

GRAND MASTERS ADDRESS

TRAJECTORY OF OUR LODGES

As a young boy in the 1960's, I was always interested in NASA and the great adventures of our Astronauts, their missions and accomplishments. As we enter the summer months, I recall with great clarity the success and issues of the Apollo Missions. On July 20, 1969, man first landed on the moon. As Neil Armstrong stated, "That's One Small Step for Man, One Giant Leap for Mankind." What a moment for all of mankind, the culmination of a decade of focused planning, scientific analysis, and unified work. I first learned of trajectory with the space program. Trajectory is a medieval term from the 1660's meaning to cast over or casting over. The geometric definition relates to the curve or surface that cuts all the curves or surfaces of a system at a contact angle. Trajectory is an important term relating to future or desired success. Trajectory in essence defines the pathway to success for complex systems. The Apollo 13 Mission, in April of 1970, illustrated the impact of change in trajectory. The movie is worth of a watch on overcoming adversity or changing trajectory for survival itself.

What is the Trajectory of Your Lodge?

Brethren, as I have previously stated, Lodge membership is our most important asset. While I am positive of the great influence we have as Freemasons and our future, yet, I am also greatly concerned about the trajectory of some of our Lodges! Many Lodges are just beginning to study membership trends, financial and sustainability reviews, to address their trajectory and adjust course. Some of our Lodges have the path to success in front of them, while others are on a perilous trajectory that if uncorrected, will lead to disappointment and perhaps devastation to their members. We continue to discuss the Lodge of the Future Program and to address the complex issues that face Lodges today! Study will enable them to plan for a future trajectory for success. Collectively, we need to set our Lodge target and trajectory for a successful future. Does your Lodge have a Vision and Plan for what you really want your Lodge to provide your members, improving communication to all of your members and to determine what you want your Lodge influence to have in your community.

I have been pleased to hear from Lodges that are moving forward with the Lodge of the Future Program. I have been blessed to see the first fruits from this effort with Lodges being focused on improving our meetings, adding more educational programs and considering what your Lodge trajectory will be in the coming months and years. Your Grand Lodge is moving forward with membership and system changes that will change trajectory. How we use the tools will determine the success of Lodges who understand the great benefit to their members.

As with the Apollo Missions of the past, we need to ask what will be the legacy of our leadership!

Just imagine what we can do when we consider the possibilities, and take steps to get the Craft moving together on a trajectory for greatness. Take the small step forward and keep moving!

Faternally,
Michael E. Smith, Sr.
Grand Master

MASONIC EDUCATION CORNER

Repentance, Forgiveness, Grace, Reconciliation & Service

Often our life can "turn on a dime!" This became clear when Most Worshipful Brother Jay Adam Pearson, PGM, presented me the book, *The Sunflower* by Simon Wiesenthal. I had already prepared my Masonic Light column and upon his request, I was ready to send it to Most Worshipful Brother Jerry Carver, our Grand Secretary. Why did Wiesenthal entitle his book, *The Sunflower*? The Sunflower is not a captivating title, but it was a gift so I decided to open it. I could not set the book down until I had read it through. After reading the book, many questions permeated my mind, aligning with my concern for our Lodges, Community, State, and Nation. Rather than wait, I decided to "turn on a dime" and share Simon Wiesenthal's true story. The storyline in "The Sunflower" depicts Simon being summoned from a concentration camp to the deathbed of a young Nazi soldier, whom Simon calls Karl, and who has been mortally wounded in combat. Karl confesses to Simon his atrocious deeds against the Jews, which he did in the service of the Nazi Regime. Karl shares his repentant heart with Simon, declaring he cannot die in peace without receiving Simon's (a Jewish person) forgiveness for persecuting the Jewish nation. After hearing the detailed confession containing systematic persecution and slaughter, Simon leaves the room without offering forgiveness. This experience haunts Simon long after the guns and Final Solution had ceased. After the war, Simon searches for and finds Karl's mother in Stuttgart, Germany and visits with her. Listening to a proud mother as she shares about Karl's youth; Simon learns about Karl's Christian upbringing, and his rejection of his parents' values in joining the Schutzstaffel (SS). Simon ultimately demonstrates his forgiveness by choosing not to tell Karl's mother the full truth of Karl's service in the SS and death. After his experience with Karl and his mother, Simon continues to be distressed by the question of whether he should have forgiven the young man.

Simon, like many of our Lodges, was plagued with a need to hold on to hatred and personal convictions rather than accept repentance, offer forgiveness, impart grace uniting in reconciliation and service. The past several years, I have traveled our state, witnessing all the good work our Lodges are doing for humanity. I also must confess I have seen too many situations arise at the ballot box concerning personal picks and quarrels. An EA or FC should only be rejected pending Masonic Charges, not placed in isolated limbo so the "offended Brother" can claim victory. The Great Light of Masonry reveals we all need repentance, forgiveness, and grace. I fully believe Masonry is not for everyone. The petition is the first sentinel for our Fraternity. If a person does not have temperance, fortitude, prudence and justice, then they do not merit a petition. In the same manner, a repentant heart merits forgiveness and grace, providing a bridge of reconciliation and service. Before you cast your ballot on a candidate with whom you have disharmony, go visit with him and reconcile, only then return to the Lodge and vote for the good of Masonry.

Brethren, I pray Karl did find someone to accept his repentant heart, offer forgiveness and impart grace before he died. Now let's cover the phrase "life can turn on a dime." Since a dime is the smallest U.S. coin, the ability to "turn on it" is a figure of speech, indicating you can change direction very quickly in a very small space. In this case, it means life can change course quickly.

Depending on the circumstances, it can be either good or bad, but either way change will be rapid. Worshipful Master, if your Lodge is experiencing ballot rejections concerning personal picks and quarrels, place a dime on the ballot box for all to see. Share Simon's experience with Karl and how refusing to accept a repentant heart, needing forgiveness and grace, would haunt Simon for the remainder of his life.

Word of the month:

Grace---the free and unmerited favor of GOD

Quote of the month:

"For evil to flourish, it only requires good men to do nothing."

Simon Wiesenthal

Thought of the month: "Above all things have intense and unflinching love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins."

1 Peter 4:8

Carpe Diem

Together we can protect, preserve, serve, and grow.

O.B. Smith, Senior Grand Warden

Chairman, Masonic Education Committee

SPECIAL COMMUNICATIONS OF THE GRAND LODGE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2017, NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA:

For the purpose of Rededicating Pythagorean Lodge No. 21 AFM in Celebration of the Lodge's 200th Anniversary. Lunch will be served at 11:30 AM at the Lodge. The Grand Master, with the assistance of the other Grand Lodge Officers, will open the Grand Lodge of AFM of SC and Pythagorean Lodge No. 21, AFM on the First Degree at 12:30 PM. The Ceremony of Rededication will follow. Pythagorean Lodge No 21 AFM is located at 3571 Dorchester Road, North Charleston, SC 29405.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2017, GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA:

For the purpose of Rededicating Recovery Lodge No. 31 AFM in Celebration of the Lodge's 200th Anniversary. Lunch will be served at 11:30 AM at the Greenville Scottish Rite Center. The Grand Master, with the assistance of the other Grand Lodge Officers, will open the Grand Lodge of AFM of SC and Recovery Lodge No. 31 AFM on the First Degree at 12:30 PM at the Greenville Scottish Rite Center with the Ceremony of Rededication following. Greenville Scottish Rite Center is located at 817 Cleveland Street, Greenville, SC 29601.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2017, ST STEPHEN, SOUTH CAROLINA:

For the purpose of Rededicating Mt. Hope Lodge No.128, AFM in Celebration of the Lodge's 150th Anniversary. Lunch will be served at 11:30 AM at the Lodge. The Grand Master, with the assistance of the other Grand Lodge Officers, will open the Grand Lodge of AFM of SC and Mt. Hope Lodge No. 128, AFM on the First Degree at 12:30 PM. The Ceremony of Rededication will follow. Mt. Hope Lodge is located at 110 Brick Church, St. Stephen, SC 29479.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2017, TROY, SOUTH CAROLINA:

For the purpose of Rededicating Stonewall Lodge No. 124, AFM in Celebration of the Lodge's 150th Anniversary. Lunch will be served at 11:30 AM at the Lodge Hall. The Grand Master, with the assistance of the other Grand Lodge Officers, will open the Grand Lodge of AFM of SC and Stonewall Lodge No. 124, AFM on the First Degree at 12:30 PM. The Ceremony of Rededication will follow. Stonewall Lodge is located at 119 Church Street, Troy, SC 29848.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2017, NORTH AUGUSTA, SOUTH CAROLINA:

For the purpose of Rededicating Acacia Lodge No. 315 AFM in Celebration of the Lodge's 100th Anniversary. The Grand Master, with the assistance of the other Grand Lodge Officers, will open the Grand Lodge of AFM of SC and Acacia Lodge No. 315 AFM on the First Degree at 3:00 PM. The Ceremony of Rededication will follow. Following the ceremony, dinner will be served in the Lodge's Dining Hall. Acacia Lodge No. 315 AFM is located at 499 Brookside Ave, North Augusta, SC 29841.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2017, SOUTH CAROLINA:

For the purpose of Rededicating Camp Creek Lodge No. 317, AFM in Celebration of the Lodge's 100th Anniversary. Lunch will be served at 11:30 AM at the Lodge. The Grand Master, with the assistance of the other Grand Lodge Officers, will open the Grand Lodge of AFM of SC and Camp Creek Lodge No. 317, AFM on the First Degree at 12:30 PM. The Ceremony of Rededication will follow. Camp Creek Lodge No. 317 AFM is located at 1864 Stinson Road, Lancaster, SC 29720.

All Brothers including Entered Apprentices, Fellow Crafts and Master Masons with their ladies and friends are invited to attend. All Grand Lodge Officers are expected to attend and all Past Grand Masters are requested 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, and Jewel and Apron.

IN MEMORIAM

LARRY JOE ROBBINS
PAST DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER
February 11, 1949 Rocky Mount, NC
June 16, 2017 Florence, SC

Worshipful Brother Laurence Edward Laughlin, Jr., Past Junior Grand Deacon and Past Master of both Harmony Lodge No. 22, AFM and Mt. Moriah Lodge No. 196, AFM, passed away June 25, 2017.

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

INSPIRATIONAL MEETINGS

Friday, August 11, 2017, 6:30 pm, 8th District, RW Brother Carl Randolph “Chip” Simmons, III, DDGM, Brooklyn United Methodist Church, 541 Meeting Street, West Columbia, SC. Guest Speaker will be Joe Terry, member of Fort Jackson Lodge No. 374, AFM. Supper will be served.

Thursday, August 17, 2017, 7:00 pm, 9th District, RW Charles T. Watts, DDGM, Rehobeth UMC, 936 Holly Ferry Road, Leesville, SC. Guest speaker will be Grand Chaplain, Rev A. Robert Nix. Refreshments will be served.

Thursday, August 17, 2017, 6:30 pm, 17th District, RW Brother James W. Crawford, Jr., DDGM, Tabernacle Baptist Church, 519 Anderson Street, Pelzer, SC.

Friday, August 25th, 2017, 6:30 pm, 18th District, RW James B. Frazier, V, DDGM, Scottish Rite Center, Greenville, SC. Guest Speaker will be MW Michael D. Smith, Sr., Grand Master.

Saturday, September 9th, 2017, 6:00 pm, 12th District, RW G. Allen Owens, DDGM, Union Lodge No. 75, 805 S. Duncan Bypass, Union, SC. (Intersection of Boyce Street.) Guest Speaker will be MW Michael D. Smith, Sr. Grand Master.

Thursday, September 14th, 2017, 6:30 pm, 15th District, RW J. Tom Henry, DDGM, Seneca Lodge No. 185, N. Townville Street, Seneca, SC 29678. Guest Speaker will be Most Worshipful Jay Adam Pearson.

Saturday, September 16, 2017, 7:00 pm, 13th District, RW Brother J. Scott Tollison, DDGM, Palmetto Lodge No. 19, 316 Hillcrest Drive, Laurens, SC.

Saturday, September 16, 2017, 6:30 pm, 23rd District, RW Thomas H. Martin, Jr., DDGM, Great Falls Lodge No. 277, 1 Masonic Avenue, Great Falls, SC. RW Brother Steven D. Hames, JGW, will be the speaker.

Thursday, September 28, 2017, 7:00 pm, 3rd District, RW Barry G. Crosby, DDGM, Harmony Lodge No. 61, 5355 East Jim Bilton Blvd., St. George, SC. Guest Speaker will be RW O. B. Smith, SGW.

Thursday, September 28, 2017, 7:00 pm, 6th District, RW Larry R. Jackson, DDGM, Aiken County Shrine Club. Guest Speaker will be RW Brother Dean Strickland, PDDGM. Dinner will be served.

Thursday, September 28, 2017, 6:30 pm, 11th District, RW Jonathan D. Miller, DDGM, Stonewall Lodge No. 124, 119 Church Street, Troy, SC. Guest Speaker will be RW Brother Walker D. Moore, PDDGM.

Thursday, September 28, 2017, 6:30 pm, 19th, 20th & 21st Districts, RW Brother Jerry Hill, Jr., DDGM, RW Brother J. Paul McWilliams, Jr., DDGM & RW Brother Jimmy Hayes, DDGM, Philadelphia Baptist Church, 3119 Hwy 56, Pauline, SC. Guest Speaker will be MW Michael D. Smith, Sr., Grand Master.

Friday, September 29, 2017, 7:00 pm, 10th District, RW Brother John R. Marcucci, DDGM, Scottish Rite Center, 7230 Garners Ferry Road, Columbia, SC. Speaker will be Col. Samuel Boone.

Saturday, September 30, 2017, 6:30 pm, 24th District, RW Brother Earl T. Nichols, Jr., DDGM, Camden Shrine Club. Guest Speaker will be MWB Barry Rickman, PGM.

Saturday, October 7, 2017, 6:00 pm, 4th District, RW Brother Paul S. Griffin DDGM, Evergreen Lodge No. 153, 510 Elm Street East, Hampton, SC.

Saturday, October 7, 2017, 6:30 pm, 14th District, RW Martyn H. Dixon, DDGM, Ruff Lodge No. 240, 611 Piedmont Avenue, Anderson, SC. Guest Speaker will be Rev. Tony Smith.

Saturday, October 7, 2017, 6:00 pm, 25th District, RW Brother Daniel H. Hart, DDGM, Marlboro Lodge No. 88, 106 McColl Street, Bennettsville, SC. Guest Speaker will be RW O. B. Smith, III, SGW.

Saturday, October 7, 2017, 5:00 pm, 26th District, RW Joseph Thomas Kelly, Sr., DDGM, Patesville Lodge No. 295, 3513 Una Rd. Bishopville, SC 29010.

Monday, October 16, 2017, 7:00 pm, 5th District, RW Brother Richard T. Dixon, DDGM, El Bab Shrine Club, 571 Patterson Mill Road, Barnwell, SC. Guest Speaker will be Most Worshipful Brother D. Samuel Tennyson, Sr., PGM.

Saturday, October 21, 2017, 5:30 pm, 22nd District, RW Brother Thomas D. Sutton, Jr., DDGM, Alpine Lodge No. 208, 502 N. Main Street, Clover, SC.

Monday, October 23, 2017, 7:00 pm, 7th District, RW Brother Carroll C. Cheek, DDGM, Edisto Shrine Club, 1235 Five Chop Road, Orangeburg, SC. Guest Speaker will be Reverend Brother Terry Martin.

Tuesday, October 24, 2017, 7:00 pm, 28th District, RW Brother Tommy E. Hayes, Jr., DDGM, Dalcho Lodge 180, 102 N. Mauldin Street, Latta, SC. Guest Speaker will be RW Brother Walter C. (Cal) Disher, II, Deputy Grand Master.

Thursday, October 26, 2017, 6:30 pm, 1st & 2nd Districts, RW Brother Lloyd F. Christopher, DDGM & RW Brother Larry Nicodin, DDGM, Charleston Scottish Rite Center, 1051 Sam Rittenburg Blvd., Charleston, SC. Guest Speaker will be RW O. B. Smith, III, SGW.

Saturday, November 4, 2017, 6:00 pm, 27th District, RW Brother Phillip R. Anchors, DDGM, Hampton Lodge No. 204, 206 South McQueen Street, Florence, SC, 29501.

Saturday, November 11 2017, 6:00 pm, 29th District, RW Brother David E. Harrell, DDGM, The Horry Electric Building, 2774 Cultra Road, Conway, SC. Guest Speaker will be Most Worshipful Brother Jay Adam Pearson, PGM.

March 17, 2018, 6:00 pm, 30th District, Jonathan E. Ford, DDGM, Kingstree Lodge No. 46, 313 E. Main Street, Kingstree, SC 29556.

ATTENTION LODGE SECRETARIES

The Annual Workshop for Lodge Secretaries will be held on Saturday, August 19th, at the Grand Lodge Office located at 1445 Pisgah Church Road, Lexington, SC 29072. Registration at 8:00 AM with the meeting beginning at 8:30 AM and ending with lunch at 12:30 PM. The Library and Museum will be open afterwards for tours. Reservations must be made in advance by Email or telephone due to limited space and food arrangements.

SEVENTY YEAR AWARDS



RW Brother Robby Sanders, PDDGM of the 5th District (left), presenting Brother Guy Suter, a member of Harmony Lodge No. 17 (center) with his 70 year Service Certificate and Pin. On the right is Brother Suter's son, Worshipful Brother James Suter of Oliver Lodge No. 133. Congratulations, Brother Suter.



RW Brother Ricky Dixon, DDGM, 5th District presenting Brother Larry Brown, a WWII Veteran with his 70 year Service Award and Pin. Shortly after the presentation, Brother Brown passed away on Memorial Day. During the Presentation, Brother Brown asked RW Ricky to “Take Care of the Widows.”

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