

GRAND MASTER’S MESSAGE

Happy Holidays from Laura and I to our Masonic families, wherever dispersed. We wish everyone a season filled with peace, love, and harmony. Enjoy this time of year with your family, recharging those batteries for the upcoming year. To all those elected and appointed in our subordinate Lodges, we extend congratulations and look forward to working with you in the ensuing year.

To the many in the “Masonic Family” that are practicing the true teachings of Masonry, we thank you for what you do. You are a beacon of light and inspiration to us during our travels. The outpouring of your friendship and hospitality are never forgotten.

A true builder has the ability to proficiently construct. My topic, “The Most Important Part of a House” is a topic of much needed discussion in our times. It may seem like a simple part of the overall construction process, but your foundation is the most important part of your entire project. The biggest reason for this is any mistakes made in the foundation will only get worse as you go up. It’s referred to as “compounding defects,” and it means that mistakes grow. An example: You notice that your slab foundation is 3/4” out of square when you start framing. It’s also 1/2” out of level across the total building. You figure, “well, I can handle that. I’ll just adjust it in the framing.”

As you complete the framing, you get up to the roof (if only one story) and notice that the building is now 1” out of square and 3/4” out of level. Well, you figure you can capture it in the roof framing. By the time your metal roofing arrives, the square panels don’t fit on your “out of square” roof and you have “to make it work.” In the end, everyone can see that the roof is out of square, and the simple mistakes in your foundation have ruined the look of the house. Not only has it ruined the look, any future repairs being made will then require custom individual cuts, which require a huge amount of extra work for the Craftsman. This in turn will be very costly to the owner. Remember, it was a “simple” mistake, and it just got worse and worse as he went up in the construction process. You have circumvented the building standard, and everything must be adjusted to compensate.

Here’s another reason that your foundation deserves the highest focus and attention to detail: **your entire house sits on top of it!**

A True Builder requires a house be plumb, square, and level with a firm and adequate foundation. Anything less will prove that structure to be inferior. Likewise, on the speculative side, it is considered treasonous to the Craft. If a candidate is allowed to move up before he is truly ready, it is a Masonic Offense. By promoting an unworthy or uneducated candidate, you not only **cheat** and **wrong** the candidate, but your Lodge of its future, every other Ancient Craft Lodge, and every Appendant Masonic Organization. These organizations rely on our individual Lodges to vouch for good men with good work, true work, and square work to build those organizations.

An Ancient Craft Lodge assumes a huge responsibility not only for the future of Freemasonry, but the future for all other affiliated organizations. **This means our candidates MUST be investigated properly.** This means our three grades of workmen should be proficient in the work before being allowed to move up to the next degree. If candidates are proficient in the work, they are ready to fill the chairs in the Lodge when the time comes. They will not be overwhelmed with learning so much information and performing their duties. They will have a “firm foundation.” When they have finished the Ancient Craft chairs, they will be ready for future leadership in other appendant bodies because they have learned proper protocol in our Ancient Craft Lodges.

Again, here’s another reason that your foundation deserves the highest focus and attention to detail: **your entire house sits on top of it!**

For our appendant bodies to be successful, we **MUST** support our local Ancient Craft Lodges. We **MUST** support our Grand Lodge and Grand Master. Not just in words, but in actions and deeds. As long as Masonic Affiliation is a pre-requisite for that membership, our appendant organizations **RELY SOLELY** on the Ancient Craft for membership. Until things are different, our Ancient Craft Lodges are the **ONLY** training ground for the future leadership in our appendant organizations. If the Ancient Craft Lodge is the “Foundation of Masonry,” the walls and roof cannot outgrow the foundation without it being detrimental to the entire structure.

My Grandfather use to say; “It’s not always what you say, but it is always what you do that makes the difference.” As Ancient Craft Lodge members, officers, and leaders of the Craft, let us not forget the importance of “The Foundation.” Serve, Protect, and Support your Blue Lodge! Our future depends on it!

May the Grand Architect of the Universe be with you and keep you safe until we meet again.

Respectfully,

Walter C. Disher II

Grand Master

MASONIC EDUCATION CORNER

The Age Old Pillars of Freemasonry

The smooth stones Josephus speaks of are without flaw or blemish. The stones we refer to in Masonry or the “Ashlars” and represent what we have been and what we hope to become. It is up to each individual Mason to pass his own judgment on himself while here on earth, and to adjust accordingly. Consequently, when he lays down his earthly working tools and makes the final journey to Heaven above he may hope to hear these welcome words “Well done Thou Good and Faithful Servant.” He might also leave behind a reputation as a wise counselor, a pillar of strength and stability, a Prefect Ashlar on which younger Masons may test the correctness and value of their own contributions to our Masonic Order. Brothers each one of us is leaving behind a

mark of some kind on our younger Brothers. Is this a true **MARK** that can be identified as a **MARK** of a skillful Master Mason?

The Ashlars lie open in the Lodge for Brethren to moralize on to derive some moral benefit. Often they are quickly referred to, and just as quickly forgotten. The Ashlars in Masonry are consecrated. The Rough Ashlar is the stone in its rude and natural state, and is emblematic of man in his rude and natural state. Through the lapse of time, education will exert its influence in expanding his intellect, restraining his passions and purifying his life. Now he is represented by the Prefect Ashlar, which under the skillful hands of a workman, has been smoothed and squared and fitted for its place in the building with our Mark upon it. However, you will notice the Rough Ashlar in a Masonic Lodge is not in its rude or natural state. It has been squared in a fashion, partially smoothed and has apparent strength and solidarity. It possesses all the qualities to make a perfect stone for use in the construction of the Temple. We must never forget, it needs the hands and skill of the Craftsman to bring about GOD’s design. Aspirants are neither ignorant, uncultivated nor vicious. Masonry does not or should not accept men of such qualifications.

Membership in a Lodge does not make a man a Mason, it makes him a member of Masonry. The aspirant joins us, we do not join him. If one is satisfied with being a Master Mason in name only, he loses the benefit of further advancement and improvement that can be gained in actively pursuing light in the Order. In other words, he falls short of that Prefect Ashlar.

To maintain the state of perfection in absolute balance, there is a standard we must have whereby each workman can constantly test the tools he is using. We must ensure the wear and use have not changed the measurements even in the slightest degree. Do we have such a tool to test what we are working with? That which we are or hope to become is not a race, but a journey to be experienced each day. Time was not one of the essential factors in building the Temple, perfection was the goal. Our rush to advance candidates, or ourselves should be evaluated ensuring we are placing the proper **Mark** upon our work. In each Lodge rests on the Altar in the center of the room is a copy of the Great Light of Masonry, which must be the instrument we use to gauge ourselves. It is the solid foundation upon which we can build. It never changes. Civilizations come and go, but the Book stays the same, a guide for all mankind. Each must strive to become that Perfect Ashlar by the example we see of those more perfect example in action, reactions and deeds. Let us all work together for that goal of becoming a better person today than what we were yesterday. Each day we should begin attempting to build our Spiritual Temple towards that Perfect Ashlar by first seeking guidance. “Before any undertaking, invoke the blessings and aid of Deity.”

Word of the month: Consecrated-solemnly dedicated to or set apart for a high purpose, usually a Holy purpose.

“Our Best Is the Least We Owe Each Other”

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

SPECIAL COMMUNICATION

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.

WORSHIPFUL MASTERS’ WORKSHOP

Saturday February 1, 2020 The GRAND MASTERS WORKSHOP for WORSHIPFUL MASTERS will be held at Columbia Scottish Rite Center located at 7230 Garners Ferry Road, Columbia, SC 29209. Registration will begin at 8:00 a.m. with meeting beginning promptly at 9:00 a.m. Lunch will be served.

WARDENS’ WORKSHOPS

Saturday, February 22, 2020 for Districts 11-12-13-14-15-16-17-18-19-20-21-22-23-24, the Wardens’ Workshop will be held at the Greenville Scottish Rite Center located at 817 Cleveland Street, Greenville, SC 29605. Registration will begin at 8:00 am with the meeting starting at 9:00 am until noon.

Saturday, March 7, 2020 for Districts 1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10-25-26-27-28-29-30, the Wardens’ Workshop will be held at the Charleston Scottish Rite Center located at 1051 Sam Rittenburg Boulevard, Charleston, SC 29407. Registration beginning at 8:00 am with meeting starting at 9:00 am until noon.

INSTRUCTIONAL MEETINGS

Saturday, December 28, 2019, 7:30 am, 17th District, RW Edward D. Snow, DDGM, Empire Lodge No. 213, AFM, 150 Whatley Cir., Mauldin, SC 29662. Breakfast will be served.

Friday, January 3, 2020, 6:30 pm, 22nd District, RW Timothy Ayers, DDGM, York Lodge No. 385, AFM, 1256 W Charlotte Ave., Rock Hill, SC 29732. Supper will be served.

Saturday, January 4, 2020, 8:00 am, 6th District, RW Kenny Teuton, DDGM, Aiken Lodge No. 156, AFM, 443 Laurens St. NW, Aiken, SC 29801. Breakfast will be served.

Saturday, January 4, 2020, 9:00 am, 25th, 26th, & 27th Districts, RW Patrick Coxe, DDGM, RW Steven Gassen, DDGM & RW Boyd Hodges, DDGM, Hampton Lodge No. 204, AFM, 206 S McQueen St., Florence, SC 29501. Breakfast will be served.

Monday, January 6, 2020, 7:00 pm, 4th District, RW James Barron, DDGM, American Lodge No. 98, AFM, 990 Grays Hwy., Ridgeland, SC 29936. Supper will be served.

Thursday, January 9, 2020, 6:30 pm, 20th District, RW Fred Phillips, I, DDGM, Upstate Family Resource Center, 1850 Old Furnace Rd., Boiling Springs, SC 29316. Supper will be served.

Friday, January 10, 2020, 6:00 pm, 13th District, RW Mike Bryant, DDGM, Palmetto Lodge No. 19, AFM, 316 Hillcrest Dr., Laurens, SC 29360. Supper will be served.

Saturday, January 11, 2020, 8:30 am, 12th District, RW Gene Wicker, DDGM, Amity Lodge No. 87, AFM, 1304 Caldwell St., Newberry, SC 29108. Breakfast will be served.

Saturday, January 11, 2020, 8:00 am, 24th District, RW Mark Faulkenberry, DDGM, Abney Lodge No. 211, AFM, 219 Hampton St., Kershaw, SC 29067. Breakfast will be served.

Saturday, January 11, 2020, 6:00 pm, 29th District, RW Billy Ray Carroll, DDGM, Jordanville Lodge No. 297, AFM, 9400 Pee Dee Hwy., Conway, SC 29527. Supper will be served.

Monday, January 13, 2020, 6:30 pm, 28th District, RW Robbie McDaniel, DDGM, Clinton Lodge No. 60, AFM, 205 E Godbold St., Marion, SC 29571. Supper will be served.

Thursday, January 16, 2020, 6:30 pm, 11th District, RW Robert F. Elsner, DDGM, Clinton Lodge No. 3, AFM, 300 Brooks St., Abbeville, SC 29620. Supper will be served.

Thursday, January 16, 2020, 6:30 pm, 15th District, RW Johnnie M. Jones, Jr., DDGM, Seneca Lodge No. 185, AFM, 205 N Townville St., Seneca, SC 29678. Supper will be served.

Thursday, January 16, 2020, 6:30 pm, 19th District, RW Sam Turner, DDGM, Philadelphia Baptist Church, 3119 SC Hwy. 56, Pauline, SC 29374. Supper will be served.

Friday, January 17, 2020, 7:00 pm, 3rd District, RW Steve Craven, DDGM, Cottageville United Methodist Church, 44 Peirce Rd., Cottageville, SC 29435. Supper will be served.

Saturday, January 18, 2020, 8:00 am, 8th District, Edward E. Smith, Jr., DDGM, Batesburg-Leesville Lodge No. 138, AFM, 222 W Church St., Batesburg, SC 29006. Breakfast will be served.

Saturday, January 18, 2020, 8:00 am, 10th District, Ron Lockaby, DDGM, Boyleston Lodge No. 123, AFM, 1310 Dutch Fork Rd., Irmo, SC 29063. Breakfast will be served.

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Saturday, January 18, 2020, 12:00 pm, 30th District, RW Phillip Chandler, DDGM, Kingstree Lodge No. 46, AFM, 313 E. Main St., Kingstree, SC 29556. Lunch will be served.

Monday, January 20, 2020, 7:00 pm, 5th District, RW Keith Zissette, DDGM, Harmony Lodge No. 17, AFM, 30 Burr St., Barnwell, SC 29812. Supper will be served.

Monday, January 20, 2020, 6:30 pm, 23rd District, RW Bobby Joe Albert, DDGM, Great Falls Lodge No. 277, 1 Masonic Ave., Great Falls, SC 29055. Supper will be served.

Tuesday, January 21, 2020, 7:00 pm, 7th District, RW Chuck Field, DDGM, Vance Lodge No. 230, AFM, 1316 Camden Rd., Vance, SC 29163. Supper will be served.

Thursday, January 23, 2020, 6:30 pm, 1st & 2nd Districts, RW Steve Hiott, DDGM & RW Otto Kaske, DDGM, Charleston County Masonic Center, 1285 Orange Grove Rd., Charleston, SC 29407. Supper will be served.

Thursday, January 23, 2020, 7:00 pm, 9th District, RW Sam Watson, DDGM, Travis Lodge No. 241, AFM, 200 Ramage St., Saluda, SC 29138. Supper will be served.

Thursday, January 23, 2020, 6:30 pm, 16th District, RW Frank Nicholson, DDGM, Bates Lodge No. 189, AFM, 439 NE Main St., Easley, SC 29640. Supper will be served.

Thursday, January 23, 2020, 6:30 pm, 21st District, RW Judd Seay, DDGM, St. John's Lodge No. 333, AFM, 190 W Main St., Spartanburg, SC 29306. Supper will be served.

Thursday, January 30, 2020, 6:30 pm, 14th District, RW Kevin Gilmer, DDGM, Hiram Lodge No. 68, AFM, 118 E Benson St., Anderson, SC 29624. Supper will be served.

Thursday, January 30, 2020, 6:30 pm, 18th District, RW Mark Bennett, DDGM, Scottish Rite Center of Greenville, 817 Cleveland St., Greenville, SC 29605. Supper will be served.

IN MEMORIAM

THOMAS LEMUEL "JACK" COKER
PAST DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER
August 19, 1933 Greenville County, SC
October 19, 2019 Columbia, SC

HOYT THORNWELL DAVIS
PAST DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER
December 10, 1930 Greenville, SC
October 28, 2019 Greenville, SC

HAROLD DAVID CUNNINGHAM
PAST DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER
June 7, 1936 Greenville County, SC
November 12, 2019 Greer, SC

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

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THE HALL OF SALUDA LODGE NO. 103 DESTROYED BY FIRE.

The Hall of Saluda Lodge No. 103 was completely destroyed by fire on the afternoon of Saturday, September 28, 2019. Please keep the Saluda Brethren in your thoughts and prayers as they rebuild their Lodge Hall. The Brethren of Saluda Lodge No. 103 are meeting in the Hall of Batesburg-Leesville Lodge No. 138 while they work on the monumental task of rebuilding their Lodge Hall and replacing the contents. As with many older Lodges, Saluda Lodge had several artifacts which were destroyed and can never be replaced.

Even in the face of this disaster, the Saluda Brethren are resilient and busy saving what they can and planning the rebuilding of the Lodge Hall. The insurance money that will be received will fall short of the cost of rebuilding. If your Lodge wishes to contribute to the rebuilding of the Saluda Lodge Hall, the Saluda Brethren have requested that you send the checks to the Grand Lodge for holding until the Lodge requests the funds. Checks donated to the Saluda Lodge Rebuilding Fund should be made payable to the Grand Lodge of AFM of SC with an indication in the memo section "Saluda Lodge." Please mail to Grand Lodge AFM, PO Box 2185, Lexington, SC 29071-2185. The Lodge or individuals contributing will receive an appreciation letter from the Grand Secretary with a copy going to the Secretary of Saluda Lodge.



**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR**



We wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy, Prosperous 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 the Armed Forces, who during the holiday season will be away from their families protecting our Country and our Freedom. As Masons, we should remember to visit and assist our shut-in Brethren and the families of those Brethren who have passed to the Celestial Lodge Above throughout the year, and more especially, during the Holiday Season.

Your Grand Lodge Staff

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