

THE SPRIG

AUGUST 2014

ACACIA LODGE #94 ANCIENT FREE MASONS COLUMBIA, SC

Volume 19 Issue 8

2014 OFFICERS

WB Lyth B. Clark Jr. WM
WB David P Stuard Jr SW
Jamie W. Sanders JW
WB Art B Ford Treasurer
WB Richard G. Miner
Secretary
Eddie Hill Sr Deacon
Giff Carpenter Jr Deacon
Eric Lloyd Steward
WB Thomas A. Baker
Steward
WB Wayne C. Smith Jr.
Chaplain
Randy Edwards Tyler
Charles A. Marthers
Organist



DATES TO REMEMBER

8/7
Regular Communication
Dinner and Fellowship
at 6:30 PM
Lodge opens at 7:30

8/21
Proposed
Fellowcraft Degree

8/28
Proposed
Master Mason Degree

DONATIONS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

Alton Blanks
Columbia, SC
Alfred G. James
Council Bluffs, Iowa

From the East by WB Lyth B. Clark, Jr. Worshipful Master

As I write this, we are in the midst of Dog Days, defined not only by the calendar as the time from mid – July to September but as well as a stagnant period of lessened activity. The second is certainly not true. This month, besides the usual business meeting, we will have work in the Fellow Craft and Master Mason degrees.

For those of us who are members of the Scottish Rite SJ, the Fall Reunion in honor of the Founders will be held this month in Columbia. All the degrees will be presented. For some of us, this will be the first time to see several of these degrees. Just recently on July 18th, our lodge aided with the presentation of the Master Mason degree at the Scottish Rite Center. The turnout was exceptional.

As the year moves steadily to an end, consider what position you may take in the year to come. It could be more frequent attendance or a chair, elected or appointed. There is always something new to learn. As an example, do you know any difference between the installation of the Master of a new lodge and an existing one? In the new lodge, part of the ceremony includes the charges to the Master:

The Rule directs that we should punctually observe our duty; press forward in the path of virtue, and neither inclining to the right or left, in all actions have eternity in view.

The Line teaches the criterion of moral rectitude, to avoid dissimulation in conversation and action, and to direct our steps to the path which leads to a glorious immortality.

These are true for every Mason.

See you in Lodge.

WB Lyth B. Clark, Jr.

From the Secretary's Desk by Worshipful Brother Richard G. Miner

The By-laws committee has finished its work. The final reading of the revised Acacia Lodge By-laws will be made at the August Business Meeting, after which we will then make any additions or corrections. as proposed by the brethren. This is your chance to be heard and to voice your options, but you must be present. The amended By-laws will then be voted on and finally submitted to the Grand Lodge for their approval.

It is easier to be wise for others than for ourselves — La Rochefoucauld

ACACIA LODGE #94
 is located at
 1518 HAMPTON ST
 COLUMBIA, SC 29201
OFFICE HOURS
 MON-THURS 9AM-2PM
(803) 256-2538

Regular communications
 held every first Thursday
 at 7:30 (dinner at 6:30)



**AUGUST
 BIRTHDAYS**

- 2 James Rauch, Jr.
- 3 Erik Lloyd
- 4 Cecil Sveum
- 7 Kenneth Havelks, Sr
- 11 William Martin
- 12 Jason Johnson
- 14 Richard Cobbs
- 16 Charles Belcher
- 19 WB Thomas L.
 "Jack" Coker
- 20 Richard Hazekamp
- 25 David Coates
- 25 Jared Smith
- 27 Roy Johnson
- 29 William Dawson

SICK AND DISTRESSED

WB Ivan Wells
 WB Don Michie
 WB Jim Neal
 and
 Our Bro. Organist
 Charles A. Marthers

I wanted to take a minute to thank Acacia Lodge and all of those who came out in support of our joint 8th / 10th District Master Mason's Degree, held at the Scottish Rite Center on July 18th. Reports indicate that we had over 200 Master Masons in attendance, and the cast and crew did an outstanding job. The second section was done in full costume and was presented in true Scottish Rite style. This event was very well attended by our Grand Lodge officers and our Grand Master, MWB David J. DeChant Sr. made an official visit.

MWB DeChant granted a special dispensation to Acacia Lodge to move our Charter and Acacia Lodge #94 was opened in due form on the 3rd Degree in Freemasonry at 7pm, for the purpose of conferring the Master Mason's Degree on our new Brother, Michael Carroll, and also to Brother James Swanson from Batesburg-Leesville Lodge, as a courtesy candidate. A special thank you to our Grand Steward, WB Ronnie Thompson, who prepared a great meal, and who then pulled off a miracle by preparing additional food for the larger than anticipated crowd at the last minute.

I have already received many very favorable comments on this Degree, and it has even been suggested that we make it an annual event. It was successful for not only Acacia Lodge, who hosted the event, but for Masonry in general, and especially for the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite. From what I have been able to gather, we've received about 10 petitions for membership in the Scottish Rite, as a result of this Degree. My thanks to you all for your support and for your hard work to make this night such a success for our Lodge, and thank you for what you do for our Fraternity. I look forward to seeing you all in Lodge soon.

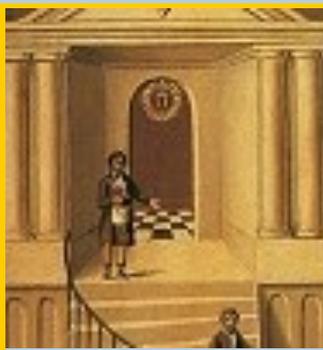
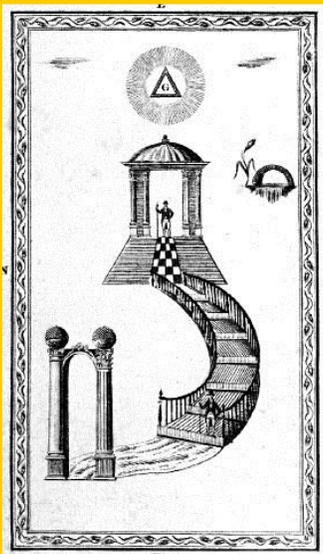
Sincerely and Fraternaly,
 RW Jeffrey L. Hall, DDGM

From the South by Brother Jamie W. Sanders, Junior Warden

I would like to remind all of you to save the date for our annual Ladies' and Awards Night banquet.

This year the event will be held on Thursday, November 13, downstairs in the dining room at the Masonic Temple on Hampton Street. Dinner will begin at 7:00 and will be followed by a guest speaker and awards presentations. The guest speaker will be Rita Shuler, a retired South Carolina Law Enforcement Division special agent/forensic photographer and published author.

I hope to see all of you there.



As you all know, a couple of months ago I decided to try using the Sprig of Acacia e-mail in a new and different fashion, so that not only would I be sending this publication out to all of you once a month, but that each of you could also use it as well, as a Masonic Twitter of sorts, whereby we might hear from some of our brothers who, for one reason or another, find themselves unable to join us at our regular communications. This idea seems to be taking root, and I hope that, in future issues, more of you will take a moment to drop us a line or two (or ten), especially those of you who have moved away, or may even have been deployed, in service of our country. A fair number of Acacia's roster consists of active duty military, a matter of some pride with us, and we'd like you to know, that as servicemen we are grateful to you for your sacrifice on our behalf, and that as brothers we are concerned for your well being.

You should remember that, as members of the world's oldest and largest fraternity, you are never alone, and whether you are across town or on the other side of the globe, you have brothers everywhere who care about you. So...Sound off, soldier! Let your Lodge brothers stateside hear from you. I promise not to reveal any troop movements or other such matters of National Security.

Worshipful Brother Ivan Wells sends this letter:

Hey David,

Wanted to let you know that I have finished the latest round of Chemo and I have recovered from all the side effects.

I really do miss Acacia and my friends there.

I have been attending Pawleys 409, where I hold a dual membership. I occasionally substitute as Chaplain. When I was an EA, I always thought the Chaplain looked so old. I don't think that now that I can see one in the mirror.....

Thanks for what you do for the lodge. I always enjoy the Sprig.

P. S. We will be having our annual outdoor degree for the 29th district in October. Would love to have Acacia come down and participate. A great meal..... and the Grand Master will be there. Usually a BBQ or a Fish Fry... Will let you know the date.

From Worshipful Brother Thomas Downing: I have had another bout in the hospital, but I am feeling better. I am having a problem with anemia, but I am following doctors orders and hope to rebound soon. I am hoping to be in lodge in September.

From Brother Erik Lloyd: I will be turning 21 on August 3rd and I am looking forward to serving as Junior Deacon of Acacia.

So, Happy Birthday Brother Erik. And to our two Worshipful Brothers, stay well and come see us when you can. To the rest of you, keep in touch, Brothers. It's always great to hear from you.