



Grand Lodge of Mississippi

Free and Accepted Masons
Office of the Grand Secretary
Meridian, Mississippi

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GRAND SECRETARY

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January 10, 2018

TO: Grand Lodge Officers, Past Grand Masters, Honorary Past Grand Masters, Committee Members, D.D.G.L.'s, Ten Year D.D.G.L.'s, and Subordinate Lodge Secretaries:

Dear Brethren:

Our Most Worshipful Grand Master, Michael Don Bryant, would like to cordially invite all Masons to attend the **200th Annual Grand Lodge Communication** to be held at the **Hilton, located at 1001 East County Line Road, Jackson, Mississippi** on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, **March 8, 9, & 10, 2018.**

For those who wish to attend, please make your reservation Direct by calling Telephone #: 601-957-2800 or ONLINE at <https://www.hiltonjackson.com> ~ Group Name is ~ Grand Lodge of Mississippi; and Group Code is ~ "LODGE3", on or before cut-off date for making reservations which is Friday, February 16, 2018. Please specify any special requests when making your reservation, and be sure to tell them you are attending the Grand Lodge of Mississippi meeting in Jackson, Mississippi, to insure you a room at the *special room rate* of \$83.00 plus taxes per night. Please note that the absolute final date for making your hotel reservation at the HILTON is Friday, February 16, 2018. There will be no more rooms available for the special rate at the Hilton after February 16, 2018. **SO DON'T DELAY CALL NOW FOR YOUR RESERVATION!!!**

Our Grand Master cordially invites all Masons and their wives to attend the Grand Master's Banquet on **Thursday, March 8, 2018**, at the **HILTON** in Jackson, beginning at 7:00 P.M. Business Casual Dress is requested for all. Tickets are required. (Please use enclosed order form) **NOTE: Please order and pay for your Banquet tickets in advance from the Grand Lodge Office and you can pick them up at the Grand Lodge Registration Desk on Thursday, March 8, 2018 in Jackson.** Please note the deadline to purchase banquet tickets is Friday, March 2, 2018.

SECRETARIES: Please make sure this information is passed along to the person(s) that will be representing your lodge, as well as, others in your lodge that may wish to attend. Also, make plans to attend the Secretaries Conference at 3:00 PM on Thursday, March 8, 2018. This is a very important and informative meeting for **ALL Lodge Secretaries, whether you are a New Secretary or a Long-Time Veteran Secretary there are new and exciting changes coming and I would like you all to attend to be well informed about the future of our Lodges and our technical progress.** PLEASE READ IN OPEN LODGE AND POST ON BULLETIN BOARD.

SECRETARIES: For those of you who have not sent in your Lodge's 2018 ~ Blue Lodge Special Return form for reporting your Blue Lodge's 2018 Elected Officers, please send in ASAP so the Master name and address will be entered in the Blue Lodge Directory for 2018, along with the Secretary information. Please remember to give complete names, complete mailing addresses, and phone numbers for the Master and Secretary. ***If an Officer became a member AFTER AUGUST 31, 2017, please give Dates by his name and state whether Degrees Conferred, Affiliated, or Reinstated.*** NOTE ~ if you have misplaced the Special Return form previously sent to your Lodge, please go to the Secretary page on the website and print out the form and send to our Grand Lodge Office. These completed Special Return forms are placed inside of your worked Annual Return booklet and then all bound with a hard book cover and kept in our Grand Lodge Library.

REMINDER to Secretaries ~ EVERY LODGE MUST FILE A 990-N E-Postcard, electronically to the IRS ~ EVERY YEAR ~ NO EXCEPTIONS, or you WILL be hearing from the IRS, as so many of you have already learned the hard way. DEADLINE for electronically filing the 990-N E-Postcard is MAY 15, 2018.

REMINDER to Secretaries ~ if you have not mailed in your 2017 Per Capita Dues to the Grand Lodge Office, you MUST do so NOW!!! REMEMBER if your Lodge Per Capita Dues are NOT paid by the Grand Lodge Annual Communication Meeting, your Lodge will NOT be able to participate.

Continued ~

ENCLOSED - PROPOSED LAW CHANGE: SECRETARIES ~ Please post at your Lodge, discuss at your Lodge Meeting, and instruct your Representative attending Grand Lodge as to how your Lodge wishes to vote.

ENCLOSED – LETTER FROM GRAND MASTER DON BRYANT REGARDING A PRESENTATION AT GRAND LODGE IN MARCH REGARDING A LIFE INSURANCE POLICY THAT HAS THE POTENTIAL TO HELP FREE MASONRY AND YOU!

ENCLOSED – NOTIFICATION BY THE 10-YEAR PLANNING COMMITTEE ANNOUNCING TWO NEW COURSES TO BE HELD DURING THE 200TH GRAND LODGE SESSION. PLEASE READ THE ENCLOSED NOTICE IN OPEN LODGE.

NOTIFICATION TO SECRETARIES – THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE WILL INTRODUCE A SUGGESTED NEW FORM – “INVESTIGATION ON PETITION FOR THE THREE DEGREES” TO AID THE SUBORDINATE LODGE IN CONDUCTING ITS INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION OF THE PROPOSED CANDIDATE. ALTHOUGH THE FORM IS ENDORSED BY THE GRAND LODGE EDUCATION COMMITTEE, IT IS TO SERVE AS A BASIC GUIDE, AND NOT TO BE CONSIDERED MANDATORY. PLEASE GO BY THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE TABLE AT GRAND LODGE AND PICK UP A FEW OF THE FORMS TO TAKE BACK TO YOUR LODGE FOR REVIEW.

EVERY LODGE SECRETARY HAS NOW RECEIVED THEIR BLUE LODGE DUES CARDS AND IN THAT SAME MAILING WAS THE ANNOUNCEMENT LETTER FOR OUR 200TH ANNIVERSARY/BICENTENNIAL TO BE HELD JULY 26 – 27, 2018, AT THE NATCHEZ GRAND HOTEL, NATCHEZ, MS. SECRETARIES I URGE YOU TO READ THAT LETTER OUT LOUD AT YOUR STATED MEETINGS AND POST ON YOUR BULLETIN BOARDS.

PLEASE NOTE ~ That the maximum for the deceased Master Mason (new) scholarship remains at \$3,000.00 for Tuition, books and class fees per semester. The District Scholarships shall remain the same at \$1,000.00 per District. Deadline for submitting 1-year Scholarship Applications is March 15, 2018. No faxed copies accepted. No exceptions!

2018 Grand York Rite Bodies Annual Meetings will be held Thursday, Friday and Saturday, **May 17, 18, 19, 2018**, at the Drury Inn & Suites, Meridian, 112 Highway 11 and 80 North, Meridian, Mississippi. **Official invitations will be sent out at a later date.**


If you have not done so lately, I invite you to browse our WEBSITE. I am sure you will find plenty of interesting information and you can also **download the Williams Digest** and almost all of the Lodge forms from the Secretaries site. If you need assistance, please give me a call or call our Web Master, Jared Stanley.

SECRETARIES: PLEASE READ THIS LETTER AT YOUR NEXT STATED COMMUNICATION MEETING AND THEN PLEASE POST ON YOUR LODGE BULLETIN BOARD. Thank you for your assistance.

The 2nd Annual Meeting of the members of the Grand Lodge of Mississippi Foundation will be held during the 200th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Mississippi, F. & A. M., as per By-Laws.

I am looking forward to seeing each of you at our next Grand Lodge Annual Communication in March 2018. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please feel free to give me a call.

Fraternally and sincerely,


Floyd Tomas Jones
Grand Secretary

FTJ:cdh
Enclosures