

## GRAND MASTERS MESSAGE

*Early Years of Masonry*

When an organization comes into being there are individuals with great ideas and skills that work and sacrifice to make their ideas come to reality and the same is true with Masonry. South Carolina has many Brothers who distinguished themselves in the early years. On the 28th of October 1736, the first Lodge in South Carolina was opened in Charleston with Bro. John Hammerton being unanimously elected as Worshipful Master.

About the middle of the eighteenth century, the division of the Fraternity in England into two conflicting societies of the “*Ancients*” and the “*Moderns*” came into being; although by the reconciliation in 1813, uniformity was restored in *The United Grand Lodge of England*, which was then formed. That uniformity was restored and did not extend to other countries with Lodges. Although nearly all Lodges in the United States, before the Revolution of 1776, derived their existence from the Grand Lodges of England, the American Masons do not use the multitude of signs that prevail in the English System.

In the early years of Masonry in South Carolina, there were the “*Ancient York Masons*” and the “*Moderns*.” Moderns were the original Grand Lodge established in 1717 in London and became known as the “*MODERNS*.” The Ancients were the Irish Masons who formed a rival Grand Lodge in London in 1751 and styled themselves as “*Ancients*.” The reconciliation in 1813 restored the two Grand Lodges in South Carolina. The result of the reconciliation was the formation of “*The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient and Free Masons of South Carolina*.”

The degrees of Freemasonry are the steps by which a candidate ascends from a lower to a higher condition of knowledge. It is the opinion of the best Masonic scholars, that the division of the Masonic system into degrees was the work of revivalist of the beginning of the Eighteenth Century. Prior to this period, there was but one degree or common platform of ritualism.

In 1717, the whole body of the Fraternity consisted only of Entered Apprentices, who were recognized by the thirty-nine Regulations, compiled in 1720, as among the law givers of the Craft. In the *old charges*, and approved in 1722, the degree of Fellow-Craft is introduced as being necessary qualifications for Grand Master, although the word *degree* is not used.

The *Grand Mastery*, published in 1725, makes no reference to any degrees. The division of the Masonic system into three degrees must have grown up between 1717 and 1730, but in so gradual manner that we are unable to fix the precise date in the introduction of each degree. As late as 1735, the Entered Apprentice’s Degree contained the most prominent form of initiation and he was an Entered Apprentice which was, for all practical purposes, a Freemason. After repeated improvements, by the adoption ceremonies and new regulations that the degree of Master Mason took the place it now occupies. In 1813, the Grand Lodge of England vindicated the ancient landmark, by solemnly enacting that ancient Craft Masonry consisted of the three degrees of *Entered Apprentice*, *Fellow-Craft* and *Master Mason*. The most important and significant of the legendary symbols of Freemasonry is, undoubtedly, that which relates to the fate of *Hiram Abif*, commonly called the legend of the Third Degree. The legend has always remained unwritten, and descended, from age to age, through the means of oral tradition. It has been considered of so much importance that it has been preserved in the symbolism of every Masonic Rite. Although over time modifications or alterations have been attempted. The legend of the Temple Builder has ever been left untouched, to present itself in all the integrity of its ancient mythical form.

The idea, therefore, proposed to be communicated in the myth of the ancient mysteries was the same as that which is now conveyed in the Masonic Legend of the Third Degree, the sublime symbolism of a resurrection from the grave to a new birth into a future life.

Fraternally,  
William B. Rogers  
Grand Master

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## MASONIC EDUCATION CORNER

*LODGE MEMBERSHIP RETENTION*

Brethren, I trust you had a great summer with some time to relax and enjoy family and fellowship. While many of our Lodges, having been dark for the hot summer days, will gather again to recommence their labors in the quarries of Freemasonry, most of our Lodges have remained at labor and continued to bring in new members and work on Lodge improvement projects. It is now time to kick off our Membership Programs as we sprint to the end of the year! It is time to make contact with our members and share what your Lodge has been doing this year BEFORE dues collection. Will the dues notice be the first time members have heard from your Lodge this year? It is my hope that is not the case for your member’s sake!

Recently, I was speaking to a Brother Mason at a conference in Denver, CO. I was asking about his wife who had some health issues, and had followed up with him on a couple of occasions. As we sat together, he shared a sad story of how his wife had been stricken with a sudden illness and several months of recovery. He commented how much it meant that Brother Masons had supported him and his wife. He shared that his church, however, had not made one call, not one message, not one card during the time and that they knew about it because of the involvement both had with the church. They called the church to let them know that they would not be able to teach or serve on committees. His disappointment was obvious! He went on to say the first notification from the church was the annual giving notification and the pledge card! He indicated that he was so upset that he was seriously considered for a few moments not participating as he has always done. We discuss how all of us fall short in our duty to each other, but thankfully his support from the Freemasons and the great lessons from his faith and the teaching of Freemasonry allowed him to pause and reflect.

What about your Lodge members that are not attending regularly? Have we forgotten them, like this example of my friend and Brother? Are we only asking for their dues money and forgetting that they too are our Brothers?

My Brethren, I submit it is time now to reach out, check on our members and see how they are doing. Some will need our encouragement, others may need our direct assistance and some may need to hear from a familiar friend from the past. Regardless of the situation, isn’t it part of our duty to our members? It is easy to forget those which we cannot see, especially when we are busy and focused on other things, but our “Duty is with us Always!”

So let us take time this fall to reach out to our all of our members, establish a new habit of staying in touch, especially with those in need. Some members may only get to interact with you my Brethren. Isn’t that what we value the most from our Masonic Journey, fellowship with good men and the Fraternity of Light!

Our lesson plan for the month references some ways to improve communication with your members. Find the Masonic Light Lesson plan under the resources tab at [www.scgrandlodgeafm.org](http://www.scgrandlodgeafm.org). Salve! Salve Frater!

Fraternally,  
Michael D. Smith, Sr.. SGW  
Chariman, Masonic Education Committee

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## IN MEMORIAM

JOSEPH HOWARD HUCKS

Past District Deputy Grand Master

June 24, 1921                      Horry County, SC

June 23, 2016                      Bennettsville, SC

JAN MORTIMER OVERSTREET

Past District Deputy Grand Master

September 29, 1939              Taft, TX

July 26, 2016                      Chapin, SC

KENNETH LAMAR TYNER

Past District Deputy Grand Master

May 8, 1934                        Greenville, SC

August 9, 2016                    Fort Mill, SC

ARTHUR COLEMAN TRACEY

Past District Deputy Grand Master

August 15, 1927                  Smithsburg, MD

August 10, 2016                  Sumter, SC

BOBBY RICHARD SMITH

Past District Deputy Grand Master

November 23, 1936              Winnsboro, SC

August 13, 2016                  Winnsboro, SC

RIDGEWAY BUTLER SATIERFIELD

Past District Deputy Grand Master

December 11, 1923              Owings, SC

August 21, 2016                  Laurens, SC

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

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## SPECIAL COMMUNICATIONS OF THE GRAND LODGE

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2016, INMAN, SOUTH CAROLINA**

For the purpose of Laying a Cornerstone at the Inman Community Volunteer Fire Department’s new Fire Station Building. The Grand Master, with the assistance of the other Grand Lodge Officers, will open the Grand Lodge of AFM of SC and Inman Lodge No. 201, AFM on the First Degree at 11:30 AM at the Inman Lodge Hall. The Inman Lodge Hall is located at 8 Blackstock Road, Inman SC 29384.The Grand Lodge and Inman Lodge will be called to refreshment by the Grand Master after which everyone will travel to the new Inman Fire Station Building located at 1081 Lyman Road, Inman, SC 29349 for lunch. After lunch, the Cornerstone Laying Ceremony will be conducted by the Grand Master, with the assistance of the Grand Lodge Officers.

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2016, CLEMSON, SOUTH CAROLINA**

For the purpose of Laying a Cornerstone and Rededicating Clemson Lodge No. 254, 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 and Clemson Lodge No.

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254, AFM on the First Degree at 12:30 PM. The Cornerstone Laying Ceremony will follow at 1:00 PM with the Ceremony of Rededication coming afterwards. Clemson Lodge is located at 372 College Avenue, Clemson, SC, 29631.

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2017, ST. GEORGE, SOUTH CAROLINA:**

For the purpose of Rededicating Harmony Lodge No. 61, AFM in celebration of the Lodge’s 175th 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 and Harmony Lodge No. 61, AFM on the First Degree at 12:30 PM. The Rededication Ceremony will follow at 1:00 PM. Harmony Lodge is located 5355 Jim Bilton Avenue, St. George, SC 29477.

**SATURDAY, MARCH 4, 2017, GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA:**

For the purpose of Laying a Cornerstone and Dedicating the Lodge Hall of Walden Lodge No. 274 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 and Walden Lodge No. 274, AFM on the First Degree at 12:30 PM. The Ceremony of Laying the Cornerstone will follow at 1:00 PM with the Ceremony of Rededication coming afterwards. Walden Lodge is located at 8551 White Horse Road, Greenville, SC.

**SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 2017, IRMO, SOUTH CAROLINA:**

For the purpose of Rededicating Boyleston Lodge No. 123, 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 and Boyleston Lodge No. 123, AFM on the First Degree at 12:30 PM. The Rededication Ceremony will follow at 1:00 PM. Boyleston Lodge is located 1310 Dutch Fork Road, Irmo, SC 29063

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 and black vests. All other Grand Lodge Officers should wear black tuxedos with black bow ties, and black cummerbunds or black vests.

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## LOUISIANA FLOOD APPEAL

An appeal has been made by the Masonic Service Association of North America to all of the Grand Lodges in North America for assistance for the Louisiana Brethren, their families, and Lodges affected by the recent devastating floods in that State. Lodges and individual Brothers wishing to contribute should make their checks payable to the Grand Lodge AFM, Charities and Disaster Relief, Inc. and mark “Louisiana Flood Assistance” in the memo section of the check. All checks should be mailed to the Grand Lodge Office, P. O. Box 2185, Lexington, SC 29071-2185. Donations by individual Brothers are tax deductible.

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## MASON EDUCATION PLANNING MEETING

The Annual Masonic Education Planning Meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 30, 2016 at the Grand Lodge Office in Lexington. Dinner will be served at 6:00 PM with the meeting to follow. All Grand Lodge Officers, District Deputy Grand Masters, Masonic Education Committeemen and Masonic Service Association Committeemen should attend and Past Grand Masters are welcome to attend. The dress is business casual.

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(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**  
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**AUTO**

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A screen will appear with a box asking for your Lodge number, another box asking for your Member ID number (you need obtain this number from your Lodge Secretary and if your Lodge Secretary has not yet logged into the system, you may call the Grand Lodge for your ID Number). The last box on the screen will ask for your last name. After completing the information in each box, you should click on the “Check Membership Status” box. A final sign-up screen will appear asking for your email address and for an eight character or more password to be typed in twice which you must comprise and remember for future log-ins. After signing up, you will have access to your personal contact information for updating purposes and any events, notices, minutes or documents that your Lodge Secretary has posted for the members of your Lodge After initially signing up, you will only need to go to the Member Portals as before and sign in on the sign in page with your email and personally created password. You will be able to log on from a Computer or Smart Phone. When logging on with a Smart Phone, the layout of the Screens will of course differ from the layout on a Computer Screen.

## INSPIRATIONAL MEETINGS

Saturday, October 8, 2016, 6:00 pm, 4th District, RW Brother G. Ray Christian, DDGM, Hardeeville Lodge No. 348, 1 Boyd Street, Hardeeville, SC. Guest Speaker will be RW Brother Cal Disher, Junior Grand Warden. Supper will be served.

Saturday, October 17, 2016, 7:00 pm, 5th District, RW Brother Richard Dixon, DDGM, El Bab Shrine Club, 571 Patterson Mill Road, Barnwell, SC. Guest Speaker will be Most Worshipful Brother Barry A. Rickman, PGM. Supper will be served.

Thursday, October 20, 2016, 6:30 pm, 17th District, RW Brother Jamie Crawford, DDGM, Tabernacle Baptist Church, Pelzer, SC. Guest Speaker & Music. Supper will be served.

Monday, October 24, 2016, 7:00 pm, 7th District, RW Brother Carroll Cheek, DDGM, Edisto Shrine Club, 1235 Five Chop Road, Orangeburg, SC. Guest Speaker will be RW Brother Rev. Clay Shook. Supper will be served.

Tuesday, October 25, 2016, 7:00 pm, 28th District, RW Brother Thomas H. Lee, Jr., DDGM, Damascus Lodge No. 161, 114 E. Proctor Street, Mullins, SC. Guest Speaker TBA. Supper will be served.

Thursday, October 27, 2016, 6:00 pm, 1st & 2nd Districts, RW Brother Lloyd Christopher, DDGM, RW Brother Dale A. Schumann, DDGM, Charleston Scottish Rite Center, 1051 Sam Rittenburg Blvd., Charleston, SC. Guest Speaker will be RW Brother Thomas Lewis, Past Master. Supper will be served.

Saturday, October 29, 2016, 6:00 pm, 25th District, RW Brother Daniel H. Hart, DDGM, Hartsville Lodge No. 173, 411 West Home Ave. Hartsville, SC. Guest Speaker will be Most Worshipful Brother Ronald C. Mitchum, PGM, Masonic Relief Chairman. Supper will be served.

Saturday, November 12, 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. Supper will be served.

Monday, November 28, 2016, 6:30 pm, 22nd District, RW Brother Jerry Smith, DDGM, Gaffney Lodge No. 186, 219 Floyd Baker Blvd., Gaffney, SC. Guest Speaker will be RW Brother Rev. Robert Elsner. Supper will be served.

Monday, January 23, 2017, 7:00 pm, 7th District, RW Carroll Cheek, DDGM, Dantzler Lodge No. 318, AFM, 206 Second Street, Cameron, SC 29030. Supper will be served.

Tuesday, January 24, 2017, 6:30 pm, 17th District, RW Jamie Crawford, DDGM, Empire Lodge No. 213, AFM. 150 Whatley Circle, Mauldin, SC 29662. Supper will be served.

Thursday, January 26, 2017, 7:00 pm, 6th District, RW Jon Majerus, DDGM, Aiken Lodge No. 156, AFM, 443 Laurens Street, NW, Aiken, SC 29801. Supper will be served

Thursday, January 26, 2017, 7:00 pm, 9th District, RW Charlie Watts, DDGM, Concordia Lodge No. 50, AFM, 392 Penn Street, Edgefield, SC 29824. Supper will be served.

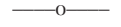
Thursday, January 26, 2017, 6:30 pm, 11th District, RW Jonathan Miller, DDGM, Clinton Lodge No. 3, AFM, 300 Brooks Street, Abbeville, SC 29620. Supper will be served.

Thursday, January 26, 2017, 6:30 pm, 14th District, RW Claude Turpin, DDGM, Watkins Center, 204 South Main Street, Honea Path, SC 29654. Supper will be served.

Thursday, January 26, 2017, 6:30 pm, 21st District, RW James E. Hayes, III, DDGM, Spartan Lodge No. 70, AFM, 190 West Main Street, Spartanburg, SC 29306. Supper will be served.

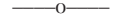
Thursday, January 26, 2017, 7:30 pm, 1st & 2nd Districts, RW Lloyd F. Christopher, DDGM & RW Dale A. Schumann, DDGM, Charleston Masonic Association, 1285 Orange Grove Road, Charleston, SC 29407. Supper will be served.

Saturday, January 28, 2017, 9:00 AM, Grand Masters Workshop for Worshipful Masters, Scottish Rite Temple, 7230 Garners Ferry Road, Columbia, SC. Lunch will be served.



## ATTENTION LODGE SECRETARIES

You should have received an email message from this office notifying you that you have a message on the Grand Lodge Membership Management Portal. When you receive these email notifications, simply log-onto your Lodge’s Dashboard and click on the “Posts” tab and you will be able to read the message. You can send messages to your members who have emails in the system in the same manner by clicking on the “Post” tab on your Dashboard and then click on “Add a Post.” The message sent on September 12, 2016 included a notice that a Lodge Secretaries Workshop will be held on Saturday, October 8, 2016 at the Grand Lodge Office with registration at 8:30 AM and the meeting at 9:00AM with lunch being served at noon. All those attending must contact the Grand Lodge either by email or the telephone to make a reservation since space is limited and in order to provide a meal for all attendees.



## ATTENTION ALL SOUTH CAROLINA BROTHERS

The Grand Lodge Membership Management Computer System is now available for every South Carolina Brother to log onto the system and enter and keep his personal and contact information up to-date. To log on, simply go to the Grand Lodge Website “scgrandlodgeafm.org” scroll down to the box marked “Member Portal” and click on the box. The Lodge Locator Page of the system will then show, you need to click on “Member Portal” again in the upper right hand side of the screen. A sign-in box will appear, but you must first register by clicking on the “Member Registration Label” in the upper right hand corner of the screen.

## INSTRUCTIONAL MEETINGS

Friday, January 6, 2017, 6:00 pm, 18th District, RW Scott A. Matheny, DDGM, Greenville Scottish Rite, 817 Cleveland Street, Greenville, SC 29601. Supper will be served.

Friday, January 6, 2017, 6:30 pm, 22nd District, RW Jerry Smith, DDGM, Alpine Lodge No. 208, AFM, 502 North Main Street, Clover, SC 29710. Supper will be served.

Saturday, January 7, 2017, 6:00 pm, 25th District, RW Dan Hart, DDGM, Hartsville Lodge No. 173, AFM, 411 West Home Avenue, Hartsville, SC 29550. Supper will be served.

Thursday, January 12, 2017, 6:30 pm, 20th District, RW Guy L. Burrell, DDGM, Boiling Springs Lodge No. 413, AFM, 1831 Old Furnace Road, Boiling Springs, SC 29316. Supper will be served.

Saturday, January 14, 2017, 8:00 am, 24th District, RW Brian F. Steele, DDGM, Abney Lodge No. 211, AFM, 219 Hampton Street, Kershaw, SC 29067. Breakfast will be served.

Saturday, January 14, 2017, 6:00 pm, 29th District, RW Dave Harrell, DDGM, Horry Lodge No. 381, AFM, 905 Fifteenth Avenue, Conway, SC 29526. Supper will be served.

Saturday, January 14, 2017, 6:00 pm, 4th District, RW G. Ray Christian, Hardeeville Lodge No. 348, AFM, 1 Boyd Street, Hardeeville, SC 29927. Supper will be served.

Saturday, January 14, 2017, 5:00 pm, 26th District, RW Jack L. Davis, Jr., DDGM, Sumter Lodge No. 364, AFM, 215 Alice Drive, Sumter, SC 29150. Supper will be served.

Monday, January 16, 2017, 7:00 pm, 5th District, RW Ricky Dixon, DDGM, Harmony Lodge No. 17, AFM, 30 Burr Street, Barnwell, SC 29812. Supper will be served.

Monday, January 16, 2017, 6:30 pm, 16th District, RW Randall D. Waters, DDGM, Bates Lodge No. 189, AFM, 439 NE Main Street, Easley, SC 29640. Supper will be served.

Monday, January 16, 2017, 6:30 pm, 23d District, RW Thomas H. Martin, Jr., DDGM, Great Falls Lodge No. 277, AFM, One Masonic Drive (Entrance off Dearborn Street, East of Calhoun Street) Great Falls, SC 29055. Supper will be served.

Thursday, January 19, 2017, 6:00 pm, 15th District, RW Tom Henry, DDGM, Seneca Lodge No. 185, AFM, 205 North Townville Street, Seneca, SC 29678. Supper will be served.

Thursday, January 19, 2017, 6:30 pm, 19th District, RW Jerry W. Hill, Jr., DDGM, Cavins Lodge No. 226, AFM, 160 Skinner Road, Woodruff, SC 29388. Supper will be served.

Friday, January 20, 2017, 6:30 pm, 3rd District, RW Barry D. Crosby, DDGM, Cottageville Methodist Church, 44 Peirce Road, Cottageville, SC 29435. Supper will be served.

Friday, January 20, 2017, 7:00 pm, 12th District, RW Troy Shealy, DDGM, Little Mountain Lodge No. 281, AFM, 854 Main Street, Little Mountain, SC 29075. Supper will be served.

Saturday, January 21, 2017, 7:30 pm, 8th District, RW Dean Strickland, DDGM, Sinclair Lodge No. 154, AFM, 1104 B Avenue, West Columbia, SC 29169. Supper will be served.

Saturday, January 21, 2017, 5:00 pm, 27th District, RW Phillip Anchors, DDGM, Hampton Lodge No. 204, AFM, 206 South McQueen Street (Intersection of West Cheves Street), Florence, SC 29501. Supper will be served.

Saturday, January 21, 2017, 1:00 pm, 30th District, RW Phillip P. Cockfield, Jr., DDGM, St. Peter’s Lodge No. 54, AFM, 232 East Boyce Street, Manning, SC 29102. Lunch will be served.

Saturday, January 21, 2017, 8:30 am, 10th District, RW C. Ray Boland, Jr., DDGM, Boyleston Lodge No. 123, AFM, 1310 Dutch Fork Road, Irmo, SC 29063. Breakfast will be served.