



DISTRICT NINETEEN

LOUISIANA JURISDICTION

March 31, 2025

FIRST EDITION 2025



Calendar of Event

1. MWPHGL of Louisiana Monthly Masonic Webinar Training: 4th Saturday of each month at 0900 CST.
2. MWPHGL of Louisiana Monthly Prayer Call – Last Thursday of each month - Time: 8:00 PM Central time zone, Call in Number: 1-978-990-5000 Access Code: 887638. After calling in, please do not announce yourself & Press *6 to mute your phone.
3. EGCOES of Louisiana Weekly Monday Devotional Service - Time: 7:00 PM Central time zone, Call in Number: 1-480-660-5323 Access Code: 125234
4. District # 19 Quarterly Meeting – We will send out the zoom link and read ahead materials.
5. Quarterly submissions to the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Louisiana Plumb line journal. The MWPHGL of Louisiana Plumb Line is published quarterly, and the MWPHGL of Louisiana Plumb line submissions will be taken from the quarterly District newsletter.



District News

Congratulations to the Elected Officers of 2025!

In the first quarter of the year, District Nineteen embraced a season of renewal and reflection, joyfully celebrating the start of the new Masonic year with enthusiasm and purpose. We welcomed our newly elected officers, whose leadership inspires a collective vision for growth, unity, and continued dedication to our Masonic principles. Alongside this transition, we observed both Black History Month in February and Women's History Month in March, creating meaningful opportunities for education, recognition, and community engagement. During Black History Month, we honored the profound contributions of Black Freemasons and their impact on the fraternity and society, while also participating in outreach initiatives that uplifted and supported Black communities. In March, we celebrated Women's History Month by acknowledging the strength, resilience, and accomplishments of women across all sectors, with special recognition of those who have shaped and enriched the Masonic tradition. These observances set a powerful tone for the year ahead, reinforcing our commitment to deepened understanding, inclusivity, and service, as we strive to live by the values of brotherhood, faith, hope, and charity.

District Nineteen recently took part in a deeply meaningful community outreach event in Huntsville, AL. Our members had the opportunity to visit a local tent city, where they distributed essential socks and boots to those in need. Additionally, they made a visit to Mann Hise, delivering five bags of clothes and shoes for the residents. During their time there, they met a homeless woman and were able to offer her socks, a pillow, and some cookies, bringing a small moment of comfort and joy to her day. This heartwarming experience is a testament to our members' unwavering commitment to making a positive impact in the community, and we are incredibly proud of their ongoing dedication to service and compassion.



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

MWPHGL of Louisiana website: <https://mwphglla.org/>



1. District Nineteen Degree work 29 March 2025 at 0900 in Decatur, Alabama.

2. DISTRICT NUMBER 19 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DATE	MASONIC EVENTS 2025	LOCATION
JANUARY		
11	Kadosh 148 Business Meeting	Zoom
18	Pyramid 238 Execute Council/Business Meeting	Zoom
25	MWPHGL of Louisiana Monthly Training	Zoom
FEBRUARY		
15	Pyramid 238 Execute Council/Business Meeting	Zoom
22	MWPHGL of Louisiana Monthly Training	Zoom
MARCH		
08	District Nineteen Quarterly General membership meeting	Zoom
13-16	Pelican Council of Deliberation Louisiana	Baton Rouge
22	MWPHGL of Louisiana Monthly Training	Zoom
29	Pyramid 238 Business Meeting and degree work	Zoom
APRIL		
12	Kadosh 148 Business Meeting	Zoom
19	Pyramid 238 Executive Council/Business Meeting	Zoom
26	MWPHGL of Louisiana Monthly Training	Zoom
MAY		
17	Pyramid 238 Executive Council/Business Meeting	Zoom

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24	MWPHGL of Louisiana Monthly Training	Zoom
24	District Nineteen Quarterly General membership meeting	Zoom
JUNE		
21	Pyramid 238 Executive Council/Business Meeting	Zoom/In-Person
28	MWPHGL of Louisiana Monthly Training	Zoom
28	District Nineteen Degree Work	In-person
28	St. John the Baptist District Celebration Kadosh Lodge #148	In-person
JULY		
12	Kadosh 148 Business Meeting	Zoom
19	Pyramid 238 Executive Council/Business Meeting	Zoom
26	MWPHGL of Louisiana Monthly Training	Zoom
AUGUST		
16	Pyramid 238 Business Executive Council/Business Meeting	Zoom
23	MWPHGL of Louisiana Monthly Training	Zoom
SEPTEMBER		
16	Pyramid 238 Business Executive Council/Business Meeting	Zoom
TBD	Prince Hall and Americanism Day Celebration Hal Singer Lodge # 273	Zoom
27	MWPHGL of Louisiana Monthly Training	Zoom
27	District Nineteen Quarterly General membership meeting	Zoom
27	District Nineteen Degree Work	
OCTOBER		
11	Kadosh 148 Business Meeting	Zoom
18	Pyramid 238 Executive Council/Business Meeting	Zoom
25	MWPHGL of Louisiana Monthly Training	Zoom
NOVEMBER		
15	Pyramid 238 Execute Council/Business Meeting	Zoom
22	MWPHGL of Louisiana Monthly Training	Zoom
DECEMBER		
6	St. John the Evangelist District Celebration Pyramid Lodge # 238	Zoom
6	District Nineteen Quarterly General membership meeting/Elections	In-person
20	Pyramid 238 Business Executive Council Meeting (New administration)	Zoom

KADOSH LODGE NUMBER 148

Congratulation to Past Master Dr. Mark “Mongo” Coombs for completing his Doctorate degree!

Statement from PM Dr. Coombs, “I recently completed my Doctorate in Business Administration (DBA) with a concentration in Leadership from Walden University in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The journey to this achievement began in 2011 when I first enrolled in courses, and it took me from 2020 to 2024 to finish my doctoral study. My research, titled *Strategies to Lower Employee Turnover in the Retail Industry*, focuses on

small retail businesses in Texas. This accomplishment is dedicated to my late mother, Velda Y. Forde-Jackson, who was the first in her family to earn a college degree, as well as to my wife, Rabia, and my five children—LaTara, Keziah, Corey, Sarah, and Mark Jr. I am proud to be the first in my family to earn a doctorate, following in my mother's footsteps of academic achievement.

Currently, I use my MBA with a concentration in Human Resource Management as a Supervisory Human Resources Specialist for the United States Army in Austin, TX. Looking ahead, I plan to leverage my DBA when I retire from civil service. Just as those who came before me paved the way, I am committed to paying my blessings forward. I aim to set an example through my actions, inspiring future generations, especially my children and grandchildren, and ensuring others have the opportunities to achieve their goals as I have.”



HAL SINGER LODGE NUMBER 273

2025 1st quarter:

Degree work: conducted degree work in February and raised 2 candidates to the 3rd degree of masonry.

Upcoming events:

<https://www.facebook.com/share/1KyS5ukoAQ/?mibextid=wwXIfr>



PYRAMID LODGE NUMBER 238

Congratulations to the following Brothers celebrating their birthdays this quarter: Jan: PM Anthony M. Bryant, and Brother Alvin Gardner, Feb: SW Maurice White, Mar: Sec Leon Griffith, Brother Anthony Spicer, and PM Derrick Whitlow I.

Congratulations to Past Master Anthony M. Bryant and his wife, they celebrated 35 years of marriage in February.

Degree work: conducted degree work in March and initiated 1 candidate to the 1st degree of masonry.

DISTRICT LECTURER

Grace for Purpose

If your hand or foot causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life maimed or crippled than to have two hands or two feet and be thrown into eternal fire. (MATTHEW CH 18 VERSE 8-9)

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. (HEBREWS CH 12 VERSE 1)

I want to thank you for your work in my life. Your grace is so amazing. I am so grateful for every new opportunity that every day will bring. My faith in you grows more profound as I grow more robust, and I am so thankful.

And even though my situation overwhelms and saddens me at times. I choose to be happy. I know that you have a plan for my life, and I will never forget “every time the blood of Jesus is applied, there is victory!”

PM. Walter R. Simmons, Sr.
Department Director, District Nineteen

PAST MASTER's Council

No submission



Sick and Distress

N/A



Messages

Communications

MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE

1. MWPHGL of Louisiana is requesting that you register to the M.W. Grand Master Dr. Ralph Slaughter Mailchimp email account. This registration will be completed by all members. Please see the Mailchimp registration link below.

Mailchimp Registration Link: <http://eepurl.com/hdvddD>

2. MWPHGL of Louisiana Office of the Grand Lecturer Walter R. Simmons, Jr. is requesting that you register to the Mailchimp email account. This registration should be completed by all members. Please see the Mailchimp registration link below.

Mailchimp Registration Link: <http://eepurl.com/hn40Ej>

3. MWPHGL of Louisiana Facebook –
https://www.facebook.com/Most-Worshipful-Prince-Hall-Grand-Lodge-FAM-of-Louisiana-and-Jurisdiction-351729555996290/?view_public_for=351729555996290

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4. MWPHGL Social Media Policy Letter was approved on 24 March 2021, and it is recommended that each member of the District Nineteen do the following - review, understand and comply with the guidelines set forth in the document. Take do notice and governed yourself according.

5. MWPHGL 1st, 2nd, 3rd Master Mason Certifications- will be offered at regional meetings or Grand Session Call in June.



THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

The Illusion of Square Work!

There was a time when Prince Hall Freemasonry stood not just as an institution, but as a pillar—one of the great supporting beams of the so-called black community, standing alongside the church. From the days of our first Grand Lodge, which did more than just convene in halls but actively fought against the Fugitive Slave Act and aided the Underground Railroad, to those lodges that offered life insurance when no one else would, to the very meeting places where the great struggles of the Civil Rights Movement were planned—Prince Hall Freemasonry was that Connerstone. It was a force, an arm of action, a brotherhood bound not only by ritual but by purpose.

But the question now—one that lingers like a distant drumbeat—is whether that purpose has been lost. Have we traded the fire of our forebears for the flicker a title or merely claiming membership? Have the grand principles that once guided us been softened into something more palatable, more presentable for mainstream and or clique approval? So many of make pretty speeches and grand gestures, we identify problems and seek titles but what comes after the speeches, after the problems are identified?

The black communities in which our lodges are located, that ground upon which so much history has been made, still bears the weight of struggle. The median household income of the families living in those neighborhoods stands at \$32,000. Nearly a third of its people live below the poverty line. At least 95 percent of the population is African American. And so the greater question presents itself for all of us: What can we, as Prince Hall Masons, do to lift up our communities?

Our ancestors did more with less. They built institutions with pennies, turned hardship into strength, and fought with everything they had. Today, we have more resources, more access, more power than at any point in our history. Or do we? If we don't use the power is it power, we hold, or merely the illusion of it? If we can't motivate ourselves through deeds, and word then we are just silently making noise.

Unknown

Veteran's Corner

VA Secretary Doug Collins Addresses Veterans' Benefits in New Video

In a recent video message from his desk at VA Central Office, Secretary of Veterans Affairs Doug Collins addressed media concerns that Veterans' benefits might be targeted for cuts.

https://news.va.gov/138326/va-secretary-doug-collins-veterans-benefits/?utm_source=middle&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=VetResources&utm_id=19FEB2025

THIS IS YOUR Newsletter!!!! - We continue to seek the support of every member of this District with submissions to our monthly newsletter. Submissions to the Newsletter should arrive at my office the first week of each month. This dissemination is required to all members of the lodge.