

MESSAGE FROM THE GRAND MASTER

We have just gone through two wonderful seasons of the year, Thanksgiving and Christmas. We have so much for which to be grateful-our freedoms, our families, and the food we have to eat. Many less fortunate are hungry while our tables are laden with all kinds of good food. Our men and women in the Armed Services have made our freedoms possible. Many of them have come home with missing limbs, burned beyond recognition, head injuries, and too many of them have come home in coffins or body bags. The cost of our freedoms is high. Christ's death on the cross was the price paid for our salvation. So we have so very much to be thankful for.

As you celebrated Christmas, I hope you remembered the "Reason for the Season"... the Birth of our Savior. Sometimes we forget when we are so busy finding those special gifts for our loved ones, all the baking of good foods to be enjoyed, the musical programs we attend and decorating our homes and yards. Christmas is a season of giving. It is a joyous time of the year.

As you know, my New Year didn't start off so well with my fall on New Year's Day. Since I have been homebound, I have had time to reflect on what is really meaningful in my life and the many wonderful blessings I have. Jeanne has been a good nurse. My Brothers have been so good in providing a wheel chair and a walker for my use, repairing my security camera at the front door of our home (the cause of my fall) and giving me other help. They have really lived up to what the Fraternity stands for. I also appreciate all the calls, cards, inquiries, and especially your prayers and every expression of love and care in my behalf. It means so much to Jeanne and me to know how much we have been blessed with so many good friends.

I hope to be able to be with you at the Masters' Workshop at the end of this month with the help of some of the Brothers who have volunteered to chauffeur me. I continue to be amazed at your generosity. Words can't express my appreciation for all you have done and continue to do for me and Masonry.

I hate that I have had to miss the Instructional Meetings in the Districts this month but I truly appreciate the Brothers stepping up to fill in for me.

As we stand on the threshold of this New Year, I hope 2016 will be a year filled with many privileges and opportunities to serve our fellowman. We will be attending Grand Lodge functions and local Lodge meetings. April will be a busy month as we plan for the upcoming Grand Lodge Communication to be held in Greenville at The Embassy Suites Hotel in Greenville. I hope to see all of you Brothers there.

Fraternally,
William B. Rogers
Grand Master

[2]

MASONIC EDUCATION CORNER

The Future Begins Now With a New Year!
- Enhanced Masonic Education

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL FREEMASONS!

As we begin the new Masonic year, it is a great time to embrace and improve the Masonic experience for your Lodge Brothers and Visitors. I believe that fear is the most crippling attitude that must be removed before your Lodge can progress. We often see Lodges that are crippled by fear of trying new things or trying to raising the quality standards of the Lodge, and while it is true that all may not like changes, changes are needed to continue to improve our Masonic Experience for our current and future members and indeed change is happening!

Lesson 5. Enhanced Masonic Education

Recently, Most Worshipful, William B. Rogers and RW Bro. William R. Logan and I were discussing the lack of quality Masonic Education in some of our Lodges. All too often Masonic Education in the Lodge is considered risky business to our Lodge officers, when most members, especially our youngest members, are literally begging for more from their Masonic Experience. Why? Perhaps it is a lack of confidence in leading an educational topic or a genuine fear of displeasing our members with any changes. I contend that it is our duty to further enlighten our members and create a desire to learn more and improve ourselves in Freemasonry.

Is it possible that your Lodge has become complacent about Masonic Education? If so, it is time to lead an effective educational program each month. By offering a 10-15 minute program each month, you will create a new experience every month for your members. Vary the programs by delegating to your officers and members, including new members to encourage more research, or have a young member interview a Past Master and share a presentation about his Masonic experience and history. You will be amazed by what you and your younger members will learn. Alternate between history, symbolism, current topics, and consider having a guest speaker on occasion for a special event.

Many resources are available for your use with Grand Lodge Publications, including Masonic Light, Ahiman Rezon and our Educational materials, Masonic Service Association of North America Publication, Scottish Rite Master Craftsman Program called "The Symbolic Lodge", Video programs and the "Transactions" from South Carolina Masonic Research Society.

If you have not yet discussed the first 4 lessons in 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, analysis and discussion in your Lodge.

Finally Gentlemen, remember that we learn best from each other so offer to share your experience and your Lodge History with your members. Many great Freemasons have passed through your Doors. Document and share your Lodge history before it passes another generation.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,
Michael D. Smith
Senior Grand Warden

[3]

ATTENTION WARDENS

Our Grand Master, Most Worshipful William B. Rogers has scheduled a Workshop for all Senior and Junior Wardens on Saturday, March 19, 2016, at the Scottish Rite Center in Columbia, S.C. The Columbia Scottish Rite Center is located at 7230 Garners Ferry road, Columbia, S.C. 29209. ALL SENIOR AND JUNIOR WARDENS ARE DIRECTED BY THE GRAND MASTER TO ATTEND. All elected and appointed Grand lodge Officers, Masonic Education and Masonic Service Association Committeemen are directed to attend. Past Grand Masters are requested to attend. Registration will begin promptly at 8:30 AM. Lunch will be served.

ATTENTION MASONIC LIGHT SUBSCRIBERS

Electronic copies of the Masonic Light are now available on the Grand Lodge website, scgrandlodgeafm.org. Currently all of the issues of the Masonic Light for this Grand Lodge year are available for downloading. If you prefer to obtain your Masonic Light publication from the webpage or have it emailed to you instead of receiving a printing copy, please notify us by email at masoniclight@scgrandlodgeafm.org

GRAND LODGE BANQUET

The Grand Lodge Annual Communication Banquet will be held on Thursday evening, April 28, 2016 at the Embassy Suites, Greenville located at 670 Verdae Blvd, Greenville, SC 29607. It has been the tradition of most Lodges to purchase banquet tickets for the Worshipful Master and his lady or the next highest Warrant Officer attending and representing the Lodge at the Annual Communication. In the near future, two banquet tickets will be mailed to the Secretary of each Lodge and charged to the Lodge's account. If for some reason the Lodge cannot use the banquet tickets, they must be returned to the Grand Secretary no later than March 31, 2015 in order for the Lodge not to be required to pay for the tickets. If for some reason, your Lodge has not received the tickets prior to March 1, 2015, please notify the Grand Secretary's Office.

[4]

GRAND LODGE ANNUAL COMMUNICATION

The 279th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free Masons of South Carolina will be held on April 28th and 29th, at the Embassy Suites, Greenville Golf Resort & Conference Center located at 670 Verdae Blvd, Greenville, SC 29607.

The Religious Service will commence on Thursday, April 28th 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 William B. Rogers, Grand Master with the assistance of the Grand Lodge Officers and Brethren. The Annual Banquet will be held on Thursday, April 28th at 7:00 PM in the Ball Room of the Embassy Suites, Greenville.

The Embassy Suites, Greenville will be the Headquarters hotel. Those desiring to stay at 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 Embassy Suites, Greenville at 1-864-676-9090. When calling you must ask for group reservations and identify yourself as being with The Grand Lodge of Ancient Free Masons of South Carolina in order to obtain the special room rate of \$139.00 plus tax per night. Since the Headquarters hotel will be unable to accommodate everyone attending the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge, the following is a list of nearby hotels for your convenience:

Holiday Inn Express & Suites 1036 Woodruff Road Greenville, SC 29607 864-678-5555	Microtel Inn & Suites 1024 Woodruff Rd. Greenville, SC 29607 864-297-3811
--	--

La Quinta Inn & Suites 31 Old Country Rd. Greenville, SC 29607 864-297-3500	Comfort Inn Millennium 2756 Laurens Rd Greenville, SC 29607 864-288-6900
--	---

LOCAL COMMITTEE

Grand Lodge Annual Communication
Greenville, SC-2016

WB Paul Nestberg, Chairman 1-864-275-5812	RWB. Robert W. Kendrick Honorary Chairman 1-864-346-3148
RWB O. B. Smith & Debbie Hughes 864-884-6441	RWB. Mark & Sherrie O'Shields 864-814-8406
RWB Howard & Hilda Gillison 864-982 -983 7	WB Ed Brannen 864-979-9934
RWB Dennis & Glenda Julian 864-430-2557	WB John & Leslie Susie 864-977-1504
RWB Johnathon Sprinkle 864-304-1518	Karl & Callie Bruns 864-905-2564
WB Greely (Guy) & Judy Palmer 864-982-9321	Mrs. Belinda Aiken 1-864-354-5072

[5]

IN MEMORIAM

LOWELL SUMTER CLARK
 Past District Deputy Grand Master
 May 11, 1929 Johnston, SC
 September 18, 2015 Johnston, SC

MARION LEE JACKSON, JR
 Past District Deputy Grand Master
 August 22, 1949 Sumter, SC
 November 9, 2015 Florence, SC

RUSSELL CLARK
 Past District Deputy Grand Master
 October 9, 1926 Johnston, SC
 November 25, 2015 Johnston, SC

ISAAC HAROLD GRIMBALL, JR
 Past District Deputy Grand Master
 September 7, 1925 Charleston, SC
 December 4, 2015 Johns Island, SC

We send our deepest expressions of sympathy to the families and Lodge Brethren of those Brethren who have passed away.



On December 6th, 2015 the Knights of St. Andrews, Scottish Rite Valley of Charleston hosted the Charleston Holiday Masonic Parade. Over 30 Brethren marched in the Parade.



On December 9, 2015, Worshipful Brother Russell Long Hodges, age 96, received his 60 year service pin and Grand Lodge Certificate from RW Brother Gordon Best, DDGM of the 29th Masonic District. WB Hodges was raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason on April 15, 1955, served Horry Lodge No. 381 as Worshipful Master in 1957 and continued his service as Secretary for 13 years from 1958 thru 1973. To his left is Senior Warden, RW Brother Billy Gardner, PDDGM of the 29th Masonic District. Standing behind WB Hodge is WB Legrand Floyd, Treasurer. And to the right of our DDGM, is WB Josh Backfield, Worshipful Master.



In District 26, Oak Grove Lodge 378, 74 year-old Brother Harry Kirby received his 50 year certificate from Right Worshipful Jack L. Davis, Jr.



On December 3rd, 2015 Iva Lodge No. 238 had a Past Master's 3rd Degree. 5 Past District Deputy Grand Masters and the current DDGM of the 14th District were present.

Pictured are: RW Robert Wiles, PDDGM, RW Haskell Manning, PDDGM, RW Cleland Manning, PDDGM, RW Marcus Burdette, PDDGM, RW Claude Turpin, DDGM, RW Joe Robinson, PDDGM, and the Newly Made Master Mason, Adam Simpson



Landrum Lodge # 278 AFM Presents 3 George Washington Portraits Landrum Lodge was honored to present George Washington Portraits to O.P. Earle Elementary School, Landrum Middle School and Landrum High School at their Veterans Day Celebration Events before Veterans, Parents and students. Pictured are Colonel Robert Sanders, JROTC Senior Instructor, and Mr. Jason McCraw, Principal of Landrum High School. Presenting for Landrum, WB Nelson Edwards, PM and RW Michael Smith, SGW. "Landrum Lodge is honored to support our Landrum Community Schools." Christian Edwards, Wor. Master.

(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. 29072-8937.
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, FAX 803-808-4315
 E-mail: grandsecretary@segrandlodgcafm.org



Periodicals postage paid at Lexington, S.C. 29073-9998
 Subscription Rate: One Year, \$10.00; Life, \$50.00
 AUTO
 Vol. 87 February 2016/March 2016 No. 6