

GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and we all have a great 2024.



Brothers, as we move into the new year, I hope we can say we did our best to be better men in 2023 and we will do more to be even better men in 2024.

Congratulations to each of the new Lodge Officers. Thank you for your service and as we move into the roles of leadership, may we be found worthy in our duties. We should not take lightly the duties that we have obligated ourselves under. We all promised that we **would fulfill all the duties appertaining to the office to the best of our ability**. If there is anything we can assist you with, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Our Instructional Meetings will start in January, and I hope to see you at these meetings. These meetings will be the best place to get the information needed to help you with the station or place you are serving in. There will be a Q&A section in the meetings, so please write your questions down so that you do not forget them and if you desire, give the list to your MEC or DDGM where he will read those out and have the answer ready.

We also have the Masters Workshop on Feb 3, 2024 at the Scottish Rite Center in Columbia, SC starting at 8am. We should finish up around 12 noon.

The Grand Masters Perpetual Life Membership Raffle has been completed. The Lodge that was the lucky Lodge to be drawn out was Taylors Lodge 345 and the Brother who was drawn was Brother Richard Kirby from Benton Lodge 26 in Timmons ville, SC. Thank you for supporting the First Annual Perpetual Life Raffle. We are working on the next raffle to be bigger and better so stay tuned in for coming information on details.

Lady Toni and I were honored to represent our Grand Lodge, December 16, 2023 at the 87th Annual Shrine Bowl of the Carolinas (South Carolina won the game 24 to 0). Congratulations to all the young men that represented their state in the game.

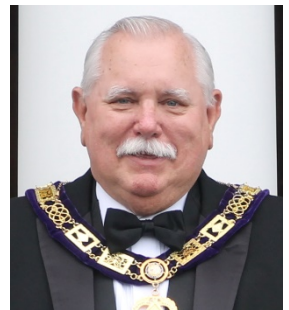
“Our Best Is The Least We Owe Each Other”

Steven D. Hames
Grand Master

DEPUTY GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE

“A NEW YEAR”

Well, another year has come and gone! No matter where you are now, one thing is certain, you are not where you started!



Let's look back for just a moment on the past year. Reflect on 2023 and rejoice that you made to 2024.

At the beginning of 2023, we set goals, both personal and Masonic. I am not going to ask you to make a check list of the past, I am going to ask you to move forward to new adventures.

The Mission of the Starship Enterprise, was to **“Boldly go where no man has gone before.”** They had a mission and used all the resources available to them to accomplish that mission. They used star charts, research from all over Star Fleet, and the knowledge gained on their journey. One thing that you may have noticed about Captain Kirk, he rarely looked at the rear of his ship. He relied on his crew to protect his ship from attack and keep the mission on track, while he focused on what was in front of him.

What is your **Mission**? Do you have adequate star charts? Do you have adequate resources? Do you rely on the great wealth of knowledge gained from the brothers that have **“Gone this way before you?”**

You have been given the best star charts available, The Holy Bible, The Ritual of our order, the Ahiman Rezon, and a library filled with the knowledge of the brothers from the past. When was the last time you used your resources for planning and guidance?

Captain Kirk and his crew had a five-year mission. Yours is a lifelong mission which must extend to the next generation and generations to come.

We say well, what do we do next? First, you must decide your commitment level. Then use your resources to make a plan. Then work the plan. Keep in mind that Captain Kirk could not accomplish his mission alone. Rely on every member of your crew to help plan and carry out **The Mission**.

We have just elected and appointed the brothers that will lead our Lodges into the next year. I encourage you to meet with your Officers and your District Deputy and make a plan, set goals, and set your Lodge on the mission to **Boldly go where all Masons have gone that have gone this way before you.**

We will be offered a series of training sessions that will help you set the course of your Lodge. Please make plans to attend these meetings.

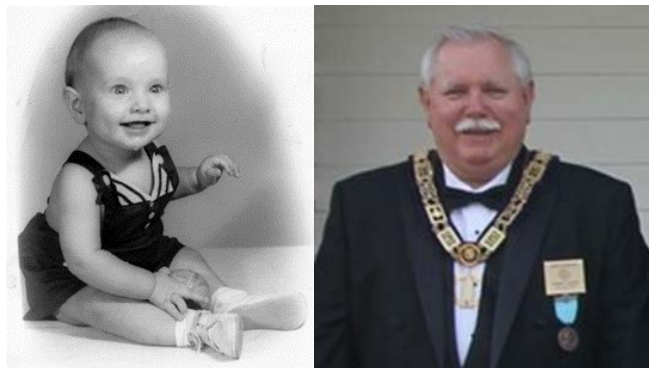
I want to wish you and yours a very Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Fraternally

Thomas E. Watson,

Deputy Grand Master.

Last Issue's Name this Mason.



RWB Thomas E. Watson, Deputy Grand Master
(ain't he cute)

Name this Mason.



SENIOR GRAND WARDEN'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year! I hope each one of you and your families had a safe and wonderful Holiday Season.



During the month of January, we will have our Instructional Meetings. Please attend your District's Instructional Meeting. It is especially important if you are an officer. Your Masonic Education Committee has worked very hard to put together an educational program that will be worthy of your time and attention.

We are on the threshold of a new year and should be filled with anticipation and excitement. It is a time of fresh beginnings, a chance to embark on a journey of growth and discovery within our beloved Fraternity. Just like the changing of the calendar, we too have the opportunity to start afresh, to leave behind any challenges or setbacks of the past, and embrace the new possibilities that lie before us.

One of the greatest joys within our Masonic Journey is the welcoming of new members into our fold. Think back to that moment when you were first initiated, Brothers. The excitement that filled your heart, the eagerness to learn and explore the mysteries of Freemasonry. Each new member brings with them a unique perspective, fresh ideas, and a renewed energy that invigorates our Lodges. Let us remember that we were all once new Masons, filled with enthusiasm and determination to make a positive impact within our Fraternity.

With the new year, often comes new leadership within our Lodges. The installation of new officers signifies the trust and confidence bestowed upon them by their Brethren. Just as I recall the moment I became the Worshipful Master of my Lodge, I am sure many of you have experienced the thrill of taking on a leadership role. It is a time to meticulously plan, to communicate with our officers, and to execute our vision for the betterment of our Lodge. The responsibilities may be great, but so too are the rewards of leaving a lasting legacy and positively shaping the Masonic Journey of our Brethren.

To aide us in our work, we are furnished with working tools. The plumb is used by operative

masons to raise perpendiculars, but as speculative Masons, we are taught that it admonishes us to walk uprightly in our several stations before both God and men. We should make sure that our actions are upright and morally sound, and strive to embody these teachings in our daily lives. Let us strive to align our conduct with these principles, not only within the walls of our Lodges, but in every aspect of our lives. By doing so, we honor the legacy of those who came before us and set a shining example for future generations of Freemasons. Let us start this year by walking upright in everything this year.

Brethren, as we embrace the excitement of new beginnings, new members, and new officers, let us remember the power and significance of our journey within this Fraternity. Let us use our working tools to guide our actions and align our conduct with the principles of Freemasonry. Together, let us make this year a year of growth, unity, and unwavering commitment to the values that make us who we are as Freemasons.

Thank you, and may this be a year filled with boundless potential and meaningful connections.

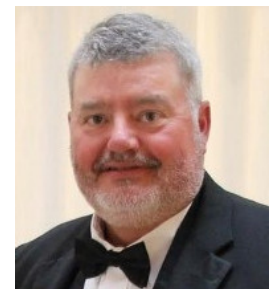
A.C. Flora, IV

Senior Grand Warden

Chairman, MEC Committee

JUNIOR GRAND WARDEN'S MESSAGE

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to each member of our Grand Jurisdiction for the exceptional contributions to the Masonic Service Association during 2023. Your dedicated commitment, both in terms of time and financial support, has had a profound impact on our organization.



Your generosity not only empowers us to fulfill our mission, but also exemplifies the spirit of benevolence that defines Freemasonry. Through your collective efforts, you have significantly enhanced our ability to serve the Masonic Community, VA Nursing Homes and uphold the principles that bind us together as both men and Masons.

As most are aware, I made a request to increase our Annual Lodge Donations to \$1.00 per member. This request was answered by the Brethren of South Carolina and will make a positive impact on our ability to help others. Your unwavering support strengthens the foundation of our shared values, fostering a sense of brotherhood that transcends both time and distance.

In the context of Freemasonry, benevolence refers to the charitable and compassionate actions undertaken by Freemasons to support and assist their fellow members, their families, and the wider community. Freemasonry places a strong emphasis on the principles of charity and helping those in need. Benevolence within the Masonic Fraternity involves providing financial aid, assistance during times of distress, and fostering a sense of brotherhood through supportive actions. It reflects the Masonic commitment to practicing goodwill and making positive contributions to the well-being of others, both within and beyond the Masonic Community.

Thank you once again, for your remarkable contributions. I look forward to continuing our collaborative journey in making a positive and lasting impact on the Masonic Service Association.

With sincere gratitude,
Ebbie Hodges, JGW

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.

SPECIAL COMMUNICATION, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2024: For the purpose of rededicating Cedar Lodge No. 184 in celebration of the Lodge's 150th 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 Cedar Lodge No. 184 on the First Degree at 12:30 pm. The Rededication Ceremony should begin at 1:00 pm and is open to the public. Cedar Lodge No. 184 is located at 135 Lee Street N., Wagener, SC

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 INSTRUCTIONAL MEETINGS

Friday, 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.

Saturday, 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.

Saturday, 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.

Thursday, January 11, 2024, 6:30 pm, **20th District**, RWB Mark Tinsley, DDGM, Inman Lodge No. 201, 8 Blackstock Road, Inman, SC 29349. Supper will be served.

Saturday, 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.

Saturday, 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.

Saturday, 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.

Saturday, 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.

Monday, 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.

Monday, 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.

Wednesday, 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.

Thursday, 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.

Thursday, 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.

Thursday, January 18, 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.

Friday, 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.

Saturday, 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.

Saturday, 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.

Saturday, 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.

Saturday, January 20, 2024, **30th District**, RWB Michael E. Smith, DDGM, Kingstree Lodge No. 46, 213 East Main Street, Kingstree, SC. Square and Compass Club Meeting begins at 11:00 am, Lunch will be served at 12:00 PM. The Instructional Meeting begins at 1:00 pm.

Saturday, 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.

Tuesday, 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.

Tuesday, 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.

Thursday, 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.

Thursday, 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.

Saturday, 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.

Saturday, 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.

Saturday, 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.

Monday, 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

FRED GIBSON HORTON
PAST DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER

November 5, 1937 Beaufort, SC
November 17, 2023 Beaufort, SC

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

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS

On November 13, 2023, RWB Dan Welch, DDGM of the 7th Masonic District, presented 60 year service pins and certificates to Brothers Ted Wylie

Bizzell and William Ralph Fanning of Norway Lodge No. 237.



RWB Dan Welch; Ted Wylie Bizzell; WB Richard Bryan Smith, WM



RWB Dan Welch; William Ralph Fanning; WB Richard Bryan Smith, WM



Sandy River Lodge 207 Worshipful Master-elect, Brother Brandon Green, sits at his Senior Warden Station with his son, James Green, a Lewis Degree Recipient whose Masonic name is Deacon. Little James appears ready to take the gavel and preside while his father awaits to be installed as Worshipful Master.