



April Newsletter 2025

Pyramid Lodge #238

District Nineteen, Louisiana Jurisdiction

From the Worshipful Master's Corner

WM Reflections

It has been a positive experience serving as WM thus far, and I'm blessed to say the biggest challenge has been keeping up with emails. In this role, I'm realizing more and more that no role is more important than the other in a properly established organization. I can only operate at a level that reflects the strengths of the other roles in the lodge. So, I appreciate how we hold one another accountable in regards to exercising our strengths for the good of the order. We were blessed to stand upright as good and noble men in today's society. And for that reason, it is our duty to utilize our blessings for the benefit of the world we live in.

Wellness Tip

Brothers, we are builders, but let's not disregard our own body's temple. Please see the following wellness tip.

Researchers at the University of Oslo found that lack of sleep leads to reduced clearance of substances from the brain. These substances are many of the same waste products that are found in the brains of Alzheimer's patients. Strive to get at least 7 hours of sleep each night to reduce these toxins in the brain.

Fraternally,

WM Eric Martin

From the Senior Warden's Corner

No Report

From the Junior Warden's Corner

Greetings Brothers,

First, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to everyone who participated in the initiation of Bro. Charles Davis back in March 2025. It was truly an amazing experience, and we are all looking forward to the next phase of his journey with us.

I'm also pleased to announce that the scholarship form is now complete. If you haven't received the form and would like one, please don't hesitate to let us know. This is just one of the many ways we continue to support and give back to our community.

Our budget has been officially voted on and accepted by the Craft, which now enables us to take on even more initiatives and projects. We are excited and fully prepared to hit the ground running this year with a focus on service and positive impact.

As always, remember that masonry is not limited to what we do within the Lodge; it's about how we live our lives and serve others in our everyday actions.

Thank you, Brothers, for your continued dedication and commitment.

Fraternally,

JW Lawrence Souffrant



Welcome New Members!

Entered Apprentice (EA) Charlie Davis

📅 Upcoming Events & Important Dates

Date	Event	Location / Time
May 12	Business Meeting	Zoom – 7:30 PM CST
May 24	Louisiana Monthly Masonic Training	Zoom – 9:00 AM CST
May 31	First/Second Degree Work	Decatur, AL – 8:00 AM CST
June 11 – 15	Grand Session Call	Baton Rouge, LA

_MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:

Interview with PM Anthony W. Bush

Preserving the Craft, Inspiring the Future

1. What inspired you to become a Mason, and how has your journey through the Craft evolved since you joined?

My inspiration to become a Prince Hall Mason came from two key influences. First, I was approached as a young soldier—just 18 years old—while stationed at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Although I felt honored, I declined at the time. Four years later, I made the decision to

petition. Second, Freemasonry runs in my blood. I'm proud to be a third-generation Prince Hall Mason.

Since joining, I've seen the Craft evolve in meaningful ways, particularly with technology and social interaction. Technology has made Masonic education more accessible—information is readily available for those who seek it. On the social side, we interact less face-to-face due to the internet, but that hasn't stopped the flow of knowledge among brothers.

2. How do you interpret the core values of Freemasonry—Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth—in your daily life?

Brotherly Love is the deep bond formed through the obligation we take. It means showing mutual respect to every brother. While we may not always agree, that love ensures we disagree respectfully—without harboring malice or ill intent.

Relief is about being there for your brothers—stepping in to help whenever needed, as long as doing so doesn't bring personal or financial harm.

Truth is the simplest yet most essential value: *your word is your bond*. Be honest with your brothers, even when the truth is difficult. It's through truth that trust is built and sustained.

3. Can you share a memorable moment or lesson from your Masonic experience that had a lasting impact on you?

Absolutely. One moment stands out clearly. As a Fellowcraft, I was giving my proficiency and felt fully prepared. I delivered my obligation confidently—at least I thought I did. But I missed one word. Just one. I was told I had failed and would have to wait another month.

The brother who failed me? Bobby C. Choate—a new member of Pyramid Lodge and a friend of mine for over 43 years. I was upset, but he reminded me, “We said verbatim.” That moment taught me the value of precision and accountability.

From then on, I led study halls at Trestleboard Military Lodge #176 in Panama and was later honored with the “Most Improved Master Mason of the Year” award—an award I still proudly display. My motto became: *Get it right*. If you didn't, you'd better be able to prove you understood the material.

4. What role do you think Freemasonry should play in today's society, and how can lodges stay relevant for future generations?

Freemasonry should represent the best of what manhood stands for. As W.E.B. Du Bois described, we must be part of the “Talented Tenth”—those who lead by example. That means showing leadership, integrity, and strength in our homes, in our communities, and in society at large.

To stay relevant, we need to remain visible, engaged, and focused on mentorship. Young men today need role models—strong, principled men they can look up to. That's who we should be.

5. How do you contribute to mentoring new members and preserving the traditions of the lodge?

Mentorship is where I put much of my energy. I'm deeply involved in guiding new Master Masons and those seeking to join the Craft. I freely share the knowledge I've gained over the years, because knowledge kept to oneself is of no value.

Passing on our teachings ensures that the traditions, values, and strength of our fraternity live on for generations to come.

□ Education Corner / Masonic Light / Feature Article

Coming soon

Sick and Distressed:

N/A

Member Birthdays & Anniversaries

Name	Birthday	Anniversary
SD Bro Michael Lewis III	April	

Congratulations:

We extend heartfelt congratulations to Brother PM Bishop Dr. Derrick P. Whitlow I for his instrumental role—through both his ecclesiastical leadership and martial arts influence—in securing the Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award for three esteemed Masonic leaders: Most Worshipful Grand Master Ralph Slaughter, District Deputy Grand Master Frank Joshua, and Honorary Past Grand Master Walter R. Simmons Jr. This prestigious honor was awarded in recognition of their many years of distinguished Masonic service, within the final two weeks of President Joseph R. Biden's administration.

District Deputy Grand Master Frank Joshua received his award in March 2025, while Most Worshipful Grand Master Ralph Slaughter and Honorary Past Grand Master Walter R. Simmons Jr. received their awards via mail on Friday, April 25, 2025.

Additionally, we proudly recognize Brother Bishop Dr. Derrick P. Whitlow I for his recent nomination and induction into the National Sports Karate Museum in Houston, Texas, where he

was honored as Historian General and acknowledged as a 21st Century Martial Arts 8th Degree Grandmaster and Pioneer—a recognition of both national and international significance.

He now stands among martial arts legends such as Grandmaster Chuck Norris, Grandmaster Bill “Superfoot” Wallace, Grandmaster Mark Dacascos, Grandmaster Greg “Shogun” Brown, and O’Sensei James V. Debrow III of the Shabazz Karate Institute and the legendary Black Martial Arts Masters of the Fighting Tigers’ School LLC.

A truly outstanding achievement—congratulations once again to our distinguished Brother PM Bishop Dr. Derrick P. Whitlow I.

Community Service:



PM Hosie Stephens III participated with St Anne - Pacelli Catholic School Columbus, Ga in support of Military Kids Appreciation Day. Activities included Military parents' vs Military kids in a variety of events. The Military kids were declared the overall winner.

💬 Closing Words

“The goodness of a man is reflected in how he treats others, how he leads with humility, and how he upholds the principles of truth, justice, and charity. Freemasonry teaches us that true greatness is found in the service we provide to our brothers and our communities.”

— Most Worshipful Grand Master A. Ralph Slaughter

 Stay Connected

Email: pyramidlodge238@gmail.com

District Nineteen Website:

<https://district-19.github.io/Lodge-Website/>

Grand Lodge website:

<https://mwphglla.org/>