

THE SPRIG

MARCH 2011

ACACIA LODGE 94 ANCIENT FREE MASONS COLUMBIA, SC

Volume 16 Issue 3

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



OUR NEWEST MM

Left: Eric Crowe
Center: Jeff Hall WM
Right: Louis Avant

MARCH BRITHDAYS

Thomas M. Gault, Jr.
Larry B. Davis
Arthur B. Ford
Robert B. Anderson
Wilbur L. Harling
David T. Beals
Donald H. Ross
Norman G. Barkoot

FROM THE EAST By JEFF HALL WM

I hope this month's edition of the Sprig finds each of you doing well and anticipating the fast approaching warmer weather. At this time of year, I begin to look forward to some milder weather and all of the outdoor activities that come with the Springtime Season. I think this season excites me because all around us we see new life –new beginnings.

Let us, as Masons, take this opportunity to reflect back on the day we started our new beginning and took the first steps on our Masonic journey. Let us recall our obligation and renew our commitment to our beloved Craft and to each others as Brothers.

We have several Brothers that are in different stages of their new beginning as Masons. It is a very exciting year for Acacia Lodge and we are truly blessed to have some renewed interest in our Lodge. I invite you to come out and participate and enjoy the Degree work as we show these new Brothers the rich history of Acacia Lodge.

Sadly, we said farewell to Brother Billy Robert Moon and delivered him into the hands of the Great Architect on Monday, February 21st. I want to say thank you to those who came out and assisted in conferring Masonic Rites. I am extremely proud of the service we provided to Brother Billy and his family.

The family expressed their gratitude for an excellent service and two of Brother Billy's great grandson's have asked how to start on the journey that their great grandfather started 72 years ago. As many of you have heard, conferring Masonic Rites is one of the few opportunities that we have to show the public who we are. As Master, I can't begin to tell you how proud I was of our Brethren and our Craft on this solemn occasion.

May the Blessings of Heaven rest upon our departed Brother and his family and may HE continue to guide our actions and bless our Fraternity.

FROM THE WEST By Rick Sirmons PM

This is a continuation of a series from the Senior Warden on Lodge etiquette.

9. SALUTE:

Some lodges (not all) offer salutes to the Master. Each of the brethren will salute the Master when they enter and when they leave their Masonic Mother lodge room or any other Masonic lodge room. Some lodges offer salutes to the Senior Warden. Why? The Masonic etiquette of saluting the Master is your renewed pledge of fealty and service. It is your public display of decorum before all other brothers of your obligation. It shows your courteous respect for all that the Master

stands for and shows that you acknowledge his authority. Salutes should reflect your heart-felt respect for all that for which he stands. The salute to the Master is your pledge of honor and service, your publicly shown obligation. A lazy, sloppy or improper salute is to be Masonically impolite and, thus, to exhibit poor Masonic etiquette.

10. BALLOTING:

Do not enter or leave the lodge room during a ballot. Why? It is discourteous to leave the lodge room during a speech, during a degree, etc. There are several natural pe-

riods, such as at the end of one section and before the next begins, or when the Master puts the lodge at ease until the sound of the gavel. Then, and only then, you may leave the lodge without being considered rude. It is Masonic Etiquette that all brethren are expected to vote when requested to do so.

11. VOTING IS MANDATORY:

When an issue is put to a vote, all brethren should vote. Why? A brother who does not vote is discourteous because he skews the ballot. He becomes the weak link in a strong chain. No matter what



DATES TO REMEMBER

Regular Communication
3/3

Proposed EA Degree 3/10

Proposed FC Degree 3/17



the reason of his non-vote, he injures the lodge's ballot, its value and its secrecy. Failure to vote can injure a lodge's feeling of brotherhood, and by

that injury, can injure the Masonic fraternity. No matter what reason you may privately hold about voting, it is poor Masonic

Etiquette to fail to vote when requested to do so by the Master.

FROM THE SOUTH By Richard Miner PM

The Worshipful Master in his article, talks about new beginnings and the coming of Spring. The milder weather for most of us means we will have an increase in opportunities to attend outdoor events such as St. Patrick's Day, baseball games, or concerts. Many of the people we will meet at these events are not fellow Masons and do not know Masonry. They are not aware of our three precious jewels of Friendship, Morality, and Brotherly Love. They form their opinions of our fraternity by what we say and do. How we act towards them can make the difference between a person asking about membership or just walking

away. It is therefore important we remember that charge each of us was given the night we were made a Master Mason: *to be faithful to your trust; to support the dignity of your character on every occasion.* It is our duty to be as *one who to all outward appearance a perfect and upright man and Mason*. This does not mean that we cannot talk about what Masonry is but it does mean that we must not be disrespectful to those who disagree or are unaware of our beliefs and opinions. This upright position will have a positive effect on both and encourage them to farther explore our beloved fraternity. Last month I asked for suggestions and ideas for special

events we could hold during the year. Unfortunately I have not received any feedback. But I have not given up. Please think about those events you would like to see the Lodge involved in and that you can support. These events can not only provide additional funds but also provide an opportunity for fellowship and demonstrate our commitment to the community in which we live and work. I also would like your ideas about our Ladies and Awards Night. Should we charge for the meal, if so who should pay. Should we consider a site outside of the Lodge again if so what locations would you like to see considered. I need your ideas.

**YOUR SPACE
ARTICLE SUBMITTED BY WB JIM NEAL PM**

A successful business man was growing old and knew it was time to choose a successor to take over the business. Instead of choosing one of his Directors or his children, he decided to do something different. He called all the young executives in his company together.

He said, "It is time for me to step down and choose the next CEO. I have decided to choose one of you. "The young executives were Shocked, but the boss continued. "I am going to give each one of you a SEED today - one very special SEED. I want you to plant the seed, water it, and come back here one year from today with what you have grown from the seed I have given you.

I will then judge the plants that you bring, and the one I choose will be the next CEO."

One man, named Jim, was there that day and he, like the others, received a seed. He went home and excitedly, told his wife the story. She helped him get a pot, soil and compost and he planted the seed. Everyday, he would water it and watch to see if it had grown. After about three weeks, some of the other executives began to talk about their seeds and the plants that were beginning to grow.

Jim kept checking his seed, but nothing ever grew.

Six months went by -- still nothing in Jim's pot. He just knew he had killed his seed. Everyone else had trees and tall plants, but he had nothing. Jim didn't say anything to his colleagues, however, he just kept watering and fertilizing the soil - He so wanted the seed to grow.

A year finally went by and all the young executives of the company brought their plants to the CEO for inspection.

Jim told his wife that he wasn't going to take an empty pot. But she asked him to be honest about what happened. Jim felt sick to his stomach, it was going to be the most embarrassing moment of his life, but he knew his wife was right. He took his empty pot to the board room. When Jim arrived, he was amazed at the variety of plants grown by the other executives. They were beautiful -- in all shapes and sizes. Jim put his empty pot on the floor and many of his colleagues laughed, a few felt sorry for him!

When the CEO arrived, he surveyed the room and greeted his young executives.

Jim just tried to hide in the back. "My, what great plants, trees and flowers you have grown," said the CEO. "Today one of you will be appointed the next CEO!"

All of a sudden, the CEO spotted Jim at the back of the room with his empty pot. He ordered the Financial Director to bring him to the front. Jim was terrified. He thought, "The CEO knows I'm a failure! Maybe he will have me fired!"

When Jim got to the front, the CEO asked him what had happened to his seed - Jim told him the story.

The CEO asked everyone to sit down except Jim. He looked at Jim, and then announced to the young executives, "Behold your next Chief Executive Officer! His name is Jim!" Jim couldn't believe it. Jim couldn't even grow his seed.

"How could he be the new CEO?" the others said.

Then the CEO said, "One year ago today, I gave everyone in this room a seed. I told you to take the seed, plant it, water it, and bring it back to me today. But I gave you all boiled seeds; they were dead - it was not possible for them to grow.

All of you, except Jim, have brought me trees and plants and flowers. When you found that the seed would not grow, you substituted another seed for the one I gave you. Jim was the only one with the courage and honesty to bring me a pot with my seed in it. Therefore, he is the one who will be the new Chief Executive Officer!"

* If you plant honesty, you will reap trust

* If you plant goodness, you will reap friends

* If you plant humility, you will reap greatness

* If you plant perseverance, you will reap contentment

* If you plant consideration, you will reap perspective

* If you plant hard work, you will reap success

* If you plant forgiveness, you will reap reconciliation

So, be careful what you plant now; it will determine what you will reap later. Think about this for a minute....

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