

GRAND MASTERS MESSAGE

Whether your Lodge is dark or not, Laura and I hope that you are enjoying the summer with friends and family, going on vacation, grilling, gardening, camping, or just soaking up some sun and making Vitamin D.

Have you ever taken something apart and been unable to get it back together? Have you ever taken a break and come back to what you were working on and have everything fall right into place? When you do this, you are using the other hemisphere of your brain, which gives a short break to the hemisphere that was previously working. Many great minds in the arts and sciences throughout history have used this as a way of expanding the efficiency of their brain. Genesis 2:2 of our Great Light explains that on the seventh day, God rested from his work. Most successful people choose to take time to make memories with their friends and family. They avoid burn out and afterwards come back to work and Lodge feeling rested and refreshed, ready for fellowship and degree work. It is not about how fast you are running around, but how many things you have completed accurately.

As you read this article, I have visited Grand Lodges in Florida, Washington, D.C., and Louisiana. Our Grand Lodge Officers have completed the first phase of training for the District Deputy Grand Masters and the Appointed Subordinate Grand Lodge Officers and Committeemen. This will hopefully make us more efficient from a Grand Lodge standpoint for our Lodges. South Carolina will be hosting the Southeastern Masonic Conference in August in Charleston, followed by the District Inspirational Meetings in the fall and District Instructional Meetings in January. We ask that you consider some topics of interest that you feel should be covered at future training sessions. You can voice and share this through the surveys taken at the District Instructional Meetings. Your attendance at each of these events is crucial for the future success of your Lodge and District.

I am asking the Worshipful Master of each Lodge to compile a list of charities or community projects that have been completed in 2019 by the end of the calendar year, listing time and money donated. I personally feel that this is a great selling and informational tool that our Lodges have to influence the community in a positive light concerning our Fraternity. Your compiled list will help us with the assessment of our worth and community commitment and impact at the local level in our state. It can be as simple as Lodge X donated \$300.00 to the X homeless shelter. Please take time to collect this information and share a copy of it with your District Deputy.

We have information that will be coming out in the following months about our Grand Lodge Building and Library and Museum Fund. If you haven't been to our Grand Lodge to see the historic Masonic artifacts in our museum, please take the time to do so in the near future. If you give our Grand Secretary advanced notice, he can schedule time to give a personal or group tour of our building.

I want to mention something that is of great concern to me in our Fraternity today. On the evening that I took my first degree, a Past Master that I knew congratulated me on taking my first step in Freemasonry. He reminded me of the questions that we are asked and the answers I gave before being initiated (Re: 2015 Ahiman Rezon, page 60). First, I came here because I wanted to be here, it was my choice. Second, I was here because I was impressed with the positive things that Freemasonry had

done for mankind, AND I desired knowledge. Third, I would CHEERFULLY CONFORM to all the ancient usages and established customs. He reminded me that our Lodge is a HAVEN from the world of chaos. We are NEVER to bring divisive countenance, religious intolerance, or political correctness into our walls. As your Grand Master, I encourage you to take the lesson that Worshipful Brother Bill Swicegood gave me that evening and let it resonate with you. Often times, a majority of my time and that of Grand Officers and Worshipful Masters is spent on issues that stem from people that only want their way no matter the cost to their Lodge, District or our State. They refuse to CHEERFULLY CONFORM to our rules. This robs our Fraternity of harmony, causes dissention, membership loss, and is mentally draining to productive members. Question yourself; Do I still:

Want Masonry to be viewed in a positive light
Desire knowledge
Agree to cheerfully conform to our order

Remember that most of us joined this group because we realized that we are not average. We do not like doing the bare minimum, like the rest of the outside world. You are special Brethren, so be special!

Finally Brethren, thank you for what you do on a daily basis to make your community, state, and nation be the best that it can be.

May our Grand Architect bless and keep you until we meet again.

Respectfully and Fraternaly,
Walter "Cal" Disher II
Grand Master

MASONIC EDUCATION CORNER

"The First Instructions"

As candidates, we received our first instructions whereon to erect our future moral and Masonic **edifice** in a particular part of the Lodge, because on our initiation, we commenced the great task, **which we are never in our future Masonic life to be discontinued**, of erecting in our hearts a spiritual temple for the indwelling of God, of which the great material Temple at Jerusalem was but a symbol. Each new duty which we learn, and each new virtue we practice, becomes a living stone in that temple. Therefore, it is proper that we respect the whole system of symbolism as we begin the labor of erecting a spiritual temple just as the operative mason would commence the construction of his material temple. By first laying the cornerstone on which the future edifice is to arise, great care must be taken. Our first instruction constitutes that cornerstone and on it, when laid in its proper place, we construct the moral and Masonic temple of our life.

Let us look at a few of the statements and words in our first instructions. "Our future moral and Masonic edifice."

Moral: upright, honest, straightforward, open, virtuous, honorable, integrity, standards, morality.

Edifice: a building, especially one of large size or imposing appearance.

We all agree Freemasonry is a splendid Fraternity steeped in

tradition numbering many great men of the past and present as its members; that it has a beautiful ritual and it is indeed a great honor to be a Freemason. Our Lodge is not just a room. It is not merely a place in which to enjoy fraternal fellowship. It is not an organization which replaces the church. It is not the means of promoting one's self in business. Our Lodge really is a group of men, a group of Brothers, who have dedicated themselves to a common task, and that is to build. A Freemason is a builder; a builder of character; a builder of a better community; a better nation; a better world in which to live; a builder of an Eternal Temple for the indwelling of God. As we build this spiritual temple not made with hands, we are building this temple for the indwelling of God. King Solomon's Temple was also built to serve and worship God. Only the best materials were to be used in the building of King Solomon's Temple. This Temple has long crumbled into dust, but we as Masons are taught that we should build another in our hearts. We must also build this temple with the finest material and use the plans upon the trestle board of the Supreme Master which must be found in the Great Light of Masonry. The Edifice of character or character building for a Master Mason is clear. Character is what we are, and not to be confused with reputation, which is what others think of us. If our character be sound, be good, be true, then reputation can take care of itself. If we build this temple upon a solid foundation by laying the cornerstone and using the materials we know to be true, plumb, and square, then our temple will have the correct foundation. Then as we commence the lifelong task without discontinuing our first instructions, our efforts will not be in vain and our spiritual temple will not crumble and will stand the test of time.

However, in the final analysis, the future of Freemasonry depends not only on these things, but on the influence it exerts in the life of each one of us. If society is to be successful and everlasting, it must live and breathe the principles on which it is founded. It must be workable, and this means that the individual members must live in the spirit of real Brotherhood, we must be a doer of the Word, not just a hearer only. To assume obligations of friendship, morality, and brotherly love; to reaffirm love for the dependence on an Eternal Father, are but empty words lost forever in the restless air if they are not practiced in our daily life. In this sense, we as present-day Masons, could very well classify ourselves as "Operative Masons."

Such should be the real meaning of Freemasonry to each of us. If not, we should re-dedicate our lives right now to those principles of Freemasonry to which we have obligated ourselves to accept, to learn, to keep and to exemplify. We are brought to Light in order that we may let our Light so shine before our fellowmen, that they may see our good works and join us in glorifying The Great Architect of the Universe.

Word of the month: Fidelity – strict observance of promise, duties, etc. loyalty

Thought of the month: Start where you are, apply what you have, and do what you can to improve every day.

"Our Best Is the Least We Owe Each Other"

Steven D. Hames, Senior Grand Warden
Chairman, Masonic Education Committee

SPECIAL EVENT & COMMUNICATIONS

SPECIAL EVENT, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2019, LAKE CITY, SC: The Grand Master, Grand Lodge Officers and Brethren with their Ladies and Families have been invited to participate in the Loyalty Day Celebration at the Lake City First Baptist Church located at 135 S. Church Street, Lake City, SC 29560. The Celebration will begin at 11:00 AM with the opening of the Time Capsule, which was placed behind the Cornerstone laid by Most Worshipful William W. Wannamaker and the Grand Lodge Officers on October 4, 1919. The Grand Master, with the assistance of the Grand Lodge Officers, will rededicate the 1919 Cornerstone with the Ancient Elements of Corn, Wine, and Oil. The 1919 Cornerstone will be placed back into the wall after a new Time Capsule is placed into position at a later date. The Governor will bring remarks and our Grand Master will bring remarks. After the celebration, a meal will be served in the Church's Family-Life Center. The dress will be Suit and Tie with Jewels and Aprons.

SPECIAL COMMUNICATION, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2019, INMAN, SC: For the purpose of Laying a Cornerstone and Rededicating New Prospect Lodge No. 143, AFM in Celebration of the Lodge's 150th Anniversary. Lunch will be served at 11:30 AM in the Lodge Dining Hall. The Rededication Ceremony will follow. New Prospect Lodge is located at 9290 Highway No. 9, Inman, SC 29349. All Brothers including Entered Apprentices, Fellow Crafts and Master Masons with their ladies and friends are invited to attend.

SPECIAL COMMUNICATION, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2019, WEST COLUMBIA, SC: For the purpose of Rededicating Springdale Lodge No. 412, AFM in Celebration of the Lodge's 50th Anniversary. Lunch will be served at 11:30 AM in the Lodge Dining Hall. The Rededication Ceremony will follow. Springdale Lodge No. 412 AFM is located at 1015 Springdale Road, West Columbia, SC 29170. All Brothers including Entered Apprentices, Fellow Crafts and Master Masons with their ladies and friends are invited to attend.

SPECIAL COMMUNICATION SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2019, LEXINGTON, SC: For the purpose of Rededicating Lexington Lodge No. 152 in Celebration of the Lodge's 150th Anniversary. Lunch will be served at 11:30 AM in the Lodge Dining Hall. The Rededication Ceremony will follow. Lexington Lodge No. 152 is located at 105 W Butler Street, Lexington, SC 29071. All Brothers including Entered Apprentices, Fellow Crafts and Master Masons with their ladies and friends are invited to attend.

SPECIAL COMMUNICATION SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2019 COLUMBIA, SC: For the purpose of Rededicating Pacific Lodge No. 325 in Celebration of the Lodge's 100th Anniversary. Lunch will be served at 11:30 AM in the Lodge Dining Hall. The Rededication Ceremony will follow. Pacific Lodge No. 325 is located at 719 Maryland Street, Columbia, SC 29201. All Brothers including Entered Apprentices, Fellow Crafts and Master Masons with their ladies and friends are invited to attend.

At Special Communications, all Elected and Subordinate Grand Lodge Officers and the District Deputy Grand Master, of the District of the Lodge hosting the Special Communication, are expected to attend. All other District Deputy Grand Masters and Past Grand Masters are invited to attend. All Elected Grand Lodge Officers and Past Grand Masters should wear their black tails with black bow tie, black vests, jewel, and apron. All other Grand Lodge Officers should wear black tuxedos with black bow ties, black cummerbunds or black vests, jewel and aprons.

INSPIRATIONAL MEETINGS

Friday, August 9, 2019, 6:30 pm, 8th District, RW Edward E. Smith, Jr., DDGM, Brooklyn United Methodist Church, 541 Meeting Street, West Columbia, SC 29169. Guest Speaker will be MW Brother Walter C. Disher, II. Supper will be served.

Thursday, August 15, 2019, 7:30 pm, 14th District, RW Kevin Gilmer, DDGM, Ruff Lodge No. 240, AFM, 611 Piedmont Ave., Anderson, SC 29625 (Intersection of Bleckley St.). Guest Speaker will be MW Brother William B. Rogers, PGM. Supper will be served at 6:30 pm.

Thursday, August 15, 2019, 7:00 pm, 17th District, RW Edward Snow, DDGM, Pelzer Lodge No. 217, AFM, 109 Depot Road, Pelzer, SC 29669. Supper to be served. Speaker will be RW Thomas E. Watson, JGW.

Saturday, August 24, 2019, 6:00 pm, 12th District, RW O. Eugene Wicker, Jr., DDGM, Union Lodge No. 75, AFM, 805 South Duncan By-Pass, Union, SC 29379. Guest Speaker will be RW Brother Thomas Watson, JGW. Barbeque Supper will be served.

Thursday, August 29, 2019, 7:00 pm, 9th District, RW Howell N. Watson, Jr., DDGM, Little Stevens Creek Baptist Church, 1194 Meeting Street Road (Hwy 430) Edgefield, SC 29824. Guest Speaker will be WB Sam Shealy, PM of Travis Lodge No. 241, AFM. Refreshments of heavy hors d'oeuvres to be served after the program.

Saturday, September 14, 2019, 6:00 pm, 26th District, RW Steven R. Gassen, DDGM, Sumter Lodge No. 364, AFM, 215 Alice Dr., Sumter, SC 29150. Guest Speaker will be Jock Hendricks, Pastor from Alice Drive Baptist Church.

Saturday, September 21, 2019, 6:00 pm, 13th District, RW Mike Bryant, DDGM, Palmetto Lodge No. 19, AFM, 316 Hillcrest Dr., Laurens, SC 29360. Tommy Watson, JGW, will be the Guest Speaker. Dinner will be served.

Saturday, September 21, 2019, 6:00 pm, 23rd District, RW Bobby Joe Albert, DDGM, Great Falls Lodge No. 277, AFM, 1 Masonic Avenue, Great Falls, SC 29055. Guest Speaker will be RW Steve Hames, SGW. Dinner to be served.

Thursday, September 26, 2019, 7:00 pm, 3rd District, RW Steve Craven, DDGM, Summerville Lodge No. 234, AFM, 111 N. Main St., Summerville, SC 29483. Guest Speaker will be RW Richard Phalen. Dinner to be served.

Thursday, September 26, 2019, 7:00 pm, 6th District, RW Kenny Teuton, DDGM, Aiken Shrine Club, 1526 Columbia Hwy N., Aiken, SC 29801. Guest Speaker will be RW Brother Dr. Robert Elsner, DDGM, 11th District.

Thursday, September 26, 2019, 7:30 pm, 15th District, RW Johnnie M. Jones, Jr., DDGM, Seneca Lodge No. 185, AFM, 205 North Townville St., Seneca, SC 29678. Guest Speaker will be Heroes of 76 Kings Mountain Camp. Supper will be served at 6:30 pm.

Thursday, September 26, 2019, 6:30 pm-9:00 pm, 19th, 20th & 21st Districts, RW Samuel H. Turner, III (19th), RW Frederick James Phillips, I (20th), RW Judson N. Seay, III (21st), Cannons Campground United Methodist Church, 3450 Campground Rd., Spartanburg, SC 29307. Guest Speaker to be announced. Flag Presentation by JROTC Color Guard. Meal to be served at 6:30pm with program to follow.

Thursday, October 3, 2019, 6:30 pm, 11th District, RW Dr. Robert Elsner, DDGM, Greenwood Lodge No. 91, AFM, 121 Bailey Circle, Greenwood, SC 29646. Guest Speaker will be Col. R. J. Gore, PHD, Divinity, Military Chaplain. Dinner to be served.

Saturday, October 5, 2019, 6:00 pm, 25th District, RW Patrick E. Coxe, DDGM, Marlboro Lodge No. 88, AFM, 106 McCall St., Bennettsville, SC 29512. Guest Speaker will be Rebecca McArthur. Dinner to be served.

Saturday, October 12, 2019, 6:30 pm, 10th District, RW Ronald C. Lockaby, DDGM, Scottish Rite Center, 7230 Gamers Ferry

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Road, Columbia, SC 29209. Guest speaker will be MW Michael D. Smith, Sr., PGM. Supper will be served.

Monday, October 21, 2019, 7:00 pm, 5th District, RW Keith Zissette, DDGM, El Bab Shrine Club, 577 Patterson Mill Rd., Barnwell, SC 29812. Guest speaker will be MW David J. DeChant, Sr., PGM. Supper will be served.

Thursday, October 24, 2019, 7:00 pm, 1st & 2nd Districts, RW Steve Hiott, DDGM & RW Otto Kaske, DDGM, Charleston Scottish Rite Center, 1051 Sam Rittenberg Blvd., Charleston, SC 29407. Speaker to be announced. Supper will be served.

Thursday, October 24, 2019, 6:00 pm, 18th District, RW Mark A. Bennett, DDGM, Scottish Rite Center, 817 Cleveland St., Greenville, SC 29601. Guest speaker will RW O. Bruce Smith, III, DGM. Supper will be served.

Thursday, October 24, 2019, 7:00 pm, 28th District, RW Robbie McDaniel, DDGM, Hillsboro Lodge No. 308, AFM, 104 Peachtree St., Lake View, SC 29563. Guest speaker will be Johnnie Luehrs, PDD, SC OES. Supper will be served.

Monday, October 28, 2019, 7:00 pm, 7th District, RW Chuck Field, DDGM, Edisto Shrine Club, 2265 Five Chop Road, Orangeburg, SC 29115. Guest Speaker will be MW Jay Adam Pearson, PGM.

Saturday, November 2, 2019, 9:30 am, 4th District, RW James N. Barron, DDGM, Port Royal Lodge No. 242, AFM, 1744 Ribaut Rd., Port Royal, SC 29935. Guest speaker will be RW Dr. Robert F. Elsner. Breakfast will be served.

Saturday, November 9, 2019, (4:30--5:30 pm--Meet and Greet), 6:00 pm--Prime Rib Dinner, 27th District, RW Boyd Edward Hodges, Jr., DDGM, Hampton Lodge No. 204, AFM, 206 S. McQueen St., Florence, SC 29501.

Saturday, November 9, 2019, 5:00 pm, 29th District, RW Billy Ray Carroll, DDGM, Conway Recreation Center, 1515 Mill Pond Rd., Conway, SC 29527 (Phone 843-248-1740). Dedra A. Hart, Supreme Faith & Supreme Inspector, IORG, SC will be the speaker. Supper will be served.

Friday, November 15, 2019, 6:30 pm, 22nd District, RW D. Timothy Ayers, DDGM, York Lodge No. 385, AFM, 1256 W. Charlotte Ave., Rock Hill, SC 29732. Speaker to be announced. Supper will be served.

Saturday, November 16, 2019, 6:00 pm, 24th District, RW Mark Faulkenberry, DDGM, Camden Shrine Club, 1381 Kershaw Hwy., Camden, SC 29020. Guest speaker will be RW Dr. Robert F. Elsner, DDGM, 11th District. Supper will be served.

IN MEMORIAM

CHRISTIAN VANDEGRIFT HOLLAND, JR.
PAST DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER

September 6, 1929 Richmond, VA
July 5, 2019 North Myrtle Beach, SC

EDGAR ALLEN HARTZOG
PAST DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER

April 2, 1952 Columbia, SC
July 7, 2019 Columbia, SC

Worshipful Brother William Richard Mattox, Past Junior Grand Deacon (1973) and Chancellor for the Grand Lodge from 1997-2012 passed away July 11, 2019.

Worshipful Brother Willie George Gay, PM, current Senior Warden of Flat Rock Lodge #178, passed away May 19, 2019.

We wish to express our deepest sympathies, to the family, friends and Lodge Brethren.

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SEVENTY-YEAR AWARD PRESENTATION



On March 20, 2019, Right Worshipful Brother Larry Nicodin, DDGM, Second District, presented a Seventy-Year Service Award to Brother Virgil Carlisle Johnston at his home. Brother Johnston is a member of Hammerton Lodge No. 332, AFM. Congratulations to Brother Johnston on reaching this milestone. Pictured above from left to right are: WB John Gregory, PJGD, WB Richard Carswell, PM, WB Tom Judy, current Master, RWB Larry Nicodin, DDGM, WB Otto Kaske, JGD, and WB Terry Martin, PM.

EIGHTY-YEAR AWARD



Brother Leonard I. Levenson (pictured above), recipient of the First Eighty-Year Award given by the Grand Lodge of South Carolina. Brother Levenson was raised March 6, 1939 and just celebrated his 103rd birthday on March 16, 2019. Congratulations to Brother Levenson on achieving this very special award. Since Brother Levenson resides in Georgia, a group of Officers from the Grand Lodge of Georgia traveled to Brother Levenson's residence on March 17, 2019 to make this special presentation on behalf of the Grand Lodge of SC. Standing from left to right are RW Brother Van S. McGee, Grand Secretary of Georgia; MW Larry Nichols, PGM & Grand Treasurer of Georgia; RW Brother Michael Kessler, Senior Grand Deacon of Georgia and RW Raymond Gray, DDGM and Past Grand Chaplain of Georgia.

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(USPS 332-760) Official bulletin of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free Masons of South Carolina issued bimonthly from the Grand Lodge Building, 1445 Pisgah Church Rd., Lexington, S.C. 29072-7107
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the *Masonic Light*, Gerald L. Carver, Editor, P.O. Box 2185, Lexington, S.C. 29071-2185.
Telephone 803-808-4377
E-mail: grandsecretary@scgrandlodgearn.org



Since 1928

Periodicals postage paid at Lexington, S.C. 29073-9998
Subscription Rate: One Year, \$20.00; Life, \$100.00
AUTO
Vol. 93 August/September 2019 No. 3