



TO BE READ IN OPEN LODGE UNTIL THE 144TH ANNUAL COMMUNICATION



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 F. & A. M. of Alabama**



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OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION NUMBER 4

May 12, 2014

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

In accordance with the provisions of our *Constitution and By-laws* and in conformity with the action of our last Grand Lodge, you are hereby officially notified that the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, F. and A. M. of Alabama, will convene in its 144th (one-hundred thirty-sixth since consolidation) Annual Grand Lodge Communication, on Tuesday, July 22, 2014, at 8:30 a.m., at The Sheraton Birmingham Hotel, 2101 Richard Arrington, Jr. Boulevard North, Birmingham, Alabama 35203.

GRAND LODGE OBLIGATIONS

To be represented in the Grand Lodge without embarrassment, it is very necessary that **every lodge is paid up within bounds with ALL DEPARTMENTS OF THE GRAND LODGE.**

REPRESENTATIVES

Representation in the Grand Lodge will be in accordance with our Masonic laws, traditional Masonic usage, and customs. Lodges will be represented by their Worshipful Masters and/or Wardens. All Past Masters **MUST** obtain from their subordinate lodge a certificate or a statement duly signed by the Master, attested by the Secretary, and sealed with the seal of the lodge, showing that they are in good standing with their subordinate lodges as of June 30, 2014. Reasonable proof may be requested as to Past Master's status. The above-mentioned certificate or statement filed with the Credentials Committee and proof of being current in all departments will entitle Past Masters to seats in the Grand Lodge. The June report of lodges to the Grand Secretary will be sufficient credentials for the representatives of the various subordinate lodges. However, all representatives will register with the Credentials Committee. At registration, representatives will receive an official badge, which will admit them to be seated in the Grand Lodge. The Credentials Committee will be stationed in the Sheraton Birmingham Hotel. **Reminder: Lodges must be current in its tax payments and all Brothers must be current in all payments owed to the Grand Lodge in order to be seated in the Grand Lodge Session. This will be strictly enforced.**

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

The Welcoming Program will be held on Monday, July 21, 2014, at the Sheraton Birmingham Hotel in Birmingham, Alabama, at 6:00 p.m. The local committee is planning an excellent Welcoming Program, and all Master Masons are requested to be in Birmingham in time to attend the program. The Lodge of Sorrow will be held on Tuesday evening, July 22, 2014, beginning at 7:00 p.m., at the Sheraton Birmingham Hotel, in Birmingham, Alabama. Every Master Mason is expected to attend. The Memorial Address will be delivered by Doctor Donaldson Jones, Pastor of the Mount New Home Missionary Baptist Church in Leighton, Alabama.

MASONIC CLOTHES

All representatives, officers, and Brothers **must bring black or dark blue suits, white shirts, black tie, white aprons and white gloves**, because each must be properly clothed in accordance with the *Authorized Regalia Guide and Dress Code Specifications* to enter the Grand Lodge Session and the Lodge of Sorrow.

DAILY DEVOTIONS

No man should ever enter upon any great and important undertaking without first invoking the blessing of Deity. Because our Annual Communication is such a great and important undertaking we will engage in daily devotions at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings until the sound of the gavel at 8:30 a.m. The devotions will be led by our Grand Chaplain, Right Worshipful Reverend E. Baxter Morris and/or his Committee of Chaplains. *If God be for us, who can be against us? Romans 8:31*

ACCOMMODATIONS

Information about available accommodations has been provided to each lodge by the Grand Master and by the Grand District Deputies. Please be sure that you have made hotel reservations at the Sheraton Birmingham Hotel, located at 2101 Richard Arrington, Jr. Boulevard North, Birmingham, Alabama 35203 before you arrive. You may make your reservations directly by calling **1-205-324-5000** or **1-800-325-3535**. Ask for the **PRINCE HALL GRAND LODGE ROOM BLOCK**. You may also make your reservations by going to **www.mwphglofal.org** and clicking on the “Reservations for Grand Lodge” banner.

MASONIC WORKSHOPS

Masonic workshops for all Worshipful Masters, Secretaries, Treasurers, Wardens, other lodge officers, and any member who wishes to participate will be conducted on Monday, July 21, 2014, at 3:00 p.m., in the Sheraton Birmingham Hotel, in Birmingham, Alabama. These workshops provide valuable information which will be helpful to all members.

SOUVENIR JOURNAL

Every Grand Lodge Officer and every lodge in the Jurisdiction of Alabama are **expected to purchase a mandatory one-page ad or to secure a minimum of a one-page ad (\$100.00) from an external source.** All lodges should have already received the information about ads for the *Souvenir Journal* from their Grand District Deputies. If you have not received this information from your Grand District Deputies, you may go to our website, **www.mwphglofal.org** and print the information off or call me immediately at 205-328-9078.

All ads and all money must be sent to our Grand Secretary, R. W. George D. Echols, at Post Office Box 3967, Auburn, Alabama 36831-3967, on or

before June 15, 2014. We must have 100% participation from every lodge in order to make this fundraiser a success.

PAST MASTER'S DEGREE

All newly elected Masters who have not already passed the Chair must come prepared to be passed by the Grand Lodge Committee on Passing. All newly elected Masters are expected and are hereby instructed to be at the Grand Lodge Session, without exception. The passing will be conducted on Wednesday, July 23, 2014, at 5:00 a.m. **The Committee on Passing wishes to remind all newly elected Masters of the \$30.00 fee, payable by check or money order, that is required for *The Degree of Passing*, with no exceptions.**

PROSPECTS

Everything points to another harmonious and successful Grand Lodge Session. This year's session is projected to be one of the largest attended in a number of years. Every lodge is reminded to do its full Masonic duty by sending its Worshipful Master or its Senior Warden or Junior Warden to represent each lodge at this session. However, the lodge must be current in its taxes and the Brother current with all departments. Remember, **MASONIC LAW PROVIDES THAT EVERY LODGE MUST BE REPRESENTED AND MUST DISCHARGE ITS GRAND LODGE DUTIES AT LEAST ONCE IN EVERY TWO-YEAR PERIOD** or is subject to having its charter revoked. Be sure to send a representative so that there will be no chance of losing your charter. Every worthy Worshipful Master deserves the honor of an annual trip to the Grand Lodge Session with all expenses paid and a reasonable per diem for his time. Every financial Brother has the right to attend and should attend the Annual Grand Lodge Session.

REGIONAL DISTRICT MEETINGS

The Regional District Meetings were very successful this year. Attendance increased tremendously. Valuable information was disseminated at each meeting followed by a question and answer period. Commendations are extended to the Grand District Deputies and thanks to all the Brothers for their eager participation. Special thanks go to Right Worshipful Quinton Burrow, Aide to the Grand Master and Right Worshipful William Dean Anderson, Operations Manager for all of their assistance.

TRAVELING AGAIN RECLAMATION PROGRAM (TARP)

The Traveling Again Reclamation Program (TARP) has been very successful thus far. We are receiving several reinstatements every week. Brothers are encouraged to reach out to those who have been suspended and inform them about our reclamation drive. This program is designed to allow suspended members to reinstate for a more affordable fee.

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.

TARP serves a two-fold purpose: (1.) It gives suspended Brothers a more affordable means of reinstating and (2.) It gives dying lodges a final opportunity to salvage their existence by increasing their numbers before being forced to close or merge. Brothers, I challenge you to go out and reclaim our lost Brothers. **TARP is in effect until July 31, 2014.**

MASONIC LICENSE PLATE

The Alabama Legislative Oversight Committee on License Plates approved our Prince Hall Legacy Foundation of Alabama's Most Worshipful Prince Hall

Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons of Alabama license plate design. The tag costs an additional \$50.00 and is currently available. \$41.25 of the additional \$50.00 will go to the Prince Hall Legacy Foundation of Alabama. In order for the tag to be released to the membership we must get 250 pre-commitments by April 30, 2015. Pre-committals can only be made online at <https://precommit.mvtrip.alabama.gov/UserCommit/Index>. **You do not have to wait until your tag renewal month to pre-commit. You may pre-commit at any time.** Upon the date we reach the 250 pre-committals, the Department of Revenue will mail out our new license plates. **I am calling on all Grand Lodge Officers and Grand District Deputies to pre-commit to purchasing a minimum of one license plate. We must lead by example. I am also calling on all Worshipful Masters and members of the Craft to pre-commit to purchasing one license plate.** We should be proud to show the world that we are Prince Hall Masons. What better way to show our pride than to have a license plate on our vehicle(s)?

GRAND LODGE TAX AND ENDOWMENT DUES

PLEASE BE REMINDED THAT IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT EACH LODGE SEND ITS GRAND LODGE TAX 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—**BUT NOT LATER THAN JUNE 15TH of each year.**

Also, be sure to **send all endowment reports to our Endowment Office Supervisor, Mrs. Kathy Dunnigan-Taylor, Post Office Box 10504, Birmingham, Alabama 35202, each month—but not later than the 20th of the month. REMEMBER, NO MEMBER OF A LODGE WILL BE SEATED IN THE GRAND LODGE IF THAT LODGE HAS NOT PAID ITS GRAND LODGE TAXES AND NO MEMBER WILL BE SEATED IN THE GRAND LODGE IF HE IS NOT PAID UP TO CURRENT IN ALL DEPARTMENTS.** Take due notice and govern yourselves accordingly!

REMINDERS

- A. Addresses on lodge rolls must be updated at least once per year and as often as needed as members often relocate.**
- B. 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 office.**

C. Do not bring or send cash to the Grand Lodge office for any transaction; bring or send checks or money orders. Certified checks and money orders are preferred. Cash will not be accepted.

WARNING

To those who plan to drive to Birmingham, I wish to take this opportunity to warn you to drive carefully and to be sure to observe all **TRAFFIC RULES AND REGULATIONS**. Do your part to see that no accidents occur. The life you save may be your own.

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 12th day of May 2014, A.L. 6014.



Attested:

Corey D. Hawkins, Sr., Esq.

Most Worshipful Grand Master
of the

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

George D. Echols

Right Worshipful Grand Secretary
of the

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