

GRAND MASTER’S MESSAGE

The Lafayette Jewel and Trowel

General Marquis De Lafayette, a Frenchman and Major General Baron DeKalb, a German and ten others came to this country in 1777 to assist in the cause of freedom. Major General Baron DeKalb was wounded in the Battle of Camden, S.C. August 16, 1780, died two days later, and was buried in Camden, S.C. with Masonic Honors, August 19th. General Lafayette visited America in 1824-25 as a guest of the nation and while in America, he was invited by the City of Camden to participate in laying a cornerstone of a monument designed by architect Robert Mills to Baron DeKalb. He accepted this invitation and arrived in Camden August 8, 1825. On the following day performed the duties in accordance with a Dispensation from M.W. Bro. John Geddes, Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons in South Carolina, dated February 28th, 1825. General Lafayette used a silver trowel made of Mexican coin, by Alexander Young for this special occasion, and it has ever since been known as the Lafayette Trowel. The trowel is now the property of the Grand Lodge of South Carolina.

The afternoon before the cornerstone ceremony, Kershaw Lodge No. 29 convened at four o’clock to officially receive General Lafayette. On being presented in the Lodge, he was welcomed by Brother Abraham De Leon, Worshipful Master. Worshipful Brother De Leon, also French, addressed and welcomed General Lafayette in their mother tongue. Brother Lafayette, being overjoyed at this reception, removed his Grand Masters Jewel of France, approached Brother De Leon and placed it around his neck as a personal gift and souvenir of the occasion. It has ever since been known as the Lafayette Jewel. Worshipful Brother De Leon came to Camden from Charleston, S.C., to which he later returned and affiliated with Friendship Lodge No. 9. After his death, his family presented the Lafayette Jewel to the Lodge to be preserved for posterity. In November 1944, Kershaw Lodge No. 29 was invited to visit Friendship Lodge and confer the Master Mason Degree for them. The officers of Kershaw Lodge accepted the invitation, filled the chairs and conferred the degree. After the work was completed, Kershaw Lodge was presented an exact replica of the Lafayette Jewel with this inscription, “Lafayette Jewel presented by Friendship Lodge No. 9, A.F.M. to Kershaw Lodge No. 29, A.F.M. November 27, 1941.”

The Lafayette Trowel was made by Alexander Young who was a silver-smith in Camden in the year 1825. It was made from Mexican Silver Coins and has an ivory handle. It was made for the specific purpose of being used by the Marquis De Lafayette in laying the cornerstone to the monument erected to General Baron DeKalb which stood in the center of Main Street and U.S. Hwy. No. 1 in Camden, S.C. and later moved to a spot near the highway in front of the Presbyterian Church in Camden.

At the Annual Communication in 1893, M.W. Brother John D. Kennedy informed the Grand Lodge that the Lafayette Trowel was in possession of Mrs. Ann C. Salmond, the wife of a Master Mason and a former member of Kershaw Lodge No. 29. He informed the Grand Lodge that Mrs. Salmond was willing to turn the Trowel over to the Grand Lodge upon receipt of at least \$400.00 and that the Brethren of Kershaw Lodge were agreeable to the Grand Lodge possessing the Trowel under these circumstances.

It was moved, second and carried that the Grand Lodge appropriate \$50.00 from the Treasury and the Grand Secretary solicit voluntary contributions from the Lodges to make up the remaining \$350.00. Mrs. Salmond was presented four hundred dollars and the Grand Lodge took possession of the Trowel.

At the time Grand Lodge gained possession of the Trowel, it has already been used in laying the Cornerstones to the Masonic Temple in Charleston, Kings Mountain Monument, Cowpens Monument, Jasper Monument, Simms Monument, the Masonic Temple, the Chicola Hotel in Anderson and many other edifices and monuments. Since that time, it has been used symbolically in the laying of every Cornerstone laid by the Grand Lodge of A.F. .M. in South Carolina. It is considered to be one of the most priceless possessions of The Grand Lodge of A.F.M. of South Carolina.

The Trowel is inscribed as Follows:

Made for
Brother LAFAYETTE
To lay
The Corner of
DE KALB’S
Monument
1825

Since we are approaching the Christmas Season, Jeanne and I wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year. As you celebrate with your families, remember that the Birth of Christ is why we have this wonderful holiday. Many forget this. It should be more than a day away from work and school. May Christ live in your hearts throughout the year and may 2017 bring you and your family happiness, peace and prosperity.

Fraternally,
William B. Rogers Grand Master



MASONIC EDUCATION CORNER

HOLIDAY PRAYER

Brethren, as we enter the Holiday Season, a time for Thanksgiving for our many blessings, a special time with family and friends to celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah and the coming of a New Year, take time to reflect on your personal commitment to God, your Family, our Nation and our Fraternity. So, as you close a year, celebrate your accomplishment, and look forward to the potential of a new year, take time to pause and reflect. In considering what to share with my Brethren, I am led to simply offer a prayer that I hope will inspire you and your Lodge as you celebrate 2016 and prepare for 2017.

Most Holy and Glorious Lord God of Heaven, thank you for the beginning of a new day, as we renew of our vow of service and labors as Free Men and Free Masons, to share your Love, Mercy, and Grace among those that we may touch each day and one with the other.

I ask for forgiveness for our errors, and mistakes that have hurt others, while we give thanks for the great compassion that men of faith have for one another.

I ask your infinite blessings upon all members of our Gentle Craft this day, as we prepare for the New Year, as we reflect on our principle role as men of Faith and Love. Today, I ask that each of our members feel your presence and understand the great role each has to love one another, to be the shining example of what is right and true, an example of love, an example of strength and an example of faith.

Guide our thoughts, words, and actions all the days of our lives with that great purpose of teaching and guiding our families and our Lodges, as well as those we influence, to walk in the paths of righteousness and truth. We give thanks for these gifts and the wisdom to properly use our gifts for your honor and glory. Aid us, O God, to learn and use our gifts wisely and well in the coming days.

I ask for your gifts of patience, steadfastness, endurance, wisdom, love and grace upon all my Brethren every day, but more especially as we celebrate this season and accomplishments. Touch each of them with the great sense of purpose as we claim your promise of great success as a body of faith. Lead us every day in the paths of truth, guide the steps of the faithful, to remember our duties to our children, our families, each other, our nation and in the world. Aid us, O God, to learn and use these gifts wisely and well in the coming days.

Lord God, I pray that you imbue our Nation, with the realization that our nation is only as strong as our Faith. Strengthen our members to be the

Fatherly example in our homes, communities, churches, states and our Nation.

Remove from among us, those that sacrifice our honor and integrity for their selfish greed and evil motivation, send to us the leaders of faith, leaders who will stand, leaders who will lead and leaders who will pray for strength and guidance every day.

I ask your grace and mercy upon those among us that are suffering from ill health, loneliness, ill fortune, and even estrangement from their families. Guide them to the place in your will and paths that will be pleasing in your sight. As men of faith, we acknowledge that all will be healed in time, according to your purpose, and whether here, so as to be called to further service, or when we claim the promise of joy and fellowship for eternity.

We give humble thanks for all the days of our lives, and all those that have touched our lives, provided guidance and wisdom to us along our journey. May they know that they are truly Loved. I ask for your finest blessings each of those that have shared of themselves to help us along our journey as men of faith.

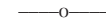
Amen! So Mote It Be! Amen!

Our lesson plan for the month references some ways to jump start your New Masonic Year.

Find the Masonic Light Lesson plan under the resources tab at www.scgrandlodgeafm.org.

Salve! Salve Frater!

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



ATTENTION: BROTHER SECRETARIES

Your Lodge’s 2016 Annual Report Form will be mailed to you on or about December 15th. If you do not receive your Lodge’s 2016 Annual Report Form shortly after December 15th, contact the Grand Lodge Office immediately.

The report must be typed in black font or printed legibly in black ink only. The names on all of the Annual Report Listings must be listed by last name in alphabetical order.

Section 141 of the Code of the Grand Lodge requires every Lodge’s Annual Report to be correct and accompanied by the Grand Lodge Dues and in the hands of the Grand Secretary on or before **February 1st**. In accordance with Section 141 of the Code, failure to file a correct Lodge report on time will result in **the Lodge paying a 10% penalty**. An **additional 10% of the dues and penalties** owed will be added to the amount owed by the Lodge every 15 days after the initial 15 day penalty period. If a report is not received until the February 1st deadline and errors are on the report, penalties will occur because the reports cannot be corrected by the Lodge Secretary prior to the February 1st due date. To avoid penalties, you should complete and mail the Annual Report **promptly after December 31**. If you need assistance with your Lodge’s report, contact this office very early in January. We will be glad to help.

I would like to thank the 130 Secretaries who attended and participated in the November 12, 2016 Annual Secretaries Workshop. Based on the feedback, we plan to continue to have an Annual Secretaries Workshop. As discussed during the workshop, the Secretaries whose Lodge’s December 31, 2016 Annual Return is correct and matches the December 31, 2016 report generated by the Membership Management System will not be required to submit a 2017 paper Annual Return provide that his Lodge’s records are kept up to-date throughout 2017.

Brethren, January – March is an extremely busy time in the Grand Lodge

Office with the Annual Returns, preparation for year-end Grand Lodge Reports and the Annual Communication preparations. In those cases where it is urgent that a Brother be cleared for a Service Award due to age or illness, we will prioritize those clearings.

Thank you for your dedication and faithfulness in performing the Lodge Secretaries Duties which are so very crucial to your Lodge and this Grand Jurisdiction.

Sincerely and fraternally,
Gerald (Jerry) L. Carver, PGM
Grand Secretary

IN MEMORIAM

HARVIE EUGENE BANISTER
Past District Deputy Grand Master
Belton, SC
September 21, 2016 Belton, SC

LOYD B. THOMPSON
Past District Deputy Grand Master
January 18, 1922 Union, SC
September 29, 2016 Union, SC

Brigadier General Jasper Brabham Varn, Jr.
Past District Deputy Grand Master
May 14, 1926 Colston Community,
Bamberg County
October 16, 2016 Irmo, SC

RIDGEWAY BUTLER SATTERFIELD
Past District Deputy Grand Master
December 11, 1923 Owings, SC
August 21, 2016 Laurens, SC
(Brother Satterfield’s was misprinted in last issue of *Masonic Light*.)

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



Members of Horse Creek Lodge No. 174, Ancient Freemasons of South Carolina are shown donating needed school supplies for students at Gloverville Elementary School. Pictured (1-r) front row are Ms. Cindy Hewitt, Asst. Principal, and Dr. Melinda Tucker, Principal. Back row are Brother Tony Smith, Lodge Steward, Worshipful Brother Tim Askren, Master of Horse Creek Lodge, and Keith Smith, Lodge Steward.

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.

Tuesday, January 10, 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 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, 9:00 am, 13th District, RW J. Scott Tollison, DDGM, Palmetto Lodge No. 19, AFM, 316 Hillcrest Drive, Laurens, SC 29360. Light refreshments.

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.

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.

Wednesday, January 25, 2017, 7:00 pm, 28th District, RW Thomas H. Lee, Jr., DDGM, Clinton Lodge No. 60, AFM, 205 Godbold Street, Marion, SC 29571. Supper will be served at 6:30 pm.

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 Master's Workshop for Worshipful Masters, Scottish Rite Temple, 7230 Garners Ferry Road, Columbia, SC 29209. Lunch will be served.

SPECIAL COMMUNICATIONS OF THE GRAND LODGE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2016, ROCK HILL, SOUTH CAROLINA: For the purpose of Rededicating Rock Hill Lodge No. 111 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 Rock Hill Lodge No. 111, AFM on the First Degree at 12:30 PM. The Rededication Ceremony will follow at 1:00 PM. Rock Hill Lodge is located at 130 Elizabeth Lane, Rock Hill, SC 29730.

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 Rock Hill Lodge No. 111, AFM on the First Degree at 12:30 PM. The Rededication Ceremony will follow at 1:00 PM. Harmony Lodge is located at 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 at 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.

WILLIAMSTON LODGE NO. 24 AWARDS



Left to Right, RWB Mike Copeland, WB Harold Bagwell, 40 years, WB LC Johnson, Jr. 25 years, Lory Coker 60 years, John Cox 50 years, David Harvell, 40 years, James Fetner 50 years, Bill Meade 60 years, Charles Casey 40 years, Jackie Bagwell 50 years. Back Row, WM Kevin Bagwell, RWB Jamie Crawford

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

We wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Blessed New Year. As we celebrate this Holiday Season with our families and friends, let us remember in our thoughts and prayers the men and women in our Armed Forces, who will be away from their families protecting our Country and our Freedom.

Jerry Carver, PGM, Grand Secretary,
Debbie Morell and Connie Bennett

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