



TO BE READ TWICE IN OPEN LODGE



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OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION NUMBER 9 January 27, 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:

“A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots.”

Marcus Garvey

God Almighty has been good to us. He has brought our people a mighty long way. We should be thankful for His grace and mercy. As we embark upon what has been designated as Black History Month, let us make a conscientious effort to learn our history and to pass it down to the younger generations, not just during the month of February, but every month of the year. We have a history to be proud of and we should be willing to share it. We cannot rely on anyone else to teach our history for us.

SELMA MARCH

For the third 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 6, 2016, to participate in the 51st 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 1,200 brothers and 700 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.

MASONIC LICENSE PLATE

“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.” *Matthew 5:16*

As you go to renew your tags please be reminded about our Prince Hall Grand Lodge License Plate. Thus far, our license plate campaign has been very successful. A donation of \$41.25 of the \$50.00 fee will go to the Prince Hall Legacy Foundation for scholarship purposes. I am calling on all Grand Lodge Officers and Grand District Deputies to purchase a minimum of one license plate. I am also calling on all Worshipful Masters and members of the Craft to purchase one license plate. Be proud to show the world that you are a Prince Hall Mason. Let your light shine!

STATEWIDE RAISING

Our initial statewide raising at our annual Grand Lodge Communication was a huge success. We were fortunate enough to have raised forty-four brothers to the sublime degree of a Master Mason. Since then, I have received nothing but positive feedback and requests to make the raising an annual event. Therefore, 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 DISTRICT MEETINGS

The schedule for 2016 Regional District Meetings is as follows:

Saturday, March 5, 2016 – Region #2: District Numbers 2 and 12— Grand District Deputies John Mayfield (#2) and Richard Wilson (#12) at 10:00 a.m. at Eastern Star Baptist Church, 110 Curl Road, York, Alabama 36925.

Saturday, March 12, 2016 – Region #4: District Numbers 7, 8 and 10— Grand District Deputies Morris Tooles, Jr. (#7), Benjamin Beasley (#8), and Dexter Madden (#10) at 10:00 a.m. at New Spirit Missionary Baptist Church, 3302 Dale Avenue, Opelika, Alabama 36801.

Saturday, March 26, 2016 – Region #5: District Numbers 13, 14 and 15—Grand District Deputies Gregory Rice (#13), A. Derek Bowman (#14), and Kenneth E. Hardy (#15) at 10:00 a.m. at Beulah Baptist Family Life Center, 3100 25th Street, Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401.

Saturday, April 2, 2016 – Region #3: District Numbers 5 and 6—Grand District Deputies Jimmy Farmer (#5) and Billy Morris (#6) at 10:00 a.m. at St. Peter AME Church, 1277 Blue Spring Street (Highway 10), Clio, Alabama 36017.

Saturday, April 23, 2016 – Region #1: District Numbers 1, 3 and 4—Grand District Deputies Maurice Edwards (#1), George Gibbs (#3), and George Wilson (#4) at 10:00 a.m. at First Baptist Church, 504 Whatley Street, Andalusia, Alabama 36420.

Saturday, April 30, 2016 – Region #6: District Number 17—Grand District Deputy Anthony J. Johnson (#17) at 10:00 a.m. at Galilee Missionary Baptist Church, 6776 Old Highway 20, Leighton, Alabama 35646.

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 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.**

- 2.) The souvenir journal information for 2016 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 table 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.

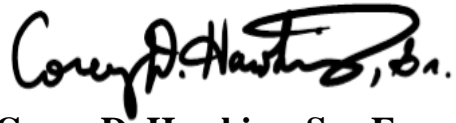
- 4.) As of January 1, 2014, our joining fee increased to \$25.00 and now includes a membership certificate.

- 5.) Addresses and telephone numbers on lodge rolls must be updated at least once per year and as often as needed as members often relocate.

- 6.) The healing of a clandestine or irregular made Mason **must** be approved by the Grand Master. You may seek approval by calling or writing me at the Grand Lodge Office.

- 7.) Please continue to make use of our Traveling Again Reclamation Program (TARP). It has been extended until July 31, 2016.

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 27th day of January 2016, A. L. 6016.

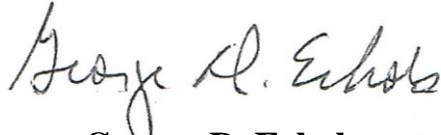


Corey D. Hawkins, Sr., Esq.
Most Worshipful Grand Master
of the

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
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