



**DISTRICT DEPUTY
GRAND LECTURER
RESOURCE GUIDE**

Congratulations! You have been appointed and commissioned by the Most Worshipful Grand Lecturer to serve your district as its *District Deputy Grand Lecturer*. This position is one of utmost importance in assisting the dissemination of the Adopted Work and Lecturers throughout our Grand Jurisdiction. This goal can only be achieved with strong and highly capable leaders, like yourself, and the resources they provide.

It should be the mission of every District Deputy Grand Lecturer is assist the Grand Lodge of Mississippi, F. & A.M., in creating and continuing to develop a fraternal environment which fosters and inspires strong Lodges, and individuals, to inculcate the principles of the Masonic fraternity in their daily lives, as taught through our Adopted Work and Lecturers. To fulfil this mission, you have been recommended, and appointed to *observe, teach and report* on the finding within your district. This pamphlet/booklet has been prepared to assist you in those efforts, and it our hope that you will find it of use as you take on your new responsibilities.

-*"The Deputy Force"*

Ritual: The Fabric of Freemasonry

Ritual is found everywhere in our daily lives and habits. We find it in our morning routines as we wake up and prepare for our day. We find it in our family gatherings and times of enjoyment with friends and brothers. We even find it in our ceremonies for graduations, military, passages from boy to manhood, and religious organizations. Ritual is a prescribed order, set of actions, or type of behavior especially followed by someone, or a group, which may or may not have associated sacred connotations. Ritual can soothe our anxiety, assist us the face of tragedy, and provide us with a higher sense of education and enlightenment.

The importance of Masonic Ritual means, perhaps, even more so now than in the past. In an ever-intensifying and progressing society, our fraternity stands alone in its methods and abilities to convey to man the principle tenets of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth, as taught to us in the Great Light in Masonry, handed down to us by the Supreme Architect of the Universe. As a most ancient and honorable society, dedicated and devoted to changing the lives of men, Freemasonry must maintain its Ritual and insure it remains pure and unimpaired.

As a District Deputy Grand Lecturer you are taking on the responsibility of seeing our Ritual continued in a pure and unimpaired fashion; to be passed on from generation to generation. More so, it is important to understand that the Ritual only serves as a vehicle for the important work that Freemasonry seeks to accomplish. Our ritual is the unifying factor for the events of the Lodge members, and works to blend the minds of those who would be invested in it. It also serves as a cause by which the internal aspects of a member may be stimulated to the development of enlightenment.

History of the Ritual

Previous to 1717, which marks the date of the formation of the first Grand Lodge of England, scholars believe that the esoteric work of the fraternity was “communicated.” To “Communicate” is a term which describes the process of giving simple instructions and explanations to the candidate without necessarily requiring adopted movements or forms. For some Grand Jurisdictions and other related Masonic bodies, this process still remains true. The Master or Orator at the time would “communicate” the lessons of the fraternity in which ever manner he deemed appropriate. His ability to “communicate” the lessons effectively relied not only on his skill of the language, but also his personal understanding of Masonic symbolism. These “communications” were based on a collection of documents adopted by the Lodges known as the “Old Charges.”

Soon after the fraternity’s formal organization in 1717, The Grand Lodge of England ordered Brother James Anderson, distinguished scholar, to compile the ancient charges into a uniform style. In 1723, Dr. Anderson’s *Book of Constitutions* became the first printed book on Freemasonry. It was also at this time that Dr. Anderson, assisted by Dr. John Theophilus Desaguliers and Bro. George Payne, arranged a series of “lectures” for the first time in the form of questions and answers. The first written mention of the “Three Degrees of Freemasonry” is found in document dated, 1724. With the development of the fraternity’s interest throughout Europe and the American Colonies, Dr. Anderson’s “lectures” were expanded upon by Bro. Martin Clare in 1732, and yet again by Bro. Thomas Dunckerley. Dr. Dunckerley is claimed to have introduced the “three principle rounds of Jacob’s theological ladder” to the work of Freemasonry, as well as the Order of Mark Master Masons, now found within the Royal Arch Chapter of Freemasonry.

The lectures of Dr. Dunckerley continued as standard ritualistic practice of “Modern” English Freemasonry until 1763, when Rev. William Hutchinson revised and improved upon them. Rev. Hutchinson gained the title of “The Father of Masonic Symbolism” after the publication of his book, *The Spirit of Masonry* in 1775. Hutchinson declared that Freemasonry was exclusively Christian, at a time in which two Grand Lodge factions were competing in England, often called the “Antients” and “Moderns.” The “Antients,” or sometime referred to as “Ancient York Masonry,” being the younger faction, was far more active and soon expanded its jurisdiction into the American Colonies. From 1723–1852, more than 25 expose had been published “revealing” the passwords, grips, phrases and ritualistic practices of Freemasonry. In 1740, the “Antients” made drastic changes to the ritual, especially in its third degree, in which some lectures were condensed or omitted.

Once again a revision was introduced by Bro. William Preston in 1772, with publication of his book, *Illustrations of Masonry*. Preston, a Scottish born author and lecturer, not only revised the ritual but extensively expounded upon the “lectures,” which would remain in place until the formation of the two factions in 1813. During the disunion of Freemasonry in England (1739-1813) many differences had been introduced into the ritual. Upon the formation of the United Grand Lodge of England, a committee was formed to compile a compromise between these two factions.

The oral practice of the ritual, having strong Preston influences, was introduced into the American colonies by two English masons, who communicated it to Bro. Thomas Smith Webb. By his own admission, Webb claimed to have changed very little of Preston's work and introduced *The Freemason's Monitor* in 1797, to the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts. From 1801–1802, Bro. Benjamin Gleason, a student from Rhode Island, received the "lectures" directly from Bro. Webb, and was elevated to the position of Grand Lecturer of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts in 1804. Gleason died in 1849, continuing the lectures and serving in the engagement of that duty throughout the United States. With the development of American statehoods from territory status, Freemasonry in the United States began to spread. Vastly different forms of the ritual can be found within the United States, all having some influences from the "Moderns," "Antients," or both. Each Grand Jurisdiction, being sovereign of another, has the indisputable right to adopt any changes into the ritual and declare its standard work.

From an original resolution adopted by the Grand Lodge of Alabama in late 1840, each Grand Jurisdiction was requested to send a delegate to Washington, D.C. for the purpose of establishing uniformed work among the United States, as well as establishing other lawful regulations of the Craft. This convention was held on March 7th, 1842, but owing to the lack of Grand Lodge representation, time constraints and differences of opinion the conventions overall purpose failed. The convention did manage to recommend many practices which are still in use today. For instance, the convention recommended that all Grand Lodge bodies should appoint a suitable member, well-versed in the ritual, to serve as the jurisdictions Grand Lecturer, and called for all the Grand Lecturers to attend a convention the following year to discuss and determine on a common ritual. The convention was also responsible for recommending the practices of dues cards, initiation fees, and non-payment of dues membership status. The most influential recommendation of the convention was that all Masonic business should be conducted in the Master Mason's Lodge, as opposed to the common practice of the conducting business in the Entered Apprentice Lodge.

From May 8–17, 1843, sixteen Grand Lodges met in Baltimore, Maryland, as planned during the previous year. Many hours were spent discussing the recommendations of the meeting in Washington, D.C., and established an objective of developing a uniform work and triennial convention of delegates of the Grand Jurisdictions of the United States. Again the conventions purpose failed, but not without recommending some practices. The most influential of these being that no Lodge should be given right to try its Master.

On May 11, 1846, eight delegates met in Winchester, Virginia, but adjourned without conducting any business. However, on September 23, 1847, convening again in Baltimore, seven Grand Lodge representatives met to consider the formation of a general grand lodge of the United States. A constitution was adopted and sent to the established Grand Lodge jurisdictions with the understanding that if sixteen Grand Lodges approved before January 1, 1849, it would go into effect. Yet again the conventions purpose failed to receive proper support and was ended. Additional conventions were called in 1855 and 1859, but never held. The Grand Lodge of Mississippi, F. & A. M., was represented in the conventions of 1846 and 1847.

It is unknown from which source our Grand Jurisdiction may have adopted its earliest forms of the ritual, but our current Adopted Work and Lectures show influence of the Preston-Webb work. Our earliest brethren in Harmony No. 7, were known to have met and conducted business in the Entered Apprentice Lodge in an early Natchez tavern called Madam McCabe's Place. As was usual in American Masonry, the rites and ceremonies practiced by Harmony No. 7, were those in accordance with "Antient" form. On Dec. 4, 1802, Bro. William Murray, entering a complaint referred to his membership in the "ancient York fraternity." Processions were said to be "according to ancient form." The zeal and faithfulness with which our early Natchez brethren celebrated the festivals of the Patron Saints of Freemasonry also indicate the influence of "Antient" form.

It has been theorized that the adopted work and lectures are non-uniform throughout the earliest provincial Grand Lodges due to the cultural aspects changing in accordance with the time. Some theorize it may have developed through simply a misquotation in reading an early monitor, which are not allowed in this Grand Jurisdiction. Others may theorize that it may have been a simple matter of need or want. In whichever case, our ritual has been greatly modified from the Preston-Webb lectures to suit the needs of our membership. The Adopted Work and Lectures throughout the Grand Lodge of Mississippi, F. & A.M., are uniform throughout the entire jurisdiction.

The position of Grand Lecturer was adopted in 1868, by a Resolution of the Grand Lodge to see the consistency and dissemination of the Ritual. It was also at this time that the position of District Deputy Grand Master, later renamed District Deputy Grand Lecturers, was created to assist the Grand Lecturer in the dissemination of the Adopted Work and Lectures.

The position of Grand Lecturer has been held by 8 individuals since the time of its inception. They are listed as follows:

Henry Robinson (1868 – 1874)

John F. McCormick, P.G.M. (1874 – 1880)

John M. Ware, P.G.M. (1880 – 1883)

Robert B. Brannin (1883 – 1894)

Allen M. Hicks, H.P.G.M. (1894 – 1915)

J. Rice Williams, P.G.M. (1915 – 1953)

Watt Carter, P.G.M. (1954 – 1994)

Danny O. Alexander, P.G.M. (1994 – Present)

District Deputy Grand Lecturer

Your commission as a District Deputy Grand Lecturer proves that the opinion of the Grand Lecturer favors your Masonic knowledge, willingness to labor, faithfulness to the fraternity and discretion in its work. You must always strive to discharge your duties in such a manner that will demonstrate that his confidence has never been misplaced. In this way you may best serve your Lodges and the body of Mississippi Masonry.

As a District Deputy Grand Lecturer your sole responsibility is to see the Adopted Work and Lectures of the Grand Lodge of Mississippi, F. & A. M., disseminated throughout your respective district; however, the role of a District Deputy Grand Lecturer is diverse and multifaceted. You must be a leader, planner, organizer, advisor, mentor, and expert communicator that possess a willingness of continued learning in all aspects of the ritual. You will be the primary resource for ritualistic questions and concerns throughout your district and those with which you are associated. As a personal representative of the Grand Lecturer, you are to encourage the Craft, promoting and demonstrating compliance to its practices.

In your representation as a District Deputy Grand Lecturer, you are not invested with any powers or authority, nor are you installed as an officer of the Grand Lodge. In the discharge of your duty, you may be approached with questions regarding decisions of Masonic Law or other proceedings. The solution for many of these question can be found in *The Williams Digest*, being our book of Masonic Law, with which you should make yourself readily familiar. It is important to remember that the Grand Lodge of Mississippi, F. & A. M., has established standing and special committees, such as the Law and Jurisprudence Committee, to answer all questions regarding Masonic Law and other needs of the Subordinate Lodges or membership.

The duties of this position can only be successfully performed with constant care and continued labor and study.

The Board of Custodians of the Work

The Board of Custodians of the Ancient Work and Lectures in Symbolic Masonry consist of four members and the Grand Lecturer, serving as member ex-officio. The Custodians of the Work are appointed as experts or well-informed members of the Grand Lodge to approve all work taught by the Grand Lecturer. Being a constitutional officer, Custodians of the Work are appointed on the nomination of the immediate Past Grand Master and Grand Wardens and may not be removed by the Grand Master. One is appointed each year to hold his office for a period of four years.

Each member of the Board of Custodians serves as a valuable resource in all aspects of the Adopted Work and Lectures. Along with the District Deputy Grand Lecturers, on the day prior to the opening of the Grand Lodge Annual Communication, they hold an exemplification for the purpose of perfecting themselves in the Adopted Work. As a newly assigned District Deputy Grand Lecturer, you may be assigned a part in these exemplification, which you will be notified of at a later date.

Annual School of Instruction & Deputy Schools of Instruction

Each year, the entire District Deputy Grand Lecturer force, as well as the Board of Custodians of the Work assemble in a place, as previously assigned by the Grand Lecturer, for the purpose of rehearsing and perfecting themselves in the Adopted Work and Lectures. In recent years, the place of the Annual School of Instruction, has coincided with the Subordinate Lodge of the Most Worshipful Grand Master. This School of Instruction is under the direction of the Grand Lecturer, who is also authorized to lecture Lodges when requested to do so, or as ordered to do so by the Most Worshipful Grand Master.

Following the Annual School of Instruction, the Grand Lecturer will assign certain District Deputy Grand Lecturers to work at a "Deputy School", or sometimes called "Mini-Schools," throughout the Northern, Central and Southern regions of this Grand Jurisdiction. The purpose of the "Mini-School" is to ensure the District Deputy Grand Lecturer's in the rehearsal and perfection of the Adopted Work and Lectures.

Congressional School of Instruction

This Grand Jurisdiction is divided into Congressional Districts, each required to have at least one or more Congressional School of Instruction throughout the year. The Grand Lecturer is responsible for assigning each District Deputy Grand Lecturer to a Congressional School, who is required in the discharge of his duty to attend.

At these Congressional Schools, members are encouraged to take part in the Adopted Work and Lecturers, and may be offered instructions or directives by the District Deputy Grand Lecturers assigned. All Schools of Instruction begin promptly at 8:30 a.m. and conclude no later than 4:30 p.m. The host Lodge is responsible in seeing the lunch meal provided. In recent years, Congressional Schools have included the exemplification of two (2) Entered Apprentice Degrees, the first to be exemplified by the host Lodge, one (1) Fellow Craft's Degree, and one (1) Master Mason's Degree. These schools may also include the process of "Balloting on a Candidate for the Three Degrees in Ancient Craft Masonry" and "Examining an Unknown Visitor"; if time permits and requested. In order that you may be better prepared to assist in giving proper instructions or directives, it is highly encouraged that you should always been in constant care of your own ritualistic workings.

District School of Instruction

As the state is divided into Congressional Districts, so is it divided into smaller Masonic Districts, having one District Deputy Grand Lecturer assigned for each. Each Masonic District may consist of 8-10 Subordinate Lodges, some having more or less depending on the number and relative distance, as assigned by the Grand Lecturer. In addition to your duty of visiting each assigned Lodge at least once during the year, it is highly encouraged, although not required, that you host District practices or meetings in which the members of your District may gather in fellowship and perfect themselves in the Adopted Work and Lectures.

Some District Deputy Grand Lecturers have established a monthly or regular schedule for District Schools of Instructions in which one aspect of the Adopted Work and Lectures may be addressed. Hosting these District Schools of Instruction also allow for members to work on a personal level and begin their Masonic ritualistic studies. In other instances, a District Deputy Grand Lecturer may encourage the host Lodge to serve a meal before the meeting, or allow a guest speaker to address the brethren on a topic of Masonic interest. Any gathering of our Masonic brotherhood should be treated as ample opportunity to promote the fraternities interest and principles.

District Deputy Grand Lecturer Annual Report

As directed by *The Williams Digest*, each District Deputy Grand Lecturer is required in the discharge of his duty to visit the Lodges of his Masonic District at least once during the year. This official visit may be made at either a Stated Communication or a Called Communication for the purpose of instruction. An official visit may not be made to the Lodge when degrees are being conferred or when anything is being done that may interfere with his teachings. During this official visit, the District Deputy Grand Lecturer should seek to properly lecture the Lodge as he finds it in need thereof.

Remember that as a District Deputy Grand Lecturer, you are given no powers of authority and may not claim the right to preside. The Worshipful Master of a Lodge is under no obligation, except that of courtesy, to yield to you the gavel of authority or provide you with ample time for instruction. In the best course of action, you should afford time to contact the Worshipful Master of the Lodge prior to your visit and inform him of your agenda. Should you find yourself so situated that you may be unable to visit a Lodge of your Masonic District, you must report immediately to the Grand Lecturer who will see another District Deputy Grand Lecturer sent in your stead.

Furthermore, as a District Deputy Grand Lecturer you are required to carefully examine the condition of the Lodge under your charge, examine the Lodge records, see them duly kept and correct any irregularities therein, point out all errors in the manner of the workings of the Lodge, instruct the Lodge in any particulars in which you deem that information is required, recommend a continued attention to the morals and principles of the fraternity, caution against the admission of unworthy persons and candidates, promote punctual attendance at all meetings and representation at every Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge. You are also to immediately report to the Grand Lecturer anything that you think should be brought to his attention. The Grand Secretary provides forms for the purpose of your official visits. These forms must be completed as directed.

The *Lodge Visitation Report of District Deputy Grand Lecturers* is required to be submitted following each visitation of a Lodge under your charge. Use your best judgement in completing this form. This form includes date, district number, mileage both way, Lodge name, number and location. It also includes the meetings attendance, a description of property and equipment, the financial condition of the Lodge, the condition and keep of Lodge records, current membership, average membership attendance, the number of meetings held/not held since the last official visit, degrees conferred, open meetings held and purpose thereof, quality of the Adopted Work and Lectures of the officers and members, additional visits that you may have made and purpose thereof, and your personal appraisal of the results of the meeting and general welfare of the Lodge. Be sure to sign the form and submit the white and yellow copies to the Grand Lecturer. The pink copy you are to keep in your personal records for reference. All reports must be received by December 1st.

Expenses and Reimbursements

The Grand Lodge of Mississippi, F. & A. M., allows for certain expenses and reimbursements when visiting a Lodge of your District or when acting in certain official capacities as District Deputy Grand Lecturer. For each Lodge visited, you will be paid out of the District Deputy Grand Lecturer Fund a sum of per diem and mileage as set by the Finance Committee and approved by the Grand Lodge at its Annual Grand Communication.

Current per diem (2019): \$30.00 (per day)

Current mileage (2019): \$0.32 per mile (both ways)

When attending the Annual School of Instruction, you will be reimbursed the mileage in traveling, both ways, as well as receive a per diem for each day of attendance. District Deputy Grand Lecturers who choose to stay in the discounted accommodations, as recommended, on the evening before the Annual School of Instruction may be reimbursed the expense of their accommodation, providing proper documentation has been submitted.

In your assigned Deputy Schools and Congressional Schools of Instruction, you will be reimbursed the mileage in traveling both ways, as well as receive a per diem for each day in attendance. In certain cases, a fellow District Deputy Grand Lecturer may be unable to attend, and you may be asked by the Grand Lecturer to take up his stead. In this cases you will also be entitled to the reimbursement of mileage and receive per diem for each day in attendance.

In your visitation to the Lodges within your Masonic District, you will be reimbursed the mileage in traveling both ways, as well as receive a per diem for one day. You may not claim more than one official visit for each Lodge of your Masonic District in your expense report. Any Lodge requesting additional lecturing from its District Deputy Grand Lecturer should see him compensated in like manner for each day that his services are requested and rendered.

In rare instances, the Most Worshipful Grand Master may instruct a District Deputy Grand Lecturer to make additional visits to any Lodge in his Masonic District. If, in the judgement of the Most Worshipful Grand Master, the Lodge is unable to pay for the services of the District Deputy Grand Lecturer, he may also claim the additional visits on his expense reports, not to exceed three days in any one year.

The *District Deputy Grand Lecturer Expense Report* should include the name of the District Deputy Grand Lecturer, District number, date of event, Lodge name and location, per diem, mileage and total. The Grand Secretary provides these forms for the purpose of your expenses and reimbursements, which you should see used as directed. All reports must be received by December 1st.

Resources

The Grand Lodge of Mississippi, F. & A. M., provides several educational resources for any member who would want to improve his Masonic studies. Some of these resources may be found on the Grand Lodge website (www.msgrandlodge.org), or through the Grand Secretary's office in Meridian, MS.

The Mentor's Manual. The Mentor Plan was conceived as an answer to one of the problems of Masonry – the producing of interested Masons by means of a well-rounded education in all phases of the Royal Art. The Plan's main objective is the promotion of an interest in Masonic knowledge.

Lodge Officer's Guidebook. The Grand Lodge of Mississippi, F. & A.M., recognizes that in promoting the customs, traditions, and principles of our fraternity it is necessary to train, develop, and encourage well-educated and well-skilled leaders within its Subordinate Lodges. The Lodge Officer's Guidebook has been prepared as a resource for Subordinate Lodges in presenting those duties and responsibilities that are felt to be essential in the development of a successful Lodge environment.

What You Can Discuss About Masonry With A Non-Mason. Every Mason remembers well his obligations to secrecy, and he is often reluctant to talk to non-Masons about things Masonic. Yet, we want to inform the non-Masons about who we are, what we are, and what we do. It is important that every Mason understand clearly which things he can talk about and which things he cannot talk about.

Subordinate Lodge Investigation Committee Form. This form is issued as an aid to the Subordinate Lodge in conducting its independent Investigation of the proposed Candidate. Although this form is endorsed by the Grand Lodge Education Committee, it is to serve as a basic guide, and is not to be considered mandatory. Each committee member should review this document, including the instructions, before proceeding with the investigation.

Questions and Answers. This tri-fold brochure is a great publication for the public, or a potential petitioner for the degrees. It is available through the educational section of the Grand Lodge website.

The Secrets of Freemasonry. This tri-fold brochure is an eye catching publication for the public and potential petitioners for the degrees. It is available through the educational section of the Grand Lodge website.

Lodge Education Guides. The Lodge Education Guides are designed and presented by the Grand Lodge Education Committee to assist and encourage Subordinate Lodges in developing and promoting proper Masonic study within their membership. Educational discussion provides opportunities for active learning and increases the retention of information and ideas. Appropriate discussion can engage the membership on a more personal level and opens opportunities for membership satisfaction and feedback. Each education guide presented is designed to be related, in some way, to a fraternal topic of interest.

....and much more!

