

GRAND MASTER’S MESSAGE

FREEMASONRY CELEBRATED

As I write this year end message, I am homeward bound from the Tercentenary Celebration of the United Grand Lodge of England. RW Walter C. “Cal” Disher, II and I had the great honor to participate in this gathering of Grand Officers representing all the members of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient Free Masons of South Carolina.

Indeed, His Royal Highness, the Duke of Kent, Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England, indicated this was the largest gathering of Grand Masters in History! 136 Grand Masters from all corners of the world gathered in London to celebrate 300 Years of Freemasonry as organized in the Premier Grand Lodge. Over 4000 attended the celebration on Tuesday, October 31st at Royal Albert Hall in London. Freemasonry was truly celebrated at this event.

The ceremony, showed a young member beginning his journey as most of us have, by seeking a better life and choosing to serve others. By seeking and finding Light! This portrayal had the young member being conducted by the Master Hiram stressing the moral lessons and those principle virtues so vital to a successful journey of a Freemason. Along the way, the novice was excited to meet many of the greatest Freemasons from history that taught the great lessons and virtues, including Benjamin Franklin and George Washington!

The presentation shared that the United States was founded on the principles of Freemasonry of Freedom and Toleration! Brethren, we were proud of this portrayal. May Freedom continue to reign and toleration remain a proper goal for our Fraternity!

Brethren, I am here to tell you that you should be so proud of our history and those great Masonic Leaders in our glorious past. We were ordered at this session based upon our establishment of our Grand Lodge. Being the eighth in history afforded RW Bro Disher and me some unbelievable opportunities. I was seated with the highest officers of the Grand Lodge of England, Grand Masters of Ireland, Scotland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, New York and New Jersey and as such one of the first to meet the HRH, the Grand Master of England, to get the prime seating for the celebration and seated at the head tables for the Grand Banquet. Brethren from other jurisdictions wanted to know how we got to be in the select group. I stated that is was due to those great Masonic Leaders of the past from South Carolina that afforded us this great opportunity.

Brethren, I also had the great privilege of attending the Grand Lodge of Scotland while in Edinburgh the week prior to returning to London and again South Carolina was recognized as one of the oldest Grand Lodges by the MW Grand Master Mason in their session.

Brethren, as I contemplated these wonderful events where Freemasons celebrated the tremendous history, influence and the difference made in the world, I was moved by what we have in South Carolina. We have a rich history of service to our members and the world. A teaching Grand Lodge that works and our charity is noted because of what we have been taught! Gentlemen, men need what we offer! We must offer our best for the future of the Craft!

Gentlemen, I pose the questions again regarding the Lodge of the Future and our ability to continue such a great legacy for the coming generations. How will we carry out our great mission when some of our Lodges struggle to even stay open? Without a return to the pride in teaching the great lessons to our members,

we cannot fulfill the very needs of our members to make a difference in their community. If your Lodge is not meeting the needs of your members, then you must get your “house in order,” and then and only then, can your Lodge be what it is meant to be. A true force in the lives of your members and your community!

Time to STAND TALL my Brethren and to GO TO WORK to make 2018 the best.

We have great plans on the trestle board for all Lodge Officers!

Attend your District Instructional Meeting for hands on training for your officers.

Worshipful Masters are expected to attend the New Worshipful Masters Leadership Workshop on January 27th in Columbia at the Scottish Rite.

Wardens are expected to attend the New Wardens Leadership Workshops either on March 3rd in Charleston or March 10th in Greenville at the Scottish Rite Centers.

May God grant each of us the recognition of our talent and dedication to develop our talent and skill to the benefit of others. Our Grand Lodge Officers look forward to seeing you at our Instructional Meetings.

Fraternally,
Michael D. Smith, Sr.
Grand Master

MASONIC EDUCATION CORNER

Opportunities multiply as they are seized!

It was not long after entering Law Enforcement, I was introduced to the book The Art of War by Sun Tzu. The text presents basic principles of warfare and provides military leaders advice on when and how to fight. As I began my career as an officer, I gleaned many truths which aided me in my interaction with my community and fellow officers. The book offers specific battle strategies providing broad advice about conflicts, their resolution, and on life. As a young officer, to me the most significant was “Opportunities multiply as they are seized.” Sun Tzu noticed momentum was important to warfare and the same is true in life. Similarly, in a career or Fraternity, often small actions snowball into something bigger. For example, volunteering at work could lead to networking contacts providing clients, or a future job. In our Fraternity, attending Special Communications of your Grand Lodge provides the opportunity to meet and develop friendships which last a life time. Being present could lead to an opportunity to serve as a Grand Lodge Officer. My life in Law Enforcement turned where I met Sheriff Johnny Mack Brown, who provided opportunity for growth. As I volunteered for special duty, new opportunities were presented. I began as a Patrol Officer, next vice and ultimately, property crimes. Upon reflection, I know each season of my life provided momentum through opportunities for growth equipping me for increased responsibility. Each season in my life, united with your support, has enabled me to serve our beloved Fraternity. To concentrate on one season is to miss the kaleidoscope of life. Consequently, to appreciate challenges facing our Fraternity, we need to know our history, appreciate our present, embrace our challenges and plan for our future.

Consider the following parable. There was a father who had four sons which he wanted to learn not to judge too quickly. Therefore, he sent them on a quest to gaze at a pear tree located a great distance away. The first son he sent in the winter, the second in the spring, the third in summer, and the youngest in the fall. Upon completion, the father called them together to describe

what they had seen. The first son said, “the tree was ugly, bent, and twisted.” The second son said, “no, it was covered with green buds and full of promise.” The third son disagreed. He said, “it was laden with blossoms that smelled so sweet and looked so beautiful, it was the most graceful thing he had ever seen.” The last son adamantly disagreed. He said, “it was ripe and drooping with fruit, full of life and fulfillment.” The father then explained that each of them was correct, because they had each seen but one season in the tree’s life. He told them that “you cannot judge a tree, or a person by only one season.” The essence of life’s joy, and love shared, can only be measured at the end of the journey when all the seasons ensue. If you miss the opportunity of your winter, you will miss the opportunity of your spring, missing the opportunity of your summer, and fulfillment of your fall. Don’t let the pain of one season rob your joy contained in the next season. Consequently, our Fraternity has faced the pain of Masonic Trials, financial challenges, NPD’s, neglected facilities, and declining membership. The spring of our Fraternity was when we accepted men from all stations of life as equals. The summer of our Fraternity attracted the greatest philosophical minds. The fall of our Fraternity remained selective on the quality of aspirant we would accept. Now we find ourselves in the winter of our Fraternity focusing on numbers. Focusing on one season, we can miss the purpose of Freemasonry! No season in Freemasonry was codified to increase our membership. Our defined purpose and goal is to serve our communities by developing our membership providing the opportunity for growth and service, not increasing the number of members on the roll. Sometimes, it just takes one opportunity for the floodgates to open. Attend your Lodge and Grand Lodge because silence is also a lost opportunity.

Word of the month:

Videlicet-adverb, *Latin* - that is to say; namely (used especially to introduce examples, details, etc.).

Quote of the month:

“A successful man is one who can lay a firm foundation with the bricks others throw at him.” Sidney Greenberg

Thought of the month: Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?” Then I said, “Here am I. Send me!” Isaiah 6: vs. 8

Carpe Diem

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

O.B. Smith, SGW
Chm., MEC

ATTENTION: MASONIC LIGHT RECIPIENTS

The current and past Masonic Light Issues are available on the Grand Lodge Website. You may copy them by logging onto scgrandlodgeafm.org, under the Resources Tab, click on Masonic Light. Then click on the Issue that you wish to copy. Since you are now able to obtain the Masonic Light Issues on the Website, please advise if you wish to discontinue receiving the Masonic Light in the mail by emailing grandsecretary@scgrandlodgeafm.org with a message to discontinue mailing the Masonic Light.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

We wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Blessed New Year. As we celebrate this Holiday Season with our families and friends, let us remember in our thoughts and prayers the men and women in our Armed Forces, who will be away from their families protecting our Country and our Freedom.

Jerry Carver, PGM, Grand Secretary,
Debbie Morell and Connie Bennett

70-YEAR PRESENTATION



A 70-year pin, certificate, card and letter was presented to Brother Cecil A. Bowers, a member of Lynchwood Lodge No. 197, AFM by RW Brother Delbert R. Hayden, PDDGM. Brother Cecil was former Chairman of the SC Public Service Commission and a Nationally Renown Musician.

L to R: RW Brother Delbert R. Hayden, PDDGM; RW Floyd W. Goff, PDDGM; WB Herman Newman, WM of Lynchwood Lodge No. 197, AFM; Brother Jimmy E. Crissman, Senior Deacon of Kershaw Lodge No. 29, AFM; Brother Cecil A. Bowers and Brother Tony Reed, SW of Lugoff Lodge No. 411, AFM.

IN MEMORIAM

ROBERT ANSEL JONES
PAST DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER
September 1, 1917 Richmond, VA
August 18, 2017 Bluffton, SC

LARRY DEMPSEY, SR.
PAST DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER
April 25, 1948 Orangeburg, SC
October 12, 2017 Bamberg, SC

Mrs. Gladys Allsbrook, widow of Past Grand Master Alfred Allsbrook, passed away November 1, 2017 in Fort Mill, SC.

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

INSTRUCTIONAL MEETINGS

Thursday, December 28, 2017, 6:30 PM, 17th District, RW Brother Jamie Crawford, DDGM, Empire Lodge No. 213, 150 Whatley Circle, Mauldin. Supper will be served.

Friday, January 5, 2018, 6:30 PM, 18th District, RW Brother James B. Frazier, V, DDGM, Greenville Scottish Rite Center, 817 Cleveland Street, Greenville. Supper will be served.

Saturday, January 6, 2018, 5:00 PM, 25th District, RW Brother Daniel H. Hart, DDGM, Marlboro Lodge No, 88, 106 McColl Street, Bennettsville. Supper will be served.

Thursday, January 11, 2018, 6:00 PM, 16th District, RW Brother Michael W. Johnson, DDGM, Bates Lodge No. 189,439 NE Main Street, Easley. Supper will be served.

Thursday, January 11, 2018, 6:00 PM, 20th District, RW Brother J. Paul Mc Williams, Jr., DDGM, Upstate Family Resource Center, 1850 Old Furnace Road, Boiling Springs. Supper will be served.

Friday, January 12, 2018, 6:30 PM, 22nd District, RW Brother Thomas D. Sutton, Jr., DDGM, Corinthian Lodge No. 416, 5196 Hampton Ridge Road, Newport. Supper will be served.

Saturday, January 13, 2018, 9:00 AM, 4th District, RW Brother Paul Griffin, DDGM, Harmony Lodge No. 22, 2710 Depot Road, Beaufort. Supper will be served.

Saturday, January 13, 2018, 8:00 AM 12th District, RW Brother G. Allen Owen, DDGM, Amity Lodge No. 87, 1304 Caldwell Street, Newberry. Breakfast will be served.

Saturday, January 13, 2018, 5:00 PM, 26th District, RW Brother Joseph T. Kelly, DDGM, Patesville Lodge No. 295. Supper will be served.

Saturday, January 13, 2018, 6:00 PM, 29th District, RW Brother David E. Harrell DDGM, Murrells Inlet Lodge No. 368, 620 Collins Ave., Murrells Inlet. Supper will be served.

Monday, January 15, 2018, 6:00 PM, 5th District, RW Brother Richard T. Dixon, DDGM, Harmony Lodge No. 17, 30 Burr Street, Barnwell. Supper will be served.

Monday, January 15, 2018, 6:30 PM, 23rd District, RW Brother Thomas H. Martin, Jr., DDGM, Great Falls Lodge No. 277, 1 Masonic Ave., Great Falls. Supper will be served.

Tuesday, January 16, 2018, 7:00 PM, 6th District, RW Brother Larry R. Jackson, DDGM, Aiken Lodge No. 156, 443 Laurens Street N.W., Aiken. Supper will be served.

Thursday, January 18, 2018, 6:30 PM, 11th District, RW Brother Jonathan D. Miller, DDGM, Clinton Lodge No. 3, 300 Brooks Street, Abbeville. Supper will be served.

Thursday, January 18, 2018, 6:00 PM, 15th District, RW Brother J. Thomas Henry, DDGM, Seneca Lodge No. 185, 205 N. Townville Street, Seneca. Supper will be served.

Thursday, January 18, 2018, 6:30 PM, 19th District, RW Brother Jerry W. Hill, Jr., DDGM, Philadelphia Baptist Church, 3119 Highway 56, Pauline. Supper will be served.

Friday, January 19, 2018, 6:30 PM, 3rd District, RW Brother Barry G. Crosby, DDGM, Cottageville Methodist Church, 44 Peirce Road, Cottageville. Supper will be served.

Friday, January 19, 2018, 7:00 PM, 10th District, RW Brother John R. Marcucci, DDGM, Columbia Scottish Rite Center, 7230 Garners Ferry Road, Columbia. Supper will be served.

Saturday, January 20, 2018, 7:30 AM, 8th District, RW Brother Carl “Chip” R. Simmons, DDGM, Oliver Lodge No. 133, 265 S. Cardiff Street, Swansea. Breakfast will be served.

Saturday, January 20, 2018, 8:00 AM, 13th District, RW J. Scott Tollison, DDGM, Palmetto Lodge No. 19, 316 Hillcrest Drive, Laurens. Breakfast will be served.

Saturday, January 20, 2018, 8:00 AM, 24th District, RW Brother Earl T. Nichols, DDDM, Abney Lodge No. 211, 219 Hampton Street, Kershaw. Breakfast will be served.

Monday, January 20, 2018, 5:00 PM, 27th District, RW Brother Phillip Anchors, DDGM, Hampton Lodge No. 204, South McQueen Street, Florence. Supper will be served.

Saturday, January 20, 2018, 11 :00 AM, 30th District, RW Brother Jonathan E. Ford, DDGM, St. Peter’s Lodge No. 54, 232 E. Boyce Street, Manning. Lunch will be served.

Monday, January 22, 2018, 7:00 PM, 7th District, RW Brother Carroll Cheek, DDGM, Vance Lodge No. 230, 1316 Camden Road, Vance. Supper will be served.

Monday, January 22, 2018, 6:30 PM, 14th District, RW Brother Martyn H. Dixon, DDGM, Watkins Center, 204 Main Street, Honea Path. Supper will be served.

Tuesday, January 23, 2018, 6:00 PM, 28th District, RW Brother Tommy E. Hayes, Jr., DDGM, Damascus Lodge No. 161, 114 East Proctor Street, Mullins. Supper will be served.

Thursday, January 25, 2018, 6: 15 PM, 1st & 2nd Districts, RW Brother Lloyd F. Christopher, DDGM and RW Brother Larry Nicodin, Charleston Masonic Center, 1285 Orange Grove Road, Charleston. Supper will be served.

Thursday, January 25, 2018, 7:00 PM, 9th District, RW Brother Charles T. Watts, DDGM, Mine Lodge No. 117, 221 Greenwood Highway, McConnick. Supper will be served.

Thursday, January 25, 2018, 6:30 PM, 21st District, RW Brother James E. Hayes, III, Tucapau Lodge No. 253, 178 Spartanburg Road, Wellford. Supper will be served.

Saturday, January 27, 2018, 8:30 AM, Grand Master’s Workshop for Worshipful Masters, Columbia Scottish Rite Center, 7230 Garners Ferry Road, Columbia. Lunch will be served.

Saturday, March 3, 2018, 8:30 AM, Grand Master’s Workshop for Wardens, Charleston Scottish Rite Center, 1051 Sam Rittenberg Boulevard, Charleston.

Saturday, March 10, 2018, 8: 30 AM, Grand Master’s Workshop for Wardens, Greenville Scottish Rite Center, 817 Cleveland Street, Greenville.

SPECIAL COMMUNICATIONS OF THE GRAND LODGE

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 4:00 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.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2018, HEATH SPRINGS, SOUTH CAROLINA: For the purpose of Rededicating Fork Hill Lodge No. 316 AFM in Celebration of the Lodge’s 100th Year Anniversary. Lunch will be served at 11:30 AM at the Fork Hill Baptist Church’s Family Life Center located at 1125 Fork Hill Road, Heath Springs, SC. After Lunch, everyone will travel to the Fork Hill Lodge Hall located at 4944 Flat Creek Road, Heath Springs, SC 29058. The Grand Master, with the assistance of the other Grand Lodge Officers, will open the Grand Lodge of AFM of SC in Ample Form and Fork Hill Lodge No. 316 AFM in Due Form on the First Degree at 12:30 PM with the Rededication Ceremony following.

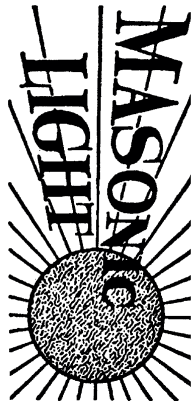
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2018, GEORGETOWN, SOUTH CAROLINA: For the purpose of Rededicating Winyah Lodge No. 40, AFM in Celebration of the Lodge’s 200th Year Anniversary. Lunch will be served at 11:30 AM. The Grand Master with the assistance of the other Grand Lodge Officers, will open the Grand Lodge of AFM of SC in Ample Form and Winyah Lodge No. 40 in Due Form on the First Degree at 12:30 PM with the Rededication Ceremony following. Winyah Lodge No. 40 is located at 2617 S. Fraser Street, Georgetown, SC 29440.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2018, SWANSEA, SOUTH CAROLINA: For the purpose of Rededicating Oliver Lodge No.133, AFM in Celebration of the Lodge’s 150th Year 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 in Ample Form and Oliver Lodge No. 133 AFM in Due Form on the First Degree at 12:30 PM with the Rededication Ceremony following. Oliver Lodge is located at 265 South Cardiff Ave, Swansea, SC 29160.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2018, BATESBURG-LEESVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA: For the purpose of Rededicating Batesburg-Leesville Lodge No.138, 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 in Ample Form and Batesburg -Leesville Lodge No. 138 AFM in Due Form on the First Degree at 12:30 PM with the Rededication Ceremony following. Batesburg-Leesville Lodge is located at 222 Church Street, Batesburg-Leesville, SC 29006.

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.

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