

# THE SPRIG

FEBRUARY 2011

ACACIA LODGE 94 ANCIENT FREE MASONS COLUMBIA, SC

Volume 16 Issue 2

## 2011 OFFICERS

Jeffrey Hall WM  
Rick Sirmons SW  
Richard Miner JW  
Art Ford Treas.  
Jack Coker Sec.  
Doug Hall SD  
John Rotureau JD  
Tom Rotureau Stew  
Roger Doyon Stew  
Thomas Baker Tyler  
Charles Marthers Organ

TRY W/B JIM  
NEALS'S BRAIN  
TEASER ON PAGE 2  
BET YOU CANN'T  
GET THEM ALL  
RIGHT

## DONATIONS TO THE LODGE:

Bro. Roger W. Doyon  
W/Bro. Jeffrey L. Hall  
W/Bro. William J. Eccles  
Bro. Clyde Joines

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Richard Mosley  
David Vause  
Roger Doyon  
Thomas Gardner, Jr.  
Max Brandes, Sr.  
Walter Turbyfill, Jr.  
James Dugger  
Billy Moon  
Lawrence Wilder  
Oliver Hancock Jr  
Jeffrey Hall  
Ronald Thornton  
Wayne Smith, Jr.  
Ewell Black, Jr.  
John Pappas  
Hugh Bickley  
George Wise, Sr.  
William Pope

## FROM THE EAST By JEFF HALL WM

I hope this month's newsletter finds you all well and recovering from the hectic Holiday Season. I had a nice visit with friends and family on my trip to Louisiana with my brother and our Senior Deacon, Brother Doug Hall and his family. I am glad to be back and busy with the business of Masonry. We had a great Fellowcraft Degree on January 20<sup>th</sup> and I would like to congratulate our two newly made Brothers on standing an outstanding proficiency. They both did an excellent job. This was accomplished by a lot of hard work and dedication by both candidates but it could not have been accomplished without the assistance of two outstanding Coaches. WB Jim Neal and WB Richard Miner coached these fine young men and the quality of their work in the quarry was very apparent as the two EA Brothers were able to be passed to the degree of a Fellowcraft. Congratulations to Brother Lew Avant and Brother Eric Crowe on your preferment. We look forward to you

reaching perfection in Ancient Craft Masonry in the coming months when you are raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason. A big thank you as well goes out to WB Neal and WB Miner. Our Past Masters are the backbone of this Lodge and continue to earn those titles every day in everything that they do.

This has been an exciting year so far at Acacia #94. We started off the year with two Brothers taking their second step in Masonry. We read a petition at the January Business Meeting for another man seeking Light in Masonry. His petition is out to Committee as of this writing. I have it on good authority that our Secretary has in his hands another petition for Degrees that we will read at the February Stated Communication. I have also received emails from two gentlemen asking how to become a Mason. As you can see, we are off to a great start in 2011. I am very encouraged about the New Year and I look forward to our labors going forward.

Brethren, with all of this work ongoing in your Lodge, your Officers and Brethren are very busy and we could sure use all the help we can get. If you are interested in participating in the work of the Lodge by learning a Charge or Lecture or any other work, please let me know. I also welcome any comments that you feel will improve our Lodge. Brethren, remember that Acacia #94 is YOUR LODGE. If you haven't been out in a while, please come and join us. If you need assistance in getting to our meetings, please give me a call at any time. I will make sure that you are accommodated. I can be reached at 803-767-1298 or via email at jef-frey.hall@verizonwireless.com. Thank you for your continued support and for all that you do for our beloved Fraternity. May the Supreme Architect continue to bless and keep each of you and your families and my Brotherly Love Prevail. So Mote It Be!

## FROM THE WEST By Rick Sirmons PM

**Brothers this is a continuation from the January Sprig.**

### 6. SPEAKING:

If you wish to offer a predetermined motion or mat-

ter for discussion, advise the Master beforehand. **Why?** Advising the Master before the meeting that you intend to bring up a specific motion or a matter for discussion is an impor-

tant courtesy. You may, indeed, do it without advising him in advance, but the Master may have plans of his own for that meeting, for which your proposed motion or discussion may



not easily fit into the allotted time frame. As a courtesy to him, his work, and his dedication to the members, it is best to ask him privately, beforehand, if he will be able to recognize you to speak your purpose. This saves "face" for both of you. You will not publicly be refused and he will not have to seem disagreeable or arrogant in his refusal of your motion. If you wish to speak,



**7. OBEY THE GAVEL:**  
You must immediately obey the gavel.  
Why? Failure to immediately

obey the gavel is a GRAVE DISCOURTESY and VERY poor Masonic Etiquette. The Master is all powerful in the lodge and his word is final. He can put or refuse to put any motion. He can rule any brother out of order on any subject at any time. When a brother is rapped down, he should obey at once. It is VERY bad manners to do otherwise. In fact, it is perilously close to a Masonic offense. Masonic etiquette decries anyone who does not obey the gavel.

**8. TURNING YOUR BACK:**  
Never turn one's back on

the Master to address the lodge without first receiving permission from the Master to speak.  
. Why: Any discussion must be conducted using proper Masonic etiquette, which requires that only one person address the master at a time. The brother should stand face the Master give him the proper salute then request his permission to speak.



**FROM THE SOUTH By Richard Miner PM**

I hope everyone is well. As many of you know I missed our fellowcraft degree on the 20<sup>th</sup>. I want to thank W/B Jim Neal and Mrs. Coker for preparing what I understand was an outstanding meal. My thanks for all your hard work. I will be fixing the meal for our February

business meeting meal but please don't let that keep you away. I want to plan some family activities for the upcoming months. My thinking would include a St John's Day cookout and friends and family picnic later in the summer or early fall but need some of your ideas on

the kind of events you would like and can support. I would also like your ideas for our Ladies and Awards night and any other lodge events you would like to have during the year. You can email me or catch me at lodge with your thoughts.

**BRAIN TESER By Jim Neal PM**



1. Name the one sport in which neither the spectators nor the participants know the score or the leader until the contest ends.
2. What famous North American landmark is constantly moving backward?
3. Of all vegetables, only two can live to produce on their own for several growing seasons. All other vegetables must be replanted every year. What are the only two

4. What fruit has its seeds on the outside?
5. In many liquor stores, you can buy pear brandy, with a real pear inside the bottle. The pear is whole and ripe, and the bottle is genuine; it hasn't been cut in any way. How did the pear get inside the bottle?
6. Only three words in standard English begin with the letters 'dw' and they are all common words. Name two of them.
7. There are 14 punctuation

- Can you name at least half of them?
8. Name the only vegetable or fruit that is never sold frozen, canned, processed, cooked, or in any other form except fresh.
  9. Name 6 or more things that you can wear on your feet beginning with the letter 'S.'
- How many did you get right  
Check your answers on page 3 No Looking Now

## FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK By Jack Coker PM

Brethren as always I would like to give you a run down on the State of the Lodge.

We started out the year 2010 with a membership of: 173

We raised 1  
 We reinstated 1  
 Total 175

We erased for NPD 4

We lost to the grim reaper 8

Total loss 12

Membership December 31, 2010 163

Total Life members 83

Dues Paying Members 80

We paid Grand Lodge dues of \$1,630.75

We paid Grand Lodge for supplies \$ 45.60

Total to Grand Lodge \$1,676.35

We have not received our per capita notice from the Square and Compass Corp. as yet, but it will probably be somewhere around \$4,000.00.

With 83 dues paying members, at our current dues the lodge will receive from dues: \$5,395.00

As you can see if it were not for our contributions to the lodge we would be in bad trouble.

Brethren by the time you read this we should have two new Fellowcraft Masons. We hope all will go well and they will be raised in February.

## ANSWERS TO W/B JIMS QUIZ:

1. Boxing. 2. Niagara Falls 3. Asparagus and rhubarb 4. Strawberry. 5. It grew inside the bottle. The bottles are placed over pear buds when they are small, and are wired in place on the tree. The bottle is left in place for the entire growing season. When the pears are ripe, they are snipped off at the stems. 6. Dwarf, dwell and dwindle 7. Period, comma, colon, semicolon, dash, hyphen, apostrophe, question mark, exclamation point, quotation mark, brackets, parenthesis, braces, and ellipses. 8. Lettuce. 9. Shoes, socks, sandals, sneakers, slippers, skis, skates, snowshoes, stockings, stilts.

## YOUR TRIVIA IQ:

Number Correct

9 Trivia Genius 8-7 Possible Jeopardy Contestant 6-5 More Research Necessary 4-3 Perhaps You Are Better At Card Games 2-1 Don't Give Up Your Day Job 0 Don't Leave Home

## YOUR SPACE

**PUBLISHERS NOTE:** Each month this space will be reserved for articles submitted by the brethren. Articles can be sent to [rminer@sc.rr.com](mailto:rminer@sc.rr.com).