

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU! EMAIL SUBMISSIONS FOR THE SPRING ISSUE OF THE MASONIC MESSENGER BY MARCH 15TH.

If your Lodge has any events or news to share, contact Parker Moore (pdmoore1@gmail.com) or the Editor (jmsfineart@gmail.com) with details. Check out the Grand Lodge Facebook page for more news and events at www.facebook.com/GLofAL. Get involved today! Submit to the Masonic Messenger and the Grand Lodge Facebook page!!

FRED W. VAUGHN MASONIC AWARD

Adam Dasinger, Senior Deacon of Caldwell Lodge No. 502 in Heflin, was recently presented the Fred W. Vaughan Masonic Award for Community Service. Grand Secretary, Teddy R. Grogan Jr., PGM presented Brother Dasinger with the Award



From Left: Grand Secretary Teddy R. Grogan Jr., PGM and Brother Adam Dasinger of Caldwell Lodge #502

Fred W. Vaughan was a Twentieth Century Grand Master of Masons who did much to develop Masonry into the brotherhood that exists now. The Award is given to Masons who have made a notable voluntary contribution to the citizens of their community that is of a nature that goes beyond what is expected of a Mason or Masonic organization. It is the highest award given by the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Alabama for voluntary community service.

Brother Dasinger received the award after working diligently for eight months to have the United States Forest Service approve the Pinhoti Trail/Heflin Spur. The 2.1-mile Heflin Spur will link the Heflin City Hall and Cahulga Creek Park with the Pinhoti Trail. The Pinhoti Trail is a long-distance trail, 335 miles long, located within the states of Alabama and Georgia.

Tanya Maloney, Heflin's economic developer, said that it means potential business. It means tourism dollars coming into the city.

Brother Dasinger had to work with the Heflin City Council, the Cleburne County Commission, the Alabama State Legislature, and the National Forest Service to make the Heflin Spur a reality.

"It was an exciting time to see that if you put a coalition of folks together that are focused on what they want to do, well organized - present it, and work through the bureaucracies and work through the levels; things get done," Dasinger said.

FROM THE DESK OF THE GRAND SECRETARY

BY TEDDY GROGAN, PGM

Brethren, before I give you the information about the upcoming Grand Lodge Session, I would like to give you an update on our new Grand Lodge database. The Lodge secretaries that are actively involved in using the database report that they really like it. Jeff Clarke, from Grand View, will be at our Grand Lodge session this year. We will have a secretaries' meeting on Monday afternoon after the Committee on Work session. Jeff will be available to answer any questions you may have. I hope you all will be able to be there.

The annual meeting of the Grand Lodge is coming up November 12-14, 2018 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in downtown Montgomery. If you have never attended the Grand Lodge Annual Communication, you should consider doing so. If you are not a Lodge Officer with Grand Lodge credentials, you can be seated as a non-voting Master Mason.

You can bring a paid Lodge dues card and present it to the Credentials Committee on arrival. The Communication activities actually begin on Sunday, November 11th. All activities take place in the Embassy Ballroom of the Embassy Suites Hotel.

A brief overview of the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge is as follows:

MASONIC FELLOWSHIP AZALEA LODGE #898

Most Worshipful Grand Master Brother David Tucker was invited to be the guest speaker at the monthly Masonic Breakfast held by Azalea Lodge #898 in Mobile on June 10th where he spoke to the brothers in attendance about the importance of membership retention.

Buddy Blair, the Grand Lodge Credential Committee Chairman, and Most Worshipful Past Grand Master Brother Bobby Pitts welcomed Most Worshipful Grand Master Brother David Tucker to Azalea Lodge's monthly fellowship breakfast.

Those in attendance posed for a picture with the Grand Master after the conclusion of the program.

Pictured Right: The post program photo of Azalea Lodge Members with WMGM David Tucker (center)



GRAND LODGE MEETING EVENT SCHEDULE

Sunday, November 11

2:00 p.m. Committee on Work Practice of the Third Degree

5:00 p.m. Religious Worship Service

Monday, November 12

9:00 a.m. Comm. on Work Exemplification of the Alabama Masonic Degree Rituals
*Secretary Meeting to follow

7:00 p.m. Grand Lodge Banquet

Tuesday, November 13

9:00 a.m. • Opening of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of F.&A.M. of Alabama
• First Session Business
• Lunch
• Second Session Business

5:00 p.m. From Labor to Refreshment for the day

Wednesday, November 14

8:00 a.m. • From Refreshment to Labor
• Third Session Business
• Election of Officers
• Installation of Officers
• Closing of the 2018 Grand Lodge Annual Communication



Pictured Above: MWGM David Tucker, Bro. Buddy Blair, Bro. Bobby Pitts, PGM

A BROTHER'S LAST REQUEST

BY VAN TIDWELL, RWDGM

One thing we can all agree on is, life is short and our time on earth will end. When this time comes many mourn the losses, pray for the families and friends and even rejoice in the life and legacy they left behind and lived. One of the great honors our beloved fraternity provides, upon request, is for our lodges to perform for a member Masonic Funeral Rites. This has been a custom of the fraternity for departed members for their dedication, commitment and love for Masonry. One thing we should never do is let our departed brethren down by not being prepared to honor their last request.

When I made the commitment to learn the Masonic Funeral Rites, I did not think I could do it when the time came for me to perform it. I even told myself that by not learning it, I would never have to worry about doing it. Then I asked myself; what if I requested a Masonic Funeral Rite and there was no one who could perform it. What would the families who request this think

if the lodges reply is; sorry, we cannot do that. What image would that be for the lodge and our great fraternity? I hope and pray this has never happened, but in the current situation we are in now, it very well may or could happen.

So, in an effort to encourage brethren to learn the adopted Masonic Funeral (as written in the Alabama Ritual Booklet) if, in the event, I am elected Grand Master in November 2018, I want to issue a challenge and in return, a reward for whoever commits and learns the Masonic Funeral Rites, by memory. The "Service at the Grave", which starts on page 81 of the 1993 edition of the Alabama Ritual book, is the ceremony that will qualify. The reward for learning to memory this service will receive a certificate of accomplishment at the November 2019 Grand Lodge session and a choice of my Grand Masters tie or a Grand Masters knife, with case. I will give you the tie and knife if you learn

SEE 'REQUEST' ON PAGE 3

IN THIS EDITION...

CHARITABLE OUTREACH PROGRAMS PAGE 2

MASONIC LIFE PAGES 3 - 4

DISTRICT NEWS & EVENTS PAGES 7 - 8

GRAND LODGE EVENT SCHEDULE PAGE 8

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU! SEND IN YOUR PHOTOS, NEWS AND EVENTS TO PUBLISH IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE MESSENGER! DEADLINE IS MARCH 15TH

NEW MASONIC TAGS ARE NOW AVAILABLE!!! Show your Masonic pride and purchase a tag at your next renewal date.



GRAND LODGE OF F. & A.M. OF ALABAMA
P.O. Box 1070
MILLBROOK, AL 36054
CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

GRAND LODGE OF ALABAMA CHARITABLE OUTREACH PROGRAMS

The Grand Lodge offers a number of Charitable Programs designed to provide financial assistance for Lodges and persons who apply and meet the qualifications as outlined by the requirements of the specific program. A basic description of the Programs available this year, is provided below. **Some programs have specific requirements that must be met for the applicants to be considered.** This information along with the all forms necessary to apply for these programs, can be found on the Grand Lodge website "Charitable Outreach Programs" page at www.alafreeMasonry.org/committees/coprog/

MASONIC SCHOLARSHIP

The purpose for the Alabama Masonic Scholarship Program is to provide financial assistance to university, college, or technical school students. Preference will be given, but not limited, to applicants who have a father, stepfather, brother, uncle, grandfather, or step-grandfather who is, or was at the time of his death, a Master Mason in good standing in an Alabama Masonic Lodge.

Awards scholarships to eligible applicants for up to \$1000. The same individual cannot receive this grant in conjunction with Scholarship Matching Fund plan.

SCHOLARSHIP MATCHING FUND PLAN

The purpose for this part of the Charitable Outreach Program is to provide supplemental financial assistance to Lodges under the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge to encourage them to award a scholarship to a deserving student in their community. Local Lodges can apply for up to \$500 in matching funds on a first-come first-funded basis. Grants will not be approved to anyone receiving a COC Scholarship that year.

Matching Scholarship grants to a lodge will be for up to maximum of \$1,000 for the year. The maximum amount of money paid out per application cannot exceed \$500 and is subject to the availability of funds.

MATCHING RELIEF FUND

The purpose for the Matching Relief Funds Plan is to provide supplemental financial support to Lodges under the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge who undertakes to render monetary assistance to worthy, specifically named individuals, families, or group of people who reside within the jurisdiction of the Lodge submitting an application.

Lodge may make more than one application for Matching Relief Funds but cannot receive more than \$1,000 from this plan each Masonic year

YOUTH SPORTS MATCHING SPONSORSHIP PLAN

The purpose for the Youth Sports Matching Sponsorship Plan is to provide supplemental financial assistance to Lodges under the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge to encourage them to support community youth programs such as baseball, soccer, football, etc. Grants can be used for sponsorship of the team, team tournaments, or playoffs and for sponsor's signs.

Local Lodges can apply for one half of the sponsorship and tournament fee not to exceed \$500 in matching funds on a first-come, first-funded basis. Lodges can apply for one grant per year subject to the availability of funds.

GRAND MASTER'S EMERGENCY FUND

The Emergency Fund is expended under the direction of the Grand Master for the relief of distressed worthy Master Masons, their wives, widows, children and other dependent relatives who reside in their households. The Mason upon whose membership the claim is based **must** be or have been at the time of death and for four years prior thereto, a member in good standing in a subordinate Lodge of the Grand Lodge.

Lodge must submit, as their portion of the grant, a check for one third of the amount requested from the Grand Lodge but not more than \$250. The Grand Master may contribute up to three times the amount provided by the Lodge but not more than \$750.

SOCIAL SERVICES

The purpose of this plan is to assist our aging members and/or their dependents. It will allow local Lodges to identify and apply for grant (non-matching) funds to assist in providing devices or structures to allow beneficiaries to remain in their homes. This plan also assists our aging members and/or their dependents with monetary needs such as medical, prescription, utility bills, or other needs that have placed our members in financial straits.

Grant funds will be written for the amount requested by the Lodge but not exceeding \$1,500 total per Lodge on a first-come, first-funded basis. No one individual may receive Grants totaling more than \$1,500 maximum from the Social Services Plan per Grand Lodge year.

VETERAN WRITER, BROADCASTER, AND CHAPLAIN OF SAM DIXON LODGE #218 RECEIVES BAKER-DEAN MEDIA AWARD

Kenneth Stinson never played sports while growing up in Centre in the 1940s and 50's, but he always had an interest in them. To him, the next best thing was writing about them, which was something Stinson turned into a career. Throughout that career, he wrote sports stories for The Cherokee County Herald, The Gadsden Times, The Anniston Star and The Birmingham Post Herald. Stinson also dabbled in radio, working for local station WEIS in its early broadcast days, where he hosted his own sports talk show.

It was through both of those endeavors that Stinson earned the opportunity to interview some of the area's most prominent statewide and local public sports figures. Among those he had the privilege of writing stories about included University of Alabama coaching legend Bear Bryant, former Auburn coach Shug Jordan and former Georgia coaches Wally Butts and Vince Dooley. On the local level, Stinson covered the careers of hall of famers Dale Welsh, L.D. Bruce and Roy Knapp in his 16 year career. Never did he dream that his career would lead him to the honor he's about to receive.

Stinson, along with longtime Herald columnist Anne Shumaker, will be presented this year's Baker-Dean Media Award on June 28 at the Cherokee County Museum. The reception is set for 6 p.m. The award is presented to members of Cherokee County's local media who have demonstrated outstanding coverage to the community as well as having a minimum of five years of service. "It's a great honor to me," Stinson said. "I didn't think something like this would ever happen. (Museum historical consultant Buddy Knapp) called me and said 'I've got something I want you to see down here. Are you going to be in town?' I thought he had something to show me about the (radio) station, but I didn't think anything about this. He handed a letter to me and said 'Open this.' My eyes got as big as saucers. When I read it, tears started coming down my eyes. I really appreciate them recognizing me." Stinson said the greatest joy for him while covering sports was working with young kids. Some of those kids grew up to follow in the coaching ranks, with Stinson covering their generation as coaches too.

Stinson recalled one of the first football games he covered was Cedar Bluff, coached then by Bruce. Bruce coached the Tigers for 19 years (1946- 56; 1958-65). He was inducted into the Alabama High School Sports Hall of Fame in 2005. "I'll never forget L.D. Bruce," Stinson said. "One time, I went into the dressing room (at halftime) and thought he'd run me out, but I sat there while he talked to them boys. They were losing and hanging their heads, but the thing I remember about him was when he got through talking to them, he said 'Now boys we've got to go back and play ball, but before we do that we're going to have prayer.' I admired him for that. He taught me something. He was a good Christian man and I thought the world of him. He knew how I loved to come out there and cover their games."

1994 and the Cherokee County Hall of Fame in 2005. "I'll never forget L.D. Bruce," Stinson said. "One time, I went into the dressing room (at halftime) and thought he'd run me out, but I sat there while he talked to them boys. They were losing and hanging their heads, but the thing I remember about him was when he got through talking to them, he said 'Now boys we've got to go back and play ball, but before we do that we're going to have prayer.' I admired him for that. He taught me something. He was a good Christian man and I thought the world of him. He knew how I loved to come out there and cover their games."

to back-to-back state championships in 1980 and 1981. "I thought the world of him, and he did of me too," Stinson said. "Me and him used to sit up at Pruett's (Restaurant) and eat together."

As a correspondent, Stinson also developed strong relationships with his writing colleagues, including Jimmy Bryan, Jimmy Smothers, Rudy Abbott and Bill Lumpkin. Stinson started the radio side of his career for WEIS in 19621 which included a sports report. That segment was broadcast on the air through 1970. During that time, Stinson covered football, basketball and baseball. "I started in radio on Oct. 2 and I worked there for 8 1/2 years. I was the first sports director," Stinson said. "Dean Buttram Sr. sponsored my program. I'd get on the air and talk about the games. At the time, I had four 1A schools - Cedar Bluff, Gaylesville, Sand Rock and Spring Garden, and I had Centre, which at one time was a 2A school."

Just like with writing, Stinson had his influences in radio as well. "I had three broadcasters who were my favorite - Joe Rumore at WVOK in Birmingham, and Hal Hodges and Dan Brannon. I used to work with them as a correspondent. I thoroughly enjoyed working with them. Charlie Doss, who used to be with WROM in Rome, interviewed me on the street in Rome in 1959, and he was one of my favorites. "I also loved to listen to Howard Cosell and then Dizzy Dean in baseball. I loved to hear them talk." Stinson is still an avid fan of reading The Herald and listening to WEIS. In fact, he's one of the more dedicated callers during the WEIS Scoreboard Show during high school football seasons in the fall. "My heart is still in radio the same way it is with the paper," he said. "It has been a joy for a guy who's soon to be 80 years old."

Reprinted from the June 20, 2018 edition of the Cherokee Herald. Credit: Shannon Fagan, Herald Sports Editor

Veteran writer, broadcaster Stinson to receive annual Baker-Dean award

By Shannon Fagan
HERALD SPORTS EDITOR
sfagan@cherokeeherald.com

Kenneth Stinson never played sports while growing up in Centre in the 1940s and 50's, but he always had an interest in them. To him, the next best thing was writing about them, which was something Stinson turned into a career. Throughout that career, he wrote sports stories for The Cherokee County Herald, The Gadsden Times, The Anniston Star and The Birmingham Post Herald. Stinson also dabbled in radio, working for local station WEIS in its early broadcast days, where he hosted his own sports talk show. It was through both those endeavors that Stinson earned the opportunity to interview some of the area's most prominent statewide and local public sports figures. Among those he had the privilege of writing stories about included University of Alabama coaching legend Bear Bryant, former Auburn coach Shug Jordan and former Georgia coaches Wally Butts and Vince Dooley. On the local level, Stinson covered the careers of hall of famers Dale Welsh, L.D. Bruce and Roy Knapp in his 16-year career. Never did he dream that his career would lead him to the honor he's about to receive. Stinson, along with longtime Herald columnist Anne Shumaker, will be presented this year's Baker-Dean Media Award on June 28 at the Cherokee County Museum. The reception is set for 6 p.m. The award is presented to members of Cherokee County's local media who have demonstrated outstanding coverage to the community as well as having a minimum of five years of service. "It's a great honor to me," Stinson said. "I didn't think something like this would ever happen. (Museum historical consultant Buddy Knapp) called me and said 'I've got something I want you to see down here. Are you going to be in town?' I thought he had something to show me about the (radio) station, but I didn't think anything about this. He handed a letter to me and said 'Open this.' My eyes got as big as saucers. When I read it, tears started coming down my eyes. I really appreciate them recognizing me." Stinson said the greatest joy for him while covering sports was working with young kids. Some of those kids grew up to follow in the coaching ranks, with Stinson covering their generation as coaches too. Stinson recalled one of the first football games he covered was Cedar Bluff, coached then by Bruce. Bruce coached the Tigers for 19 years (1946-56; 1958-65). He was inducted into the Alabama High School Sports Hall of Fame in 2005. "I'll never forget L.D. Bruce," Stinson said. "One time, I went into the dressing room (at halftime) and thought he'd run me out, but I sat there while he talked to them boys. They were losing and hanging their heads, but the thing I remember about him was when he got through talking to them, he said 'Now boys we've got to go back and play ball, but before we do that we're going to have prayer.' I admired him for that. He taught me something. He was a good Christian man and I thought the world of him. He knew how I loved to come out there and cover their games."



Veteran sports writer and broadcaster Kenneth Stinson, has been named one of this year's Baker-Dean Media Award. He and fellow writer Anne Shumaker will be honored June 28 at the Cherokee County Historical Museum in Centre. PHOTO SPECIAL TO THE HERALD

Stinson recalled one of the first football games he covered was Cedar Bluff, coached then by Bruce. Bruce coached the Tigers for 19 years (1946-56; 1958-65). He was inducted into the Alabama High School Sports Hall of Fame in 2005. "I'll never forget L.D. Bruce," Stinson said. "One time, I went into the dressing room (at halftime) and thought he'd run me out, but I sat there while he talked to them boys. They were losing and hanging their heads, but the thing I remember about him was when he got through talking to them, he said 'Now boys we've got to go back and play ball, but before we do that we're going to have prayer.' I admired him for that. He taught me something. He was a good Christian man and I thought the world of him. He knew how I loved to come out there and cover their games."

See AWARD, B3

Front page of the Sports Section from the Cherokee Herald, June 20, 2018

BLUFF PARK LODGE #856 AWARDS SCHOLARSHIP TO HOOVER GRAD



Bluff Park Lodge Scholarship Recipient, Carl Brownbridge

Bluff Park Masonic Lodge #856 in Hoover is pleased to announce it will award its first scholarship to Carl Brownbridge.

Carl is a resident of Bluff Park and recent graduate of Hoover High School.

He will be attending the University of Alabama in Huntsville this fall to major in mechanical engineering and eventually work in the automotive industry. He is an Eagle Scout and plans to continue playing hockey.

HOWARD E. PALMES LODGE #917 INTERNATIONAL TRAVELING GAVEL PROGRAM

BY BRO. DAVID HOWARD, SENIOR WARDEN



us while in Mobile. He attended several degrees and even fellowshipped with us during a lodge crawfish boil. The visiting brother, Stephane' Goudoume, invited Bro. Berry to visit his home lodge in France on his upcoming business trip with Airbus. Bro. Berry came up with the idea of starting an international traveling gavel program to help demonstrate this universality of Freemasonry as it extends outside of our state and country borders into Europe and beyond.

We, as brothers, all know that Freemasonry is nationwide, and we hear through various sources that it is a worldwide fraternity, as well. But few of us ever have the opportunity of visiting lodges outside of our local area and state, and even fewer of us have the privilege of visiting with our brothers outside of this country, especially overseas.

Our 2017 – 2018 Worshipful Master, Berry Freeman, had an idea which he has made into a reality. Bro. Berry works for Airbus (here in Mobile) and from time to time travels to the corporate offices over in France for training and meetings. Recently a brother from France who also works with Airbus took the time to visit with

WM Berry Freeman presented this Traveling Gavel to the Worshipful Master (Brother Phillip Jauffret) of Lodge #361: La Bonne Foi during his visit the beginning of June 2018. It was well received by the lodge with the Provincial Grand Master (Brother Christian Bonzi) of the *Grande Loge Nationale Francaise – Province des Terres du Temple* in attendance.

The dream of WM Berry is that the Gavel will travel around Europe and maybe one day even find itself back home in the USA and eventually to our lodge in Mobile, AL. But until that day we will track the Gavel's travels as it journeys with our brothers in and around Europe.

If you wish to follow along with its travels,

then visit our lodge website as we update it's journey: www.howardpalmeslodge917.info



WM Phillip Jauffret, WM Berry Freeman and WGM Christian Bonzi



Members of Howard E. Palmes Lodge #917

65 YEAR PIN BROTHER STANLEY KEEN

Brother Stanley Owen Keel was presented with his 65 year Masonic pin on February 3, 2018. Brother Keel was raised in the Rocky River Lodge #703 Rocky River, Ohio on June 16, 1949. In August of 1992, he moved his membership to Greeno Lodge #598 in Fairhope, Alabama. Due to illness and various delays, this presentation was long overdue. Brother Keel was Initiated an E/A March 3, 1949, Passed to F/C May 5, 1949 and Raised to M/M June 6, 1949.



Pictured Above: Bro. Stanley Keel (Center) with Bro. Vincent Valentim, Bro. Charles Lake and Bro. John Ward

The presentation was held at the Westminister Village Retirement Home located in Spanish Fort, Alabama. The pin was awarded by Brother Vincent Valentim who was assisted by Brother Charles Lake and Brother John Ward.

After the presentation family and friends enjoyed refreshments and Brother Keel shared many Masonic memories with those in attendance. Brother Keel stated he is looking forward to June 16, 2019. He will be eligible to receive his 70 year pin at that time.

clinic served as the primary and mental health caregiver for 4,000 veterans in this area. The clinic also has mental health physicians on staff. Besides primary and mental health care, the clinic also has a dietitian on staff as well as four Primary Care Teams that assist patients. "We also have a lab tech on duty to do lab work here and send to Birmingham," according to Williams.

Once a veteran becomes a patient at the facility, he is assigned to one of the four primary care teams to assist in his or her well-being. The four primary care teams are also assisted through teleconference capabilities with the Veterans Administration in Birmingham, where doctors and specialists teleconference with the team and patients directly from the Gadsden facility. The Gadsden-Rainbow City facility has been in operation for 20 years.

"Many members of our lodge are veterans, and we just wanted to show our appreciation to the staff here at the local Veterans Administration Clinic. We served dinner to the staff of about 30 people and members of our lodge helped set everything up," Hammond said. "We wanted to reacquaint local veterans with this world-class facility and let them know of the quality of the Rainbow City facility."

Edited and re-printed from the Gadsden Times, March 5, 2018

GADSDEN MASONIC LODGE #236 APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

Members of Gadsden Masonic Lodge #236 recently sponsored an appreciation luncheon for local employees of the Veterans Administration Medical Center branch in Rainbow City.

The dinner was at the Rainbow City-Gadsden Community-Based Outpatient Clinic in Etowah County, which serves thousands of local veterans, according to Deborah Williams, nurse manager. It is one of seven satellite clinics of the Veterans Administration statewide.

Lodge #236 F. & A. M. members prepared and served the lunch at the facility, which is on Rainbow Drive across the road from Center Stage in Rainbow Plaza. Assisting the local Masons with donations of food and other items was Johnson's Giant Food in Gadsden.

"We especially wish to thank Johnson's Giant Food for making this appreciation luncheon possible," said Richmond Hammond, Lodge Sec.

As of January, the local Veterans Administration

"Taking Care of Our Own" Masonic Social Services Program

Financial assistance is available to our Brethren and Widows who are in need!!! Contact the Grand Lodge for more information or visit the website to download program details: alafreeMasonry.org/committees/coprog

ALABAMA MASONRY A FAMILY TRADITION

BY BRO. JON MICHAEL TAYLOR



From Left: 60 Year Mason Bro. Milton Taylor, RWSGW Bro. Mike Taylor, and Bro. Matt Taylor.

On Saturday, September 1st, 2018, I had the privilege to Raise my son, Brother James Matthew Taylor, to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason. It was a day that I have looked forward to for many years and I was both honored and humbled by the large turn-out of Brothers who made the journey to Tarrant, Alabama for this event. Like all important milestones in life, this occasion gave me the opportunity to contemplate the significance of the event and I realized just how much of a family our Masonic Fraternity really is. Thirty years ago, on a Saturday morning, I was Raised in the very same lodge room. And on that morning, many Brethren assembled together in the spirit of Friendship and Brotherly Love, enjoyed a great breakfast, and helped me become a Master Mason. That experience made a lasting impression on me that I will remember for the rest of my life.

The reason I became a Mason was because of Brother James Milton Taylor. Throughout my entire life, he has been my Father, my Daddy, my Best Friend, and now my Brother. By his teachings, and much more by his actions; he taught me how to be a good man, husband, father, and Mason. When I was Raised, he presented me with a Master Mason ring that I wore proudly for several years. When I

graduated from college, he replaced that ring with a new one that also had the Square and Compasses embedded in the stone. I placed the original ring in a box and kept it with the hope of one day presenting it to my son. I have always enjoyed sitting in lodge with my dad and it has only strengthened the bond between us. When we Raised Matt, my dad was present and participated in the ceremony. Although he is 89 years old and a Sixty Year Mason, he was very excited about seeing his grandson become a Master Mason.

Like so many of you, I am very proud to be an Alabama Mason and this Great Fraternity is an important part of my life. Because of this, I felt a tremendous amount of pride to have my son join me as a Master Mason. After he was Raised, I was able to present him with the very same ring that my dad presented me. Dad purchased it, I wore it, and now Matt continues the tradition by wearing this insignia of a Master Mason. This ring is symbolic of our Masonic Fraternity. It is an unbroken circle of Brotherhood that has survived throughout the history of our great nation and continues on throughout the Great State of Alabama today. In the same manner, it is also symbolic of the Taylor family tradition in the Alabama Masonic Fraternity. The three of us now represent the three principle stages of human life so eloquently described in the Master Mason lecture. As my dad enjoys the happy reflections consequent on a well-spent life, he can now watch with happy satisfaction that the circle continues unbroken as his grandson begins his own Masonic journey.

On that Saturday morning thirty years ago, I had no idea the places this Fraternity would take me and I could not foresee the absolutely incredible friendships I have enjoyed with men I would not have met if I had not become a part of our Brotherhood. I can only hope Matt will enjoy

WHY BY THE SQUARE? BY JAMES MASON, GRAND HISTORIAN

What is a square? An angle of 90°, or the fourth part of a circle. The square we are familiar with is the Tri-square. This square has no numbers and is used for the sole purpose of trying an object to be square. It is not to be confused with a framing square which has numbers used for measurement.

Where did this square come from? How did it ORIGINATE? Who made the first square? What was it made of? Who used it first in history? According to Ancient History, the Chinese and Indians (from India) used this tool in 5000 BC, in their construction of buildings of all kinds. The

Chinese used this emblem in their language.

We are informed in the building of King Solomon's Temple, there was not heard the sound of any tool of iron, so we assume it to be made of wood. Keep in mind the constant use of this wooden tool on stone would wear the edge of it, thereby causing it to be untrue.

Did the Master Workman have a Master square he did not use, except to check the Truthfulness of his tools he used daily?

What is the significance of a square in Masonry, how does it act as a symbol? How

[SEE 'SQUARE' ON PAGE 5](#)

MASONIC LIFE

this Great Fraternity as much as his grandfather and I have. Our home lodge, Dolcito #596, has several active father-son and father-son-in-law masonic teams and now has two active three generation families: the Taylors and the Hills (Brothers Arnold, Mike, and Blake). While I always enjoy attending any lodge meeting and being with my Brethren, it is just a little more special when I am able to sit in lodge with my two closest Brothers; my Dad and my Son.



Grand Lodge Officers: MWGM David Tucker, RWDGM Van Tidwell, RWSGW Mike Taylor, RWJGW Tommy Morrow, Grand Treasurer Ron Andress, PGM and Grand Secretary Teddy Grogan, PGM

Past Grand Masters: Bro. Frank Little, Bro. Lane Weatherbee
Officers and Members of Dolcito #596: RWGM Bro. Cliff Sloan, RWGH Bro. James Mason, WSGD Bro. Tommy Chastain, WGT Bro. Gary Waites, 60 Year Mason Bro. Milton Taylor, and our newest Master Mason, Bro. Matt Taylor.

REQUEST CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the prayers also. I ask anyone who wishes to accept this challenge to please contact me with your commitment so that I can set aside the tie and/or knife for you if you succeed. Brethren, I will do this until I run out of ties and knives, so please make the commitment, communicate it to me and be proud you are doing another service for our great fraternity. The only thing that I ask from you in return is, if an opportunity arises that your service is needed for the use of the grave side service, and you are available to do so, is to step up and do the best you can do. Your district lecturer will confirm your memorization of the service and will be made aware that you can be notified if your services are ever needed.

In closing, many times in my Masonic travels to lodges, I have heard brethren tell newly made Master Masons that "they have received much more from Masonry than what they have given." I do agree that Masonry offers many rewards from the tenets of our order, but everyone should try to give more than they receive. By doing so, the individual reward of self satisfaction is fulfilling and a positive reflection to our Great Fraternity.

BACK INTO THE FOLD REBUILDING MASONIC MEMBERSHIP

BY DAVID KELTON

To all of the Worshipful Masters, Secretaries, Wardens, and Brethren. Membership is one of the most important parts of all organizations. An organization should be like a job, if you don't show up for work, someone will usually check on you to see what's wrong and why you didn't come to work. Without each person there to do their job or fill their position, the work could fall behind or the job be given to someone else who cares to make a difference in their life. In some businesses, lack of good employees could cause the business to close from lack of attendance.

In February of this year, by request of Grand Master David Tucker, I was asked to serve as the Membership Committee Chairman. I introduced a membership plan that will help rebuild the membership in each Lodge. This plan was mailed to all of the lodges of Alabama at that time. The plan, like anything else, won't work unless you put forth an effort. It takes just a little work from the lodge secretary. All he needs to do is print off their membership roster from the Grand Lodge

database. Each Lodge should have a record of all brothers who have gone suspended for non-payment of their dues. Every Lodge should have a record of entered apprentices and fellowcrafts that have not advanced to Master Mason.

Once the list of all members has been compiled, divide the list among the brothers at the next regular meeting and contact as many brothers as possible. Like most of the Lodges there will probably be several members with no phone number or one that is no longer valid, but you can still mail cards to them. Don't give up because there is no answer. Someone had to bring their petitions to Lodge and there should be a record of who was on their investigation committee. You can use this information to try to reach out to members as well. Keep trying until you talk to someone.

The Lodges that have tried and are making an effort to invite the brothers back are having open dinner meetings. Invite other men and their families to come. Have a good meal, a

good speaker and good fellowship. You will be surprised at the return of brothers you have.

The first time I did this in my Lodge we had just enough members to open Lodge. At the first dinner, we had 73 brothers and their guests. Five of those brothers hadn't been to Lodge in 25 years. We went from eight to nine members to anywhere from fifteen to twenty-four at our next meetings. We still do this each quarter and Brothers, it works.

If every Lodge added just one new member or one suspended member came back, we would gain back 283 members a year. Brothers, work at the program I sent and send me the survey after your membership kick-off meeting. If your Lodge needs another copy of the survey, email me at honeybees60@gmail.com or call 256-523-4767.

ACCOUNTABILITY: LODGE FINANCIALS

BY HOWARD D. POARCH, CPA, RETIRED

A review of the financial records of the Lodge is the most important task to be performed by the Lodge. Over the years I have been involved in several cases involving misappropriation of funds or the better term embezzlement by employees of the company. In all cases this could have been avoided had there been proper controls in place with a proper review of the records and controls on an ongoing basis. A large amount of funds could have been saved.

- Consider the most common myths:
- Hardly ever happens in a Lodge
 - Brother X is the most dedicated, honest and responsive person I know
 - Everyone in the Lodge is a good person
 - Leave it to the Secretary and Treasurer
- Know that it can happen in your Lodge. President Regan once stated "Trust but Verify."
- The most important Controls:
- Make sure there is a controlled environment
 - State who is responsible for what duty

- Maintain physical control of all checks and receipts
 - Make two people responsible for cash
 - Independently reconcile bank accounts monthly
- A review of the duties of the officers upon their installation includes the controls necessary to properly implement the duties listed above.
- Due to both the past and present problems noted in several Lodges, Edict 15.11 requiring the appointment of an Audit Committee was implemented and requires a review of the financial records of the Lodge on an annual basis. This is the most important topic the Lodge should consider on an annual basis.

An annual review of the financial records for the end of the fiscal year must be done by June 30th. The aforementioned procedures help solidify the integrity of the secretary and treasurer, but it is as beneficial to them as it is to the Lodge.

A LOOK BACK: GRAND LODGE PROCEEDINGS 1947

- May 30, 1947.** Phil Campbell, Ala., to be known as Phil Campbell Lodge No. 880. Brother Robert R. Berryman was deputized to institute.
- July 12, 1947.** Littleville, Ala., to be known as Littleville Lodge No. 881. Brother J. Clifton Roe was deputized to. institute this Lodge.
- Aug. 25, 1947.** Hollywood, Ala., to be known as Walter R. Bogart Lodge No. 882.
- Oct. 26, 1947.** Hollingers Island, to be known as Guy T. Smith Lodge No. 883. Brother Geo.

- U. Potter was deputized to institute.
- Feb. 5, 1947.** Granted Wilson Williams Lodge No. 351 dispensation to sell Lodge property for the purpose of securing funds to build a new lodge hall.
- March 15, 1947.** Granted dispensation to Helena Lodge No. 410 to convey one acre, formerly property of Robt. J. Redden Lodge No. 623. This was to comply with an original

SEE '1947' ON PAGE 5

THE QUALITY OF MASONRY

BY RICKY C. KILGORE, GRAND CHAPLAIN

Today we see the fraternity's numbers dropping drastically from times past. I can only stop and think of how this can be for such a great fraternity? In my opinion, it is mainly because of how we are perceived by the world. Today we hear of trials, for a multitude of Masonic offenses, which are totally uncalled for in our lodges. Why is this happening you may ask?

First, the investigating committees are not doing their job. It is just accepted that if someone is well known in the community then he is automatically accepted. This is not always the best way to conduct business.

Next, I would bring up how we act in public. The quality of people who should be masons, will not come into the fraternity if they see alcohol being imbibed in public, as if it is a common practice of all masons.

Finally, we must look at our language. If cursing and foul language before children, women, or even each other were an everyday act, why would good people want to come to our great fraternity?

Our numbers are down, but the question remains why? Well first, we need to look at ourselves before we proceed further. If we are a set apart type of people who do the best work before the world, then it stands to reason we should act in a proper manner. Let us remember where we placed out hands one day, and think about who we really are as a person. Do we bring our sick before the Almighty, but why would he hear? Today I am proud to be a Mason, and I am proud to live hopefully by the standard spoken in our Fraternity. God Bless you all. Love all my brethren.

FROM THE DESK OF THE GRAND TREASURER

BY RON ANDRESS, PGM

GRANDVIEW DATABASE

The Grand Lodge Database is constantly being improved through the addition and implementation of new features and updates. This database will make it significantly easier for lodge secretaries and administrators to keep accurate, up-to-date records. As new features are added, so are their instructions in the Help Desk.

Individual members that have not registered can go to <https://al.gvsoftware.com> to register and check their personal profile on their Portal. Individual members can change their personal information including contact information, such as phone, address, email, marital status and they may also add a picture. Registered members whose lodges have already set up online payment, may pay their dues as online.

We look forward to continual improvements in the features and capabilities of the database.

1947 CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

agreement that if the Robt. J. Redden Lodge ceased to exist, the property was to revert to Geo. F. Peter. Redden Lodge had consolidated with Helena Lodge, therefore, the transfer was made by Helena Lodge.

April 22, 1947. Dispensation granted to St. Albans Lodge No. 22 to sell lots 11 and 12, Abbots' addition to Linden, to the Linden Ice Co.

May 30, 1947. Dispensation granted to Alabama Lodge No. 3 to transfer an old building at Perdue Hill, Ala., to the Perdue Hill Women's Club. This is considered an historic spot which the good ladies desired to make into a shrine. The Lodge had no use for the property and I think this a very fine gesture on the part of the Brethren of Alabama Lodge No. 3.

June 14, 1947. Dispensation granted to Hackelburg Lodge No. 526 to sell two lots to W. L. Farr and wife. Proceeds of sale to be used to complete their new Lodge Hall.

July 22, 1947. Granted Cullman Fraternal Lodge No. 421, dispensation to issue first mortgage of \$35,000.00 for a new Lodge Hall.

Aug. 25, 1947. Gave Dean Lodge No. 112 the right to property of defunct Lodge Mt. Union 541. This consisted of tiler's sword, aprons, letter "G". They were to pay Brother Shivers a debt of approximately \$25.00 due him from the defunct Lodge as payment for this property.

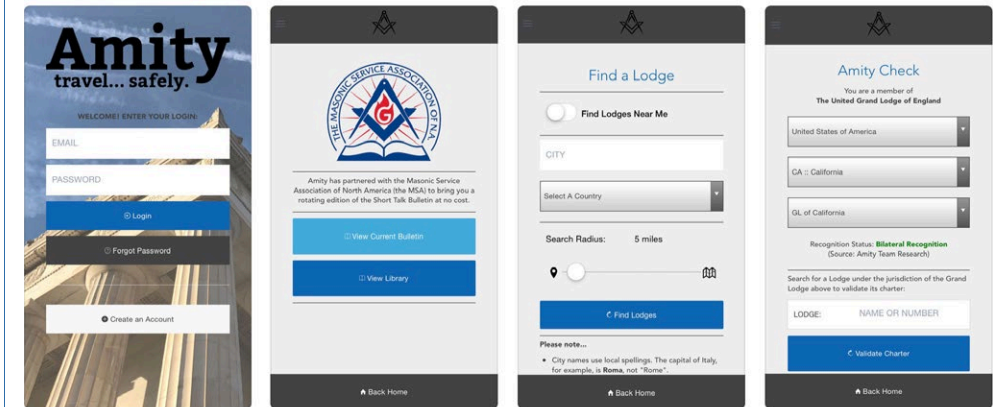
Oct. 15, 1947. Dispensation granted to Georgiana Davis Lodge No. 338 to make mortgage for \$18,000.00 to permit them to finish their new hall.

Oct. 26, 1947. Granted McKenzie Lodge No. 701 dispensation to sell a lot for \$200.00.

DISTRICT NEWS & EVENTS

AMITY - AN APP FOR MASONS

Amity is a new app available to Master Masons for use on their phones, tablets and computers. Amity is designed to help Master Masons find Lodges in not only in their home state but also when traveling. Amity is available for both Apple and Android devices from the developer Copiri, Inc.



Screenshots from Amity App for the iPhone. The app is also available on Android devices.

Amity app features description from the Google Play Store:

- The ability to find Lodges around the world, contact the Secretary, and (if you are a verified member) get directions to the Lodge for your visit. Over 35,000 Lodges, in over 250 Grand Lodges around the world, are in Amity.
- The ability to check whether your Grand Lodge recognizes another Grand Lodge (whether they are "in amity" with each other). No more flipping through a book when your visitor arrives... now the Tiler—or any Mason!—can get an answer in real time.
- The ability to check in to your Lodge for a meeting. This reduces the Secretary's workload: creating an attendance roster for the minutes is now as easy as clicking a button. As of version 2.5, you can also see your check in history.
- The ability to read a recent issue of MSA's Short Talk Bulletin. As of version 2.8, a rotating issue of the Bulletin, one of the most widely distributed Masonic publications in the world, is available to you at no cost.

SQUARE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

often is it used in the three degrees? The Tri-square is the most common of all implements in Masonry. To name a few of its uses: It is most prominent with the square and compasses; it is the jewel of the Worshipful Master; it is the jewel of the Worshipful Master's station; it is a working tool; it is a jewel to the Entered Apprentice; it is one of the three great lights; it is a piece of furniture of a Lodge; it is an emblem in the teaching of the immortality of the soul. In all, the

square means Truthfulness, Honesty, Upright.

A last bit of history. In the year 1830, in the rebuilding of an ancient bridge called BAAL BRIDGE near Limerich in Ireland, an old Brass square was found with the inscription, quote, "I will strive to love with love and care." Dated 1517.

By the square. How important this is to modern Masonry. With these notes, may we part with the familiar words. May we part upon the square.

THE MASONIC MESSENGER

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE GRAND LODGE OF FREE & ACCEPTED MASONS OF ALABAMA

Published Semi-Annually at Millbrook, Alabama

To stay up to date on all the Grand Lodge and District news, please send all changes of address and membership status to your Lodge Secretary and become an E-M@son, just visit: www.alafreeMasonry.org/eMasons

