

THE SPRIG

OCTOBER 2013

ACACIA LODGE #94 ANCIENT FREE MASONS COLUMBIA, SC

Volume 18 Issue 10

Casting a Hopeful Eye Towards the Future by David P Stuard, Jr. WM

2013 OFFICERS

David P. Stuard Jr. W M
Douglas Hall S W
RW Jeffery L. Hall J W
WB Art Ford Treasurer
WB Jack Coker Secretary
Jason Eric Crowe S D
Art Nebiker J D
Eddie Hill Steward
Howard Wood Steward
Wayne C. Smith Jr.
Chaplain



DATES TO REMEMBER

Regular Communication
10/3

Proposed Degree Work
EA 10/10
Masters 10/24

And don't forget the
Eastern Star Anniversary
To be held at Acacia on the
28th of September at 1 PM

OCTOBER BRITHDAYS

5 William Gardelle
8 Joseph Hamm
9 John Crane, Jr.
13 Frank Varn, Sr.
16 David Clamp
25 Larry Collins
26 Earnest Andrews
28 Manly Smith, Jr.
29 Jackie Disher
31 Lloyd Williams

Recently, while in the process of restoring the Acacia 94.com website, I was reviewing my Sprig of Acacia features of months past and, as I compose this, I find myself curiously reflecting on the many changes, not only in the tone of my own articles but also in the Lodge as a whole, that I have so often written of in these pages, since I first took office. Back then, I was troubled by several concerns, the dwindling membership, lackluster attendance, the condition of our historic building itself, as well as the creeping malaise which seemed to have fallen over the Craft, that many were simply going through the motions, no longer exhibiting the pride that once prevailed here only a few years ago, however, in this issue, as in the last, I am pleased to report that we have made substantial progress on all of these fronts.

The past 12 months have been great in terms of membership, having raised five new Master Masons, and with the possibility of 2 more before year's end, this looks to be our best year in recent memory. Also, we are making efforts to avert any loss of members due to NPD, and if successful, will be able to mark 2013 as a growth year overall. In the area of attendance, while our chairs are not yet as full as we would like them to be, we have in recent months seen the return of several old friends, like Worshipful Brothers Lyth Clark, Tom Davis, Rick Smarr, Hugh Bickley, and Ivan Wells, to name but a few, and with our new additions Eddie Hill, Art Nebiker, Giff Carpenter, and Randy Edwards seemingly eager to take up their working tools, this trend, albeit slowly, appears to be reversing itself.

I can also report that, as of the recent official visit of RW Jeffrey Hall, our house is well in order, both inside and out. For those of you who have not visited Acacia recently, you really should make the effort to drop by, if only to see the new look of the place. Our new brother Randy Edwards made it his personal mission to restore the front of the Lodge, and along with Worshipful Brother Jack Coker, our Senior Steward Eddie Hill, and to a lesser degree, yours truly, over the past several weekends, transformed the entire entrance, including the porch, the columns, the steps, rails, doorway and signs. Mere words are simply not sufficient to describe the result, it must be seen to be appreciated. Nor are words, (or even Acacia ball caps) enough to convey our gratitude to these three gentlemen. Your work will preserve our house, just as your spirit will uplift our craft, for many years to come, Your pride inspires us, and I am likewise proud to be your brother.

And so, my brothers, if you find that I am expressing myself in a completely different voice of late, with regards to the writing of these articles, that is because things are looking up. Our degree work is improving, pride is growing, visitation is increasing, (my posse and I recently reclaimed our kitchen flag yet again) and the other lodges in the area are talking about Acacia once more. The tide is indeed turning for us, and it seems now, if this trend continues, that I may be able to hand the reins over to my successor, whomever it may be, with the knowledge that I left the place just a little better than I found it. Let me close by quoting Neil Peart,

"Hope is epidemic, optimism spreads.
Winds are stirred by planets in rotation,
Thoughts ignite, spread new information."

So Mote it Be - David P. Stuard, Jr. WM

The future is simply infinite possibility waiting to happen. What it waits on is Human Imagination... — Leland Kaiser

ACACIA LODGE #941518 HAMPTON ST
COLUMBIA, SC 29201**(803) 256-2538**
OFFICE HOURS
MON-THURS 9AM-2PM**SICK AND DISTRESSED**

WB Don Michie
Bro. J. Smith Harrison
RW Brother Jeff Hall
 and also
Bro. Roger Doyon
 Currently recuperating
 in Tucker Center.
 Drop by and say hello.

On Saturday, Sept 28
 The Ladies of our own
 Eastern Star Chapter,
 Columbia Chapter #59
 will be celebrating their
100th

Anniversary

The festivities start at
 1 PM, in the dining hall
 at Acacia Lodge and
 everyone is invited to
 attend. From all of the
 Brothers of Acacia #94
 Congratulations ladies
 Please come out and
 join them on this most
 auspicious occasion.

Brethren with this issue of the Sprig we are sending out dues notices for 2014. If you get your newsletter by US Mail you will find it enclosed with the newsletter. If you get your newsletter by e-mail you will receive your notice separately. I would appreciate it if you would use the envelope sent to return your dues. Even if you mail them, hand them to me with a check, or hand them to me in cash, I need the envelope because this is the way I post the payment to your ledger sheet and keep the records. If you do not use this envelope I have to make a note of who, how much and what it is so I can keep everything straight. A few of our members will be receiving a notice telling them that they owe two years dues for 2013 and 2014. These will also be receiving a notice before erasure if the 2013 dues are not paid.

Thanks to those who have already paid their 2014 dues. If you should happen to receive a notice and have already paid them please forgive me and just ignore the notice. I have to make up these notices a month in advance of mailing them so I will have them all done.

To the six members who have not paid their 2013 dues, the month of October is your last chance to take care of this. On October 31, 2013 you will be dropped NPD. Please take care of this as soon as possible.

I received a note from Bro. Smitty Harrison along with his dues and a contribution to the lodge. Bro. Smitty shattered his right leg last year and in his words has been having a lot of fun with that. He is in rehab and said he is improving. We wish him much success in rehab.

Our Years of service awards for 2013 have been approved by Grand Lodge and are as follows:

40 year:	50 year:
Preston F. McDaniel II	Earnest B. Andrews
Charles A. Marthers	Thomas L. Coker
Austin P. Turbeville, Jr.	James W. Dugger
	James T. Davis
	Larry P. Collins
	Kenneth P. Havelks, Sr.
60 Year:	70 year:
Rev. Ewell C. Black	John Deickerson

These awards will be presented at our ladies and awards night on November 14, 2013, with the exception of some who are out of state and presented through the Grand Lodges of the respective states.

See you in lodge.

MASONIC EDUCATION By ART NEBIKER, 32nd Degree, Junior Deacon

Life is not shallow, life has purpose, meaning and depth which is expanded upon and magnified through the Light of Masonry. Bring your light and gather more light from your brethren. Come seek to view the pillars of Strength, Wisdom and Beauty, for though they may be obscured by the growth of ages, hopefully they may be uncovered again for all to see and admire. You are all invited to attend lodge on first Thursdays - - - No Reservations Needed

We continue to honor and draw inspiration from past notable Masons, our brothers who have helped to build and shape the world around us.

D.W. Griffith - Film Director	Sam Huston—Governor of Texas, US Senator
J. Edgar Hoover—Director FBI	James Hoban – Architect of the White House
Thomas M. Holt – Governor of N.C.	William Howley-Archbishop of Canterbury
John Jay—Chief Justice US Supreme Court	Andrew Jackson—7th US President
Edward Jenner—Scientist, discovered vaccination	Harry Houdini—Escape Artist
Thomas Hay Drummond—Grand Master of Scotland	Burl Ives—Actor & musician
James Irwin—Astronaut, 8th man to walk on the Moon	Mark Twain —Humorist
Richard Hunt—Architect, designed base of Statue of Liberty	

These are my principles. If you don't like them, I have others — Groucho Marx