OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION NO. 122
May 9, 2012

TO: Grand Officers, Grand Trustees, Worshipful Masters, Past Masters, Wardens, and Brothers of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons of Alabama

In accordance with the provisions of our Constitution and By-laws and in conformity with the action of our last Grand Lodge, you are hereby officially notified that the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, F. and A. M. of Alabama, will convene in its 142nd (one-hundred thirty-fourth since consolidation) Annual Grand Lodge Communication, on Tuesday, July 17, 2012, at 8:00 a.m., at the Holiday Inn Huntsville-Downtown, 401 Williams Avenue SW, in Huntsville, Alabama.

GRAND LODGE OBLIGATIONS

To be represented in the Grand Lodge without embarrassment, it is very necessary that every lodge is paid up within bounds with ALL DEPARTMENTS OF THE GRAND LODGE.

REPRESENTATIVES

Representation in the Grand Lodge will be in accordance with our Masonic laws, traditional Masonic usage, and customs. Lodges will be represented by their Worshipful Masters and/or Wardens. All Past Masters MUST obtain from their subordinate lodge a certificate or a statement duly signed by the Master, attested by the Secretary, and sealed with the seal of the lodge, showing that they are in good standing with their subordinate lodges as of June 30, 2012. Reasonable proof may be requested as to Past Masters’ status. The above-mentioned certificate or statement filed with the Credentials Committee will entitle Past Masters to seats in the Grand
Lodge. The June report of lodges to the Grand Secretary will be sufficient credentials for the representatives of the various subordinate lodges. However, all representatives will register with the Credentials Committee. At registration, representatives will receive an official badge, which will admit them to be seated in the Grand Lodge. The Credentials Committee will be in session in the Holiday Inn Huntsville-Downtown.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

The Welcoming Program will be held on Monday, July 16, 2012, at the Von Braun Center, 700 Monroe Street, in Huntsville, Alabama, at 6:00 p.m. The local committee is planning an excellent Welcoming Program, and all Master Masons are requested to be in Huntsville in time to attend the program. The Lodge of Sorrow will be held on Tuesday evening, July 17, 2012, beginning at 7:00 p.m., at the Von Braun Center, in Huntsville, Alabama. Every Master Mason is expected to attend. The Memorial Address will be delivered by Reverend John Butler 33°, Pastor of Full Gospel El Paso Church in El Paso, Texas.

MASONIC CLOTHES

All representatives, officers, and visiting brothers must bring dark suits, white shirts, black tie, white aprons and white gloves, because each must be properly clothed to enter the Grand Lodge Session and the Lodge of Sorrow.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Information about available accommodations has been provided to each lodge by the Grand District Deputies. Please be sure that you have made hotel reservations at the Holiday Inn Huntsville-Downtown, in Huntsville, Alabama—1-256-533-1400—before you arrive in Huntsville. In making your reservations, be sure to inform them that your reservation is in connection with rooms reserved for the Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons, Group Room Block. In order to receive the discounted convention rate of $95.00 plus tax, you must make your reservation as early as possible before rooms are sold out—but not later than June 18, 2012.

MASONIC WORKSHOP

Masonic workshops for all Worshipful Masters, Secretaries, Treasurers, Wardens, other lodge officers, and any member who wishes to participate will be conducted on Monday, July 16, 2012, at 3:00 p.m., in the Holiday Inn Huntsville-Downtown, in Huntsville, Alabama.

MASONIC TEMPLE

At this time, the Temple is being maintained in accordance with the existing laws in the City of Birmingham in Jefferson County, Alabama. Continuous “break in” attempts have made it necessary for a security system to be reactivated in the building, for the installation of more lights, and for several other modifications to be made.

The “Internal Fundraising” for the renovation of the Temple Building will continue for those brothers who were suspended for nonpayment of their assessment, for new members, and for brothers who demit into the Jurisdiction of Alabama. We continue to welcome many of our
suspended members back into active status in our organization, and we are proud to have them come back. We need and we want all of our members back on roll in order for them to be actively working within our Brotherhood. My sincere appreciation is extended to each Brother who has helped in getting Brothers who dropped out to “Restore” to the Grand Lodge.

**SOUVENIR JOURNAL**

*Every Grand Lodge Officer and every lodge* in the Jurisdiction of Alabama are *expected to purchase a one-page ad or to secure a minimum of a one-page ad ($100.00) from an external source*, which will help with the renovation of the Temple Building. All lodges should have already received the information about ads for the *Souvenir Journal* from their District Deputies. If you have not received this information from your District Deputies, please call me immediately at 334-724-7379.

All ads and all money must be sent to our Grand Secretary, R. W. Joseph T. Williams, at Post Office Box 831020, Tuskegee, Alabama 36083, on or before June 15, 2012. We must have 100% participation from every lodge in order to make this fundraiser a success.

**PAST MASTER’S DEGREE**

All newly elected Masters who have not already passed the Chair must come prepared to be passed by the Grand Lodge Committee on Passing, chaired by Grand Senior Warden Robert Langford. All newly elected Masters are expected and are hereby instructed to be at the Grand Lodge Session, without exceptions. Passing will be conducted on Wednesday, July 18, 2012, at 5:00 a.m. *The Committee on Passing wishes to remind all newly elected Masters of the $25.00 fee that is required for The Degree of Passing, with no exceptions.*

**PROSPECTS**

Everything points to another harmonious and successful Grand Lodge Session, and every lodge is reminded to do its full Masonic duty by sending its Worshipful Master or its Senior Warden to represent each lodge at this session. Remember, *Masonic Law Provides That Every Lodge Must Be Represented and Must Discharge Its Grand Lodge Duties at Least Once in Every Two-Year Period* or is subject to having its charter revoked and forfeited. Be sure to send a representative so that there will be no chance of losing your charter. Every worthy Worshipful Master deserves the honor of an annual trip to the Grand Lodge Session with all expenses paid and a reasonable per diem for his time. Every financial Brother has the right to attend and should attend the Annual Grand Lodge Session.

**DISTRICT MEETINGS**

The reorganization of District Meetings has been a long needed change, and it is working extremely well. Moving from sixteen annual meetings to six annual meetings, which includes the membership in all seventeen of our districts, has reduced cost and has made it possible for more brothers to be available to participate in their meetings. Our Chief of Security, R. W. Joseph B. Walker, graciously and humbly served as the driver to assist me in getting to meetings again this year, and he also traveled to the last district meeting with the Grand Secretary, R. W. Joseph T. Williams, as the Grand Secretary represented the Grand Master at that meeting.
because the Grand Master had to travel to Muskogee, Oklahoma, to represent the Jurisdiction of Alabama at the funeral of the son of the Grand Master of Oklahoma and Sovereign Grand Commander Deary Vaughn; our Deputy Grand Master, R. W. Corey Thomas, provided valuable assistance in one of our district meetings; in addition, the Grand Secretary, R. W. Joseph T. Williams, conducted workshops and provided assistance at several district meetings, and the Chairman of our Board of Trustees, R. W. Warren Duncan, also participated in two district meetings.

**IMPORTANT RECURRING INFORMATION**

**A. Endowment and Burial Dues Payment**
- Brothers cannot be more than 12 months behind in the payment of Endowment and Burial dues. Any Brother that is more than one year delinquent will be suspended by the Worshipful Master until his dues are paid in full.

**B. Brothers Restoring To The Grand Lodge Who Are Fifty Years Old or Older**
- These Brothers will be allowed to restore without rejoining the Endowment and Burial Department, but they must pay all other past due fees at the time of restoration.
- These Brothers will pay twenty-five dollars ($25.00) semiannually to the Grand Lodge for membership dues for a total of fifty dollars ($50.00) every year.

**C. Twenty-Five Dollars ($25.00) Annual Registration Fee Per Active Brother**
- A Brother may choose to pay $12.50 Semiannually or an Annual payment of $25.00 for the Expenses of the Constitution Required Prince Hall Grand Lodge Annual Session.
- If a Brother chooses the Semiannual Payment Plan, the first payment is due on December 1st and the second payment is due on June 1st. These dates will remain the same from year to year.
- If a Brother chooses the Annual Payment Plan, the total $25.00 payment must be completed by December 1st. This date will remain the same from year to year.

**GRAND LODGE TAX AND ENDOWMENT DUES**

**PLEASE BE REMINDED THAT IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT EACH LODGE SEND ITS GRAND LODGE TAX TO THE GRAND SECRETARY BY DECEMBER 1ST AND BY MAY 30TH.** All Worshipful Masters of all lodges are requested to send all Grand Lodge taxes to R. W. Joseph T. Williams, Grand Secretary, Post Office Box 831020, Tuskegee, Alabama 36083, as soon as possible—BUT NOT LATER THAN JUNE 15TH of each year. Do not bring or send cash as payment for taxes and dues; bring or send checks or money orders! Certified checks and money orders are preferred.

Also, be sure to send all endowment reports to our Endowment Office Supervisor, Ms Kathy Dunnigan-Taylor, Post Office Box 10504, Birmingham, Alabama 35202, each month—but not later than the 20th of the month. “REMEMBER, NO MEMBER OF A LODGE WILL BE SEATED IN THE GRAND LODGE IF THAT LODGE HAS NOT PAID ITS GRAND LODGE TAXES.” Take due notice of the above and act accordingly.

**WARNING**
To those who plan to drive to Huntsville, I wish to take this opportunity to warn you to drive carefully, and be sure to observe all TRAFFIC RULES AND REGULATIONS. The Life You Save May Be Your Own! Do your part to see that no accidents occur. Be unusually carefully as the death rate from automobile accidents is alarmingly high.

We expect our usual full attendance at this Grand Lodge Session, and we expect every lodge to be represented.

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the Grand Lodge to be affixed and the same to be attested by the Grand Secretary on this 9th day of May 2012, A.L. 6012.

William O. Jones, DVM, Ph.D.

Most Worshipful Grand Master
of the
Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge
Free and Accepted Masons of Alabama

Attested:

Joseph T. Williams

Right Worshipful Grand Secretary
of the
Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge
Free and Accepted Masons of Alabama