



Volume 1/ Issue 3



THE APEX

Bulletin for Peach State Commanders of the Rite



Message from the Deputy

Illustrious Sirs,

"I will lift up mine eyes to the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help comes from the Lord who made Heaven and earth." Psalm 121:1-2

I would like to thank you for your prayers and continued support as we strive for another year of helping our fellow man. Never miss an opportunity to serve or make others happy, even if you must leave them alone to do so.

Due to the rising number of COVID-19 cases, especially for the safety of our membership, we will continue to meet virtually. Restrictions are starting to be lifted; however, we must still wear our masks and continue to practice safety in the home and workplace. We must follow orders of the CDC and our doctors. ***The United Supreme Council is still closed.***

Sadly, our organization continues to lose our members. As you know, SGIG Larry Martin was called home and he will truly be missed. Let us pray for the souls of all our lost members and keep their families lifted up.

Special thanks to those of you who attended or had Mundy Thursday Services, Resurrection or Easter Sunrise Services (Virtually).

An old wise man told me many years ago, it is always the right time to do the right thing and the right place values you the right way and you know you are appreciated. If you are not valued, do not be angry, it might mean you are in the wrong place. We have all been there -- feeling victimized by a friend, a boss or members of the organization who has treated us poorly or unfairly. It is an easy and common tendency to blame others and make yourself out as the innocent one.

However, if you start to look back and analyze a bit, you may realize that there is one common denominator in each scenario and situation. That common denominator is you. We allow people to treat us the way they do. So, know your value and do not accept being treated in a way less than you deserve. Remember you deserve to be treated the way you treat others and vice versa. So, know your **worth** and always do unto others as you have them do unto you.

S.G.I.G. Primus T. James 33° Active
Deputy of the Orient of Georgia

Deputy of the Orient

SGIG Primus T. James 33 Active

Officers

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Vice-President

III Victor Lee

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III Donald Taylor

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III Matthew Lewis

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III Rev. Henry Davis Sr.

Sergeant at Arms

III Matthew Bonham

IG's Corner

Back in the Rite Drive (BIRD)

Greetings:

The new administration of the United Supreme Council, 33° of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Prince Hall Affiliation, Southern Jurisdiction of the United States of America, Inc., is working diligently for you. We have adopted the theme Rebuilding the Rite Stone by Stone: Through Remembrance, Revitalization and Recommitment. We must remember from whence we've come and remember our oaths and obligations to this prestigious organization, to each other and to mankind. While revitalizing the organization through the use of modern technology, the implementation of innovative ideas, and inclusion, which leads to an enhanced membership experience for our Fraters. Finally, we must recommit or rededicate ourselves to the principal teachings of the Rite. The Supreme Council has just launched a reclamation program entitled Back in the Rite Drive (BIRD). The object of the BIRD Reclamation Program is to reclaim, at a discount rate, those who were formally on our rolls and have been suspended for nonpayment of dues. We would love to have you back as a member of this esteemed organization! To be eligible for BIRD, one must be a member in good standing of his Ancient Craft Lodge and must complete one of the following steps:

(1.) An individual who wishes to reinstate as a Sublime Prince must pay one year's dues payable to his Consistory. (The usual additional \$20.00 fee payable to the United Supreme Council is waived.) (2.) An individual who wishes to reinstate in the Consistory as a Grand Inspector General (GIG) must pay one year's dues to his Consistory plus \$100.00 to the United Supreme Council. (The usual fee of \$250.00 to the United Supreme Council (3.) An individual who was a GIG and was lowered in grade to a Sublime Prince, but is still on the Consistory roll, may be reinstated as a GIG by paying \$100.00 to the United Supreme Council. (The usual fee of \$250.00 to the United Supreme Council has been reduced.) The BIRD Reclamation Program will remain in effect until October 31, 2021. Anyone or any Consistory that deviates from the above fees are subject to masonic discipline. When he announced that he was leaving Miami and going back to Cleveland, NBA superstar LeBron James said, "I'm ready to accept the challenge. I'm coming home." I ask you, are you ready to accept the challenge? Come home!

Sincerely,



Cory D. Hawkins Sr. Esq. 33°

Sovereign Grand Commander



From The Desk of the President

Former Presidents

III. Cory D. Shackelford Sr.

III. Derwin Canty

III. John Gilliam

III. Kirby Turner

SGIG Larry Martin

III. James W. Johnson

III. Ramsey Davis

III. Marcel Reed

III. Otis Charlton

III. Irvin Grant Jr

III. Charlie Hodges

III. Robert Darby

SGIG John Robinson

SGIG Benjamin Barksdale

Greetings Illustrious Sirs,

First of all, let me acknowledge and say "Thank you" to all Illustrious Sirs for your selfless acts of kindness in rendering your services throughout the various communities in the Orient of Georgia. Your devotion to uplifting your fellow Citizen or even a Brother or Sister is most commendable and continues to enhance and spotlight the brilliance and servant acts to the duty of an Illustrious Sir.

The PSCOR continues to work on your behalf in bettering and strengthening its organizational structure and the direction of this distinguishing Body. And once again, we say "Thank You" for your support and participation in accepting these requested changes and enhancements.

This Pandemic continues to be a part of our current condition. However, regardless of its roaring threats, each one of you are stepping up to the plate, as the Leaders that you are, and rolling up your sleeve, doing your part in getting the vaccine, in mitigating this virus to help turn the curve in these awful days. And for that, The PSCOR says "Thank You."

The PSCOR mourns and offers its Prayers and sincere Condolences to all of the Families and Friends of GIGs and SGIGs who have transitioned to that bountiful land of refreshment and reward, that House not made with hands but Eternal in Heaven, joining the many Ranks of that great Fraternal Order of Spirits of "Just Men" made Perfect.

The PSCOR has developed a calendar of scheduled Zoom conferences with all GIGs within the Orient of Georgia for 2021. Please download, print, share and mark your calendars accordingly. The PSCOR looks forward to seeing each of you, and we welcome your participation as we continue to conduct the business of this Body.

The APEX News Bulletin continues to grow and showcase GIG's participation and involvements across the Orient. Please continue to share and support with your submissions to The APEX. The success of this News Bulletin will only be through your effort. And continue to support the Medallion program.

One Vision One Focus: Saving Our Democracy/Our Sacred Right to Vote

In closing, a GIG is found in every Grade, Level and Degree in Freemasonry. His duty is not only to be a Leader but to be a Teacher. He sets the example. He teaches that example. And he Lives out that example.

CE Alexander 33°

President

PSCOR

Medical Alert



Science versus Speculation

Our faith is tested at many levels, yet we as Scottish Rite Masons know that our actions are guided by a higher Being and place our faith in those things not seen and sometimes untested. We enter 2021 with the effects of COVID-19 having taken the lives of greater than 350,000 American lives as of this writing. A disproportionate amount of people of black and brown hue has been afflicted and succumb to the effects of this pandemic. A multiplicity of events has allowed this pandemic to spiral to this current level, lack of leadership, political, miseducation and misdirection as well as racial and economic bias. Let's just be open, we as a people have not had a positive experience with medical science. We know about smallpox in blankets, non-treatment of men with syphilis, utilizing the cells of family members for scientific advancement without permission of the family just to recall a few of the indiscretions. It is not without warrant for our population to view this pandemic with skepticism. The origin of this aspect of corona virus is in question as to why we did not isolate and control the breakout when we were first made aware in December 2019. Again, a manifestation of politics and misdirection.

Let's define vaccine, a biological preparation that provides active acquired immunity to a particular infectious disease. You are given in a vaccination a particle which allows your own immune system to make defenses which will stop or reduce the effects of the infectious disease. You CANNOT get the disease from the vaccination. You can have reactions to the items which make up the vaccine especially if you are a highly allergic person. Most just have muscle aches at the injection site, possible low-grade fever, stomach upset. Therefore these vaccines are first tried in a diverse population to determine what works and what does not. The COVID-19 vaccine was generated by advances in science and DNA engineering which in the past would have taken years to produce. These methods have allowed for a vaccine to be brought forward in a timely and effective process. No steps were skipped, no corners cut. Yes, it was approved by the FDA under Emergency Use Authorization because the testing up to December 2020 demonstrated that the benefit was better than the risk of not getting a method to control the spread of the disease.

We are hit the hardest and suffer the severest consequences of this disease. We have a disproportionate effect of hypertension, diabetes and obesity in our people. A good percentage of our population have poor dietary habits and diminished opportunity for healthy food options in our communities. There are many methods to address the problems listed yet that is not the purpose of this article. As of this writing there are two vaccines authorized within the United States for distribution, Pfizer-Biotech and Moderna. Others will follow as they complete their clinical trials. Yes, I got the vaccine on Wednesday, 30 December 2020. My hospital received the Pfizer version. I accepted the vaccine because of three things, I am an anesthesiologist, and I am potentially exposed every day of my vocation, I have a few of those pre-existing conditions and COVID-19 has affected my household. So, for me the benefit outnumbers the risk. I will not tell you what to do, I can only share my story. I believe the science and not the speculation. I expect each of my Fraters to read trustworthy sources, speak with your medical team, evaluate the information and make the appropriate decision for your household and your wellbeing. COVID-19 is real and potentially lethal. Fraters use what you know and not what you heard. The life you save maybe your own or someone in your immediate family. I am encouraging all Scottish Rite Masons to embrace the science and dispense with the speculation.

Trust the Science Reduce the Speculation

Fraternal Greetings,

Maurice B. Gilbert, MD, FASA 33°, KT

Happenings Around the Orient

Broken Column ceremony in honor of PGM William. E. Terry was held on April 3, 2021 in Columbus, Ga. Brothers and Sisters of Columbus District No. 4, under the leadership of DDGM Matthew Bonham and ADDGM Horace Boarders with the assistance of DDGM Emeritus Freddie Grisson for executing the event



GIG in Leadership Positions supporting Our Community

On Saturday April 10th, 2021 the York Rite Bodies of Georgia, presented Ms. Sandra Brownlee (Founder and CEO) of "Discovering Soldiers Potential II" with a total of \$2000, to support her organization endeavors. This organization supports Waypoint of Griffin, Waypoint of LaGrange and also the Phoenix House in Griffin, Georgia. This covers multiple services to include Veterans assisting with VA claims to housing Homeless Female Veterans and their children as the Transition back into Society as productive Citizens.



Food for Thought



I often use metaphors to help illustrate my point of views, and with the Tokyo Olympics less than 100 days away I thought I would use one of my favorite events in this food for thought. The 400m men's hurdles is one of my favorite Olympic event and no one did it better than USA's own Edwin Moses. He won Gold Medals in the 1977 and 1984 Olympics (USA Boycotted 1980 Games). From 1977-1987 he won 107 consecutive finals and a total 122 races in all. The way he ran **Speed, Endurance, Skill** and **technique**, you had to know he totally **Focused** for each race, not to allow any obstacle (Hurdle) to prevent him from winning that race, it was a thing of beauty to watch.

The Georgia legislator introduced and passed bill SB 202 and our Governor signed the bill on 25 March. We realize this was done because of the outcome of the last election didn't come out in their favor. So now they are trying to change the game by putting hurdles in our way to suppress our voting rights. We have to prepare like Edwin Moses would prepare for his races with **Speed** get as many people registered to vote and if you need a mail in ballot, do it early. **Endurance** don't get frustrated by their attempts to stop your vote that you give up your rights and don't vote. **Skill** and **Technique** make plans on how to vote, so you can overcome the obstacles (Hurdles). **Focus** we are in this race to win, it will be long and you may get side tracked by all of the negativity but, if we stay the course we will all make it.

See you at the finish line Fraters

This is your Bulletin Fraters it will only be as successful as you make it, your contribution is a must and is very welcome to improve this to greater heights. Enjoy!!!!!!!!!!

G.I.G. Michael Chappell 33°, Editor in Chief

Sovereign Grand Commander



Cory D. Hawkins Sr. Esq. 33°

Corey D. Hawkins, Sr. was born August 27, 1972, in Leighton, Alabama (Colbert County) the second of three sons to Mr. Parker Lee and Mrs. Diann Hawkins. He graduated in 1990 from Colbert County High School with an advanced curriculum diploma.

Grand Master Hawkins began honing his leadership and oratorical skills at a young age in the Baptist Church as a member of the Crusaders, an organization for boys. As a Crusader, he served as Crusader-in-Chief (President) for his local church chapter (Mt. New Home M.B. Church), Crusader-in-Chief of the Muscle Shoals District and Crusader-in-Chief of the Northwest Alabama District. Grand Master Hawkins also won the Crusaders Junior Oratorical Contest many times over at the Muscle Shoals District Level, Northwest Alabama District Level, and the Alabama State Level. To this date he still lives by the Crusader Watchword: For with God nothing shall be impossible. Luke 1:37.

After graduating from high school, Grand Master Hawkins entered Alabama A. & M. University where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Education. While at Alabama A. & M. University, Grand Master Hawkins made the Dean's List on several occasions. Upon graduation he matriculated to Birmingham, Alabama, and began a teaching and coaching career in the public school system. As a middle school basketball coach, Grand Master Hawkins won the championship in each division he coached in at least once. He also was named Middle School Coach of the Year twice for his division. As Assistant Varsity Basketball Coach, Grand Master Hawkins was fortunate enough to assist each team to the Alabama State High School Playoffs. One of his great accomplishments has been the success in transferring the TEAM concept from the basketball court to the administration of the numerous Masonic houses that he has led.

While teaching, Grand Master Hawkins worked his way through law school. Upon graduation from the Birmingham School of Law and having passed the Alabama State Bar exam on the first attempt, Grand Master Hawkins began his career as a trial attorney. Attorney Hawkins has been successful in his professional career. He founded The Hawkins Firm, LLC, Attorneys & Counselors At Law. Since being admitted to practice law in the State of Alabama, he has been admitted by the United States District Court, Northern District of Alabama; United States District Court, Middle District of Alabama; United States District Court, Southern District of Alabama; and the United States Court of Appeals, Eleventh Circuit. Grand Master Hawkins is also a Certified Guardian Ad Litem. Grand Master Hawkins was raised on June 17, 1991, in Hopewell Lodge No. 198, Leighton, Alabama. He has served over all houses both York and Scottish Rite, and has been the guest speaker at many masonic functions.

Contact Us

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Grand Master Hawkins was elected to his present position on July 24, 2013, at the 143rd Annual Grand Lodge Communication held in Mobile, Alabama. He is currently the youngest Grand Master in Prince Hall Freemasonry and the second youngest Grand Master ever in the history of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, F. & A. M. of Alabama. Grand Master Hawkins is the proud father of one son, Corey D. Hawkins, Jr., and one daughter, Autumn D. Hawkins. He is also an active member of First Baptist Church Ensley. Grand Master Hawkins has always believed that hard work pays off. As a result, he possesses the credentials, qualifications, leadership abilities and experience to be at the helm of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, F. & A. M. of Alabama.

BACKGROUND

Born August 27, 1972 in Leighton, Alabama Actively Involved Father of Two Children, Corey D. Hawkins, Jr. & Autumn D. Hawkins Member First Baptist Church Ensley

EDUCATION

B.S. in Education, Alabama A&M University
Juris Doctorate, Birmingham School of Law Admitted to Alabama State Bar

MASONIC EXPERIENCE

Most Worshipful Grand Master, Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, F. & A. M. of Alabama
Past Right Worshipful Grand Marshal, Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, F. & A. M. of Alabama
Former Administrative Assistant to the Grand Master, Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, F. & A. M. of Alabama
Past Area Deputy Masonic District #14, Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, F. & A. M. of Alabama
Past Master, Zion Hill Lodge #770 F. & A. M.-PHA & Gary-Ensley Lodge #110 F. & A. M.-PHA
Member, Ruth Lodge #33 F. & A. M.-PHA
Honorary Past Grand Master, Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, F. & A. M. of Tennessee
Right Excellent Deputy Grand High Priest, Most Excellent W.H. Mack Grand Chapter HRAM of Alabama, PHA
Assistant General Grand Marshal, General Conference of Grand Chapters, HRAM, USA & Bahamas
Past President, Jefferson Co. Convention of High Priests HRAM-PHA
Past High Priest, Hawkins' Mark Chapter #20 HRAM-PHA
Member, Omega Chapter #65 HRAM-PHA
Past Grand Thrice Illustrious Master, Most Illustrious W.H. Mack Grand Council R&SM of Alabama, PHA
Chairman of General Grand Committee on Jurisprudence, General Conference of Grand Councils, R&SM, USA
Past Thrice Illustrious Master, Central Alabama Council #01 R&SM-PHA
Honorary Past Grand Thrice Illustrious Master, Charles F. Williams Grand Council, Jurisdiction of Tennessee
Right Eminent Grand Commander, Hendley-Mack Grand Commandery KT of Alabama, PHA
Honorary Past Most Eminent Grand Master of the Grand Encampment, Grand Encampment of KT, USA & Its Jurisdiction
Past State Deputy of Alabama, Grand Encampment of KT, USA & Its Jurisdiction
Right Eminent Grand Commander, Hendley-Mack Grand Commandery KT of Alabama, PHA
Past Eminent Commander, DeMolay Commandery #42 KT-PHA
Right Eminent Grand Sentinel, Convent General USA, KYCH, PHA, Inc.
Legal Advisor, Convent General USA, KYCH, PHA, Inc.
Past Prior, Alabama Priory #14, KYCH-PHA
KYGCH Induction, 2011

Assistant Grand Auditor-General, United Supreme Council AASR, SJ, PHA, USA
Attorney to the Sovereign Grand Commander, United Supreme Council AASR, SJ, PHA, USA
Sovereign Grand Inspector General, United Supreme Council AASR, SJ, PHA, USA,
Coroneted 2013

Grand Inspector General, United Supreme Council AASR, SJ, PHA, USA, Class of 2005

Past President, Commanders of the Rite, Alabama Council of Deliberation

Past Commander-in-Chief, Red Cross Consistory #2A AASR PHA, Valley of Birmingham,
Orient of Alabama

Past Grand Commander, Red Cross Council of Kadosh

Past Most Wise, Red Cross Chapter of Rose Croix

Past Thrice Potent Master, Red Cross Lodge of Perfection

Past President, S.J. Bennett Commanders of the Rite

Honorary Past Imperial Potentate, AEAONMS

Past Imperial Deputy of the Oasis, Khedive Temple #16, AEAONMS, Oasis of Birmingham,
Desert of Alabama

Past Illustrious Potentate, Khedive Temple #16, AEAONMS, Oasis of Birmingham, Desert of
Alabama

Past President, Khedive Temple #16 Past Potentates Council

Legion of Honor, AEAONMS

Past Desert Chief Rabban, Desert of Alabama, AEAONMS

AWARDS RECEIVED

1998 Master's Award for Greatest Net Increase in a Rural Lodge Masonic District
#17, Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge F&AM of Alabama

2011, 2012, and 2013 Outstanding Leadership Awards, Most Worshipful Prince Hall
Grand Lodge F. & A. M. of Alabama

2014 Metro Birmingham Branch of the NAACP Man of the Year 2014 Trademark
Who's Who Inductee

OTHER FRATERNAL AFFILIATIONS

Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. (Life Member)

Jones Valley Lodge #14 IBPOEW

Past Alabama State President, IBPOEW

American Turtle Association

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Bar Association

Birmingham Bar Association

Magic City Bar



SGIG Larry Martin

The Gentleman Mason

A Chivalrous, courteous and honorable man of Noble birth attached to a Royal House are some of the definitions of the word **Gentleman**. Gentleman is the words I use to describe our own SGIG Martin and just in case you ask what Royal house he may belong to it is the house of the Most High.

A Tribute to our beloved SGIG Larry Martin.....you will be missed!!!!!!

(Excerpt from SGIG Larry Martins Story written by him circa 2015)

My Name is Larry Martin, I was born on January 14, 1947 in Lithonia, Georgia, I am the third child of my loving parents of the late Lee Allen and Rosa Bell Martin. I received my primary and secondary education here in the city of Atlanta, Georgia finishing C.L. Harper High School in 1965. I then attend Morehouse College and completed my studies in 1969 with a B.A. Degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Accounting. I also received a Bachelor of Theology Degree from Carver Bible College in 1981 and Master of Arts in Ministry Degree from Moody Theological Seminary and Graduate School in Chicago, Illinois in 2008.

I served in the U.S. Army for two years (1969-1971) and the last year in the Republic of South Viet Nam. I served with the 101st Airborne Division (Screaming Eagles) and was awarded a number of medals including Vietnamese Service Ribbon, Army Accommodation Medal, two Air Medals and the Bronze Star for Valor.

I am married to Patricia Ann Martin for 51 years and GOD blessed us with two daughters, Patrice and Nicole, Patrice was called home in August 2008. We were married on October 17, 1969 and reside in Southwest Atlanta for over forty years. We have three grandchildren, Diante, Derek and Mariah and one great grandchild Adan.

I am a member of Elizabeth Baptist Church where I have served for over fifty years in various capacities. I was ordained a Deacon in June 1975. I have served as Sunday School Teacher, Superintendent of the Sunday School for three years and have taught in Bible Conferences, Seminars, classes at Carver Bible College and continuing to teach Middy Bible Study every Wednesday until God called me home to be with him.

I am a active member of Morehouse College Alumni Association and a member of Prince Hall Masons where I am Past Master of H.R. Butler Lodge No 23, Past Most Wise and Perfect Master of the Chapter of Rose Croix, Past District Treasurer of Atlanta Masonic District No 3 and Past Chaplin of the Lodge of Sorrow Team. I am also Past Commander in Chief of Atlanta Consistory No 24, Past Chancellor of the Georgia Council of Deliberation, Past Secretary of the Thurgood Marshall Chapter of the Phylaxis Society, a member of the Shining C's, and a Thirty-Third Degree Mason and a member of the United Supreme Council and Past President of Atlanta Commanders of the Rite. I have served as Right Worshipful Grand Secretary of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Georgia for six years. I served as the coordinator for the Thirty Third Degree Team which performed at the United Supreme Council held in Atlanta, Georgia in 2011. A member of Gate City Chapter No 9 Holy Royal Arch Mason Jurisdiction of Georgia, Currently I serve as Regional Coordinator of North Georgia for the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Free Masonry and as Past President of the Peach State Commanders of the Rite for the Orient of Georgia. I also serve as a member of the Divine Team representing Deputy Primus T. James 33° Active and the Orient of Georgia at the annual convening of the United Supreme Council.

To Every Thing There Is A Season
And A Time To Every Purpose Under The Heavens.....

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Memorial to Our Beloved

To Our Falling Fraters

You Have Transitioned to that Celestial Chamber

You Will be Missed, But Never Forgotten.....

SGIG Larry Martin Atlanta COR

GIG John Hamilton, Sr. Ezra COR

The APEX is a quarterly publication for the PSCOR. Months for issue are April, July, October, January. The APEX will be issued electronically through the GA COD website, PSCOR Facebook page and through your Local COR Recorder. All submissions for this newsletter must be submitted by the 1st day of each issue month Email your submission to your zone representative.

