

## GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE

**G**reetings from the Grand East, at the time of this message, the weather has cooled and the leaves on the trees begin to change to their beautiful fall colors. Many brothers are afield after their trophy or venison for the freezer. Good luck to each of you! I hope to join you in search of my own trophy soon.



The holidays will soon be here. Please set aside time to be with your family and friends and share your love with each other. We have so much to be thankful for. Sometimes life does not always go exactly as we hope, but if we have another day here on earth, we have the opportunity to be thankful and attempt to make the necessary adjustments to enrich our lives with faith, hope and charity. Charity is love and if we have fervent and unflinching love, one for the other, then the Great Light tells us it will cover a multitude of sins. Let us be thankful for the unflinching love of our Grand Architect who shall supply all our needs according to his riches in glory. Christmas is soon to be here and is there a better time to be thankful for the greatest gift ever given to mankind?

I am pleased to report to you that the State of the Craft continues to move forward in a positive matter. Most of the Inspirational Meetings were completed and great fellowship was shared by all who attended. There are degrees being conferred

every week and the work has been outstanding. Lodges have hosted Grand Master Official Visits. All these meetings were also well attended by brothers from the local area and around the state. I have been received by each Lodge with my party in the most "Masonic Manner." I have personally felt the brotherly love and affection in the meetings and departed with a renewed Masonic Spirit of pride for the Craft for what each are doing for Masonry.

Our Grand Lodge Officers continue to be available to serve our Craft as needed, so please call on any of us. The Secretaries Workshop, the MEC Instructional and the District Instructional Meetings are coming up soon. Please look for the dates in this issue of Masonic Light or on the Grand Lodge Website Calendar. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible in the upcoming meetings.

Remember that the Grand Master's Perpetual Life Membership Raffle will be held December 15th, if you would like a chance or two, please get in touch with your Lodge Secretary, Grand Secretary or any of the Elected Grand Lodges Officers. These tickets would be a great gift and the winner will be a Brother from a Lodge here in South Carolina. Good Luck.

Toni, Macy and I hope each of you will have a Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas. Please celebrate your Holiday Season with thanksgiving and love for each other.

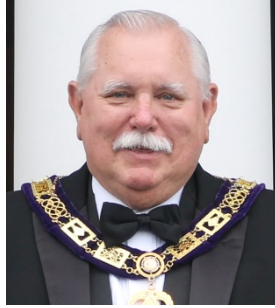
"Our Best Is The Least We Owe Each Other"

*Steven D. Hames*  
Grand Master

## DEPUTY GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE

### “I BELIEVE”

I believe as we start our journey in life, we must develop a belief system to survive. We are instructed in the Second Degree from the very first moment of our existence that we continually advance and grow. So must be our belief system.



Reflect back to the first moments of your existence. We had to believe that someone would provide shelter, nourish us, and supply everything we needed. I believe at that very tender age we started to develop our belief system.

As we continued our journey in life, what we believed in starts to change. We never abandoned the beliefs of our childhood, rather we enhance our belief system based on knowledge and experience.

As a child, we believed in childhood things like the protection of our home and family. We even believe in things that we cannot see! I still believe in the Spirit of Santa Claus, the Easter Bunny, the Great Pumpkin, and even the Tooth Fairy, which by the way is up to \$5 a tooth.

As we grow in knowledge and virtue, our belief system is greatly influenced by what surrounds us, our friends, teachers, public officials, and world events.

I believe there comes that golden moment in life when we develop a belief in GOD. From that point on, we should base our actions on what we learn from his teachings. The struggle between good and evil abounds through the world and for us to have a positive influence upon the outcome, we must stay well-grounded in our beliefs.

I believe, we chose our professions based on our desire to have a positive impact on mankind. We

develop our heroes in life and tend to imitate them. We influence people by the stories we tell and the struggles we overcome! Without strong beliefs, we would never overcome the obstacles in life and our story would not have the desired impact on the world.

We as Masons are asked if we believe in GOD. We as Masons, must believe in something greater than ourselves. We ask for a petition believing that we will be accepted. We are asked to place our trust in a friend and profess our faith in GOD. We believe that both will protect us from any trials and dangers that come our way. Masons are men of faith, faith in God, faith in Family, faith in Country, faith in our Brothers, and finally, faith in Yourself! Without a strong belief system, we are destined for failure.

I believe that each man must find his own path to destiny by developing his belief system. Ask yourself, what do I believe in? As you offer up your devotions, ask for strength and wisdom to have a positive impact on the world!!

Fraternally

*Thomas E. Watson,*

Deputy Grand Master.

### Last Issue's Name this Mason.



T.J. Martin, Grand High Priest

**Name this Mason.****SENIOR GRAND WARDEN'S MESSAGE**

The end of our Inspirational Season is quickly coming to a close. I've enjoyed attending these meetings and I hope that you have taken advantage of these meetings as well. Thanksgiving is coming up very soon and Hanukkah and Christmas are right around the corner. The end of 2023 is not too far away as well. Very soon, we will have Lodge Officer Elections and Installations. On the 27th of December, our Masonic Year will be over and a new Masonic Year will begin. In January, our Instructional Meetings will begin. I ask that you take time to review the list of meetings included in this issue and if you are an officer, put your District's Meeting on your calendar. If you cannot attend your District's Meeting, you can attend a neighboring District. Our Instructional Meetings are one of my favorite times of the year. You have the opportunity to receive good Instruction and have fellowship with your Brethren. Your Masonic Education Committee has worked hard to put together an Instructional Meeting that will bring you the training that we think you need and want for your Lodge. Please take advantage of this valuable education! In preparation for these meetings, the educational material will be available through Grandview. Take time and review this material. We will provide time for you to ask questions during the meetings. If you would like to



prepare a question in advance, there will be a form in the back of the downloadable material. If you have questions about the material or your office, please take time to fill this out and bring to the meeting.

In 1985, the H. Dwight McAlister Award for Journalism was instituted in honor of our late Past Grand Master, Past Grand Secretary, and Grand Secretary Emeritus, Most Worshipful Brother H. Dwight McAlister, Sr. This award was created to annually acknowledge and honor a Lodge for their timely, quality, educational, and informative newsletters. To be considered for this award, please send your submission to the Grand Lodge Office with attention to the Senior Grand Warden no later than February 28, 2024.

My last two articles for the Masonic Light covered the Working Tools of an Entered Apprentice. I hope that you have taken the time to reflect on these tools and continue to put them to good use. In a future issue, we will cover the Working Tools of a Fellow Craft. For this issue, we are going to talk about Rudolph, the Red Nosed Reindeer. I'm sure everyone knows the story of Rudolph and how he helped Santa guide his sleigh. I bet some of you were even good enough for Santa to show up at your house.

The story of Rudolph the Reindeer starts at the North Pole. Surprise! Surprise! It's cold and wet and frozen. There are elves and Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus. There are also a group of reindeer who are essential in helping Santa on Christmas Eve. They are the power for Santa's Sleigh. Without them, it doesn't move, and he doesn't deliver presents. Rudolph the Reindeer was born different from all the other reindeer. Because of this difference, he was shunned by the other reindeer. They would make fun of him. They would call him names. They wouldn't even allow him to participate in their festivities. Rudolph had a nose that would brighten up the darkest of nights. Now on one particular Christmas Eve, the weather was awful, it was foggy,



## JUNIOR GRAND WARDEN'S MESSAGE

### SOUTH CAROLINA A.F.M. MASONS MAKING A DIFFERENCE AT VETERANS NURSING HOMES AND HOSPITALS

and there was no way that Santa and the other reindeers could deliver packages to all the good boys and girls because of the limited visibility caused by the bad weather. The sounds of happy children opening presents delivered by Santa on Christmas Morning seemed all but lost. This is when it was time to call on a special reindeer that had been left out, picked on, and called names. Rudolph who is the hero in this story agrees to use his shiny nose to guide the sleigh and saves Christmas.

As Masons, we do not necessarily have the special ability of a shiny nose like Rudolph, but we do have tools that allow us to be different, to be better, and to help society. The world doesn't always recognize us, say nice things about us, or treat us fairly, but as Masons, we have the opportunity to guide each other and the rest of the world through the veil of darkness. The world needs us, as Masons, to be the guiding light now more than ever!! Be like Rudolph and be the "beacon of light" that is needed to guide the world through not only the good times, but the bad.

I want to congratulate the newly installed officers and I hope each of you each have a great year. I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming Instructional Meetings.

Blair, Margaret Raye, and I wish you Happy Holidays, Happy Hanukkah, and a Merry Christmas. If Santa stops by, remember he was more than likely guided by Rudolph and his nose so bright and that as Masons, we too should be the guiding light not just for ourselves, but for the whole world.

*A.C. Flora, IV*

Senior Grand Warden  
Chairman, MEC Committee

In a heartwarming display of compassion and commitment, the South Carolina Masonic Craft is making a significant impact on Veterans' lives in the State's Nursing Homes and Hospitals.



The MSA Committee for the Grand Lodge of South Carolina, known for their dedication to charitable work, is stepping up their efforts to improve the well-being of Veterans who have served our nation.

The Masonic Lodges have joined forces to support Veterans residing in Nursing Homes across the State. Through a range of initiatives and activities, the Brothers are bringing joy, companionship and essential assistance to those who have sacrificed for our country.

Some of their notable projects involve regular visits to Veterans' Nursing Homes and VA Hospitals, where members are spending both time and resources with the patients. These visits provide much needed companionship and a sense of community for the Veterans, many of whom may be separated from their families.

South Carolina Masons are actively involved in organizing special events and activities for the Veterans. These events often include entertainment, games, and social gatherings, all aimed at enhancing the quality of life for the Veterans living in Nursing Homes. Also, providing support for Veterans in need, whether it be financial assistance, healthcare resources, or assistance in navigating the complex systems of Veterans' Services.

The MSA Committee's dedication to the well-being of Veterans is not only commendable, but also a reflection of the Masonic values of charity,

brotherhood, and community service. It is a testament to the positive impact that local organizations can have on the lives of those who sacrificed for our nation.

As the new Masonic Year approaches. I would like to take a moment and remind you that on your Lodges Annual Return the MSA Donation per member is now listed as a separate line item. There is no need for sending a separate check. It may be included with the Lodge's Annual Return check. Most Lodges have already made motions at business meetings to standardize their MSA Contribution to prevent delay. For the past several decades, we have asked for a minimum donation of 25 cents per member. Many Lodges currently donate \$1.00 or more per member to the MSA Veterans Hospital Nursing Home Visitation program. **Brethren, please consider having your Lodge donate a minimum of \$1.00 per Lodge member to the MSA –Veterans Hospital Nursing Home Program.**

I would like to thank every brother in our Grand Jurisdiction for the overwhelming support that you have shown this year for our MSA- Veterans Hospital – Nursing Home Program. I am truly appreciative of the MSA Committee Members and Hospital Visitation Committee Members that have worked tirelessly to ensure that the Veterans of South Carolina have their needs met. Thank you for giving me the privilege and opportunity to serve you as your Junior Grand Warden. If I may be of any assistance, please feel free to contact me.

Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas,  
*Ebbie Hodges, JGW*



A total of 6 benches were purchased and installed at Richard Michael Campbell's Nursing Home Courtyard in Anderson, SC.



Presented \$3,000 donation to Florence Veterans Village for residents to attend off campus activities. A Picture of George Washington was also presented.



Food, and personal items purchased and donated to the Ralph H. Johnson Veterans Hospital in Charleston, SC.





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**SPECIAL COMMUNICATION, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2024:** For the purpose of laying the Cornerstone and dedicating and consecrating the new Lodge Hall of Blythewood Lodge No. 395. Lunch will be served at the Lodge at 11:30 am. The Grand Master, with the assistance of the Grand Lodge Officers, will open the Grand Lodge and Blythewood Lodge No. 395 on the First Degree at 12:30 pm. The Cornerstone Laying Ceremony should begin at 1:00 pm with the Lodge Hall Consecration and Dedication Ceremony following and is open to the public. Blythewood Lodge's new Lodge Hall is located at 245 Adams Road, Blythewood, SC 29016.

**SPECIAL COMMUNICATION, SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 2024:** For the purpose of rededicating Amity Lodge No. 340 in celebration of the Lodge's 100th Anniversary. Lunch will be served in the Lodge Hall's Dining Room at 11:30 am. The Grand Master, with the assistance of the Grand Lodge Officers, will open the Grand Lodge and Amity Lodge No. 340 on the First Degree at 12:30 pm. The Rededication Ceremony should begin at 1:00 pm and is open to the public. Amity Lodge No. 340 is located at 3019 S. Cashua Drive, Florence, SC 29501.

**SPECIAL COMMUNICATION, SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 2024:** For the purpose of a Cornerstone "Plaque" Laying Ceremony and rededicating Six Mile Lodge No. 339 in celebration of the Lodge's 100th Anniversary. Lunch will be served in the Lodge Hall's Dining Room at 11:30 am. The Grand Master, with the assistance of the Grand Lodge Officers, will open the Grand Lodge and Six Mile Lodge No. 339 on the First Degree at 12:30 pm. The Cornerstone "Plaque" Laying and Rededication should begin at 1:00 pm with the Rededication Ceremony following. The Ceremonies are open to the public. Six Mile Lodge No. 339 is located at 102 Main Street, SC 29682.

**SPECIAL COMMUNICATION, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2024:** For the purpose of rededicating St David's Lodge No. 72 in celebration of the Lodge's 175th Anniversary. Lunch will be served in the Lodge Hall's Dining Room at 11:30 am. The Grand Master, with the assistance of the Grand Lodge Officers, will open the Grand Lodge and St. David's Lodge No. 72 on the First Degree at 12:30 pm. The Rededication Ceremony should begin at 1:00 pm and is open to the public. St. David's Lodge is located at 1205 Periwinkle Street, Darlington, SC 29532.

**NOTE:** Elected Grand Lodge Officers, Subordinate Grand Lodge Officers, and the District Deputy Grand Master of the Host Lodge's District should be present at Special Communications. The dress for Special Communication is Elected Grand Lodge Officers and Past Grand Masters should wear black tails with a black bow tie, black vests, jewels, and aprons. All other Grand Lodge Officers should wear black tuxedos with black bow ties, black cummerbunds, or black vests, jewels, and aprons.

### **GRAND MASTER'S WORKSHOP FOR WORSHIPFUL MASTERS SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2024**

The Grand Master's Workshop for Worshipful Masters will be held at the Columbia Scottish Rite Center located at 7230 Garners Ferry Road, Columbia, SC 29209. **Registration will be promptly at 8:00 a.m.** with the workshop following immediately afterward. The Workshop is projected to adjourn at 1:30 p.m. Lunch will not be served. In addition to the Worshipful Masters of the Lodges, all Elected and Subordinate Grand Lodge Officers, District Deputy Grand Masters, Masonic Education Committeemen and Masonic Service Association Committeemen should attend. Past Grand masters are invited to attend. **The dress for Grand Lodge Officers and Committeemen is coat and tie. The dress for Worshipful Masters is business casual.**

The Worshipful Masters may exchange Red and Black Ritual Books at the meeting. The Master's Black Book, (**Tiled Lodge Installation Book**) has been updated to include the Charge to the newly installed officers and brethren which is to be given at the end of the Installation of Officers to the newly installed Officers and Lodge Brethren. Since the Master's Black Book (**Tiled Lodge Installation Book**) has been revised, this book may be exchanged at no charge to the Lodge. The Open Installation Black book has not yet been updated.

### **DISTRICT INSPIRATIONAL MEETINGS**

**Saturday, November 4, 2023, 6:00 pm, 27th District,** RWB Benjy Byers, DDGM, Hampton Lodge No. 204, 206 South McQueen Street, Florence, SC 29501. Speaker will be RWB Boyd E. "Ebbie" Hodges, Jr., Junior Grand Warden. Supper will be served.

**Saturday, November 11, 2023, 6:00 pm, 29th District,** RWB Don Cox, DDGM, Jamestown Baptist Church, 2916 Fourth Avenue, Conway, SC 29527. RWB Boyd E. "Ebbie" Hodges, Jr., Junior Grand Warden, will be the speaker. Supper will be served.

### **DISTRICT INSTRUCTIONAL MEETINGS**

**F**riday, January 5, 2024, 6:30 pm, **22nd District,** RWB Mike Rowe, Sr., DDGM, York Lodge No. 385, 1256 West Charlotte Avenue, Rock Hill, SC 29732. Supper will be served.

**S**aturday, January 6, 2024, 11:00 am, **14th District,** RWB Terry McGuffin, DDGM, Ruff Lodge No. 240, 611 Piedmont Avenue, Anderson, SC 29625. Lunch will be served.

**S**aturday, January 6, 2024, 8:00 am, **27th District,** RWB Benjy Byers, DDGM, Hampton Lodge No. 204, 205 South McQueen St., Florence, SC 29501. Breakfast will be served.

**T**hursday, January 11, 2024, 6:30 pm, **19th and 21st Districts**, RWB Jim Padgett, DDGM and RWB Jamie Willis, DDGM, Spartanburg Shrine Club, 1450 Fernwood-Glendale Road, Spartanburg, SC 29307. Supper will be served.

**S**aturday, January 13, 2024, 8:00 am, **6th District**, RWB Pete Bailey, DDGM, Aiken Lodge No. 156, 443 Laurens St. NW, Aiken, SC 29801. Breakfast will be served.

**S**aturday, January 13, 2024, 8:00 am, **12th District**, RWB Chris Turner, DDGM, Union Lodge No. 75, 805 S. Duncan Bypass, Union, SC 29379. Breakfast will be served.

**S**aturday, January 13, 2024, 9:00 am, **26th District**, RWB Mike Kelly, DDGM, Bishopville Lodge No. 104, 509 Cousar St., Bishopville, SC 29010. Lunch will be served.

**S**aturday, January 13, 2024, 6:00 pm, **29th District**, RWB Don Cox, DDGM, Winyah Lodge No. 40, 2617 S. Fraser St., Georgetown, SC 29440. Supper will be served.

**M**onday, January 15, 2024, 6:30 pm, **5th District**, RWB L. A. Gardner, Jr., DDGM, Harmony Lodge No. 17, 30 Burr Street, Barnwell, SC 29812. Supper will be served.

**M**onday, January 15, 2024, 6:30 pm, **23rd District**, RWB James K. Mobley, Sr., DDGM, Great Falls Lodge No. 277, 1 Masonic Avenue, Great Falls, SC 29055. Supper will be served.

**W**ednesday, January 17, 2024, 6:30 pm, **17th District**, RWB Kenneth Lothridge, DDGM, Empire Lodge No. 213, 2567 Whatley Circle, Mauldin, SC 29662. Supper will be served.

**T**hursday, January 18, 2024, 6:30 pm, **13th District**, RWB William R. Bryant, Jr., DDGM, Palmetto Lodge No. 19, 316 Hillcrest Dr., Laurens, SC 29360. Dinner will be served.

**T**hursday, January 18, 2024, 6:00 pm, **15th District**, RWB Joe Granger, DDGM, Seneca Lodge No. 185, 205 North Townville St., Seneca, SC 29678. Dinner will be served.

**T**hursday, January 18, 2024, 6:30 pm, **20th District**, RWB Mark Tinsley, DDGM, Inman Lodge No. 201, 8 Blackstock Road, Inman, SC 29349. Supper will be served.

**F**riday, January 19, 2024, 6:00 pm, **3rd District**, RWB James Jenkins, DDGM, Cottageville Methodist Church, 44 Peirce Road, Cottageville, SC 29435. Supper will be served.

**S**aturday, January 20, 2024, 8:00 am, **8th District**, RWB Ian Strickland, DDGM, Gaston Lodge No. 382, 118 North Main St., Gaston, SC 29053. Breakfast will be served.

**S**aturday, January 20, 2024, 7:30 am, **10th District**, RWB Kyle Smathers, DDGM, Boyleston Lodge No. 123, 1310 Dutch Fork Rd, Irmo, SC 29063. Breakfast will be served.

**S**aturday, January 20, 2024, 8:30 am, **24th District**, RWB Alan Freezon, DDGM, Barron Lodge No. 261, 100 Cauthen Street, Heath Springs, SC 29058. Breakfast will be served.

**S**aturday, January 20, 2024, 6:00 pm, **25th District**, RWB Stephen E. Buffkin, DDGM, Hartsville Lodge No. 173, 411 West Home Avenue, Hartsville, SC 29550. Dinner will be served.

**T**uesday, January 23, 2024, 6:30 pm, **18th District**, RWB Mike Peeler, DDGM, Greenville Shrine Club, 119 Beverly Road, Greenville, SC 29609. Dinner will be served.

**T**uesday, January 23, 2024, 6:30 pm, **28th District**, RWB Gary E. Cook, DDGM, Damascus Lodge No. 161, 114 East Proctor Street, Mullins, SC 29574. Dinner will be served.



**T**hursday, January 25, 2024, 7:00 pm, **9th District**, RWB Dee Doolittle, DDGM, Mine Lodge No. 117, 900 Greenwood Highway, McCormick, SC 29835. Dinner will be served.

**T**hursday, January 25, 2024, 6:00 pm, **11th District**, RWB Wayne Blackburn, DDGM, Greenwood Lodge No. 91, 121 Bailey Circle, Greenwood, SC 29646. Dinner will be served.

**T**hursday, January 25, 2024, 7:00 pm, **30th District**, RWB Michael Smith, DDGM, Kingstree Lodge No. 46, 213 East Main St., Kingstree, SC. Dinner will be served.

**S**aturday, January 27, 2024, 9:00 am, **1st & 2nd Districts**, RWB Tom Lewis, DDGM and RWB Phillip Reichner, Charleston County Masonic Association, 1285 Orange Grove Road, Charleston, SC 29407. Breakfast will be served.

**S**aturday, January 27, 2024, 9:00 am, **4th District**, RWB Steven Switzer, DDGM, Port Royal Lodge No. 242, 1744 Ribaut Road, Port Royal, SC 29935. Breakfast will be served.

**S**aturday, January 27, 2024, 10:00 am, **16th District**, RWB Randall Watson, DDGM, Bates Lodge No. 189, 439 NE Main St., Easley, SC 29640. Refreshments will be served.

**M**onday, January 29, 2024, 7:00 pm, **7th District**, RWB Charles D. Welch, DDGM, Vance Lodge No. 230, 1316 Camden Rd., Vance, SC 29163. Dinner will be served.

### IN MEMORIAM

BRUCE EDWARD WEST  
PAST DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER

December 17, 1949 Waynesville, NC  
August 29, 2023 Greenville, SC

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

### AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS

**B**rother Boyd Lafayette Roberts received his 70 year Pin, Letter, Card and Certificate from MWB Steven D. Hames. Brother Roberts was raised on March 26, 1953 in Sandy River 207 AFM. Sandy River Lodge No. 207 held at their Ladies' Night on August 26, 2023.



MWB Steven D. Hames presents pin and certificate for 70 years of service to Masonry to Brother Roberts. Worshipful Master Kris Grant assisted.



Brother Roberts pictured with his family.



On July 27th Most Worshipful Steven D. Hames, Grand Master, Grand Lodge Officers and Brethren from across the State travelled to Greenwood Lodge No. 91 and attended the conferral of the Master Mason Degree upon four candidates by Brethren in Colonial Uniforms and Dress from the 11th Masonic District and Greenwood Lodge No. 91.



Grand Master's September 7, 2023 Official Visit to Flintville Lodge No. 158, the Lodge of Right Worshipful Ebbie Hodges, Junior Grand Warden.

## ANNUAL LODGE SECRETARIES AND TREASURERS WORKSHOP OCTOBER 21, 2023



Early Saturday October 21st, 183 dedicated Brethren serving their Lodges as Secretaries and Treasurers came from all over the State to participate in the Lodge Secretaries and Treasurers Workshop.

**Thank you, Brethren!**



*From the Grand Lodge Staff  
we wish you and your family  
a Happy Thanksgiving,  
a very Merry Christmas  
and a Most Happy New Year.*





# GRAND MASTER'S Perpetual Life Membership Raffle



**July 1, 2023 - November 30, 2023**  
**Drawing - December 15, 2023 at 12:00 PM**



Grand Lodge AFM of SC  
1445 Pisgah Church Road  
Lexington, SC 29072

**Proceeds to support Grand Lodge Operations**  
**\$20/Entry**



**OR**



Prizes Subject to Taxes

