SIXTY YEAR AWARD

On August 10, 2015, RW Brother Jim McGinn DDGM of the 9th Masonic District and W. Brother James Ellis, Worshipful Master of Cedar Lodge No. 154 presented Brother Robert M. Palmer with his 60 year Service Award.

On August 8, 2015, RW William F. Berland, DDGM presented a 60 year Service Award and pin to Worshipful Brother Charles B. Gooding Sr., Past Master of Belle's Lodge No. 236. Also present at the presentation were the following Brothers from Belle's Lodge No. 236: Marshall Ryan, PM Shane Hudson, PM Charles H. Gooding Jr. F.M., Sammie K. Paddock, F.M. Lonnie C. Berland, and James Allen Hart, F.M. Also present were W. Brother Steve Delouch, F.M. Stafford Lodge No. 216 and Brother Allen Thomas from Hinson Lodge No. 272. After the presentation, fellowship and refreshments were enjoyed by all.

GRAND LODGE SPECIAL COMMUNICATIONS

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2015, MARION (CENTENARY), SOUTH CAROLINA

For the purpose of Rededicating Centenary Lodge No. 312, AF & AM. 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 and Centenary Lodge No. 312 at 12:00 PM. The Ceremony of Rededication will follow at 1:00 PM. Centenary Lodge is located on Alice Ave. at Davis Street, Marion, South Carolina. For C.P.’s purpose, the address of 500 Centenary Ave, Marion SC may be used.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2015, BISHOPIVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA

For the purpose of Laying a Cornerstone and Rededicking Bishopville Lodge No. 104, AF & AM. Lunch will be served at 11:00 AM at the Lodge. The Grand Master with the assistance of the other Grand Lodge Officers will open the Grand Lodge and Bishopville Lodge No. 104 at 12:00 PM. The ceremony of Laying the cornerstone will begin at 1:00 PM. The Ceremony of Rededication will follow. Bishopville Lodge is located at 500 Comer Street, Bishopville, South Carolina.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2015, CROSS HILL, SOUTH CAROLINA

For the purpose of Laying a Cornerstone and Rededicking Cross Hill Lodge No. 156, AF & AM. Lunch will be served at 11:30 AM at the First Baptist Church at 701 North Main Street, Cross Hill, South Carolina. The Grand Master with the assistance of the other Grand Lodge Officers will open the Grand Lodge and Cross Hill Lodge No. 156 at the Lodge Hall at 12:45 PM. The Ceremony of Laying the cornerstone will begin at 1:00 PM. The Ceremony of Rededication will follow. Cross Hill Lodge No. 156 is located at 1061 Highway 30, Cross Hill, South Carolina. These Ceremonies are open to the public, visitors, and all Brothers including Entered Apprentices, Fellowcrafts, and Masonic Masters. All Grand Lodge Officers are expected to be present and all Past Masters are requested to attend.

IN MEMORIAM

AINSLEY SMITH GRANT
Past District Deputy Grand Master
July 24, 1935
Chester County, SC
August 1, 2015
Chester, SC

ROY WELCH, JR.
Past District Deputy Grand Master
June 28, 1945
Clarendon County, SC
September 11, 2015
Columbia, SC

LELAND AUBREY RAYNES, SR.
Past District Deputy Grand Master
July 10, 1940
Winstonboro, SC
September 12, 2015
Columbia, SC

NOTICE

The Grand Lodge Junior BERTC Medal and Certificate Award has been reinstated. The Award will be presented by South Carolina Masons to deserving Cadets in 170 South Carolina High Schools. These Lodge Officers or Brothers willing to participate in the presentations in their area should contact their District Deputy Grand Master or Worshipful Brother John R. Marcoux, PG. Marshal, MEG at jm_marcox@me.com
GRAND MASTER’S MESSAGE

A Time for Renewal

As we meet together in our various Lodges, do we ever con- sider the wisdom of the forefathers that built the facilities we inherited? Their desire to build upon their predecessors’ labor to insure they would give us this great Fraternity in better shape. It’s time to better care for the facilities we have inherited.

It is for us to reflect upon our responsibility and ask our- selves if we have the fervency and zeal that distinguishes us from our ancient Brethren.

We, as a Fraternity, have great philanthropic and we should be proud of that. However, we aren’t a philanthropic organiza- tion. We are to be more than just promoting foundations for differ- ent purposes. Are we not to be different from other civic clubs and organizations? We are to be Brethren dedicated to promoting Relief and Brotherly Love, and in doing so, we are building better men—husbands, fathers, community leaders, and citizens. It also strengthens that “Mystic Tie” that binds us into a sacred band of Brothers.

Are we following someone else’s expectations by doing the same thing the same way year after year? Our meetings should be interesting, informative and just count on the Lodge, read the minutes, pay bills, close, and go home. Our Lodges must distinguish themselves from other Fraternal or clubs if the tradition is good and follows the Fraternity’s philosophy of their time and effort. Do we have a good agenda of Masonic activities planned for our meetings such as an inspiring Masonic speaker, a good program of Masonic Education readily available for our Brethren to enjoy and learn more about our great Fraternity. There are many publications and videos readily available if we would only spend a little time in search of these. We must live up to the duties and responsibilities which we vol- untarily took upon ourselves as Masons. We come of our own free will and accord, and are not paid into the Fraternity. We knocked upon the door for admission. We are to live our Masonic principles before the public and in our everyday life. If we do this, we will make a profound impact on others. At first, they might seek admission just for the fraternal association, but if they see we have something to offer them that is beneficial to daily living, they will see our Fraternity in a different light and seek admission.

If they do, let’s give them the best fraternal experience we can offer. Finally, you asked yourself, “Have I given the Fraternity my best?”

Fraternally,
William B. Rogers, Grand Master

MASONIC EDUCATION CORNER

Sustainable Leadership Beyond 2020

Brethren, as we move towards the next leadership in our Masonic Education topic, let’s review the first 2 lessons in the “Lodge of the Future” series of Lesson Plans and Lodge Education Topics.

In Lesson 1, you have your Lodge membership data and determined how your Lodge will address your membership trends, Lodge dues, and Lodge Expenses. Membership Communication so as to determine where you are today and begin thinking about your Lodge. At current Membership lev- els, how is your Lodge prepared to handle the increased membership needed to fund the Lodge?

In Lesson 2, Membership Engagement, we raised the ques- tions and your Lodge should had discussed how to improve the Membership Value. Compared to the competition, how much better can one for the other as promised. It is all about improving commun- ication with all your members and getting them involved and engaged.

Lesson 3, Sustainable Leadership is being introduced and the Masonic Education Lesson Plan can be found at www.sqgrandlodgeofjs.org under the Resources Tab.

Let’s begin by asking the important question of how many new members joined the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason in the last 5 years and what is your Lodge doing today? From the travels of our Grand Lodge Officers, District Deputy Reports and discussions, it appears that most of our new members are joining us and not active in our Lodge committee work, members or commitments.

In any change, it is important to set ALL the Craft to work and good and wholesome instruction? In dis- cussion with new members from various Lodges, we make an impression that we are a new Lodge.

Some report favor- able impression, while others report less than favorable experi- ence and voice concern.

Sustainable Leadership is another critical topic for us to con- sider for the Lodge of the Future. Who will be the officers and will they be successful beyond 2020? Will your Lodge have qualified men to serve as leader of their peers or will we continue to rotate leadership roles between our Past Masters, who continue to serve the Lodge?

In Lesson 4, the Lodge setting, is all about the process of selecting, engaging, and training members who will lead our Lodges by serving the membership, and consistently improving the Quality of our Lodge. This is an important task for the Past Masters and Officers to work together with an eye to the future of the Lodge. Too many times we see a rift between the generations with one side on “That’s the way we have always done it” and “What if we tried new ways to get members involved?” I am here to say, in my opinion both are correct! We need structure and tradition, if and only if they are relevant to the Lodge.

So our Lesson plan will offer some discussion topics to help develop our new members for the future. Your Lodge could be active at a price. The price is giving of ourselves, as current Leaders and Officers, to assign ritual parts to the newest members. Coaching does not take place on the way to a lesson. By sharing the proper and correct way to delivering the important lesson is our great care and one that helps get members on the path to effective learning. By assigning our newest members to investigation committees with seasoned members, to teach how to work with a new candidate and his family on Lodge membership. It comes at a price by assigning new members to committees on how to balance needs of the Lodge and the financial. You get what you pay for, or to posi- tively impact the image of the Lodge to our members, our fam- ilies and our communities. Step by step we learn and teach. Step by step we approach the East and making a positive impact as a leader.

Finally, Servant Leadership is about leading for a short time over your peers or your Brothers, and be a positive influence. Servant Leadership is about helping others be better than themselves. In the Scottish Rite Easter Sunday Service, we close with the following charge from the Leader, “May the Peace of Our Master be with you and remain with you always. It is always better to Love than to hate. Remember our duty is not to be better than others, but to be better than ourselves and the more we notice the more we notice around us so are we in need?” May your Lodge of the Future be filled with serv- ant leaders, each in his turn contributing to the benefit of all the Lodge Members. Finishing, by doing so with the right attitude, provide for the next generation of engaged, enlightened Servant Leaders for the Glory of God and betterment of each other.

Sincerely and Fraternally,
Michael D. Smith, SWG, Chairman Masonic Education Committee

INSPIRATIONAL MEETINGS

Monday, October 5, 2023, 6:30 pm, 13th District, RW Brother J. Robert Estes, Worshipful Master, South Carolina SC.

Monday, October 5, 2023, 6:30 pm, 13th District, RW Brother Michael D. Smith, Sr., Senior Grand Warden, will be the speaker. Supper will be served.

Thursday, October 12, 2023, 6:30 pm, 13th District, RW Brother Brother G. Moore, DDGM, Stoweswo Lodge No. 124, 118 Church Street, Troy, SC. Speaker will be RRW Brother Richard Williams, Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of New Jersey. Supper will be served.

Saturday, October 17, 2023, 6:30 pm, 14th District, RW Brother Claude A. Turpin, Jr., DDGM, Starr Baptist Church, 115 Meeting Street, Three Churches SC. Speaker will be RW Brother Colombia R. Ott, Past Worthy Master. Supper will be served.

Thursday, October 19, 2023, 7:00 pm, 5th District, RW Brother Donald C. Kirby, DDGM, Eb Al Shriners Club, 517 Patterson Miller Road, Anderson, SC. Speaker will be RW Brother Walter C. Disher, II, Junior Grand Warden. Supper will be served.

Thursday, October 22, 2023, 6:30 pm, 1st and 2nd Districts, RW Brother Eugene D. Williams, DDGM, DBR RW Brother Duke Schumann, DDGM, NOTICE LOCATION CHANGE. The meeting will be held at the Charleston Scottish Rite Center, 1051 Stann Britt Street, Charleston, SC. RW Brother Walter C. Disher, II, Junior Grand Warden, will be the speaker. Supper will be served.

Thursday, October 25, 2023, 6:30 pm, 9th District, RW Brother Sean Burch, DDGM, McCormick United Methodist Church, 201 East Gold Street, McCormick. MW Brother Gerald L. Carver, Grand Warden and Secretary will be the speaker. Supper will be served.

Thursday, October 25, 2023, 6:30 pm, 17th District, RW Brother Terry King, DDGM, Keowee Lodge No. 213, 150 Whatley Circle, Mauldin. Revard and Wershuffle Brother Jamie Craft, PM, Youth Worshipful Master at Tabernacle Baptist Church, Pelzer will be the speaker. Supper will be served.

Saturday, October 24, 2023, 5:30 pm, 4th District, RW Brother G. Ray Christian, Jr., DDGM, American Lodge No. 98, 900 Cray Highway, Ridgeville, RW Brother Michael D. Smith, Sr., Senior Grand Warden will be the speaker. Supper will be served.

Monday, October 28, 2023, 6:30 pm, 7th District, RW Brother Joseph E. Wells, DDGM, Ekitos Shrine Club, 2205 Five Chop Road (Bwys. 301), Orangeburg, SC. RW Brother Casey D. Baxley, Jr. PDGGM will be the speaker. Supper will be served.

Tuesday, October 23, 2023, 7:00 pm, 29th District, RW Brother Thomas H. Lee, Jr., DDGM, Hillbrook Lodge No. 308, 104 Foothree Street, Lake View, RW Brother Walter C. Disher II, Junior Grand Warden will be the speaker. Supper will be served.

Friday, October 30, 2023, 6:30 pm, 15th District, RW Brother Cic C. Conyers, DDGM, Clewiston United Methodist Church, 300 Front Street, Clewiston, SC. Rev. Brother Kyle Caudill, member of Townville Lodge No. 209, will be the speaker. Supper will be served.

Monday, November 2, 2023, 6:30 pm, 16th District, RW Brother Dwight A. Yates, DDGM, Bates Lodge No. 159, Easley, SC. RW Brother Johnny Mack Brown, US Marshal for SC, will be the speaker. Supper will be served.

Saturday, November 7, 2023, 6:30 pm, 24th District, RW Brother Brian F. Steele, DDGM, Kershaw Lodge No. 2, 303 John Richards Way, Camden, SC. Speaker will be RW Brother Barry A. Hickman, Past Grand Master will be the speaker. Supper will be served.

Friday, November 13, 2023, 6:00 pm, 19th District, RW Brother N. Smith, DDGM, Indiantown Lodge No. 414, 9180 Charleston Highway, Fort Mill, SC. RW Brother Gerald L. Carver, PCGM, Grand Master will be the speaker. Supper will be served.

Saturday, November 14, 2023, 6:00 pm, 20th District, RW Brother Gordon W. Best, DDGM, Belin United Methodist Church, 1853 US 17 Business, Summerville, SC. MW Brother Gerald L. Carver, Past Grand Master, Grand Master, will be the speaker. Supper will be served.

Saturday, November 25, 2023, 6:00 pm, 22nd District, RW Brother E. George N. Smith, DDGM, Indiantown Lodge No. 414, 9180 Charleston Highway, Fort Mill, SC. MW Brother Gerald L. Carver, PCGM, Grand Master will be the speaker. Supper will be served.