the upstanding way in which you conducted yourselves. I congratulate you on your decorum exhibited. I am already looking forward to our 146th Annual Communication to be held in July 2016.

We made history at our 145th Annual Communication. We had our inaugural Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alabama Hall of Fame induction, as well as, our first statewide raising. We were fortunate to have raised forty-four men to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason. The class of forty-four was named in honor of the late Dr. William O. Jones, Past Grand Master.

Our Second Annual Prince Hall Americanism Weekend was another huge success. Our Brothers attended in impressive numbers and supported the Grand Lodge the entire weekend. The Grand Lodge Officers and Grand Chapter Officers were proud to assemble on the football field and make a \$5,000.00 scholarship donation to Alabama State University. I offer a sincere thank you to all who supported this very important effort.

GRAND LODGE OFFICERS

“Unity is strength...when there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved.”

Matthew “Mattie” Stepanek

The following is a list of the Grand Lodge Officers for Masonic year 2015-2016, 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
Victor B. Pettus (407), Grand Trustee (Chairman) 3 years
Andrew J. Fuller (6), Grand Trustee 2 years
Ellias Thompson (922), 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
Clifton Gullett, Jr. (1), Grand Senior Steward
Acie Hale (14), 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

Rev. Timothy Sanford, (319), Grand Marshal
Freddie L. Armstead, Jr., (26), 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 (918), Class Organizer

GRAND DISTRICT DEPUTIES

The following are the Grand District Deputies for Masonic year 2015-2016:

District Number 1 Maurice Edwards (3)
District Number 2 John Mayfield (772)
District Number 3 George Gibbs (243)
District Number 4 George Wilson (199)
District Number 5 Jimmy L. Farmer (218)
District Number 6 Billy Morris (444)
District Number 7 Morris E. Tooles, II (408)
District Number 8 Benjamin E. Beasley, Jr. (842)
District Number 10 Dexter Madden (876)
District Number 12 Rev. Richard Wilson, Jr. (642)
District Number 13 Rev. Gregory L. Rice (650)
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, 2016.**

SELMA MARCH

On Sunday, March 6, 2016, the 51st anniversary of the historical “Bloody Sunday” will take place. The Jurisdiction of Alabama will participate in this event once again. I am asking all Brothers to make your plans to attend starting now. We had over 1,200 Brothers and 700 Sisters to attend the 50th anniversary of the bridge

crossing. We are looking to continue increasing our participation in this historical event. More information on this event will be forthcoming.

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 2015 were a great success. I congratulate and thank all who participated. The souvenir journal information for 2016 is enclosed with this Communication and will be available on the website. Please pay strict attention to the new deadline date of **June 1, 2016**. **All subordinate lodges are required to purchase or to sell a full page ad or two half page ads.**

2015 HALL OF FAME INDUCTIONS

Posthumous Inductions

Past Grand Master George W. Braxdall (1878-1886) Mt. Moriah No. 12

Past Grand Master Reuben R. Mims (1886-1901) Cumberland No. 22

Past Grand Master Dr. S.S.H. Washington (1901) King Solomon No. 7

Past Grand Master Henry C. Binford (1901-1910) Evening Star No. 6

Past Grand Master James T. Gregory (1911-1913) Mt. Oliver No. 16

Past Grand Master W.T. Woods (1913-1936) St. John No. 2

Past Grand Master Charles V. Hendley (1936-1967) Evening Star No. 6

Past Grand Master S.J. Bennett (1967-1999) Golden Square No. 340-A

Past Grand Master Dr. William O. Jones (1999-2013) Lewis Adams No. 67

Jimmie Lee Jackson – Slained Civil Rights Activist – Goshen No. 132

Other Inductions

Right Worshipful Jimmy L. Farmer – Honorary Past Grand Master, Grand District Deputy of District No. 5, Past Master of Magnolia No. 218

Right Worshipful Benjamin E. Beasley, Jr. - Honorary Past Grand Master, Grand District Deputy of District No. 8, Past Master of W.T. Woods No. 842

Past Master S.N. Nance – Served as Worshipful Master for 51 years - Hopewell No. 198

Brother Nathaniel Moten – Served as Secretary 53 years – Geometry No. 410

Brother Ruben Studdard – Entertainer, American Idol winner – Geometry No. 410

2015 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEES

Applicant Name	College/University	Amount Given
Ashlee Harris	Auburn University Montgomery	\$1,400.00
Tymia Miller	Tuskegee University	\$1,400.00
Brianna Miles	Tuskegee University	\$1,400.00
Christopher Dodson	University of West Georgia	\$1,400.00
Taliyah Oglesby	Alabama A. & M. University	\$1,400.00
Ashlee Smith	Alcorn State University	\$1,400.00
James Gray, III	Jackson State University	\$1,400.00
Sonya Ricks	Auburn University	\$1,400.00
Endowed Scholarship	Alabama State University	\$5,000.00

WINNING LODGES OF THE YEAR

Rural Lodge of the Year – Goshen Lodge No. 132

City Lodge of the Year – Geometry Lodge No. 410

WINNING DISTRICT DEPUTIES of the YEAR

1st Place Winner

R. W. Morris E. Tooles, II, Grand District Deputy of District No. 7

2nd Place Winner

R. W. A. Derek Bowman, Grand District Deputy of District No. 14

3rd Place Winner

R. W. Jimmy L. Farmer, Grand District Deputy of District No. 5

**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. 14

R. W. A. Derek Bowman, Grand District Deputy

2nd Place - District No. 12

R. W. Richard Wilson, Jr., Grand District Deputy

3rd Place – District No. 17

R. W. Anthony J. Johnson, Grand District Deputy

WINNING LODGES FOR SOUVENIR JOURNAL AD SALES

1st Place – York Lodge No. 642

Brother Charlie J. Square, Worshipful Master

**2nd Place – Geometry Lodge No. 410
Brother Curtis Nelson, Worshipful Master**

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

PRINCE HALL STAMP CAMPAIGN

Currently a national campaign by the Conference of Grand Masters, Prince Hall Affiliation, to have an image of our Founding Father and first Grand Master, Prince Hall, placed on a United States of America postage stamp is ongoing. Prince Hall was an American Revolutionary War freedom fighter, humanitarian, and Methodist preacher. His numerous civic contributions and actions of freedom in the development of early America and more importantly to humanity itself, have been documented as worthy, noble, and overwhelmingly courageous. Enclosed is a Petition For A United States Postage Stamp Honoring Prince Hall. Please make several copies of this petition and solicit members of your Lodges, Eastern Star Chapters, Churches, politicians, places of business, neighbors, friends, and family members to sign it. You may return the signed petitions to the address located at the bottom of the enclosed page.

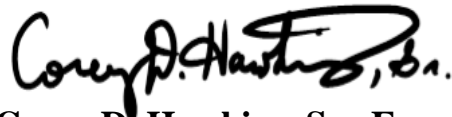
IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- 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.) Addresses and telephone numbers on lodge rolls must be updated at least once per year and as often as needed as members often relocate.
- 3.) As of January 1, 2014, our joining fee increased to \$25.00 and now includes a membership certificate.
- 4.) 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. This great organization stands in the need of constant prayer. Last, but certainly not least, please remember the true reason for this Christmas season, the celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior. I wish all 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 23rd day of November 2015, A. L. 6015.

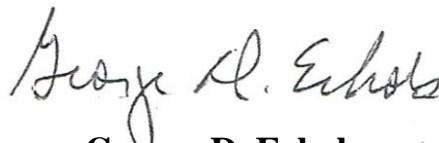


**Corey D. Hawkins, Sr., Esq.
Most Worshipful Grand Master
of the**

**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**