

GRAND MASTER’S MESSAGE

*Out of the darkness, into the light
who comes here?*

Brethren, I have often illustrated the power of the ballot in my discussions about our Fraternity. The unanimous ballot is the most important part of taking a worthy candidate into our membership. This tradition is certainly important within our Fraternity, or part of guarding the West Gate of the Temple.

Why then are we seeing new members that do not complete the process, or complete their degrees and obtain full membership in our Lodges?

I believe the process for membership needs to be reviewed in our Lodges so that our members and our candidates fully understand what it takes to become a Master Mason in our ancient and honorable institution.

I call your attention to the 2015 Edition of the Ahiman Rezon, particularly the Index, page 556 – 558 which outlines the Articles and Sections relating to the Candidate and pages 587 – 588 are related to the Petition process.

Your Grand Lodge Elected Officers have engaged and listened to some of those that have not completed their degrees. We have listened to members that shared their concerns about what they should have known prior to joining the Fraternity.

The main items learned were as follows:

Most were not aware of all the requirements to become a full member, viz., the time commitment to become a Master Mason, the memory work required to advance, the financial requirement to go through the process.

Some said their experience was not favorable, in that they were confused and even embarrassed during the process. Some were not impressed by the work nor the quality of the process. They expected more from the Lodge, specifically the lessons and how they were presented.

Some worked hard to study and prove my knowledge of the degree and it was not taken seriously! “Why bother, if they are not interested in teaching me, then why should I continue?” Many were excited when the process was done correctly.

Have you and your Lodge really listened to your members to understand if they are getting what you are trying to teach? Do they get the great lessons that Freemasonry has to offer? Have you asked? Are your degrees really about the candidate or about the members of the cast?”

Brethren, when your elected line gathered this information, we began a dialogue as to how to address some of these issues that are negatively impacting our members and candidates. Here is the process we have developed for your review and study.

Inquiry. While we are not to directly solicit members, our Fraternity is known by those that know us and those that see what the Lodge is doing in the community, if we are active. What is the impression of your Lodge in your community? If a man is interested, and perhaps, lucky enough to find a Freemason and inquire about the Lodge or Fraternity, what do you do? Rather than just hand him a petition, we believe it is

better to discuss his inquiry.

“How did you learn of Freemasonry?”

“What interests you about the Fraternity?”

“Why are you seeking membership?”

It is best to explain the process of membership to any inquirer.

Freemasonry does not solicit members, members seek to join our Fraternity. Our requirements are as follows, we are men of faith, who believe in one true God and the belief in the resurrection of the soul. (See page 456, the Twenty Five Landmarks of Freemasonry.) Note this is not specific to denomination. Two members of a Lodge must get to know you and recommend you for membership on their honor as a man and Freemason. If you are recommended, our requirements include standing a background investigation, interviews with a committee of inquiry who must unanimously recommend your membership, it takes a financial commitment for the petition, each of the degrees and annual membership dues. Our process included several steps to gain full membership and you will be required to demonstrate proficiency by learning the key moral lessons of our Fraternity that will not interfere with your religious or political opinion; we will require time to obtain full Lodge membership with both proficiency and repeated approval of the members prior to advancement. With these requirements in mind, do you wish to proceed?

If the candidate agrees to proceed, and one member is convinced that he would sign a petition, then we recommend introduction to the members, and perhaps, inviting them to a Lodge Dinner to meet members prior to giving a petition to the inquirer. We then follow the process of investigation, recommendation, and balloting. If elected, our process continues with education of the candidate of the first of the Masonic Education Program and inviting the family to visit the Lodge to become familiar with the Fraternity and address any questions or concerns that may surface.

The background check fee, in our opinion should be part of the petition fee and explained that portion is non-refundable if it is run. The report, only viewed by the secretary and Investigating Committee and given to the background check and no copy kept by the Lodge.

Finally, it is important to reiterate that the coaching of a candidate is critically important and is not taken lightly. The responsibility of the coach and Worshipful Master is to teach the candidate the lessons of the degree in the proper fashion, by mouth to ear instruction. No Red Ritual Book, or any portion thereof, should ever be provided to the candidate during his instruction.

It is also important to have the new member show his proficiency so that both he and the Lodge are certain of his preparedness for advancement.

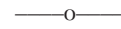
Brethren, the process will improve both the perception and practice in your Lodge and will help streamline the on boarding process of new members.

It is our hope that your Lodge will review and consider the process and increase the percentage of members completing their degrees.

See the Lesson Plan found at www.scgrandlodgeafm.org and find the Lesson plans under the resources tab.

Retaining members and proper teaching of our members is critical to future success.

Fraternally;
Michael D. Smith, Sr.
Grand Master



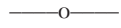
MASONIC EDUCATION CORNER

The Master’s Journey to Past Master

A Brother elected to the office of Master of his Lodge must have the characteristics of a good leader, Trust in God, The Great Architect of The Universe. The Brother must have moral convictions, which is a subjective assessment of one’s attitude about a specific issue or situation, that is associated with one’s moral beliefs and fundamental sense of right or wrong. He must be dedicated to serving the Craft and protecting his Lodge from failure and set the example to always strive to be the best that one can be. A good leader is a good listener. One can learn something new just by listening to good counsel from all Brothers. As he works through the appointed chairs and the Elected Line, he has given his support to the Brothers and Masters who have gone before him. In these positions, he has shown the Craft he is fit to hold the positions that have been entrusted to him by being dedicated, attending all required meetings, learning the Rituals, overseeing the superintendence and direction of the work of his Lodge. As one can understand, it takes a lot of work, time and dedication to be a Master, Warden and member of a Masonic Lodge. On this journey to the East, he should have now become experienced in all the degrees and Rituals, learned the finances of his Lodge and made himself a better Mason and individual. He has had the opportunity to observe the Brothers, who hopefully, will make their way to the East one day as Master. At the end of his term as Master, he has earned the title of Past Master. He now becomes one of the most important members of his Lodge. As a Past Master, he has gained the knowledge, experience, know how and the Moral Compass to keep his Lodge on the right track. He must insure that the Brothers who start their journey to the East are persons that have the interest of the Craft at Heart, have good morals, dedicated and willing to learn plus many more qualities. After a Brother is elected to an office, on the night of his installation, he makes a promise before God and his Lodge that he will perform the duties of his office. The Members and Past Masters must insure that his promise is kept. I challenge all Past Masters to attend their Lodge and be prepared to give sound and wholesome instruction to the Brothers that seek guidance. I once was told by a Past Grand Master, if a person does not share his experience and knowledge, it is as if you opened a book that was titled “Behold All Secrets of Man,” but when you eagerly opened the book to gain this knowledge all you found were white blank pages. If we go through this world without sharing our knowledge and experience, we leave

nothing behind for the Brothers that will follow, and we are long forgotten if we are unwilling to share the knowledge we have gained on our journey through life. All Brothers have a duty to attend their Lodge, support their officers and serve in any small way they can. If our members fail to attend, then your Lodge will surely die. Some Brothers say “I send in my dues!” Brothers, while we thank you for this support, it is of utmost importance that you attend meetings and are instrumental in helping us preserve our history and the Fraternity.

O. B. Smith, III, Senior Grand Warden
Chairman, Masonic Education Committee



SPECIAL COMMUNICATIONS OF THE GRAND LODGE

NOTICE OF CHANGE, THE PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED REDEDICATION OF WINYAH LODGE NO. 40 HAS BEEN CANCELLED FOR OCTOBER 6, 2018 AND THE CORNERSTONE LAYING AND REDEDICATION CEREMONIES FOR DANTZLER LODGE NO 318 HAS BEEN SCHEDULED FOR THAT DATE AS SHOWN BELOW:

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2018, CAMERON, SOUTH CAROLINA: For the purpose of a Cornerstone Laying and Rededicating Dantzler Lodge No. 318 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 Dantzler Lodge No. 318 in Due Form on the First Degree at 12:30 PM with the Cornerstone and Rededication Ceremonies following. Dantzler Lodge is located at 206 Second Street, Cameron, SC 29030.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2018, SPARTANBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA: For the purpose of a Cornerstone Laying 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 in Due Form on the First Degree at 12:30 PM with the Cornerstone and Rededication Ceremonies following. Cherokee Lodge is located at 135 Cherokee Circle, Spartanburg, SC 29307

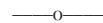
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2018, SWANSEA, SOUTH CAROLINA: For the purpose of a Cornerstone Laying and Rededicating Oliver Lodge No. 133, AFM in Celebration of the Lodge’s 150th Year Anniversary. Lunch will be served at 11:30 AM at the Lodge. The Grand Master, with the assistance of the other Grand Lodge Officers, will open the Grand Lodge of AFM

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2018, BATESBURG-LEESVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA: For the purpose of Rededicating Batesburg-Leesville Lodge No. 138, AFM in Celebration of the Lodge’s 150th 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 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. Batesburg-Leesville Lodge 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 Elected and Subordinate Grand Lodge Officers and the District Deputy Grand Master, when a Lodge in his District is holding a Special Communication, are expected to attend. All other District Deputy Grand Masters and Past Grand Masters are invited 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, jewel and apron.



INSPIRATIONAL MEETINGS

Saturday, October 13, 2018, 6:00 pm, 23rd District, RW Brother Bobby J. Albert, DDGM, Great Falls Lodge No. 277, AFM, 1 Masonic Ave., Great Falls, SC 29055. Rev. & RW Brother Jerry Phillips, Past Grand.Chaptain will be the speaker. Supper will be served.

Saturday, October 13, 2018, 6:30 pm, 4th District, RW Brother Paul S. Griffin, DDGM, American Lodge No. 98, AFM, 990 Grays Hwy., Ridgeland, SC 29936. Speaker to be announced. Supper will be served.

Monday, October 15, 2018, 7:00 pm, 5th District, RW Brother Keith E. Zisette, DDGM, Elbab Shrine Club, 571 Patterson Mill Rd., Barnwell, SC 29812. RW Brother Robby Sanders, PDDGM, will be the speaker. Supper will be served.

Monday, October 22, 2018, 7:00 pm, 7th District, RW Brother Chuck Field, DDGM, Edisto Shrine Club of Orangeburg, 2265 Five Chop Rd., Orangeburg, SC 29115. MW Brother D. Samuel Tennyson, Sr., PGM, will be the speaker. Supper will be served.

Tuesday, October 23, 2018, 7:00 pm, 28th District, RW Brother Tommy E. Hayes, Jr., DDGM, Clinton Lodge No. 60, AFM, 205 E. Godbold St., Marion, SC 29571. Speaker to be announced. Supper will be served.

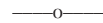
Thursday, October 25, 2018, 7:30 pm, 1st & 2nd Districts, RW Brother Steve Hiott, DDGM & RW Brother Larry J. Nicodin, DDGM, Scottish Rite Center, 1051 Sam Rittenberg

Blvd., Charleston, SC 29407. RW Brother Steve Hames, JGW, will be the speaker. Supper will be served.

Friday, October 26, 2018, 7:00 pm, 10th District, RW Brother John R. Marcucci, DDGM, Scottish Rite Center, 7230 Garners Ferry Rd., Columbia, SC 29209. Chaplain Sam Boone, Col. USA Retired, will be the speaker. Supper will be served.

Saturday, November 10, 2018, 6:00 pm, 29th District, RW Brother Billy Ray Carroll, DDGM, Horry Electric Company, 2774 Cultra Rd., Conway, SC 29526. Philip Thompson, Horry County Sheriff, will be the speaker. Supper will be served.

Saturday, November 17, 2018, 5:00 pm, 27th District, RW Brother Boyd E. Hodges, DDGM, Hampton Lodge No. 204, AFM, 206 S. McQueen St., Florence, SC 29501. MW Brother D. Samuel Tennyson, Sr., PGM, will be the speaker. Supper will be served.



HURRICANE FLORENCE APPEAL FOR RELIEF

Hurricane Florence devastated the Eastern section of North Carolina with devastating winds and floods. Those same flood waters are now flowing through the rivers in the Eastern Counties of South Carolina with homes and Lodges being flooded with the polluted waters flowing down with sewage and livestock carcasses from the North Carolina Pig Farms and Chicken houses. Major areas along the rivers in Eastern South Carolina including the Inter-Coastal Waterway is projected to have major flooding with residents being ordered to evacuate once more. Most of the rivers in Eastern South Carolina are not expected to reach the highest flood levels until the last days of September or the first days of October. The flood waters are expected to remain for some time due to the volume of water. An 86 year old Brother who had just finished restoring his home after the last Storm now has 5 feet of water in his home. Brethren, please remember our North Carolina and South Carolina Brethren and their families who are suffering from the wind and flood effects of Hurricane Florence. Please consider making a donation no matter how small to help our Brethren and their families. When making a donation, please make your check payable to the Grand Lodge AFM, Charities Disaster Relief, Inc. These donations are tax-deductible. Donations should be mailed to the Grand Lodge AFM of SC, P.O. Box 2185, Lexington, SC 29071-2185.

IN MEMORIAM

EARL TROYLAMBERT NICHOLS, JR.
DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER

April 24, 1944 Long Branch, NJ
September 10, 2018 Lugoff, SC

JOE LIGON VANADORE

PAST DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER
January 23, 1934 Anderson County, SC
July 25, 2018 Starr, SC

LARRY WOODROW BURGESS, SR.

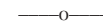
PAST DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER
February 9, 1942 Union, SC
August 8, 2018 Spartanburg, SC

Worshipful Brother James C. Clifford, Past Junior Grand Deacon and a Past Master of Eau Claire Lodge No. 344, Columbia, SC passed away August 19, 2018.

Worshipful Brother Kenneth Russ, Past Master and Treasurer of Fort Moultrie Lodge No. 428, Mount Pleasant, SC passed away August 26, 2018.

Mr. James “Bill” Tennyson, brother of MW Brother D. Samuel Tennyson, Sr., PGM, passed away August 16, 2018.

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

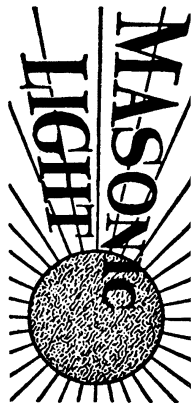


SIXTY-YEAR AWARD PRESENTATION



Brother John Raymond Barrineau, was presented with his 60-year award on August 7, 2018 at Hopewell Lodge No. 127, AFM. We congratulate Worshipful Brother Barrineau for reaching this Masonic milestone. Pictured left to right are: Gurney C. Wiggins, Jr., PDDGM, Kenny Barrineau, WB John R. Barrineau, PM and WB Kenny Teuton, WM.

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