

GRAND MASTER’S ADDRESS

THE MASONIC LEADERSHIP CHALLENGE

“Grand Master, I am having problems in my Lodge, getting members to participate.” These words were shared with me on several occasions during the recent District Instructional Meetings, by Worshipful Masters concerned about the future of their Lodge. These words certainly signal great concern for a Lodge, especially when they rise to the level of a conversation with the Grand Master and I certainly take them seriously. More importantly, it signals that the Lodge needs to work to address the issue. Often, the Worshipful Master and Officers, find themselves dealing with issues that have not been addressed within their Lodge, but address the issues, they must!

Brethren, I have reminded all the Officers attending the District Instructional Meetings of the obligation they took as officers by reciting the obligation.

“I, Michael Duane Smith, do solemnly promise that I will serve this Lodge as _____, for the space of one year, from the festival of St. John the Evangelist to the one next ensuing and will perform all the duties appertaining to that one office to the best of my abilities, so help me God.” I follow up by asking them if they understood and took that obligation seriously, do they mean it, do they own it!

Officers are expected to know their role and to give their best effort in the work and support as a member of the leadership team. The emphasis points for this year are as follows based direct member feedback!

1. Candidate Proficiency – All candidates are expected to demonstrate full proficiency in all degrees. They will appreciate their accomplishment and will be better prepared to assist the Lodge with pride.
2. Quality of the Work – Focus on teaching the candidates with Ritual Excellence. Masters have been asked to lead more practice including teaching officers how to read the Ritual correctly.
3. Improve Member Communications – Using email, calls, letters & texts to keep your members informed of all Lodge Activity.
4. Improve Lodge Education - Masters have been asked to provide Masonic Education at all Regular Meetings. Focus on the Ahiman Rezon, Ritual and the Lodge of the Future Lesson Plans.

Let’s OWN IT, and work together in 2018 and begin to focus on those things which enable renewal, stability and success. What will it take to make that happen? Masonic Leadership with a focused, realistic approach specific for your Lodge this year. Please see the Grand Masters Lesson plan at www.scgrandlodgeafm.com and click on the resources tab to get Lesson Plan No. 4. Your actions now will impact your Lodge for many years to come. Consider these questions for your Lodge. Can a Lodge survive if the work cannot be properly exemplified? Can a Lodge survive if they do not stay in constant contact with their members, all of them? Can a Lodge survive if they do not understand where they are and can the Lodge meet the obligations to be a Lodge of Ancient Free Masons in SC. Brethren, it means something to be a Freemason in South Carolina.

Masonic Leadership is needed now in your Lodge! Lead the Craft by showing them that you care for them and the Lodge! Your Grand Lodge Officers are here to help you succeed.

Wardens are expected to attend the New Wardens Leadership Workshops either on March 3rd at the Greenville Scottish Rite Center or March 10th at the Charleston Scottish Rite Center.

Fraternally,
Michael D. Smith, Sr.
Grand Master

MASONIC EDUCATION CORNER

Band of Brothers

The officers of a Lodge have been elected or appointed to serve the Lodge because of their particular talents. Some are more gifted in certain areas than others, but all of them must possess one very important characteristic, that of DEVOTION TO DUTY. When our Brother accepts an office in our Lodge, he is affirming to the Brethren he has committed himself to Masonry and to the complete success in his office. Additionally, when a Brother joins our Lodge, it is a twofold commitment as he unites with his Band of Brothers. There is a great deal of planning, studying, and attending involved in each of these offices and each officer will need the support of everyone. When we are not prepared to make these sacrifices and prioritize, we are not being just to our Band of Brothers by accepting the office. If you do not have the support of your family and are willing to place GOD first, family second, your chosen vocation third and the Lodge fourth, then you should have never taken the responsibility of a Lodge Officer. Every officer must work with enthusiasm, not only at his own particular job in the Lodge, but he must assist each officer in the performance of their duties. In the performance of duty, the officer demonstrates a desire to ascend to the next office in line or to some other position of responsibility in the long line of service. A successful Lodge is united through a good educational program, good Lodge administration and management, a good mentoring program, a good community outreach program, and good Ritual. It is the responsibility of every officer to ensure your Lodge is a Band of Brothers. Decorum in our Lodge was established by our Founding Fathers. They wanted to institute a culture grounded in unity and decorum creating place for our families to gather and a quality experience for the aspirant. They were convinced of the need to be distinctive in terms of quality rather than opaque. As we think about the year 2018 with the challenges, hopes and dreams awaiting, we must not find ourselves looking back. We must remain united as a Band of Brothers who meet on the level. A portion of the charge we administer to each Senior Warden is very poignant-- “The LEVEL demonstrates that we are descended from the same stock, partake of the same nature, and share the same hope; and, though distinctions among men are necessary to preserve subordination, yet no eminence of station should make us forget that we are Brethren.” It is interesting how our mind recalls a song, poem or a particular place we identify with which corresponds to a time in our lives. Poetry was never one of my strong suits, however certain stanzas from a poem by Alfred Lord Tennyson does permeate my thoughts as I reflect on our Band of Brothers.

Though much is taken, much abides; and though
We are not now that strength which in old days
Moved earth and heaven; that which we are, we are;
One equal temper of heroic hearts,
Made weak by time and fate, but strong in will
To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield.

Word of the month:

Decorum---etiquette, protocol, good form, custom, convention, formalities, niceties,

Quote for the month & Thought for the month:

“Your beliefs become your thoughts,
Your thoughts become your words,
Your words become your actions,
Your actions become your habits,
Your habits become your values,
Your values become your destiny.”

Mahatma Gandhi

Carpe Diem

Together we can protect, preserve, serve, and grow

O.B. Smith, SGW
Chairman, MEC

GRAND LODGE ANNUAL COMMUNICATION

The 281st Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free Masons of South Carolina will be held on April 26th & 27th, at the Jamil Shrine Center located at 206 Jamil Road, Columbia SC 29210.

The Religious Service will commence on Thursday, April 26th 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 Michael D. Smith, Sr., Grand Master with the assistance of the Grand Lodge Officers and Brethren. The Annual Banquet will be held on Thursday, April 26th at 7:00 PM in the Ballroom of the Double Tree Hotel located at 2100 Bush River Road, Columbia, SC 29210.

The Double Tree Hotel 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 Double Tree Hotel in Columbia at 803-731-0300. When calling, you must ask for group reserva-

tions and identify yourself as being with The Grand Lodge of Ancient Free Masons of South Carolina (Code: AFM) in order to obtain the special room rate of \$129.00 plus tax per night. Since the Headquarters Hotel will be unable to accommodate everyone attending the Annual Communication, the Sleep Inn located at 1901 Rockland Road, Columbia, SC, which is actually next door to the Double Tree Hotel and shares the same parking lot, may be contacted for room reservations at 803-731-9999.

LOCAL COMMITTEE 2018 GRAND LODGE ANNUAL COMMUNICATION

MWB Ron & Sue Mitchum, Chairman 803-730-1819	RWB John & Martha Marcucci, Co-Chairman 803-920-8089
RWB Tommy Watson 864-505-0497	RWB Trent Henderson & Cathy Leichter 864-621-1021
RWB Todd & Julia Schofield 803-528-8946	RWB Rawl & Linda Scheibler 803-606-1288
WB Ronnie Thompson 803-331-0497	WB Dennie & Bobby Jo Holcomb 803-374-6876
WB Bill & Diane Campbell 803-206-1696	WB Ed & Dee Dee Simpson 864-923-3486

IN MEMORIAM

JAMES WESLEY STRANGE, SR.
PAST DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER
June 10, 1944 Sumter, SC
November 17, 2017 Sumter, SC

CARL RANDOLPH TRUESDALE
PAST DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER
December 28, 1941 Camden, SC
January 21, 2018 Camden, SC

WILTON CALVIN RHINEHART
PAST DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER
July 15, 1932 Moore, SC
January 19, 2018 Moore, SC

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

SPECIAL COMMUNICATIONS OF THE GRAND LODGE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2018, HEATH SPRINGS, SOUTH CAROLINA: For the purpose of Rededicating Fork Hill Lodge No. 316, AFM. Lunch will be served at 11:30 AM at the Fork Hill Baptist Church's Family Life Center located at 1125 Fork Hill Road, Heath Springs, SC. After lunch, everyone will travel to the Fork Hill Lodge Hall located at 4944 Flat Creek Road, Heath Springs, SC 29058. 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 Fork Hill Lodge No. 316, AFM in Due Form on the First Degree at 12:30 PM with the Rededication Ceremony following.

SATURDAY, MAY 19, 2018, PENDLETON, SOUTH CAROLINA: For the purpose of Rededicating Pendleton Lodge No. 34, AFM. Lunch will be served at 11:30 AM at the Lodge Hall located at 118 Exchange Street, Pendleton, SC 29670. After lunch, 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 Pendleton Lodge No. 34, AFM in Due Form on the First Degree at 12:30 PM with the Rededication Ceremony following. The Pendleton Lodge Hall is located at 118 Exchange Street, Pendleton, SC 29670.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2018, GEORGETOWN, SOUTH CAROLINA: For the purpose of Rededicating Winyah Lodge No. 40, 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 Winyah Lodge No. 40, AFM in Due Form on the First Degree at 12:30 PM with the Rededication Ceremony following. The Winyah Lodge Hall is located at 2617 S. Fraser Street, Georgetown, SC 29440.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2018, SPARTANBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA: For the purpose of Laying a Cornerstone 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, AFM in Due Form on the First Degree at 12:30 PM with the Cornerstone Laying and Rededication Ceremonies following. The Cherokee Lodge Hall is located at 132 Cherokee Circle, Spartanburg, SC 29307

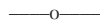
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2018, SWANSEA, SOUTH CAROLINA: For the purpose of Rededicating Oliver Lodge No.133, AFM. Lunch will be served at 11:30 AM at the Lodge. The Grand Master, with the assistance of the other Grand Lodge Officers, will open the Grand Lodge of AFM of SC in Ample Form and Oliver Lodge No. 133, AFM in Due Form on the First Degree at 12:30 PM with the Rededication Ceremony

following. The Oliver Lodge Hall 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. 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. The Batesburg-Leesville Lodge Hall 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 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.



SENIOR AND JUNIOR WARDEN WORKSHOPS IMPORTANT: “NOTE LOCATION CORRECTIONS”

The Grand Master's Workshops for Senior and Junior Wardens will be held as follows:

Saturday, March 3, 2018 for Districts 11-12-13-14-15-16-17-18-19-20-21-22-23-24, the Workshop will be held at the Greenville Scottish Rite Center located at 817 Cleveland Street, Greenville. Registration will begin at 8:00 AM with the meeting starting at 9:00 AM

Saturday, March 10, 2018 for Districts 1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10-25-26-27-28-29-30, Workshop will be held at the Charleston Scottish Rite Center located at 1051 Sam Rittenburg Boulevard, Charleston. Registration will begin at 8:00 AM with the meeting starting at 9:00 AM

PRESENTATION OF SIXTY-YEAR AWARD



Brother Ted F. Watkins, a member of Lynchwood Lodge No. 197, AFM, was presented his 60-year awards by Right Worshipful Carl R. Truesdale, PDDGM. Congratulations to Brother Watkins for his 60 years of dedicated service. Shown above from left to right are: Danny B. Catoe, Past Master and nephew of Brother Watkins, Bobby T. Watkins, nephew, Ted F. Watkins (recipient), Dennis Booth, son-in-law & member of Aiken 156, AFM, RW Brother Carl R. Truesdale and Brother Herman E. Newman, PM and Secretary of Lynchwood Lodge No. 197, AFM.



Right Worshipful Thomas E. Hayden, Jr., PDDGM, having served Clemson Lodge No. 254, AFM as Secretary for 21 years, was presented with his 60-year awards on December 14, 2017 by MW Brother William Rogers, PGM. Congratulations to Brother Hayden for his twenty-one years of service as Secretary and his sixty years of service to the Fraternity. Shown left to right in above picture are: WB Vincent W. Petraroli, WM of Clemson Lodge, RW Brother Thomas E. Hayden, Jr., PDDGM, and MW Brother William B. Rogers, PGM.

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