

GRAND MASTER’S MESSAGE

OUT OF THE DARKNESS, INTO THE LIGHT

Why do Lodges go dark in the summer months? I have begun asking this question, especially on visits to Lodges and District Meetings where several Lodges go dark for the summer months, either by their by-laws or by application of Chapter XIV, Article 103 of the Constitution of the Grand Lodge which reads;

“Every Lodge must assemble for work at least once in each month, except by dispensation from the Grand Master. But during the months of July, August and September the meetings may be suspended without any dispensation for that purpose.”

So, why DO Lodges go dark in the summer? Answers were as expected, “it is hot in the summer”, “members used to go inland to stay cool”, “farmers are working their crops”, “because we have always gone dark.” There it is! “Because that is what we have always done.” My next question, is it good for the Lodge or does it impact membership retention, especially for our newest members who have not yet set their attendance habit? I believe it hurts the Lodges in most cases, because it interrupts the fellowship with Lodge work, and especially, any momentum the Lodge has created.

I have received several requests recently for dispensation to allow a Lodge to go dark during the week of a holiday, but not the holiday itself. I have consistently refused these requests because the officers are obligated to see that the by-laws of the Lodge are followed and the Code and Constitution of the Grand Lodge are followed. Why? The by-laws call of a regular meeting day, and I have always contended, that going dark changes the habit of our members, and creates an opportunity to forget or neglect attendance of the Lodge. We are creatures of habit and it impacts the Lodge attendance and can disappoint and deprive members of the fellowship and education that they seek.

I know of several members that come to the meetings for dinner and fellowship and may even go home before the meeting, due to driving restrictions, but we have the chance to fellowship and care one for the other. So I ask Lodges, consider the impact of going dark. Is it time to consider a by-laws change and move to meet all year round or perhaps change your meeting times to accommodate your membership that can no longer attend due to driving restrictions. If your Lodge has lots of members, but very little attendance, you may want to determine what options you may have to meet the needs of your members. See the Lesson plan at www.scgrandlodgeafm.org.

Listening and responding to members is critical to future success.

Fraternally,
Michael D. Smith, Sr.
Grand Master

Masonic Education Corner

The Blind Scholar

Recently, after Lodge, I was asked the difference between the extended points on the compass as they relate to quadrant for a Past Master, DDGM, and Grand Master. While intrigued by the question, I quoted M.W. Brother H. Dwight McAlister, PGM, who served 1962-1964 “how does our Code & Constitution address the question?” When M.W. Brother Dwight served as our Grand Secretary, Brethren would call to ask questions. Often they never would go search for the answers, rather they simply would ask our Grand Secretary. Therefore, I will address the question in my next article, and in the interim, I say to each of you “seek and ye shall find.” On the way home from Lodge that evening, my thoughts ran to how far we travel, what happens to family when we travel, what do we learn, and what we do with the knowledge gained from our travels. In the days following, I remembered a lesson from the Talmud entitled *The Blind Scholar*, which may help us discern a greater lesson from the extended points of the compass on the quadrant. One truth is the extended points refer to cardinal directions. Teaching the Craft about cardinal directions will provide insight to their surrounding environment; with this in mind, let us examine a lesson from *The Blind Scholar*.

Rebbi and Rabbi Chiya were walking together. When they came to a town, they said, “If there’s a Torah scholar living here, let’s go visit him and pay him honor.” The townspeople said to them, “There is a Torah scholar here, and he’s blind.” Rabbi Chiya said to Rebbi, “You wait here. As a leader of the Jewish people, it’s not fitting for you to go honor someone else. I will go to see him.” Rebbi insisted on coming as well. When they were departing from the blind sage, he told them, “You have seen one who can be seen, but who cannot see; may you merit to see He who sees, but cannot be seen.” Said Rebbi to Rabbi Chiya, “And you wanted to deprive me of this blessing?!”

How much focus do you place on learning? Is it one of your top priorities as a husband, father, brother, Past Master, DDGM, or Grand Master? If not, the time to make a change might be now. How many books do you read a month? A good goal would be 3-4 books a month which equates to 36-48 books a year. Make it your mission to find opportunities to learn. Listen to one another as you walk together. Examine strategies others are using to make a difference, implementing them whenever feasible. Growth through learning opportunities is absolutely critical for you individually, your family, and humanity, collectively. Rather than focusing on the extent of your compass focus on others you meet. Yes, the Past Master, DDGM, and Grand Master travel a prescribed area. When our Fraternity is too consumed with going to Lodge, to simply go, we have neglected our duty to our family. How can our communities truly know us if we are not present. Many of the greatest blessings are directly in front of us at home, and when we are too consumed with going and coming, we will miss the blessings. The human spirit can prevail despite hardships most of us can never imagine dealing with, and the Blind Scholar reminds us the direction we should travel is to see He who sees, but cannot be seen... the LORD your “G-D.”

Words of the month: Family- the basic unit in society who genuinely love, trust, care about, and look out for each other. Cardinal directions-the four main points of a compass: north, south, east, and west, which are also known by the first letters: N,

S, E, and W.

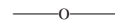
Quote for the month: “Learning is critical to success for anyone in a leadership role.” Harold Charles Jennings

Thought for the month: “At the end of your life, you will never regret not having passed one more test, not winning one more verdict or not closing one more deal. You will regret time not spent with a husband, a friend, a child or a parent.” Former First Lady Barbara Bush

Carpe Diem

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

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



INSPIRATIONAL MEETINGS

Friday, August 3, 2018, 6:30 pm. 8th District, RW Brother C. R. “Chip” Simmons, III, DDGM, Brookland United Methodist Church, 541 Meeting St., West Columbia, SC 29169. Worshipful Brother Shelton Lattimore, PM, will be the speaker. Supper will be served.

Friday, August 24, 2018, 7:00 pm, 24th District, RW Brother Earl T. Nichols, Jr., DDGM, Camden Shrine Club, 1379 Kershaw Hwy., Camden, SC 29020. RW Brother Steve Hames, JGW, will be the speaker. Supper will be served.

Saturday, August 25, 2018, 6:00 pm, 12th District, RW Brother G. Allen Owens, DDGM, Union Masonic Temple, 805 S. Duncan By-pass, Union, SC 29379. MW Brother Jay Adam Pearson, PGM, will be the speaker. Supper will be served.

Tuesday, August 28, 2018, 8:00 pm, 18th District, RW Brother James B. Frazier, V, DDGM, Bailey Lodge No. 146, AFM, 701 W. Wade Hampton Blvd., Greer, SC 29650. Michael D. Peeler, WM, Cooper Lodge No. 282, AFM, will be the speaker. Refreshments will follow meeting.

Thursday, August 30, 2018, 7:00 pm, 9th District, RW Brother H. N. Watson, Jr., DDGM, Edgefield United Methodist Church, 309 Norris St., Edgefield, SC 29824. W. A. Watson, District Lay Reader & PM of Concordia Lodge No. 50, AFM will be the speaker. Refreshments will be served.

Saturday, September 8, 2018, 6:00 pm, 14th District, RW Brother Martyn H. Dixon, DDGM, Ruff Lodge No. 240, AFM, 611 Piedmont Ave., Anderson, SC 29625. RW Brother & MEC James R. “Chico” Mathis, PDDGM, will be the speaker. Supper will be served.

Saturday, September 8, 2018, 5:00 pm, 26th District, RW Brother Joseph T. Kelly, Sr., DDGM, Patesville Lodge No. 295, AFM, 3513 Una Rd., Bishopville, SC 29010. Brother Andrew Privette, SW, will be the speaker. Supper will be served.

Saturday, September 15, 2018, 6:00 pm, 23rd District, RW Brother Bobby J. Albert, DDGM, Great Falls Lodge No. 277, AFM, 1 Masonic Ave., Great Falls, SC 29055. Rev. & RW Brother Jerry Phillips, Past Grand Chaplain, will be the speaker. Supper will be served.

Thursday, September 20, 2018, 6:30 pm, 17th District, RW Brother Edward D. Snow, DDGM, Empire Lodge No. 213, AFM, 150 Whatley Circle, Mauldin, SC 29662. Speaker to be announced. Supper will be served.

Saturday, September 22, 2018, 6:00 pm, 13th District, RW Brother Michael D. Bryant, DDGM, Palmetto Lodge No. 19, AFM, 316

Hillcrest Dr., Laurens, SC 29360. RW Brother Steve Hames, JGW, will be the speaker. Supper will be served.

Saturday, September 22, 2018, 6:00 pm, 25th District, RW Brother Patrick E. Coxé, DDGM, Marlboro Lodge No. 88, AFM, 106 McColl St., Bennettsville, SC 29512. RW Brother Gary James, PDDGM, will be the speaker. Supper will be served.

Thursday, September 27, 2018, 7:00 pm, 3rd District, RW Brother Steven E. Craven, DDGM, Unity Lodge No. 55, AFM, 35 Trevor Dr., Walterboro, SC 29488. RW Brother Walter C. “Cal” Disher, II, will be the speaker. Supper will be served.

Thursday, September 27, 2018, 7:00 pm, 6th District, RW Brother Larry R. Jackson, DDGM, Aiken County Shrine Club, 1526 Columbia Hwy. N, Aiken, SC 29801. RW Brother Walter C. “Cal” Disher, II, Deputy Grand Master, will be the speaker. Supper will be served.

Thursday, September 27, 2018, 6:30 pm, 15th District, RW Brother J. M. “Buddy” Jones, Jr., DDGM, Seneca Masonic Lodge No. 185, AFM, 205 N. Townville St., Seneca, SC 29678. RW Brother Robert Elsner, DDGM, 11th District, will be the speaker. Supper will be served.

Thursday, September 27, 2018, 6:30 pm, 19th, 20th, & 21st Districts, RW Brother Samuel H. Turner, III, DDGM, RW Brother J. Paul McWilliams, Jr., DDGM, and RW Brother J. N. “Judd” Seay, III, DDGM, New Beginnings United Methodist Church, 210 Rainbow Lake Rd., Spartanburg, SC 29316. Chuck Wright, Spartanburg County Sheriff, will be the speaker. Supper will be served.

Saturday, October 13, 2018, 6:30 pm, 4th District, RW Brother Paul S. Griffin, DDGM, American Lodge No. 98, AFM, 990 Grays Hwy., Ridgeland, SC 29936. Speaker to be announced. Supper will be served.

Monday, October 15, 2018, 7:00 pm, 5th District, RW Brother Keith E. Zissette, DDGM, Elbab Shrine Club, 571 Patterson Mill Rd., Barnwell, SC 29812. RW Brother Robby Sanders, PDDGM, will be the speaker. Supper will be served.

Monday, October 22, 2018, 7:00 pm, 7th District, RW Brother Chuck Field, DDGM, Edisto Shrine Club of Orangeburg, 2265 Five Chop Rd., Orangeburg, SC 29115. MW Brother D. Samuel Tennyson, Sr., PGM, will be the speaker. Supper will be served.

Tuesday, October 23, 2018, 7:00 pm, 28th District, RW Brother Tommy E. Hayes, Jr., DDGM, Clinton Lodge No. 60, AFM, 205 E. Godbold St., Marion, SC 29571. Speaker to be announced. Supper will be served.

Thursday, October 25, 2018, 7:30 pm, 1st & 2nd Districts, RW Brother Steve Hiott, DDGM & RW Brother Larry J. Nicodin, DDGM, Scottish Rite Center, 1051 Sam Rittenberg Blvd., Charleston, SC 29407. RW Brother Steve Hames, JGW, will be the speaker. Supper will be served.

Friday, October 26, 2018, 7:00 pm, 10th District, RW Brother John R. Marcucci, DDGM, Scottish Rite Center, 7230 Garners Ferry Rd., Columbia, SC 29209. Chaplain Sam Boone, Col. USA Retired, will be the speaker. Supper will be served.

Saturday, November 10, 2018, 6:00 pm, 29th District, RW Brother Billy Ray Carroll, DDGM, Horry Electric Company, 2774 Cultra Rd., Conway, SC 29526. Philip Thompson, Horry County Sheriff, will be the speaker. Supper will be served.

Saturday, November 17, 2018, 5:00 pm, 27th District, RW Brother Boyd E. Hodges, DDGM, Hampton Lodge No. 204, AFM, 206 S. McQueen St., Florence, SC 29501. MW Brother D. Samuel Tennyson, Sr., PGM, will be the speaker. Supper will be served.

SPECIAL COMMUNICATIONS OF THE GRAND LODGE

NOTICE OF CHANGE, THE PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED REDEDICATION OF WINYAH LODGE NO. 40 HAS BEEN CANCELLED FOR OCTOBER 6, 2018 AND THE CORNERSTONE LAYING AND REDEDICATION CEREMONIES FOR DANTZLER LODGE NO 318 HAS BEEN SCHEDULED FOR THAT DATE AS SHOWN BELOW:

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2018, CAMERON, SOUTH CAROLINA: For the purpose of a Cornerstone Laying and Rededicating Dantzler Lodge No. 318 AFM. Lunch will be served at 11:30 AM. 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 Dantzler Lodge No. 318 in Due Form on the First Degree at 12:30 PM with the Cornerstone and Rededication Ceremonies following. Dantzler Lodge is located at 206 Second Street, Cameron, SC 29030.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2018, SPARTANBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA: For the purpose of a Cornerstone Laying and Rededicating Cherokee Lodge No. 135 AFM. Lunch will be served at 11 :30 AM. 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 Cherokee Lodge No. 135 in Due Form on the First Degree at 12:30 PM with the Cornerstone and Rededication Ceremonies following. Cherokee Lodge is located at 135 Cherokee Circle, Spartanburg, SC 29307.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2018, SWANSEA, SOUTH CAROLINA: For the purpose of a Cornerstone Laying and Rededicating Oliver Lodge No. 133, 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 in Ample Form and Oliver Lodge No. 133 AFM in Due Form on the First Degree at 12:30 PM with the Rededication Ceremony following. Oliver Lodge is located at 265 South Cardiff Avenue, Swansea, SC 29160.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2018, BATESBURG-LEESVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA: For the purpose of Rededicating Batesburg-Leesville Lodge No. 138, 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 in Ample Form and Batesburg-Leesville Lodge No. 138 AFM in Due Form on the First Degree at 12:30 PM with the Rededication Ceremony following. Batesburg-Leesville Lodge is located at 222 Church Street, Batesburg, SC 29006.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2019, 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.

MSA 18 YEAR HOSPITAL REPRESENTATIVE SERVICE AWARD PRESENTED TO RW WILLIAM "BILL" LAMB, PDDGM



During the July 13, 2018 visit by Most Worshipful Brother Michael D. Smith, Sr., Grand Master and several Grand Lodge Officers and Brethren to the WJB Dorn VA Medical Center in Columbia, the Grand Master along with Tammy Finney, Chief of Volunteer Services, presented a beautiful glass award from the Masonic Service Association of NA to RW Brother Lamb for his dedicated and outstanding 18 years of service as a MSA Hospital Representative to the Dorn VA Medical Center. In the Center is pictured RW Brother Bill with the Grand Master on his Right and Ms. Tammy Finney on his left. The other Grand Lodge Officers and Brethren accompanying the Grand Master are also pictured.

MSA APPEAL FOR GUATEMALA DISASTER RELIEF

On June 18, 2018, the following appeal was posted on the Grand Lodge Membership Management System. Please prayerfully consider this appeal.

"The Masonic Service Association has issued an "Appeal for Relief" for our Guatemala Brethren and their families who have lost much due to the devastation of the Fuego Volcano eruption. Please remember these Brethren, their families and the many others who are suffering from the Fuego Volcano eruption in your prayers. If you would like to contribute a donation for the Guatemala Relief Appeal, please make your checks payable to the Grand Lodge of AFM Charities, Disaster Relief, Inc and mail the donations to the Grand Lodge of AFM of SC, P.O. Box 2185, Lexington, SC 29071-2185. The Grand Lodge of AFM Charities, Disaster Relief, Inc is a 501c 3 Corporation and all donations are tax deductible."

SEVENTY-YEAR AWARD PRESENTATION



On November 17, 2016, a Seventy-Year Award was presented to Brother George C. Waddell, Sr. by Aiken Lodge No. 156, AFM. Brother Waddell was raised April 5, 1946 in Crescent Lodge No. 245, AFM and affiliated with Aiken Lodge No. 156, AFM in January, 1957. Congratulations to Brother Waddell on reaching this milestone. Pictured from left to right are Right Worshipful Brother Jon S. Majerus, District Deputy Grand Master-2016, Brother George C. Waddell, Sr., Brother G. Carl Waddell, Jr. and Johnnie R. Stephens, Worshipful Master of Aiken Lodge No. 156 for 2016.



On January 25, 2018, Right Worshipful Brother Steven Hames, Junior Grand Warden and Worshipful Brother Dale Gillespie, Past Master and Secretary of St. John's Lodge No. 333, AFM, presented to Right Worshipful Brother Jimmy Hayes, DDGM of the 21st District, a plaque for dedicated service to the 21st District as District Deputy Grand Master. Right Worshipful Brother Hayes was also presented with a Grand Master Smith Silver Coin. Pictured from left to right are Right Worshipful Brother Jimmy Hayes, DDGM, Right Worshipful Brother Steven Hames, JGW and Worshipful Brother Dale Gillespie, PM and Secretary of St. John's Lodge No. 333, AFM.

GRAND CHAPLAIN'S BROTHER PASSES

Frederick Wayne Nix, brother of Grand Chaplain, Rev. A. Robert Nix, passed away June 19, 2018. We wish to express our deepest sympathies to his family and friends.

(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. 29072-7107
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