Greetings Worshipful Masters, Wardens, Past Masters and Brothers of District # 17, When Joshua became the successor to Moses, God gave him a very high command. Joshua had to prepare the people to cross the Jordan River into the Promise Land. Joshua challenged the people to follow God's directing and not their own strategy when he said, “You have not passed this way heretofore.” (Joshua 3:4a KJV) Likewise, we will face many new challenges in 2014, may we seek God's divine direction as we strive to be successful in achieving new goals that have been set for the new year. I would like to personally congratulate you for the excellent work you have done in the past year. It is because of Prince Hall Masons like you that District Seventeen has been recognized for its outstanding masonic leadership in the State of Alabama. Your hard work, perseverance, and dedication are an example to others on how to achieve outstanding results. Thank you for your participation in the Open House held on December 15, 2013, at the Richard Showers Center for inactive masons and new members. It was indeed a successful gathering.

Many thanks to WM Savier W. Engram, Bro. Jeffrey L Ayers, Sr., Asst. District Deputy Anthony Johnson and members of George W. Braxdal Lodge # 28 for spearheading the Thanksgiving Luncheon for the underprivileged families in Decatur, Al. I also would like to thank the President of the WM’s Council East, WM Tyrone Harris and all the brothers of District Seventeen who journeyed to Decatur to help cook and serve the Thanksgiving meals to the needy families.

Assistant GDD Anthony Johnson and I traveled to Sheffield, AL, on December 14, 2013 to meet with Assistant GDD Robert L. Goodloe and the WM’s Council of District # 17 West; the meeting was very informative. We discussed the Authorized Regalia Guide and Dress Code Specifications by Grand Master Corey D. Hawkins, Sr., Esq. Worshipful Masters, you are responsible for presenting this same information (Regalia Guide and Dress Code) to your lodge members. It is also your responsibility to attend Worshipful Masters Council meetings or have a representative present at each meeting.

Let's make the New Year, 2014, a banner year for Prince Hall Masonry.

“The mind is like a parachute-----it doesn’t work unless it’s open.” Anonymous

Submitted By Andrew J. Fuller
RW Grand District Deputy (District No. 17)

City of Madison Halloween Community Service

On October 31, 2013, the Brothers for Lincoln Lodge #99 assisted the City of Madison in the city’s annual Halloween celebration. The city hosted giving out candy and a haunted house at Dublin Park Community Center. The event is usually held outdoors but due to the rain the event was moved indoors. The brothers fo Lincoln lodge #99 with assistance of Sister Joette Loveless of Hendley Chapter #855 O.E.S. assisted in handing out candy to over 700 costumed dressed children.
District No. 17 Northeast Region Celebrates Prince Hall Americanism Day

On Sunday, 22 September 2013 the brothers of District No. 17 Northeast Region along with Order of Eastern Star Chapters of District No. 15 came together to celebrate the legacy of Prince Hall during the Annual Prince Hall Americanism Day program. Also during this program a representative of Ancient Craft Masonry and Order of Eastern Star along with representatives of all other appendent bodies gave presentations pertaining to their respective organizations. Following the presentation the message of the day was brought forth by Pastor James Roach of Agape Ministries. Special guest attending this year’s program was the Most Worshipful Grand Master Corey D. Hawkins who along with Grand District Deputy RW Andrew J. Fuller presented the District No. 17 scholarship award to the 2013 recipient. Grand Master Hawkins also provided remarks commending District No. 17 on the good works that is being conducted in the region. Submitted By: PM Anthony Johnson

District No. 17 Gives Back to the Community

On Thursday, 28 November 2013 Thanksgiving Day the brothers of District No. 17 were able to take a period of time away from their own families to provide community service to the less fortunate demonstrating the true meaning of Thanksgiving. This event has become a staple community service project in Northeast Alabama led by Bro. Jeffery Ayers and the members of members of George W. Braxdall No. 28 (Decatur, Al.). Many contributions were made in support of this event spanning from financial contributions, turkey and brisket donations, and most important brothers finding time to assist in serving those in attendance. The event took place in the East Acres Community Center located in Decatur, Al. where over 300 people were fed throughout the day.

“And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.”

Matthew 25:40

Submitted By: PM Anthony Johnson
Sweet Home Lodge No. 179 Thanksgiving Basket Giveaway

Sweet Home Lodge 179 wanted to help out families that are struggling through these tough times. So they gave away five Thanksgiving Baskets on Nov. 26th and 27th. Sweet Home Lodge No. 179 is aware of many people that are struggling to make ends meet these days, but one thing no family should go without is a Thanksgiving dinner. So five families were nominated from the surrounding churches in Madison and Huntsville area and boxes of Thanksgiving food were put together by the members containing stuffing, canned vegetables, macaroni and cheese, Yams and Turkey just to name a few items. Some families came to pick up their boxes and some were delivered.

Submitted By: PM Joseph Kimbrough

District No. 17 at the Alabama A&M University Homecoming Parade

On 5 October, 2013 the Brothers of District No. 17 came together to show their support of their beloved Alabama A&M Bulldogs as they participated in the Annual Homecoming Parade. The members of the District led the way for the Prince Hall Affiliated organizations participating in the parade followed by the Shriners of Al Azhar Temple No. 195 and the Al Azhar Court No. 181 Bicycle Unit. The brothers had a good showing in the parade and represented Prince Hall Masonry well during this event. The Annual Homecoming parade has become a staple event for the District to not only demonstrate their support for Alabama A&M but also to show a presence of Prince Hall Masonry in the Northeast Alabama region.

Submitted By: PM Anthony Johnson
On Sunday, 15 December 2013 the Northeast Alabama Worshipful Masters Council held its 1st Annual Open House session for Ancient Craft Masonry. During this event each Worshipful Master presented the programs and projects for their respective lodge as well as information pertaining to their meeting days and times and contact information for the guests that were in attendance. The theme for this event was coined “Each One Reach One” and in essence of this theme Grand District Deputy Andrew Fuller challenged every member of the District to invite a Master Mason that was not a current member of a lodge in Alabama or an individual that has expressed an interest in becoming a Prince Hall Mason to attend this event. After the Worshipful Masters presentations were given the panel fielded questions from those in attendance ranging from demit process, joining fees, and community service projects.

The guests in attendance for the event were very receptive of the information that was being presented to them by the members of the Worshipful Masters Council. The point of emphasis of our organization making good men better and that we only want men of good character within our ranks was driven home to the audience making it clearly understood of what the foundation of Prince Hall Masonry is all about. Grand District Deputy Fuller closed the session by thanking everyone in attendance and immediately following was a period of fellowship allowing the brothers in attendance to interact with the guests on a more personal basis. This event will be conducted annually by the WM Council based upon the interest demonstrated by the guests in attendance.

Submitted By: PM Anthony Johnson
Lincoln Lodge No. 99 Founders’ Day Unity BBQ

On September 21, 2013 Lincoln Lodge #99 hosted a Founders’ Day Unity Barbeque with Glittering Star Chapter #94. The event was to celebrate the great legacy of Prince Hall and the ongoing commitment of the brothers of Lincoln Lodge #99 and the Sisters of Glittering Star #94 for serving the community of the City of Madison since June 1905 (Lincoln Lodge No. 99) and June 1907 (Glittering Star Chapter No. 94).

Submitted By

WM  Laffon Brelland
On December 19th, the members of Morning Star Lodge No. 50 came together to participate in their annual charitable endeavor of packing and providing 24 Christmas boxes to widows, low-income families in need and former members in the Huntsville community. The annual event allowed for the members of the Lodge to not only promote fellowship between Lodge members but to also bestow blessings onto those individuals and families within the community that may be less fortunate during this holiday season. Members of Hendley Chapter No. 855 also assisted in this endeavor along with family members and candidates for membership in both Hendley Chapter No. 855 and Morning Star Lodge No. 50.
Lincoln Lodge No. 99 Christmas Celebration

On December 6, 2013, Lincoln Lodge #99 hosted their Annual Christmas Celebration at the House of Alpha in Huntsville, AL. The event is an annual fundraiser for Lincoln Lodge No. 99 to provide assistance to the Lincoln Lodge #99 widows and a building fundraiser. The music was provided by DJ Charlie Hustle. The photography was provided by Brother Melvin Green of Pride of Lincoln Lodge #817. The food was provided by Brother Jimmy Payne of Lincoln Lodge #99. This year’s event was attended by 120 people. Most patrons were from the North Alabama Masonic community. There were many others who traveled from Central Alabama to attend the event. The culmination of the event was the drawing of the three Raffle prizes. The third place prize was a $50 Visa Gift Card. The second place prize was a dinner for two at Connors Restaurant along with 2 tickets for a movie at Monaco Movie Theater. The grand prize was a Cruise for two to the Bahamas. The 2014 Christmas Celebration will be on December 5, 2014 starting at 8 PM at the House of Alpha, Huntsville, AL

Submitted By WM Laffon Brelland
During October 18th~20th, the Brothers of Morning Star Lodge No. 50 assisted in Operation Stand Down for their October Community Service Project. Operation Stand Down assists Veterans so that they can once again be self-sustaining and better connected to the community. Stand Down refers to a grassroots, community-based intervention program designed to help the nation’s estimated 260,000 homeless veterans “combat” life on the streets. Homeless veterans are brought together in a single location for one to three days and are provided access to the community resources needed to begin addressing their individual problems and rebuilding their lives. In the military, Stand Down afforded battle-weary soldiers the opportunity to renew their spirit, health and overall sense of well-being.

Members of Morning Star Lodge No. 50 participated with the set up and break down of this event. This event was chosen because the Lodge has several Military veterans and you never know when you may be one of the homeless people needing help. During this event, over 85 homeless veterans were helped.

Submitted By: WM Jerome Glover
Lincoln Lodge No. 99 Appreciation Breakfast

On October 19, 2013 the brothers of Lincoln Lodge #99 hosted a Glittering Star Appreciation Breakfast. This event was to show the appreciation the brothers of Lincoln Lodge #99 had for the sisters of Glittering Star Chapter #94 for all of their help, devotion and assistance over many years with Lincoln Lodge #99. It has been said that behind every great man is a great a woman. The brothers of Lincoln Lodge #99 wanted to recognize to the sisters that they are the “help meet “ of Lincoln Lodge #99. At this event Brother Thaddeus Thompson cooked a hearty breakfast of pancakes, sausage, eggs, hash browns.
Big Spring Lodge No. 25 Annual St. John’s Day Feast
Morning Star Lodge No. 50 donates to the St. Luke Young Adult Ministry (SLYAM) to help homeless in the Huntsville Community

Members of Morning Star Lodge No. 50 attended the Benefit Concert and Donation Drive held by the St. Luke Young Adult Ministry (SLYAM) at the St. Luke Christian Church in Huntsville, Alabama on Friday, November 15. The benefit concert was an effort by the SLYAM to raise money for the homeless community in Huntsville. The theme for the night was “My Brother’s Keeper” coming from Matthew 25:40, which reads, “And the King shall answer and say unto them, ‘Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.”

Morning Star Lodge No. 50 felt the desire to help out those who were less fortunate than others in hopes that it would improve lives and make the situation of the homeless a little easier. Members of the lodge made personal donations of hygiene products, non-perishable food items, and gently used clothing the night of the concert and the Lodge made a monetary donation in the name of Morning Star Lodge No. 50 in hopes to assist the homeless in Huntsville, AL. All donations from this event will be used at New Futures Inc. Marilyn V. Mabry Family Lodge which is a non-profit organization that serves homeless families with a focus on keeping the family together as they re-establish themselves.  

Submitted By: WM Jerome Glover
MORNING STAR LODGE NO. 50
6TH ANNUAL
BLACK & WHITE CHARITY BALL

You are cordially invited to this Gala Affair

**Location:** Von Braun Center
**Date:** 28 February 2014

**Time:** 7:30pm-1:00am
**Dinner:** 8pm-9pm

**Attire:** Black & White Evening/Semi-Formal
**Advance Tickets Only:** $35

**Entertainment:** Live DJ

**Ticket Information**
**Contact:** Brother Charles Bauerle @256-655-8916, Brother Marvin Hughes @256-503-7428,
or via email ms50lille@gmail.com

**Hotel Info:** Embassy Suites
1-800-362-2779
Group Rate $119 plus tax
Group Name “Morning Star Lodge”
Deadline: 8 February 2014

**Online Registration:**
www.huntsville.embassysuites.com
Group Code: 627

Deadline for ticket sales is 10 February 2014
Proceeds from this event will be donated to the

Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation