

DISTRICT NEWS & EVENTS

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU! EMAIL SUBMISSIONS FOR THE AUTUMN ISSUE OF THE MASONIC MESSENGER BY SEPT. 1ST.

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

BROTHER BROTHERS IN THE EAST



Blood Brothers Barry (Right) and Greg Smith (Left) were Initiated, Passed and Raised at Air Force One Lodge #889 in Montgomery and have been Master Masons since 1987. After traveling for work for many years, both brothers were able to resume steady attendance at lodges near their respective homes. Greg is currently Worshipful Master of Guy T. Smith Lodge #883 in Mobile, AL and Barry is the Worshipful Master of Lanett Lodge #656 in Lanett, AL. They both enjoy the fellowship and brotherly love associated with Masonry and are working with the dedicated members of their lodges to help them grow and spread Masonic influence in their jurisdictions. Guy T. Smith Lodge #883 meets on the 2nd and 4th Friday at 7:00 pm, Lanett Lodge # 656 meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday at 7:00 pm. Come join us anytime, we will be glad to see you.

HOWARD LODGE #69 CHRISTMAS CHARITIES



On Saturday December 16th, after our annual visit to the Mulherin Home for adults with developmental disabilities, Howard Lodge #69 in Mobile hosted a Christmas party for the Children and staff at St. Mary's Catholic Children's Home. About sixty underpriveleged children, ages 9 to 17, attended. After a fine meal was served by the members of Howard Lodge, Mr. and Mrs. Clause

stopped by with gifts for the children. We hope to make this an annual event and we extend our appreciation to Athelstan #369, Mobile #40, Mobile York Rite Bodies and all other Lodges and Brothers who donated to this endeavor. Seeing the faces of these children is what Freemasonry is all about. On Wednesday February 21, 2018, members of Howard Lodge prepared and served 200 Chicken Dinners for the residents and staff of William F Green Alabama State Veterans Home at Bay Minette, AL. We would like this to be an annual event as well, as everyone enjoyed the meal and visit. The brothers enjoyed visiting with our nations real heros.

TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP & MUTUAL RECOGNITION

Richard Duggan, WM of Foley Lodge #766 was recently made a 'Member of Honor' of Loja Templários do Monte Sagrado-183 of Brazil to celebrate the 'Treaty of Friendship & Mutual Recognition' between not only these two Lodges, but also the Grand Lodge of Alabama and the Grande Oriente do Paraná (Grand Lodge of Brazil - Paraná).



The treaty reads "That both Lodges have the feeling that union and fraternity that must reign between all the beloved brethren around the globe and that both lodges share the ideas and goals, and in the mark of a new order, have the emphasis in the needs of a harmonic interinstitutional relationship [and resolve] to declare the mutual and permanent friendship."

THE NATIONAL CAMPING TRAVELERS (NCT) CLUB

IF YOU LIKE CAMPING IN YOUR RV, 5TH WHEEL, TRAILER OR TENT WITH OTHER MASONS THEN THIS IS THE CLUB FOR YOU.



Founded in 1966, the National Camping Travelers Inc. is an organization dedicated to bringing Masonic families together for fun and fellowship. We are a Masonic Family Camping Club made up of Master Masons, their families, and the widows of our deceased Brethren who died while they were active NCT members. Since 1966, the organization has spread, creating chapters all across North America. There are approximately 61 Chapters throughout the United States and Canada. Alabama's Chapter is Chapter No 45. The basic unit of NCT is the Chapter. Each Chapter is led by a Master of Travel, assisted by a Wagon Master, and other officers. Between the Chapter Officers and the National Officers, we have, in many cases, a State or Provincial Director and a District Director. Each District is typically made up of four States and/or Provinces. Alabama is in District 4 which is composed of

Alabama, Florida, Georgia and Mississippi. We typically schedule one trip per month within Alabama visiting state parks, Core of Engineer camps and other locations that some may want to stay like Brickyard Plantation in Americas, GA. Activities vary from chapter to chapter, but they typically include potluck meals, barbecues, crafts, area trips, visiting other Lodges in that area, golf, parties, games, and worship services. This July (8-12) we have our 53rd International Rally in Lucasville, OH. We also have an official publication, News to Campers, which is printed quarterly in March, June, September, and December. Through this, we keep members up to date on what is going on in NCT, including planned activities at the District and State/ Provincial level, as well as special functions planned by the Chapters. In addition, many of the individual Chapters publish a monthly newsletter. NCT Chapter members are also very active within their communities through

charitable work and outreach programs. From planting trees on Arbor Day to crocheting blankets for local hospitals, members are dedicated to giving back to their communities. For NCT members with young children, we have a Youth Organization called YNCT. This group has their own elected officers and is led under the direction of the National Youth Director(s). Members of the YNCT attend the National Rallies each year and participate in fun activities. Children in the youth program can make new friends and enjoy themselves through pizza parties, car washes, mountain hikes, historical tours, and more! For more information on Alabama Chapter No 45's travel schedules, you can visit us online at www.gonct.org or contact us: Jim Furman, the Master of Travel: jorlf@bellsouth.net or 256.458.2543, Ray Ingram (Athens, AL): ingramray.shirley@gmail.com

THE MASONIC MESSENGER

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

FROM THE DESK OF THE GRAND SECRETARY

BY TEDDY GROGAN, PGM

Brethren, I want to give you an update on our new database. The secretaries that are using the database report that they really like it. However, we still have several Lodges that have not signed on. If the Lodge secretary does not have internet access, then someone in the Lodge who does needs to be appointed as his administrative assistant to keep the database updated. It is also concerning that many of the secretaries that have signed on are not using the system. The best feature of this database is once you log in, you will see your Lodge's records just as we do at Grand Lodge. You will have access to all your members' records. You will be able to update each member's record so it will be accurate. You will be surprised at how many bad addresses you find. You will also be able to reconcile any differences you find in a member's status, print and send dues notices, send Lodge information electronically, post Lodge minutes, and members will be able to pay their dues

online. When this database is fully implemented, we should have the most accurate records we have ever had. In an effort to relieve any worries about this being a difficult database to use, two of our Past Grand Masters, MW Ron Andress and MW Frank Little, who are also secretaries of their respective Lodges, are willing to conduct a training session in the various groups around the state. Their first session was March 18, 2018 at the Birmingham Metro York Rite building. Other meetings around the state will be scheduled later, but they must take place in a building with Wi-Fi. Please notify us if you know of a facility in your area capable of hosting this session. We think we have Group 2 and Group 4 covered. The Corporate Board voted unanimously that every Lodge in Alabama will use this database. If the Lodge secretary needs an assistant, let me know who it is as soon as possible, so I can give

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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/](http://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

## 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.

## 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.

## BROTHER EARL REED PRESENTED 65 YEAR PIN

June 2, 2016 was a hard and special day for Bro. Earl Reed, who is 94 years young, of Eufaula. Hard because he had fallen earlier in the day injuring his hip, special because he was presented his 65 year Masonic pin by PGM of Alabama Jamie Smith. The presentation took place at Harmony Lodge #46 in Eufaula and was attended by numerous Brothers from around the state, friends and family members. It was an emotional time for all, especially Brothers Jamie and Earl as they have been through a lot over the years in Masonry.

He received his Masonic degrees on:

E.A.: Friday, March 9, 1951

F.C.: Friday, April 20, 1951

M.M.: Friday, May 25, 1951

Bro. Earl's initial lodge was Orange Park #267 of Florida. He transferred to Helion Lodge #1 in Huntsville on January 15, 1973. He became a dual member with Apollo Lodge #921 in Huntsville on October 14, 1990. As of December 5, 2006 he is a dual member with Apollo Lodge #921 and Harmony Lodge #46 in Eufaula.

He is a 33rd degree White Cap Scottish Rite Mason out of Birmingham Valley, a retired senior chief of the U. S. Navy and a WWII Veteran.

Bro. Earl, who is Harmony Lodge #46 Chaplain, was due his 65 year pin on May 25, 2016, but due to health issues he did not receive it till June. During the presentation Bro. Earl said he was not going to miss this one even if he had an injured hip and was in a wheel chair. He commented on how he always found a Lodge to visit while in the Navy and how it has changed over time with the decrease in interest from the



From Left: Jamie Smith, PGM, Bro. Earl Reed and Bro. Richard Reed (Son)

younger generation. However, he was optimistic about the future and growth of Masonry.

After the presentation all enjoyed ice cream, cake and more Masonic memories from Bro. Earl. To this day Bro. Earl is still active in several organizations such as the Lions Club, Eufaula Chapter 462 Order of the Eastern Star, and his church First Baptist Church of Eufaula.

## DUKE LODGE #574 COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

On November 9, 2017, the brethren of Duke Lodge #574 provided lunch to the employees of the Calhoun County Sheriffs Dept.

Pictured Left: Members of Duke Lodge #574 with officers of the Calhoun County Sheriffs Department

## DISTRICT NEWS & EVENTS

### GREENHILL LODGE #402

On November 4, 2017, Five Officers from Greenhill Lodge #402, attended a special degree held at Columbia, TN, Lodge #31. This degree was the Past Master's Degree. Those in attendance were treated to a breakfast prepared by the Columbia Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star prior to the degree.

In attendance was the Deputy Grand Master of Tennessee, Dickey McKinney, who participated in the degree, serving as Senior Warden.

The five officers from Greenhill Lodge who received the Past Master's Degree were:

Anthony McGill, WM

Lon Wilson, Secretary

Troy Burgess, Marshall

Ricky Holden, Junior Steward

Kel Thomas, Junior Deacon

As the only attendees from Alabama, these Greenhill Masons proudly represented the Masons of Alabama. All who attended enjoyed an excellent program.



### IVEY CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

came home, they reconnected and were friends until Barker's death years later.

Ivey woke up at an Army hospital in Valley Forge, Pa., after a month of unconsciousness. He spent the next two and a half years in Army hospitals. In addition to being blind his nose had to be rebuilt and a metal plate was placed in his skull. Initially, he resisted rehabilitation because it reminded him that he'd never see again. He had a change of heart, which he attributed to his stable personality. "It was like a curtain opening on a play," he told someone later. "Suddenly, I said, 'Here I am. I'm blind. But I have nothing to be ashamed of. Now get out of the bed and be a blessing instead of a burden.' "

When Ivey came home, he operated a newsstand and florist shop. In 1954, he entered Jacksonville State University and received a degree in secondary education. Shortly afterward, he went to Gainesville, where he

received his master's in rehabilitation counseling from the University of Florida. Later, he moved to Talladega where, from 1959-83, he taught Braille, math and independent living skills at the E. H. Gentry Trade School of the Alabama Institute for the Deaf and Blind. He also taught the physics of sounds for piano tuners.

One time he had a small boy who was having trouble with arithmetic. Ivey told him to use his fingers. Each time, the child came up with one or two more than Ivey did. He couldn't understand it until someone told him that the boy had six fingers on each hand.

Ivey's fellow Lozahatchee Masonic member Art Lyle, said that Ivey was someone all of the Masons looked up to. "You're talking about a gentleman who had a major handicap who never let it get in the way of doing what he wanted to do," Lyle said. "He was blind but he knew every station in the Masonic lodge."

For many years, Ivey was chaplain of the Masonic lodge. "He attended meetings as long as his health would let him," Lyle said. "He didn't let things get in his way."

Another member of the Masonic Lodge, Jerry Mobley, said that Ivey taught him his Masonic lessons in the late 80s. "He was very caring and very patient," Mobley said. "To teach me what he taught me required a lot of patience, believe me. When he came back to Piedmont after the war, he was not only blinded, he was carrying a lot of shrapnel with him."

In addition to receiving two Purple Hearts, Ivey was awarded the Bronze Star and numerous other medals.

In a conversation Ivey had in 1991, he said it was important living up to his commitments and doing his part. "How good a person I was or could have been, that is the only thing I will think of as I leave this world," he said.

# IN REMEMBRANCE WWII HERO IS GONE

EDITED FROM ARTICLE PUBLISHED IN THE PIEDMONT JOURNAL; BY MARGARET ANDERSON

## FRANK LEE MOORE

MAY 22, 1923 - AUGUST 23, 2017



From Left: Bobby Brake (Son-in-Law), Brother Moore, Eric Brake (Grandson)

Frank was born in Republic, Alabama and was living there when he joined the Army in 1943. Frank served his country in World War II from 1943 - 1946 in the U.S. Army Air Corps, 863rd Aviation Engineering Battalion. He served in the Pacific and was part of the Philippine Liberation. After the war, he worked for U S Steel for 40 years. He retired from US Steel and became a security guard for The Club in Birmingham for 26 years. He had been a deacon at Republic Baptist Church since the 1960s and faithfully served his church during those years.

Brother Frank Lee Moore was probably the happiest man at the raising of his grandson Eric Lee Brake and Son-in-law Bobby Earl Brake on June 10, 2017 at Brookside Lodge 552.

Brother Moore was recognized for his outstanding service rendered to the fraternity for 63 years of faithful service and loyalty to the principles of Freemasonry. He was raised to the sublime degree of master mason in 1954 and took part in erecting the Brookside Lodge. His tireless efforts and dedication to Brookside Lodge have raised the bar for those that follow. May he always be remembered as a Mason of the highest caliber, and may he always be accorded a place of honor within the history of Brookside Lodge. He was the oldest member of Brookside Lodge at the age of 94 when he passed away on August 23, 2017.

### "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](http://alafreeMasonry.org/committees/coprog)

William Travis Ivey became worshipful master of the Lozahatchee Masonic Lodge in the '80s. It wasn't easy. Because he was blind, the laws had to be changed statewide. When that happened, he became the first blind man to head a Masonic lodge in Alabama.

Ivey was faithful to the lodge as long as he could attend meetings and be a part of the activities. He died at the age of 97 on January 9, 2018. He was given services with Masonic Rites as well as a burial with military honors. Pallbearers were Master Masons of the Lozahatchee Masonic Lodge No. 97 F. & A.M.

Ivey was a member of several organizations, including the Disabled Veterans of America. Rick Freeman, a DAV member, visited with Ivey on Christmas Day. He said that Ivey was in good spirits and "looked great to be 97." Ivey is the next to last founding member of the local chapter and he was the oldest DAV member in Alabama. One year, Ivey was named Veteran of the Year.

At Piedmont High Ivey played halfback on the football team from 1938-40 and was captain his senior year. After high school he worked at Standard-Coosa-Thatcher Co. That was in the summer of 1943. He entered the Army and served in France, Belgium and Germany. He received a Purple Heart for his injury in the Battle of the Bulge. He recalled "fighting like anything" against the Germans in France on July 4, 1944.

## THEY CALLED HIM BROTHER RED

BY RICK LANIER, TWIN CITY #76

He faced obstacles his entire life. He quit school in the 3rd grade, "I wanted to be fishing" he told me. He went to work in the Pennsylvania coal mines, at age 15. During World War II, he was captured and held as a prisoner of war by the Germans in North Africa – until he grew tired of it and escaped two days later. So when he petitioned Lee Lodge 454 in 1952, only to have his petition rejected, he figured it was just another obstacle he had to hurdle. When he was accepted in 1959 (he waited that long to re-apply) he hurdled it by a mile.

On a beautiful afternoon this past November, in the presence of his family, brethren, and an apron draped casket, Brother "Red" Marlett was laid to rest and so too was 58 years of Masonic history.

George Joseph "Red" Marlett was a devout family man. Blessed with a loving wife – Maxine, he helped raise 5 children, 11 grand-children, 28 great grand-children, 9 great-great grand-children, and oodles and oodles (I mean a bunch) of Master Masons, myself included.

He was shot in the leg during the Battle of the Bulge. That injury was mild compared to what would happen to him later.

His unit had pulled out of Ansboch, Germany, early on the morning of April 19, 1945. It was still dark. Ivey, 24, at the time, was a machine gunner with the 1st Battalion, 8th Regiment of the Ivy 4th Infantry Division. The men were riding through the open country on tanks. Travis was one of four riding on the rear of the tank. Three others were in front of them. A shell from a Nazi airplane landed beneath the seat they were on.

"My buddies were blown to bits," he said during an interview with an Anniston Star reporter in 1949. "It had been a beautiful day. The sun had been shining all day and the countryside was colorful. Only one doesn't think of nature much at such times."

Ivey said it was late afternoon when he looked, for the last time, at a scene that he will never forget. He was hit as the sun was setting. "The last pretty thing I saw was that sunset," he said.

A soldier from Saks, L. V. Barker, is credited with saving Ivey's life. Barker was a medic riding several vehicles behind Ivey. The two men were in the same outfit but didn't know each other. Barker passed Ivey, thinking he was deceased. He thought he'd take a second look and that's when he realized Ivey was alive. When they

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He was a devout Mason as well. Masonry had always been his moral compass he told me. Red's Masonic record shows he served as Junior and Senior Deacon, Junior and Senior Warden, and Worshipful Master ('73, '80, '90, '97, '07) of his home lodge Twin City #76. District Lecturer, districts 18 and 30. Venerable Master Lodge of Perfection, Wise Master in the Chapter of Rose Croix, Commander in the Council of the Kadosh, and Master of the Kadosh in the Consistory Degrees, and Knights Commander of the Court of Honor (KCCH). Finally, as a result of his outstanding contributions to Freemasonry, we recognize his conference of the 33rd Degree.

I met Red late in his life, but it felt like I had known him all of mine, he just had a way about him. I had never met such an informed and caring man, passionate Mason, and gentle soul. He taught me everything; he taught us through his actions what Masonry is supposed to be. He was my brother, I miss our talks and his guidance; our lodge misses his knowledge and wisdom; and Masonry misses a dear friend and ally.

## GRAND LODGE OF F. & A.M. ALABAMA SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this document is to emphasize the highly public nature of social media channels and to ensure that Freemasons use these powerful channels for public conversation in a responsible manner. Ultimately, your actions as a Mason on these Social media sites should promote the highest standards of morality and integrity. You should always be mindful of the penalties as described in the Alabama Masonic Code relating to trial, suspension, and/or expulsion for any un-Masonic behavior. Posting a comment related to the Fraternity and then posting a disparaging comment about a social or political stance can easily be misconstrued by readers that your stance is representative of Masonry and all Masons. Be mindful that the public and members of the Masonic Fraternity are reading your posts on Social Media.

**SCOPE:** This policy applies to posts made by Freemasons (under the Grand Jurisdiction of Alabama) on any social media platform, whether those platforms are open to the public (such as Facebook and Twitter) or just to Freemasons (such as "The Trestleboard" Masonic Forum as hosted by the Grand Lodge of Alabama).

**DEFINITIONS:**

**Term:** Post

**Definition:** refers to any action taken on social media, whether sharing original content, making a comment on content someone else has shared (including 'liking' Facebook posts and Tweets), or re-sharing content to one's own connections.

**Term:** Social Media

**Definition:** Any and all computer based communication systems used to share digital content, posts, and media. (i.e. YouTube, Twitter, Facebook, Snapchat, LinkedIn, Instagram, etc.)

**BEST PRACTICES:** This section provides some guidance on the kinds of content to share using social media platforms. This is by no means an exhaustive list — rather, it is intended to stimulate the mind to consider what other types of content might be interesting to one's social media audience. That is to say, a Freemason may share content or participate in conversations online as long as the content or conversation presents Freemasonry in a positive light and is relevant to the channel in which it is being posted.

**SUBJECT MATTER:** A Freemason may publicly share any Masonic content that contributes to a positive public image of Freemasonry, such as charitable work and events, good causes supported by Freemasons, and information about Masonic history.

Social media channels can also be used to share information only relevant to Freemasons, but care

should be exercised to use a more restricted channel, such as a closed or secret Facebook group.

**RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- A Mason should conduct himself as he would in front of the general public with courtesy for others.
- As a Mason, he must be aware that his postings are a permanent record; therefore, his conduct may influence the world with a positive or negative opinion about him personally and about the organizations to which he belongs.
- A Mason should never use disparaging comments, profanity, etc. while posting; including, but not limited to graphic video and audio recordings.
- Dishonorable content such as, but not limited to sexual, religious, racial, ethnic, and physical disability slurs will not be tolerated.
- Any message, posting, video, or other form of communication should conform to

### GRAND SECRETARY CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

him his member number and manual so he can sign on.

Brethren, once again we are going to try to get the State Legislature to grant us a sales tax exemption. If you have a State Representative or State Senator who is member of your Lodge, or you know your Representative or Senator, please contact them and ask them to support HB184. The bill is in the House Ways and Means-Education Committee. We also need a State Senator to introduce it in the senate. If you know a State Senator, please ask if he or she would be willing to sponsor the bill in the senate. If we really work at this, we can make it happen.

I also want to take this opportunity to remind you of the Internal Revenue Service's (IRS) requirement that each lodge file Form 990-N or e-Postcard. Any lodge failing to file for three consecutive years will lose its tax exempt status. Filing electronically is easy. You will need your EIN number. If you do not know what it is, you can contact us here at Grand Lodge. We have the number for each lodge in the state. Do not get your own.

On the Grand Lodge website, there is a link under Important Announcements that takes you to the IRS website where you will find directions for filing. If you do not have a password, you can register as a new user. Once there, you will only need to answer a few questions and you will be finished.

You have four and a half months from the

## MASONIC LIFE

established Grand Lodge customs, by-laws and edicts.

- A Mason should be mindful of "ritual" postings on the web.
- Masonic pages are to be supportive of the organization and its members, promote upcoming events, discussion of past events, video sharing, and discussion of times of fellowship and promotion of Masonic bodies.
- A Mason should not use Social media to obtain personal advantage in promoting political, religious or business activities by targeting other Masons.
- There should never be discussion in regards to an application, background, or investigation of an applicant.
- There should never be discussion in regards to the ballot of a candidate.
- There should never be discussion related to the Business of a Lodge and what is discussed behind Tyled doors.

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end of the fiscal year to file this report. Our fiscal year ends September 30th, so you have until February 15th of the next year to file. There is no penalty for filing late. However, if you lose your tax exempt status, the fee for getting it back is \$400.00 if your net assets are less than \$250,000 which includes your building. If your net assets are more than \$250,000, the fee is \$850.00. We have lodges in the state that have faced this situation, so please keep your e-Postcard current.

The last thing I want to remind you about is that it will soon be time for your lodge's Annual Communication. The Masonic Code states that officers will be elected at the regular communication immediately preceding June 24, and be installed as soon as practicable after the election, but in no case longer than 45 days after the election. Each lodge must file all reports with Grand Lodge no later than August 14. A complete list of the reports may be found in Article 6-Section 21 of the Constitution and report dates in Edict 8.13 of the Alabama Masonic Code. There are four things we will need this year:

- Your Master and Secretary (short form).
- Lodge officers (long form).
- The Annual Report.
- Grand Lodge dues.

We have no proposed Constitutional changes to vote on this year. Please remember to send these reports in on time.





WHY WE ARE MASONS

BY MIKE TAYLOR, SGW

As I travel around the State of Alabama and also visit other Grand Jurisdictions, I constantly meet some of the finest men in America who also happen to be Masons. I am consistently in awe of their dedication to our Fraternity and their commitment to ensuring not only the preservation and exemplification of our beloved ritual but more importantly, their everyday commitment to living the Most Excellent Tenets of Friendship, Morality, and Brotherly Love. When I meet these Brothers, I often wonder why they do what they do. What makes them devote so much time and effort to Freemasonry? Why have they made the decision to not only become a Mason but remain one throughout the years?

I am convinced that there are as many answers to these questions as there are Masons but I think there are at least three consistent traits embodied in each of us. First and foremost, we are proud to be a part of something greater than ourselves. To be a Mason is to follow in a most rich and storied history which includes great men from all walks of life. The membership of our Fraternity includes Presidents of the United States, senators, congressmen, legislators, governors, doctors, lawyers, firefighters, police officers, tradesmen, members of the United States military, and many other careers and occupations. Good men from all vocations and backgrounds come together for the single purpose of uniting ourselves in a Fraternity dedicated to making good men better.

Secondly, and just as important, we are all united by a belief in our Almighty God. While we all know that Freemasonry is not a church or religion, each Mason has expressed a belief in a Deity and that belief is a strong bond that binds us together into the world's Greatest Brotherhood. This commitment to God is one of the fundamental principles in the life of a Mason which guides him in his pursuit of perfection in this life.

The third trait is being a part of preserving the Fraternity for the future. I have met so many Brothers who work daily to ensure the ritual is performed correctly and passed on to the next generation. While there are so many men who do this very important work, I am very thankful for those like Brother John Key from Falkville and Brother Floyd Calvert from McCarty-Farrar who teach multiple candidates their Masonic lessons every week; Brother Luther Johnson of Buck Creek, Brother Len Brown from Tuscumbia, and Brothers Tommy Holt and Larry Webb from Section who travel great distances to visit Lodges and assist in the Work; and the dedication of all the Brothers who serve on the Grand Lodge Child ID Committee which provides our Fraternity with a tremendous amount of positive publicity within communities across the State. There are so many more men all across Alabama who are extremely dedicated to our Great Fraternity and work in so many different capacities in their respective Lodges and also those who serve on our several Grand Lodge committees. It takes each one of us working together in Harmony and Unity to make Freemasonry in Alabama a success. I am so very proud to serve each of you as we strive to make our Brotherhood a positive influence in the world today and ensure that it will be continued into the future for our sons and grandsons.

These are some of the reasons that we became and continue to be Masons in Alabama. I know that you are proud to be a Mason and I encourage each of you to share that pride and your personal reasons for your devotion to Masonry with other good men who you feel would make good Masons. There is no greater testimony than personal example. When we impart our positive experiences with them, they will see how important Masonry is to us and may provide the catalyst for them to want to join our Great Fraternity and enjoy the rights and benefits that we value so deeply.

We are proud to be a part of something greater than ourselves

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

A couple of weeks ago, I lost my favorite pair of sunglasses. That seems silly, but these sunglasses made it through 5 deployments and trips all over the country. They weren't fancy, and Oakley doesn't make that particular model anymore, but they fit well and protected my eyes from the sun, the sand, and other things from getting in my eyes. They also helped me see things when the elements and my own eyes would have prevented me from doing so. As I am naturally hard on everything, these sunglasses had their share of dings and scratches, but I could still see through them. I kept them clean, because if I hadn't, I wouldn't have been able to see as well, but they still suffered through years of abuse and usage.

Last week, I went to the store to buy a new pair. I couldn't find anything that came close to my old ones. I tried on every type that looked like them, fit like them, etc. After a few minutes, the lovely lady running the shop came over and we got to talking, and she started having me try on different types of sunglasses. I only had two criteria that needed to be met: they had to be black and ballistics rated, and could not be mirror reflective. Fortunately, most Oakley sunglasses are ballistics rated.

After a few tries, she told me Oakley has a newer lens design that protects the eyes and helps the eyes see colors with greater definition. Reluctantly, I tried on a few, and found a pair that fit my face. I'm a skeptic about things promising unrealistic qualities, so she took me outside and let me try them on in the sunlight.

I was floored. Not only because the lady introducing me to these new lenses was spending this much time with me, but also because everything she said about them was true. I was seeing colors that I didn't see with my previous glasses. The way these new sunglasses helped me see the browning leaves of a soon-coming fall, the way I could see objects in greater detail, was all it took to sell me on this new pair.

An interesting parallel to this experience can be found in life today. As we move about in our world, we wear the glasses of what we've been taught or shown to be acceptable. Our view is decided upon by other's knowledge or perceptions, and occasionally, our own experiences. Anything that doesn't meet that criteria is quickly discarded, because it stands to challenge the way we see things. Our morality, our political leanings, our religious and spiritual beliefs, and even our own understanding of morality and humanity are shaped and formed by the past, by our will, or someone else's.

SEE 'GOOD' ON PAGE 5

CHARITY FOR ALL MANKIND

BY VAN TIDWELL, DGM

Many lessons are taught in our fraternity's ritual. The one that I would like to address is charity. We are reminded that charity extends beyond the grave through the boundless realms of eternity. Most people think that charity is a monetary gift to a benevolent cause or individual. This is only a partial use of charity, especially when it comes from our expectations in our growth as masons. Many acts of charity can be and should be carried out by our membership. Such examples are, but not limited to, helping an elderly brother with home chores, listening to a brother during his time of distress, volunteering for a benevolent cause, visiting sick brethren or just giving them a call to see how they are doing. Many times we take these small jesters of charity for granted, but the rewards are tremendous and appreciated to the ones on the receiving end of these charitable acts. All members should strive to do as many charitable acts a day as possible. The reward of self satisfaction is a feeling that one self receives by doing charitable works. Remember this, this day forward, reward yourself, do something charitable today for someone.

What I discussed above is the individual charitable responsibilities of masons, but now I would like to discuss lodge charity involvement and responsibilities. Many programs are developed from our Grand Lodge to help the individual lodges succeed in their benevolent causes to its communities and especially to its members. At the first of each year, the Grand Master mails out a package of charitable programs to each lodge designed by the Charitable Outreach Committee, to assist the

lodges with their charitable endeavors. There is a wide variety of programs that benefit lodges communities, youth, distressed brethren and their families. To take advantage of these programs, you have to have lodge participation. Often, lodges/members do not understand the availability of these programs, much less, take advantage of them. There are acts of charity that need attended to in our community's and membership that need to be addressed daily. If we are not a charitable organization, than what are we? There are scholarship programs for individuals that want to further their education, matching fund plan, Youth Sports matching plan and Social Services plan which is designed for a distress worthy brother. It is the individual lodge's responsibility to take advantage of these charitable opportunities. The processes of receiving these funds are simple and are outlined on the Grand Lodge website under, "Charitable Outreach Program." If you have any questions regarding the programs, contact someone serving on the Charitable Outreach Committee or the Grand Lodge for assistance. These programs are to enrich our craft and all mankind, which is a responsibility of a mason.

Also, we have the Child ID program which allows lodges to provide the parents of our communities a CD of their child's vital traits which will provide first responders information if their child should ever be abducted. This program is a great way to do a charitable act for the community at minimal cost. The only key component to success to this program is lodge participation. This program is a great asset to the elderly community also.

...charity extends beyond the grave through the boundless realms of eternity.

GOOD CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

This then leads us to commit to only those things that fit into our vision of the world. We accept only news from specific outlets, we only support specific causes, we only believe that things should be a certain way. Our very understanding of God and/or the universe is never tested or examined thoroughly, because the only views we argue are the ones we share with like minded people who are seeing the world as we do.

My friends, I challenge you to see things from different lenses. I challenge you to examine the world through different perspectives and perceptions. I encourage you to accept the differences of life based on things you do not, or may never know. Look for different colors in the spectrums of life, politics, science, religion,

morality, and humanity. You don't have to subscribe to these ideas, simply recognizing them and being willing to accept them are enough, even if you don't agree with them.

The world today is divided. It is so because people refuse to see the world as it truly is: diverse, complicated, and impossible to be categorized by falsely placed labels and constructs. We, as human beings have a responsibility to be better than that. It will remain divided so long as we refuse to try on different lenses that will challenge our own view of the world.

Who knows, maybe you'll see something different, and gain a new appreciation for life. That appreciation could be something you'd have never gained without putting on a new pair of sunglasses.

Finally, changing the subject of charitable responsibilities and endeavors, our Alabama Em@sons website has numerous brethren who still have their email addresses posted on this site that are deceased. I implore to the Secretary's or someone within the lodges, to review the information of the Em@sons who are signed up and adjust accordingly the ones who are no longer with us. This could cause an embarrassing situation, should someone try to contact a deceased brother. Please notify the webmaster or the Grand Lodge with information to update our current Em@sons email addresses.

SOCIAL MEDIA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

- l. Information about Lodge or District social activities must comply with the regulations already in place for them (for example: no reference to alcohol or games of chance).
- m. We should seek Brother to Brother intervention. As a Mason you should advise a brother if something he has posted is improper within the framework of our Grand Constitution, Rules and Regulations, etc.

**CONSENT:** By your membership as a Mason under the jurisdiction of the MW Grand Lodge of Alabama, you consent to the Grand Lodge of Alabama Social Media Policy, as posted on the Grand Lodge's website.

**SANCTIONS:** To ensure our Fraternity represents itself to the highest standards, we believe that where possible, we must regulate our actions through Brother-to-Brother intervention. As a Mason, you have the responsibility to advise a Brother if you feel that what he has posted is improper within the framework of our constitution, laws, rules, regulations, edicts or social media policy as reflected herein. But you must be mindful that once an item is posted, it is still out there and can be used in the event that Masonic Charges are levied against you. All reported violations of this Social Media Policy shall be handled as any other Masonic Offense, as described in the Alabama Masonic Code & Edicts...

**REFERENCES:** The items listed below where used as a source for various parts of this assembled policy.

- a. United Grand Lodge of England – Social Media Policy
- b. Grand Lodge of New Hampshire, F&AM – Social Media Policy
- c. Grand Lodge of Illinois, F&AM – Social Media Policy
- d. Grand Lodge of Virginia, F&AM –Section 10.4 Social Media Policy

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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](http://www.alafreemasonry.org/eMasons)

