

GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE

Storms of Life

We had one of the worst snow storms in the upstate in January this year with blustering winds. We had five or six inches of snow. As Jeanne and I sat at our breakfast table, we saw the snow-covered trees bending low from the weight. I wondered why they didn't break. But I know that through the years as the trees have grown, they have had the winds blow them back and forth and the rains have beat upon them. As a result their limbs have gotten stronger and they can endure the storms.

The storms of life have plagued mankind since Creation so it isn't some-thing new to us. The older we get, the more storms it seems we have to deal with in our lives. Some of those storms or problems are poor health, financial problems, loneliness, and adversity.

Storms or problems come into our lives to test our faith. Are we walking close to the Lord? Some people have said that troubles are the result of sin or a lack of faith on our part. Sometimes our problems help us to look upward to the Lord for help and not inward. They can also strengthen our faith and build character. Our difficulties also give us opportunities to help others that are struggling.

In the Gospel of Luke, you find the account of a storm that occurred on the Sea of Galilee that seemed to come out of nowhere. It was so severe that the disciples were afraid they were going to drown because of the strong winds and high waves. When we feel that we are drowning in our sea of problems, turn to the Lord and He will give us peace.

Sometimes the Lord will still the storm; but sometimes He chooses to bring peace to us rather than to our circumstance. The Lord might calm the outward circumstance or sometimes He might relieve our stress or emotions we hold inside. Trying to solve our problems is a mistake. The Bible gives us an example. Abram and Sarai had no children and God promised them a son. Many years passed and still no son. When Sarai was past childbearing years, it appeared that God had forgotten his promise. Their problem was they doubted God's word and because of their lack of faith, they went ahead of God which brought about more problems on themselves.

We shouldn't run from our problems either. We should face the fact that we do make mistakes. Running away from difficulties never solves it. The wise thing to do is to face them squarely in the face and accept help and then try to solve the situation. Therefore when we as Masons are faced with difficulties of life, we should remember the time we knelt at the altar with our hands on the Great Light of Masonry and look to it for guidance and help.

Fraternally,
William B. Rogers
Grand Master

[2]

MASONIC EDUCATION CORNER

The Lodge of the Future - The Year in Review!

IT IS GREAT TO BE A FREEMASON! HOW IS YOUR LODGE DOING?

As we conclude our first year of the Lodge of the Future Series, it is a great time to review and evaluate how the program has worked for you and your Lodge. We also need to review how our Grand Lodge has worked to identify, create, and elevate the Lodge experience for all of our members. Since Grand Lodge, your Officers have had numerous opportunities to address the Future Path your Lodge will take to improve member engagement and develop a plan for the future. We have offered 5 Lesson Plans for your use to better engage members. Your Grand Lodge has held a new format Instructional Meeting Program, where over 2000 Lodge officers attended and the Worshipful Masters Workshop has been presented. Again, I believe that fear is the most crippling attitude that must be removed from our thinking, before our Fraternity can progress and continue to improve our Masonic Experience for our current and future members!

Lesson 6. MASONIC EDUCATION - REVIEW

If you have yet to discuss the first 5 "Lodge of the Future" Lesson Plans and Lodge Education Topics, you may find these at www.scgrandlodgeafm.org under the Resources Tab. We offered a lesson plan to review your Lodge membership statistics, how you can plan for the next 10 years. Lesson 2 covered new ways to engage your membership to keep them informed and actively involved. Lesson 3 was designed to highlight the Leadership needs for your Lodge, is your Lodge prepared to pass the reigns to the next generations? Lesson 4 focused on the financial future of your Lodge. Essentially the two ways to sustain your Lodge is with increased membership and reduce membership losses, viz, NPD's. Lesson 5 was focused on raising the bar on your Lodge Masonic Education and creating more value for your members.

Finally your Grand Lodge is implementing a new membership program that will take our communication with Lodges to an entirely new level and allow us to stay in touch with all of our members. Your help will be integral in maximizing the effectiveness of this program. You will hear more at Grand Lodge about this exciting new program. Use these focused lesson plans for enhanced education, analysis and discussion in your Lodge, and thus prepare for your Lodge of the Future Implementation Plan.

The final major issue that has come up is the issue of Lodge Safety, which includes the recent Edict from Most Worshipful Brother Rogers. Lodge Safety includes dealing with the perimeter and how to control entrances before, during and after our meetings. It includes total safety for our members and guests as they visit our Lodges. It is a new focus for our Worshipful Masters and Lodges to consider. I support the concept of a Safety Committee to engage all aspects of Lodge Safety for our members and visitors.

Finally Gentlemen, let us prepare for a successful Grand Lodge. I hope to see you there!

Fraternally,
Michael D. Smith
Senior Grand Warden

[3]

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 O. B. Smith &
Debbie Hughes
864-884-6441

RWB Howard & Hilda Gillison
864-982 -9837

RWB Dennis & Glenda Julian
864-430-2557

RWB Johnathon Sprinkle
864-304-1518

WB Greeley (Guy) & Judy Palmer
864-982-9321

RWB. Robert W. Kendrick
Honorary Chairman
1-864-346-3148
RWB. Mark & Sherrie O'Shields
864-814-8406

WB Ed Brannen
864-979-9934

WB John & Leslie Susie
864-977-1504

Karl & Callie Bruns
864-905-2564

Mrs. Belinda Aiken
1-864-354-5072

[4]

14TH ANNUAL GRAND LODGE GOLF TOURNEY

Wednesday April 27, 2016

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 13,2016
Send Sponsorships Checks to Address Below**

Tournament Information

- 4 Person Captain's Choice Handicapped Format.
- \$ 60.00 per player includes green fees, carts, range balis, lunch ticket
- 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 8th

Register by sending information to:

Grand Lodge Golf Tournament
c/o Michael Smith
715 Holston Creek Church Rd.
Inman, SC 29349

Questions?

Call Mike Smith
864.680.0966

Don Smith Ansel Parris
864.457.2704 864.590.0627



Limited number of teams so register today!

REGISTRATION FORM: COPY, CLIP AND SEND

Team 4 Players + Hole Sponsor \$ 340

Grand Master Sponsor \$ 250

Tournament Sponsor \$ 100

Patron \$ 75

Lodge Name _____ Number _____

Name _____ Handicap _____

Name _____ Handicap _____

Name _____ Handicap _____

Name _____ Handicap _____

[5]

SPECIAL COMMUNICATION

SATURDAY, MAY 14, 2016, STARR, SOUTH CAROLINA: For the purpose of Laying a Cornerstone and Rededicating Hermon Lodge No. 116, AFM. Lunch will be served at 11:30 AM at the Social Hall of Starr Baptist Church which is located directly across the street from the Lodge Hall. The Grand Master with the assistance of the other Grand Lodge Officers, will open the Grand Lodge and Hermon Lodge No. 116 at 12:30 PM. The Ceremonies of Laying a Cornerstone and Rededication will follow at 1:00 PM. Hermon Lodge is located at 106 Stones Throw Ave, (also known as Rainey Road or Highway 412) Starr, SC 29684. The Ceremony is open to the Public, visitors, and all Brethren including Entered Apprentices, Fellowcrafts, and Master Masons. All Grand Lodge Officers are expected to attend. All Past Grand Masters are requested to attend.

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

The Grand Master's Annual Organizational Meeting will be held on Saturday, May 21, 2015. All Grand Lodge Officers are required to attend and all Past Grand Masters are requested to attend. Registration will begin at 8:00 AM. Grand Lodge Officer Pictures for the Webpage and Grand Lodge publications will be taken at 8:30 AM. The Organizational Meeting will be opened by the Grand Master at 9:00 AM. All Elected Grand Lodge Officers and Past Grand Masters should wear their Black Tails with regalia and all other Grand Lodge Officers and Committeemen should wear their Back Tuxedos with regalia for the photographs.

GRAND LODGE BANQUET

The Grand Lodge Annual Communication Banquet will be held at 7:00 PM on Thursday evening, April 28, 2016 at the Embassy Suites, Greenville located at 670 Verdae Blvd, Greenville, SC 29607. Two tickets have been mailed to the Secretary of each Lodge. The price of the tickets are \$55.00 each. If the Lodge does not want the tickets, they **must** be returned to the Grand Lodge Office. Those wishing to purchase a ticket should mail their request to the Grand Lodge Office with a check for the number of tickets requested. **IF WE DO NOT HEAR FROM THE LODGE, OR IF THE TICKETS ARE NOT RETURNED, THE LODGE WILL BE CHARGED FOR THE SAME.**

DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER BREAKFAST

A District Deputy Grand Master's Breakfast will be held on Friday, April 29, 2016, 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 let Right Worshipful Brother Terry King, DDGM 17th know if you plan to attend and whether or not you are staying at the Embassy Suites no later than April 15th. Everyone will meet at the Palmetto Room at 7:00 AM sharp and will have the Blessing prayer and then proceed to the "cook to order" breakfast line. Please RSVP by April 15th to:

Terry King, DDGM 17th District
497 Preston Road
Pelzer, SC 29669
Phone: 864-243-2713 (H) 864-201-1815 (C)
Email: tgolf2473@att.net

NEWSLETTER AND COMMUNITY SERVICE CONTESTS

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 2015 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 2015 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 2015 Community Service Projects as soon as possible.

ATTENTION LODGE SECRETARIES

Brother Secretaries, please remember to file your Lodge's form 990 to the IRS for the year 2015 before May 15, 2016. Failure to file the 990 form for your Lodge will result in the IRS revoking your Lodge's tax exemption status. The 990 epostcard form can be filed online by logging onto the IRS website www.express990.com and following the instructions. Please forward by mail or email a copy of the IRS email acceptance confirmation for your Lodge.

Gerald L. Carver, PGM, Grand Secretary

IN MEMORIAM

LARRY ALTON ATKINS
Past District Deputy Grand Master
November 10, 1939 Anderson, SC
January 19, 2016 Anderson, SC

OTHER DEATHS

Brother Aubrey Lee Fowler, Past Senior Grand Deacon, passed away October 29, 2015.

Brother David MacDonald Lantz, MSA Committeeman, passed away November 13, 2015.

Brother Melvin Eugene Byrd, Past Grand Steward, passed away February 25, 2016.

Wilfred George Bean, father of Robert J. Bean, Sr., PDDGM and grandfather of Robert J. Bean, Jr., PDDGM, passed away March 10, 2016.

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



On January 15, 2016, RWB Carl R. Truesdale, PDDGM 24th was awarded the "Glenn R. Watts Lamp of Masonic Light Award" for his exemplary Masonic service by RW Michael Smith, Senior Grand Warden.

Pictured from left to right in the picture are Brother Charlton Butler, WB Kyle Broughton, RWB Brian Steele - DDGM 24th, Brother Kenny Catoe, RWB Carl Truesdale, WB Matt Broughton, RWB Glenn R. Watts (namesake of the Award), WB Clarence "Cal" Faile, and RWB Michael Smith, Senior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of South Carolina, AFM.



On January 27, 2016 Brother Jacob Miller, a resident of Grand Strand Healthcare in Myrtle Beach, was presented with his 50-Year Pin and Certificate. 87-year-old Brother Miller is a member of Myrtle Beach Lodge #353 and was raised as a Master Mason on September 17, 1964. Pictured above (from L to R) are WB Don Cox, Secretary; Brother Billy Roberts, Chaplain, WM Greg Barsnica; Brother Luis Saenz, Steward; WB Dave Harrell, Senior Warden; RWB Gordon Best, DDGM of the 29th Masonic District; Brother Jim Jarrell, Treasurer; and front center is Brother Jacob Miller.

(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@sgrandlodgeafm.org



Vol. 88 April/May 2016 No. 6

Periodicals postage paid at Lexington, S.C. 29073-9998
Subscription Rate: One Year, \$10.00; Life, \$50.00
AUTO