

GRAND MASTER’S ADDRESS

2018 Masonic Year Trestle Board

Our 281st Annual Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient Free Masons of South Carolina has come and is now in the rearview mirror. Brethren, we had a great session with positive reports, recognition and fellowship, most of all, great fellowship! During the Grand Master’s Address, I placed several initiatives on the trestle board for the 2018 - 2019 year that I believe will continue to serve the Craft and move our Lodge of the Future Program forward. We will continue to focus on the primary initiatives:

Improved Ritual Work Quality – to increase new member engagement.

Full Candidate Proficiency – to impress our lessons on new members.

Improved Member Communication – staying in touch with all members.

Improved Masonic Education – providing Quality Educational Programs.

Improved Financial Management – Lodges taking ownership of Budgets

Brethren, those Lodges that are embracing these programs, through their hard work and effort, are seeing improved membership experience.

The new initiatives that your Grand Lodge Officers are working to develop and introduce this year:

1. Address and formalize the onboarding process for new members to clearly define the requirements for membership in our Jurisdiction. This process is testing well with inquiries we get from our website. It will help our Lodges with retention and also with improved quality of applicants. It is designed to better prepare those new members coming into our Fraternity with understanding of the process of membership.
2. Develop a District Realignment Strategy. We currently have Districts with few as 5 Lodges and as many as 13 Lodges. We will structure so as to maintain 30 Districts, but we will include Lodge input that is critical to this project.
3. Develop a Lodge of Excellence Recognition Program to support our Lodges that are working to create the Lodge Membership Experience and move forward with the Lodge of the Future concepts. This recognition program will better define what successful Lodges are doing and sharing in the great results. (More to follow in the coming weeks.)
4. Develop and implement a Grand Master’s Unity Project this year. This program is asking all Lodges and all appendant organizations of our Fraternity to hold one fundraiser to support the Fraternity. Each group that participates will receive a share of the contributions to demonstrate the great impact of our Fraternity. (See the Lesson Plan on our web page for details.)

Gentlemen, we owe a great deal of thanks for the blessing we have in this Jurisdiction! It is by the hard work and teamwork

of our members that we see great success! We have many that worked so hard for our Grand Lodge, and I want to publicly say “thank you” to the many on the Grand Lodge Local Committee and our Grand Lodge Officers that worked on our Grand Lodge Session. Our Local Committee and their ladies did a wonderful job in making our members and guest feel so welcome!

Thank you to the Local Committee. You make us so proud to be a South Carolina Freemason!

Fraternally,
Michael D. Smith, Sr.
Grand Master



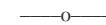
MASONIC EDUCATION CORNER

Optimism

In March, we held the Warden’s Workshop in two locations for the benefit of the Craft. I am encouraged that 55% made this a priority to attend. Perhaps those who did not attend are not optimistic or do not see the value in leadership training. For those who were providentially hindered, I would like to share an occurring theme. Some of our Wardens are a bit overwhelmed with the duties of the office. R.W. Brother Cal said it best--“you are not alone, and we are here to assist you.” The challenges facing our Fraternity are many and various; however, Masonry will survive in South Carolina, and how the Fraternity remains will be decided by the leaders in our Fraternity. Demands and expectations for our Wardens have never been higher. How does a Warden develop winning strategies, execute them brilliantly as Worshipful Master, and develop Lodge capabilities while supporting membership? A leader must be able to sense impending challenges to see opportunities which must be the target of action, and to see threats before they materialize well into the future. Far too often a Lodge’s future is left to mere chance! As a leader in your Lodge, you must begin to mentor and develop leadership skills in your Subordinate Officers. This is one reason your Grand Lodge holds a Worshipful Masters’ Workshop, a Wardens’ Workshop, and a Secretaries’ Workshop each year. Those who attended a workshop were able to log into the GrandView System seeing their Lodges History and financial viability. Development in these critical areas will produce benefits to the incumbent’s family, career, Lodge, and this is the purpose of Freemasonry. How optimistic are you concerning Freemasonry? How optimistic are you that your Lodge will be here in 50 years, 100 years or even 200 years? What are you accomplishing to ensure your Lodge will be here in 25 years? Will those accomplishments be compounded for posterity? I would like to challenge you to follow the example of our esteemed Brother, R.W. Benjamin Franklin, P.G.M. The year was 1785, when a perturbed French mathematician named Charles-Joseph Mathon de la Cour wrote a parody of Franklin’s Poor Richard called Fortunate Richard in which he mocked the unbearable spirit of American Optimism represented by Franklin. The Frenchman wrote a piece about Fortunate Richard leaving a small sum of money

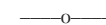
in his will to be used only after it had collected interest for 500 years. Franklin, who was 79 years old at the time, wrote back to the Frenchman, thanking him for a great idea and informing him he had decided to leave a bequest to his native Boston and his adopted Philadelphia of 1,000 pounds to each, on the condition it be placed in a trust compounding interest over a period of 200 years. Upon his death in 1790, R.W. Franklin left a gift of \$5,000 to each of his two favorite cities, Boston and Philadelphia. He stipulated the money was to be invested and could be paid out at two specific dates of the first 100 years and the second 200 years after the date of the gift. After 100 years, each city was allowed to withdraw \$500,000 for Public Works Projects. After 200 years, in 1991, they received the balance, which had compounded to approximately \$20 million for each city. R.W. Franklin’s example teaches us in a dramatic way the power of optimism, compounding wealth, and a faithful reliance on divine providence. How optimistic are you Freemasonry will be here in 200 years? If you are optimistic our beloved Fraternity will be here, then consider an investment in a trust to your Lodge and your Grand Lodge. What we experience today is based upon what we accomplished or did not accomplish yesterday. Consequently, what we will experience tomorrow will be partially built on what we can accomplish today! Our life is built upon the foundation of the past, and we are building the foundation for the future at this instant. I hope, indeed I pray, we lay a firm foundation for our Lodge and Grand Lodge today, so when aspirants in the future knock on the door of Freemasonry, a Brother will be there to answer.

Together we can protect, preserve, serve, and grow
O.B. Smith, Senior Grand Warden
Chairman, Masonic Education Committee



ANNUAL GEORGIA – SOUTH CAROLINA EXCHANGE MEETING

The Annual Georgia/South Carolina Grand Master’s Exchange Meeting will be held on Friday, June 8, 2018 at the Greenville Scottish Rite Center located at 817 Cleveland Street, Greenville. Supper will be served at 6:00 PM.



INSPIRATIONAL MEETINGS

Saturday, July 7, 2018, Lodge doors open 3 to 8 p.m., Open to Public 4 to 8 p.m., 16th District, RW Brother Michael Wayne Johnson, DDGM, Bates Lodge No. 189, AFM, 439 Northeast Main Street, Easley, SC 29640. Cookout with hot dogs, hamburgers, ice cream and live entertainment.

Friday, August 3, 2018, 6:30 p.m., 8th District, RW Brother C. R. “Chip” Simmons, III, DDGM, Brookland United Methodist Church, 541 Meeting, Street, West Columbia, SC 29169. Speaker will be WB Shelton Lattimore, PM. Supper will be served.

GRAND LODGE OFFICERS FOR 2018-19 ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Grand Master Michael D. Smith, Sr., (278), Inman
Deputy Grand MasterWalter C. Disher, II, (230) Harleyville
Senior Grand Warden O. B. Smith, III, (279 & 282), Travelers Rest
Junior Grand WardenSteven D. Hames (202), Blacksburg
Grand TreasurerJack A. Marler (311), Simpsonville
Grand SecretaryGerald L. Carver (115 & 91), Waterloo
Grand Chaplain Rev. A. Robert Nix (14), Summerville

APPOINTMENTS

Senior Grand DeaconM. Duane Smith, Jr. (278), Inman
Senior Grand DeaconJeffery Lynn Honeycutt (201), Wellford
Junior Grand Deacon..... James Grady McCombs (282), Travelers Rest
Junior Grand Deacon..... Otto Kaske (401), Moncks Corner
Grand Steward James Michael Hamilton, Sr. (202), Hickory Grove
Grand StewardDanny Steve Hollingsworth, Sr. (294), Cowpens
Grand MarshalThomas E. Watson (350), Spartanburg
Grand Standard Bearer.....Donald Lee Carmean, Jr. (138), Batesburg
Grand Pursuivant Ronald Andrew Albright (375), North Charleston
Grand Tiler.....Michael Dale Gillespie (333), Spartanburg

DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTERS

First District Stephen Brian Hiott (2), Charleston
Second District..... Larry Jay Nicodin (401), Moncks Corner
Third District.....Steven Eric Craven (231), Smoaks
Fourth DistrictPaul Spivey Griffin (22), Beaufort
Fifth District..... Keith Eric Zissette (63 & 17), Barnwell
Sixth District..... Larry Robert Jackson (184), Batesburg
Seventh District..... Charles Marshall Field (62), Santee
Eighth District Carl Randolph Simmons, III (138), Batesburg
Ninth DistrictHowell Nathaniel Watson, Jr. (50), Edgefield
Tenth District John Ralph Marcucci (398), Columbia
Eleventh District..... Robert Francis Elsner (3), Due West
Twelfth District..... Grover Allen Owens (75), Union
Thirteenth District Michael Dean Bryant (19), Laurens
Fourteenth District.....Martyn Hensley Dixon (116), Anderson
Fifteenth District Johnnie Milton Jones, Jr. (92), Westminster
Sixteenth District Michael Wayne Johnson (189), Easley
Seventeenth District Edward Dean Snow (213), Mauldin
Eighteenth District James Blair Frazier, V (146), Taylors
Nineteenth District..... Samuel H. Turner, III (357 & 159), Roebuck
Twentieth DistrictJacob Paul McWilliams, Jr. (201), Taylors
Twenty-first Distric..... Judson Noah Seay, III (70), Duncan
Twenty-second DistrictThomas Dawkins Sutton, Jr. (416), Rock Hill
Twenty-third District Bobby Joe Albert (30), Blythewood
Twenty-fourth District..... Earl Troylambert Nichols, Jr. (411), Elgin
Twenty-fifth DistrictPatrick Coxe (88), Bennettsville
Twenty-sixth District..... Joseph Thomas Kelly, Sr. (295), McBee
Twenty-seventh District Boyd Edward Hodges, Jr. (158), Effingham
Twenty-eighth District..... Tommy Edsel Hayes, Jr. (258), Lake View
Twenty-ninth District..... Billy Ray Carroll (65), Conway
Thirtieth District Jonathan Ellis Ford (269), Moncks Comer

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 281ST ANNUAL COMMUNICATION

The 281st Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free Masons of South Carolina was held at the Jamil Shrine Center in Columbia, SC on April 26th and 27th, 2018. The event began with the Religious Service during which Right Worshipful and Reverend A. Robert Nix, Grand Chaplain, gave a most inspiring message entitled “Knock, See, and Find.” Ms. Connie Bennett led in the singing of the hymns. Her brother, Mr. John Bennett, accompanied on the keyboard. After the Religious Service, the Grand Lodge Officers assembled and marched in procession to the tune of “Scotland, the Brave” into the Grand Lodge Room. After the appropriate introductions of our Grand Master, Grand Wardens, Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary and Grand Chaplain, the remaining Officers proceeded to their stations. Most Worshipful Brother Michael D. Smith, Sr., Grand Master, introduced Sheriff Leon Lott, Richland County Sheriff, who brought a most warm “Welcome” to the Brethren, Friends, and Ladies on behalf of the City of Columbia and Richland County. He expressed his pride in being a Masonic Brother. Right Worshipful Brother Walter C. Disher, II, Deputy Grand Master, responded on behalf of the Grand Lodge. The Colors were beautifully presented by the Richland County Sheriff’s Office Color Guard. After the Colors were presented, the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States was led by Right Worshipful Brother Tommy Watson, Grand Marshal. Ms. Connie Bennett led the singing of the Star Spangled Banner accompanied by John Bennett on the keyboard.

At 10:00 AM, after excusing all non-Masons, Most Worshipful Brother Michael D. Smith, Sr., Grand Master of Masons in SC with the assistance of the Grand Lodge Officers, opened the Grand Lodge in Ample Form for the purpose of conducting the 281st Annual Communication.

Most Worshipful Brother Barry A. Rickman, PGM, a member of the Board of Directors of the George Washington National Memorial Association, presented the Grand Master with a Plaque of Appreciation for his support of the Memorial.

During the Thursday Morning Session, the Grand Master presented Right Worshipful Brother Earl T. Nichols, Jr. with the Frederick Dalcho Certificate of Merit and Button. He also presented the Dalcho Award to the following Brethren during the Grand Lodge Banquet that night, Worshipful Brethren Ronnie Thompson, PJDG, William F. Campbell, PM, Jeffery L. Honeycutt, PGStd, and Right Worshipful Brother Tommy Watson, Grand Marshal. He also presented Right Worshipful Brother Lloyd F. Christopher, DDGM and Right Worshipful Brother Walter C. “Cal” Disher, II, Deputy Grand Master with the prestigious Albert Gallatin Mackey Medal and Button. He had previously presented Right Worshipful Brother Donald L. Smith, PDDGM with the Mackey Award at the March 13, 2018 Regular Communication of Landrum Lodge No. 278.

The following changes to the Grand Lodge Constitution and Code were approved by the Grand Lodge:

Section 15e of the Code was amended to include the recently implemented 40 year Service Lapel Pin and the Lecturer Lapel Pin.

Section 78a of the Code was amended to clarify that the Worshipful Master shall appoint a Lodge Chaplain.

Article 146 of the Constitution was amended to include the statement, “If the Article or Section for which the accused was found guilty states a certain punishment, this article shall not apply, the stated punishment shall prevail.”

During the Grand Lodge Banquet, our Senior Grand Warden, Right Worshipful Brother, Oel Bruce “OB” Smith, III, presented the Annual H. Dwight McAlister Journalism Award for an outstanding Lodge Newsletter to Dentsville Lodge No. 398 AFM. Our Deputy Grand Master, Right Worshipful Brother Walter C. “Cal” Disher, II, presented the Annual Lodge Community Service Award to Lugoff Lodge No. 411, AFM and the Annual District Community Service Award to the Fifteenth Masonic District.

The Grand Lodge approved the issuance of a Charter to the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masons of South Carolina to hear and determine all matters related to Cryptic Masonry in South Carolina. The Charter was presented to the Grand Officers of the Grand Council during the Grand Lodge Session.

Several presentations were made to the Grand Master including an Honorary Membership Medal and Certificate from the Grand Lodge of Paraguay by Right Worshipful Brother Miguel Palermo, Grand Secretary, on behalf of Grand Master, Benigno Villasanti. The Grand Secretary was also presented the same medal and certificate.

During the Friday Session of the Annual Communication, Most Worshipful Brother Michael D. Smith, Sr., Grand Master, acknowledged the Golf Tournament Sponsors and presented the tournament’s winning team members from District 5 with the beautiful Grand Lodge Cup. The District 5 Team members were Right Worshipful Brother David Barnett, Worshipful Brothers Raymond Lott, Sr., Bobby Yon, and Frankie Allen. The tournament generated \$1,624.65 for the Grand Lodge Building Fund this year.

The Grand Lodge accepted the invitation from Worshipful Brother Thomas W. Moran, Worshipful Master, Solomon’s Lodge No. 1, AFM on behalf of the First District Brethren, to hold the 284th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge in North Charleston, SC in 2021.

IN MEMORIAM

LELAND DURWARD LEWIS
PAST DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER

December 25, 1921 Hemingway, SC
November 17, 2017 Columbia, SC

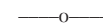
HENRY HUBERT CHAMBERS
PAST DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER

July 12, 1930 Warsaw, GA
March 31, 2018 Canadys, SC

BILL GAINES BOWERS, SR.
PAST DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER

May 17, 1926 Six Mile, SC
April 22, 2018 Anderson, SC

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



SEVENTY-YEAR AWARD PRESENTATION



On February 19, 2018, Right Worshipful Brother Carroll Cheek presented a Seventy-Year Service Award to Right Worshipful Brother David Jeffcoat, Past District Deputy Grand Master of the Seventh District and a member of Progress Lodge No. 356, AFM. Congratulations to RW Brother Jeffcoat on reaching this milestone.

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E-mail: grandsecretary@scgrandlodgearn.org



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