

GRAND MASTER’S MESSAGE

*The Future IS Now!
PLANNING FOR SUCCESS!*

As we begin the new Masonic Year, it is THE BEST TIME to examine the status of your Lodge, address the issues facing your Lodge and prepare a plan for success. As previously stated, I believe that fear is the most crippling attitude that must be addressed before our Lodges can really progress and increase the value of membership. Often Lodges are crippled by fear of trying new things. Over the past several years, the Grand Lodge Officers have consistently promoted several key initiatives from our research and study. Several Masonic Lesson Plans over the last 4 years under the banner of the LODGE OF THE FUTURE, have shown proven ways to improve Ritual Quality, increase Member Communication, add meaningful Masonic Educational Programs, develop a realistic financial plan or budget plan not only for 2019, but for the next 5 years so that you can take steps now to protect your Lodge, and finally, how to become active in the community. Members and men in the community can see the difference that Freemasonry makes in the lives of our members to highlight who and what Freemasonry does for others!

Many Lodges are addressing their issues and are seeing real progress. More members attending meaningful meetings, adding new members with better and meaningful Ritual being taught, improved communications with members, improved financial status, and regaining a meaningful place in our communities.

Unfortunately, many of those that have not seriously addressed these issues are struggling to keep their Lodges open. After all, the primary role of a Lodge is to make Freemasons, not just put on degrees, but make Freemasons! As of this writing, we have 52 Lodges in this Grand Jurisdiction that have not raised a candidate in over 2 years or more! Only 4 Districts do not have any Lodges on this list!

In order to become a place where members, both old and young, want to come and participate, we have to get our house in order. This means addressing those items that directly impact the members. Complacency is our number one issue. Choose not to be complacent! It will take work and working together!

EMBRACING THE YEAR TOGETHER!

As we all begin our new year with our officers taking their respective leadership roles in our Lodge, it is important that we take time to plan for this year! Will it be better than last year? Will our Lodge make a difference to our existing members?

Prepare by reviewing the “Lodge of the Future” series of Lesson Plans and Lodge Education Topics, you may find these at www.scgrandlodgeafm.org under the Resources Tab. Use these for enhanced education. Gather and analyze your Lodge data with your officers to plan a course of action and establish a vision and pathway for your Lodge success.

Our Lodges have made a great impact in 2018 with support of Disaster Relief of members and Lodges in South Carolina,

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North Carolina, Florida. Our Veterans visitations and gift project was outstanding with gifts and supplies to three of our Veterans Units. We have visited four units and we are planning to visit the Richard Johnson VA Hospital in 2019. Brethren, thank you!

Our Grand Lodge Office and Museum have had dramatic improvements this year! We have had several degrees held in the Grand Lodge this year and I had the distinct honor to present the MM Lecture in our Grand Lodge in 2018. It is YOUR Grand Lodge and Museum, please schedule a visit and tour or get a dispensation to hold a degree or regular meeting. Consider a District Meeting at your Grand Lodge! You will be well pleased and honored!

Your Grand Lodge Office and Staff, MW Brother Gerald Carver, Grand Secretary, MW Brother Jack Marler, Grand Treasurer, Ms. Debbie Morell, Ms. Connie Bennett and Worshipful Brother Pete Bailey are the best and work so hard to support our Lodges and members. Many committeemen, and your Grand Lodge Officers are working hard to serve the Craft and are to be congratulated for their vision and support.

Finally, Gentlemen, my time as your Grand Master is rapidly coming to a close, and it has been my strong belief, indeed, my commitment to the Craft that we must look to the future so as to prepare for success. History clearly demonstrates that success comes from preparation, understanding and practice. Many great Freemasons have passed through your doors. Our members will engage when we create, prepare and share goals for your Lodge and work to accomplish those goals. I am certainly convinced that when our members feel as if they are important to the success of the Lodge, then we can succeed because we choose to work together. See the Lesson Plan which reviews the key initiatives for your review and study! Or call or email me directly, and I will forward to your attention!

Michael Smith, Grand Master, mike.d.smith@milliken.com or call at 864-680-0966.

“If you want people to play like champions, we must expect them to prepare like champions and to treat them as champions.”

May God Bless you and your Lodge in this important endeavor!

Fraternally,
Michael D. Smith, Sr.
Grand Master

MASONIC EDUCATION CORNER To Know Wisdom

Brothers, we have just celebrated the birth of our savior, Jesus Christ, a wonderful time of the year. To remember the love He gave and showed to the world demonstrates “greater love hath no man than this that a man lay down his life for his friends.” During our Ladies Night at our Lodges, we invited widows of our beloved Brothers who have passed to that Celestial Lodge, that House not made with hands. It was made from Love and Compassion for people of the world, another lesson which Jesus taught us. We as Masons came together to show our love and

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respect for each other and we did not forget the memories of our deceased Brothers nor their families. This showed, “love for each other.” We have elected New Officers for the ensuing Masonic Year. Each Brother elected to a station or appointed to an office has a great responsibility and a duty to his Brethren and the Fraternity to be ready to lead, make them and their Lodge stronger in Ritual Work, understanding the By-laws and Constitution, most of all gave something back to the community. Those of us not elected or appointed have a duty to support our Lodge and our officers.

As a child growing up on the Mill Hill, my parents provided everything our family needed. The most precious gift was their good name. My mind often goes back to the times my parents would open the Bible and share God’s Word. I remember the following words from King David, and then I heard them again when I entered Law Enforcement: “To know wisdom and instruction; To perceive the words of understanding; To receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, and judgement and equity; To give subtlety to the simple, To the young man knowledge and discretion. A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels.” (Proverbs: Chapter 1 vs. 2-5). If the new officers, follow these simple rules, they will have a great year by providing and gaining respect from their Brothers.

To all New Masters and Wardens, you are now the leaders of your Lodge. Prepare yourself to be a great leader of men, pray for understanding, a will to listen, have the courage to “always do that which is right.” Let our New Year’s Resolution be to leave the world better than when we found it. This will take teamwork, the most successful organizations are where subordinates input is welcomed, and leaders are willing to listen. The Lessons of Freemasonry are based upon truth, and they will keep on being true. The pages of history prove over and over truth never wears out and it does not succumb to the passage of time, but rather provides the courage to face times of trial and despair. It promotes within the individual, compassion to be generous to his fellow man in all his distresses. It enables one to realize the greatest charity is not when we give from ourselves, rather when we give of ourselves.

Word of the Month: Educate- to give and provide intellectual, moral and social instruction.

Quote for the Month: “Listen before you speak.” William Arthur Ward

Thought for the Month: Demonstrate your love for one another by never placing yourself before our beloved Fraternity.

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

O.B. Smith, Senior Grand Warden
Chairman, Masonic Education Committee

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SPECIAL COMMUNICATION OF THE GRAND LODGE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2019, UNION, SOUTH CAROLINA: For the purpose of Rededicating Union Lodge No. 75, AFM. 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 Union Lodge No. 75, AFM in Due Form on the First Degree at 12:30 PM with the Rededication Ceremony following. The Union Lodge Hall is located at 805 S. Duncan Bypass, Union SC 29379.

All Brothers including Entered Apprentices, Fellow Crafts and Master Masons with their ladies and friends are invited to attend. All Elected and Subordinate Grand Lodge Officers and the District Deputy Grand Master, when a Lodge in his District is holding a 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 apron.

WARDENS WORKSHOPS

Saturday, February 23, 2019 for Districts 1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-10-25-26-27-28-29-30, the Wardens’ Workshop will be held at the Charleston Scottish Rite Center located at 1051 Sam Rittenburg Boulevard, Charleston. Registration beginning at 8:00 AM. Meeting starting at 9am until Noon.

Saturday, March 2, 2019 for Districts 9-11-12-13-14-15-16-17-18-19-20-21-22-23-24, the Wardens’ Workshop will be held at the Greenville Scottish Rite Center located at 817 Cleveland Street, Greenville. Registration will begin at 8:00 AM with the meeting starting at 9:00 AM until Noon.

IN MEMORIAM

GLENN WATTS
PAST DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER
July 1, 1929 Lancaster, SC
October 5, 2018 Lancaster, SC

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

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GRAND LODGE ANNUAL COMMUNICATION

The 282nd Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free Masons of South Carolina will be held on April 25th & 26th, at the Marriott Hotel located at 299 N. Church Street, Spartanburg, SC 29606. Those desiring to stay at the Marriott Hotel, which is the Headquarters Hotel, are encouraged to make reservations as soon as possible since there is a limited number of rooms available. Elected Grand Lodge Officers, Appointed Grand Lodge Officers, Past Grand Masters, and Committeemen are requested to stay at the Headquarters Hotel and to make their reservations promptly. Each person including Grand Lodge Officers, Past Grand Masters, and Committeemen are responsible for making their own reservations. Reservations may be made by calling the Marriott Hotel at 864-596-1211. When calling, you must ask for group reservations and identify yourself as being with The Grand Lodge of Ancient Free Masons of South Carolina (Code: GLCGLC A for King Bed and GLCGLC B for Double Queen Bed) in order to obtain the special room rate of \$159.00 plus tax per night. This will include Breakfast Tickets per person (up to two tickets per room) for each night reserved.

The Religious Service will commence on Thursday, April 25th at 9:00 AM and will be conducted by Reverend and Right Worshipful A. Robert Nix, Grand Chaplain. Following the Religious Service, the Grand Lodge will be officially opened at 10:00 AM by Most Worshipful Michael D. Smith, Sr., Grand Master with the assistance of the Grand Lodge Officers and Brethren. The Annual Banquet will be held on Thursday, April 25th at 7:00 PM in the Ballroom of the Marriott Hotel.

LOCAL COMMITTEE 2019 Grand Lodge Annual Communication

RWB Tommy Watson, Grand Marshal, Chm.	864-505-0497
RWB Paul McWilliams, DDGM 20th & Bonnie	864-316-4253
RWB Judd Seay, DDGM 21st	864-497-0090
RWB Sam Turner, DDGM 19th & Debbie	864-590-7405
WB Jeff Honeycutt, SGD & Sheila	864-809-0866
RWB John Marcucci, DDGM 10th & Martha	803-920-8089
RWB Trent Henderson, PDDGM 20th & Cathy Leichter	864-621-1021
RWB Douglas O' Shields, PDDGM & Neal	864-706-0050
RWB Jay Frazier, DDGM 18th & Marti	864-593-8885

SIXTY-YEAR AWARD PRESENTATION



Right Worshipful Brother Herbert S. Goldberg, PDDGM, was presented with his 60-year award and Right Worshipful Brother Richard Wooden, PDDGM, was presented with his 50-year award on December 15, 2018 at Mariner Lodge No. 2, AFM. We congratulate both RW Brother Goldberg and RW Brother Wooden for reaching their Masonic milestones. Pictured left to right are: RWB Goldberg, RWB Wooden and RWB Steve Hiott, DDGM of the First District.

SEVENTY YEAR PRESENTATION



On September 10, 2018, a Seventy-Year Award was presented to Worshipful Brother H. Alton Weathers, PM, by MW Brother Jack A. Marler, PGM, Grand Treasurer at Fountain Inn Lodge No. 192, AFM. Worshipful Brother Weathers was raised June 14, 1948 in Fountain Inn Lodge No. 192, AFM. Congratulations to WB Weathers on reaching this Masonic Milestone. Pictured from left to right are Right Worshipful Brother Ed Snow, District Deputy Grand Master, Worshipful Brother Thomas Whitley, Jr., WM, WB H. Alton Weathers, PM, and MW Brother Jack A. Marler, PGM, Grand Treasurer.



“ On January 3, 2019 Worshipful Brother Harold Hill received his 70 Year Membership Award at Flintville Lodge #158. Pictured left to right, DDGM Boyd Hodges, Jr., WM William Reynolds, WB Harold Hill, WB K.E. Coxe, WB Thomas Knotts. Congratulations to WB Hill in achieving this Masonic Milestone!”

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