

GRAND MASTER’S LAST MESSAGE

This is my last *Masonic Light* article as your Grand Master. I begin with mixed emotions as my time as your Grand Master is slowly coming to an end. I am sad because my term will soon be over. However, I am very thankful you gave me the opportunity to serve this Grand Jurisdiction as your Grand Master for the past two years. I will always have wonderful memories of the way you received me and of the many acts of kindness and courtesies extended to me as I traveled over this state visiting your Lodges. Also for the honor of representing The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient Free Masons of South Carolina as I travelled to other Grand Jurisdictions for their Annual Communications. It was my privilege to meet and make friends with Brethren from many Jurisdictions in North America as I attended the Southeastern Masonic Conferences and Conferences of Grand Masters and Grand Secretaries of North America for the past several years.

I want to thank the elected line officers: Rt. Wor. Michael D. Smith, Sr., Senior Grand Warden, Rt. Wor. Walter C. Disher II, Junior Grand Warden, M.W. Jack A. Marler, PGM and Grand Treasurer, M.W. Gerald L. Carver, PGM and Grand Secretary, and Rt. Wor. A. Robert Nix, Grand Chaplain for their support. Congratulations to Rt. Wor. Michael D. Smith, Sr., as he is elevated to the time-honored position of Grand Master. To the Subordinate Grand Lodge Officers, District Deputy Grand Masters and Committeemen: thank you for your support these past two years. Also I want to thank Rt. Wor. Benny Hammond for his outstanding performance as my Grand Marshal and the times he accompanied me on my demanding travel schedule.

To M. W. Jerry Carver, PGM and Grand Secretary thank you for your wise counsel, advice and work performed for me. You were always there for me when I needed advice and counsel and I thank you for that.

To M.W. Jack A. Marler, PGM, Grand Treasurer for the assurances that the funds of the Grand Lodge are properly maintained.

To MW Ronald C. Mitchum, PGM, Chairman of Commission on Investments and Masonic Relief. Thank you for your expert advice and performance with the Grand Lodge Investments and assuring stability in the future. Also for your work with the Masonic Relief to ensure those receiving assistance were thoroughly investigated.

To our Past Grand Masters: MW Tommie Brant, MW G. Ray Marsh, MW Robert V. Pinkston, MW Samuel Tennyson, Sr., MW G. Kent Elkins, MW Barry A. Rickman, MW Jay A. Pearson and MW David J. DeChant, Sr. This Grand Lodge is fortunate to have a dedicated group of Brothers as you.

To all the Brethren who were always there when I needed a helping hand and prefer to remain anonymous, I know who you are and will always be indebted to you.

To Jeanne, my best friend, the love of my life and my wife: I can't express in words my love and appreciation for your love and the sacrifices you made supporting me through the forty seven years I have been active in this Great Fraternity of Masonry. You have been so very encouraging and supportive every day.

Brethren, I look forward to our upcoming 280th Annual Communication to be held in Greenville, S. C. at the Embassy Suites Hotel on April 27th -28th 2017. I sincerely hope to see you there.

Fraternally,
William B. Rogers
Grand Master

MASONIC EDUCATION CORNER

Lodge of the Future Review

It has been a distinguished honor to serve all the Brethren of The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient Free Masons of South Carolina as your Senior Grand Warden. I have been humbled and honored by your support and our shared love of this great Fraternity. Thank you for your continued support, your dedication and passion for your Lodge, and for listening and working together for the benefit of this our Fraternity.

As chairman of the Masonic Education Committee, I would like to thank the MEC Committee for their dedication to every Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction. They have worked to deliver a new message and have generated excitement in many of our Lodges. It is exciting to see those Lodges that are working to address the future of our great Fraternity, by having listened and taking action to meet the challenge of examining and improving the Lodge experience for our members. So take time to thank your Masonic Education Committeeman and your District Deputy Grand Master for working to support and improve Your Lodge for all your members!

I wish to thank the Most Worshipful Grand Master William B. Rogers for his support and leadership, our Grand Secretary, our Grand Treasurer for their dedication to the Craft. We have made great or should I say Grand strides forward with our new computer and financial programs. To RW Bro. Walter C. Disher, JGW for his support and contributions to Masonic Education. Finally to our departed brother, RW Bro. William R. Logan, DGM who shared the passion and vision of the future for our Fraternity. While we miss his influence and his leadership, he would be so proud of the progress of our Grand Lodge!

Brethren, our Lodge membership is our most important asset. While I am positive of the great influence we have as Freemasons and our future, and yet I am also greatly concerned about the transition that some of our Lodges still are facing for renewal and even survival in the coming years. I find some Lodges also unprepared, and some even unaware of the issues that are on the horizon. Issues like the impact of 40 year Life Membership will have on the Lodge ability to support itself. Check your Lodge statistics and see what percentage of your members will be 40 year life members over the next 5 years. Many Lodges are already at 50% of members have reached this milestone of service and yet the very Lodge that they have served, continue to struggle to make ends meet. This will impact Grand Lodge in the future as well and will be an issue we will need to face in the coming weeks and years to sustain our future members.

Over the last two years, I have been pleased to introduce our humble effort to inform, enlighten and assist our Lodges in moving forward with the Lodge of the Future Program, which has focused on preparation for the future, improving the Lodge experience and raising the standard for our Program of Instruction. I have been blessed to see fruit from this effort with Lodges being focused on improving our meetings, adding more educational programs and considering what will your Lodge look like beyond 2020. Again I ask, the following question, **What will OUR Lodge look like beyond 2020?**

I believe we continue to have a great opportunity to study, plan and implement actions that will lead our Lodge revitalization and even greater success. It still takes work, passion and dedication and in my humble opinion, we must press onward and upward together.

What do you want from your Masonic Experience?
Just imagine what we can do when we consider the possibilities. So let's stay the course and together we can determine our path

toward the future, and our plan for success so that the generations yet to come, will value what we know and cherish about our beloved Fraternity.

Fraternally,
Michael D. Smith, Sr.
Senior Grand Warden, Chairman
Masonic Education Committee

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DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER BREAKFAST MEETING

The Annual District Deputy Grand Master's Breakfast Meeting will be held on Friday, April 28, 2017, at 7.00 AM in the Palmetto Room (Hospitality Room) at the Embassy Suites, Greenville. If you are staying at the Embassy Suites, there is no charge for breakfast, others will be charged \$12.00. Please notify Right Worshipful Brother Scott A. Matheny, District Deputy Grand Master for the 18th District no later than Monday, April 17th if you plan to attend and whether or not you are staying at the Embassy Suites. Everyone will meet at the Palmetto Room at 7:00 AM sharp where the blessing for the meal will be given by Right Worshipful and Reverend A. Robert Nix, Grand Chaplain after which everyone will proceed to the "cook to order" breakfast line and return with their food to the Palmetto Club Room .

Please RSVP by April 17th to:

Scott A. Matheny, DDGM 18th District
198 McCauley Road Extension
Travelers Rest, SC 29690
Phone: 864-834-0724 (H) 864-363-1673 (C)
Email: scott.a.matheny@gmail.com

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M.W. BROTHER G. RAY MARSH, PGM, GRAND SECRETARY EMERITUS

Most Worshipful Brother Ray after being in Lexington Medical Center for 9 days has been at National Health Care Room 334 A, 2993 Sunset Blvd., West Columbia, SC 29169. He is making progress but still needs our prayers. If his progress continues, he is hopeful to go home on April 17th. We are sure that Most Worshipful Brother Ray would greatly appreciate your prayers and cards.

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GRAND LODGE ANNUAL COMMUNICATION

The 280th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free Masons of South Carolina will be held on April 27th and 28th, 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 27th 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 27th 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 (code GRA) in order to obtain the special room rate of \$143.00 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

IN MEMORIAM

JENNINGS CREIGHTON (J.C.) BROWN
Past District Deputy Grand Master

September 25, 1940
February 8, 2017

McCormick, SC
McCormick, SC

RAYMOND ARNOLD HUTIO
Past District Deputy Grand Master

March 7, 1929
February 13, 2017

Neeses, SC
Aiken, SC

PHILLIP EDWARD TURNER
Past District Deputy Grand Master

November 26, 1957
February 18, 2017

Aiken County, SC
Graniteville, SC

Robert Dechant, brother of David J. Dechant, Sr., Past Grand Master, passed away February 10, 2017, In Akron, Ohio.

Barbara Naccarato, sister of Mrs. D. Samuel (Velma) Tennyson, Sr., Past Grand Master, passed away February 10, 2017 in St Louis, MO.

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

15TH ANNUAL GRAND LODGE GOLF TOURNNEY WEDNESDAY APRIL 26, 2017

Bonnie Brae Golf Course, 1116 Ashmore Bridge Rd.,
Greenville, SC 864-277-9838

- Lodge Sponsorship Information for Grand Lodge Golf Tournament
\$ 250 Grand Masters Sponsorship - *Plaque, Tournament Sponsor Sign, and Listing*
\$ 100 Tournament Hole Sponsor- *Hole Sponsor Sign, Listing in Proceedings*
\$ 75 Tournament Patron- *Listing in Grand Lodge Proceedings*

Deadline for Sponsorship April 21, 2017
Send Sponsorships Checks to Address Below

Tournament Information

- > 4 Person Captain's Choice Handicapped Format.
- > \$ 65.00 per player includes green fees, carts, range balls & luncheon.
- > Bring your own Lodge team or Other Masonic Body to compete for SC Lodge Championship Traveling Trophy.

Single players welcomed and paired for play.

- > Flights by Handicap
- > 12:00 Noon Shotgun start
- > Door Prizes to be given away
- > Deadline for team registration is April 21st
- > Register by sending information to:

Grand Lodge Golf Tournament
 c/o Michael Smith, 715 Holston Creek Church Rd., Inman, SC 29349
 864-680-0966 • Email mike.d.smith@milliken.com
 Limited number of teams so register today!



Having Fun While Helping Brothers

2016 Champions
 Hope Lodge
 #278 AFM Team

Registration Form: Copy, Clip and Send :	
Team _____	4 Players + Hole Sponsor\$ 360
Grand Master Sponsor_____	\$ 250
Tournament Sponsor_____	\$ 100
Patron _____	\$ 75
Lodge Name _____	Number __ _
Name. _____	Handicap _____
Name. _____	Handicap _____
Name. _____	Handicap _____
Name. _____	Handicap _____

NEWSLETTER AND COMMUNITY SERVICE CONSTESTS

Each year at the Annual Communication Banquet, the Lodge with the best Lodge Newsletter is awarded the H. Dwight McAlister Journalism Award by the Senior Grand Warden. We ask that each Lodge Secretary mail at least four of the Lodge's 2016 Newsletters to the Grand Lodge Office as soon as possible. Also, each year at the Annual Banquet, Community Service Awards are awarded by the Deputy Grand Master to a District and a Lodge for their service to the Lodge's community. We ask that each District Deputy Grand Master mail a write up of their District's 2016 Community Service projects to this office as soon as possible. We also ask each Lodge Secretary to mail a write up of their Lodge's 2016 Community Service Projects as soon as possible.

GRAND LODGE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

The Grand Lodge Organizational Meeting will be held beginning with registration at 8:30 AM on Saturday, May 13, 2017 at the Grand Lodge Office Building located at 1445 Pisgah Church Road, Lexington, SC 29071 (Exit 51 on Interstate 20). All Elected Grand Lodge Officers, All Appointed Grand Lodge Officers including District Deputy Grand Masters, Masonic Education Committeemen, and Masonic Service Committeemen are required to attend and all Past Grand Masters are requested to attend. Since photographs will be taken, the dress for all Elected Grand Lodge Officers and Past Grand Masters will be black tails with black bow tie, black vest, jewel and apron. The dress for all other Officers and Committeemen will be black tuxedo with black bow tie, black vest, jewel and apron.

ANNUAL GEORGIA/SOUTH CAROLINA MASONIC EXCHANGE MEETING

The Annual Exchange Meeting between the Georgia and South Carolina Brethren will be held on Friday, June 9, 2017 beginning with dinner at 6:00 PM with the meeting to follow. The Exchange Meeting will be held at the Scottish Rite Center located at 2553 Washington Road, Augusta, GA 30904.

SPECIAL COMMUNICATIONS OF THE GRAND LODGE

SATURDAY, JUNE 3, 2017, GREENWOOD, SOUTH CAROLINA:
 For the purpose of Laying a Cornerstone and Rededicating Mathews Lodge No. 358, AFM in celebration of the Lodge's 75th 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 Mathews Lodge No. 358, AFM on the First Degree at 12:30 PM. The Ceremony of Laying the Cornerstone will follow with the Ceremony of Rededication coming afterwards. Mathews Lodge No 358 AFM is located at 328 Kirksey Drive, Greenwood, SC 29646.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2017, NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA: For the purpose of Rededicating Pythagorean Lodge No.21 AFM in celebration of the Lodge's 200th 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 Pythagorean Lodge No. 21, AFM on the First Degree at 12:30 PM. The Ceremony of Rededication will follow. Pythagorean Lodge No 21 AFM is located at 3571 Dorchester Road, North Charleston, SC 29405.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2017, GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA:
 For the purpose of Rededicating Recovery Lodge No. 31 AFM in celebration of the Lodge's 200th Anniversary. Lunch will be served at 11 :30 AM at the Greenville Scottish Rite Center. The Grand Master, with the assistance of the other Grand Lodge Officers, will open the Grand Lodge of AFM of SC and Recovery Lodge No. 31 AFM on the First Degree at 12:30 PM at the Greenville Scottish Rite Center with the Ceremony of Rededication following. Greenville Scottish Rite Center is located at 817 Cleveland Street, Greenville, SC 29601

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2017, ST STEPHEN, SOUTH CAROLINA:
 For the purpose of Rededicating Mt. Hope Lodge No.128, 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 and Mt. Hope Lodge No. 128, AFM on the First Degree at 12:30 PM. The Ceremony of Rededication will follow. Mt. Hope Lodge is located at 110 Brick Church St., St. Stephen, SC 29479.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2017, TROY, SOUTH CAROLINA: For the purpose of Rededicating Stonewall Lodge No. 124, AFM in celebration of the Lodge's 150th Anniversary. Lunch will be served at 11 :30 AM at the Lodge Hall. The Grand Master, with the assistance of the other Grand Lodge Officers, will open the Grand Lodge of AFM of SC and Stonewall Lodge No. 124, AFM on the First Degree at 12:30 PM. The Ceremony of Rededication will follow. Stonewall Lodge is located at 119 Church Street, Troy, SC 29848.

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 3:00 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, LANCASTER, 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.

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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