

# THE SPRIG

OCTOBER 2011

ACACIA LODGE 94 ANCIENT FREE MASONS COLUMBIA, SC

Volume 16 Issue 10

## 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  
Wayne C Smith Jr Chaplain  
Thomas Baker Tyler  
Charles Marthers Organ

## DATES TO REMEMBER

Regular Communication  
10/6

Proposed EA Degree  
10/13

Proposed FC Degree 10/20

Proposed MM Degree  
10/27

## BRITHDAYS

William Gardelle  
Joseph Hamm  
John Crane, Jr  
Frank Varn, Sr  
David Clamp  
William Rotureau, Sr  
Larry Collins  
Earnest Andrews  
Lionel Mitchell  
Marty Smith, Jr  
Jackie Disher  
Lloyd Williams  
Richard Miner

## FROM THE EAST By JEFF HALL WM

Greetings once again Brethren and welcome to the October issue of the Sprig of Acacia. It's hard to believe that fall is already upon us. We could sure use the cooler weather though. The busy Holiday Season will be upon us before we know it so take some time to enjoy the early fall weather. Get out and visit with family and friends and while you're out running around, stop by the Lodge and enjoy a meal and some fellowship with us. We have been busy with Degree work all year and we have more on the way. I want to congratulate Bro. Sean Ludwig on receiving his Fellowcraft Degree in September. He stood an outstanding proficiency and is well on his way

to reaching perfection in Ancient Craft Masonry as he receives his Master Mason's Degree this month on October 27<sup>th</sup>. We will also be doing some courtesy work for two candidates for the Third Degree from Earlewood Lodge. It will also be my first attempt at doing the Third Degree Lecture and I know you don't want to miss that. I would also like to congratulate one of our newest Master Masons, Benjamin Brooks, who has taken a very active roll with coaching, filling in where needed as an officer and bringing us more good men to share in our great Fraternity. It's great to see young men taking an interest and beginning their journey in Acacia Lodge. Thank you all

Brethren, for your support of our Lodge. I look forward to seeing you all at our meetings. If all goes well, we will have a new EA candidate this month pending a favorable report. I look forward to seeing you on the 6<sup>th</sup> for our Stated Communication. Come on out and see what is in store for the rest of 2011 and remember we will be having our elections in November this year. Thank you all once again for your support, travel safe and may the Grand Architect continue to Bless you and your families.  
Fraternally,  
Jeff Hall WM

## FROM THE SOUTH By RICHARD MINER PM

The seasons are charging and my favorite time of the year is here. The fall colors are starting to show and the weather is getting cooler. This time of the year is often compared to the maturity of man. As we age, hopefully we become wiser and reflect on our accomplishments and reset life goals. Fall is also the time of the year that our Lodge should also reflect on our accomplishments of the past year and set new goals for next year.

This year unlike previous, we will be electing our 2012 officers in November.

Hopefully this will reduce the rush of past years when both elections and installation occurred in December. Deciding who will fill our chairs is an important decision since these Brothers will become both our current and future leaders. This is a two way street. If nominated a Brother must ask himself if he has the time to make the commitment to be in Lodge and fill the duties of his office.

All of us have the responsibility of doing what is best for the Lodge. We vote for the good of the Order and our Lodge in particular.

It therefore, behooves each of us to think about what you envision our Lodge becoming over the next several years. The Brothers we elect will be setting the Lodge goals and activities for years to come. Those goals will meet your expectation only if you voice your opinions.

There is a tendency to think that once we fill our seven chairs, we turn the business of perfecting the Lodge over to them. Brothers if you are not selected to fill a chair you can still be active in the Lodge's future. I am sure each of us is aware of a lodge were they



### DONATIONS

**Arthur W. Nebiker**

**Thank you brethren for your support of your lodge.**



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must seek help to put on a degree because no one knows the required lecture or charge. When you are in a chair is not the time to learn the degree lectures and charges. The demands of each chair if properly filled, do not allow time to learn lectures and charges. The night we were made Masons each of us was charged with "At your leisure hours, that you may improve in Masonic knowledge you are to converse with well informed brethren, who will always be as ready to give as you will be ready to receive instruction." Seek someone to help you learn a lecture or charge. If you know a lecture or charge seek someone who you can teach it too.

If each of us will either accept the responsibility of filling a chair or learning a lecture, our Lodge will continue to be viable and meet your expectations now and in the future..

### FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK By JACK COKER, PM

Brethren as you will notice the nasty little envelopes (commonly called dues notices) are being mailed out with this edition of the newsletter. This begins the two busiest months of the secretary's job. Not only do I have to get the years of service awards cleared through Grand Lodge, send out the notices to the recipients, make out the dues envelopes, stuff them in the newsletter, fold, stamp, label, and mail them, but also when they start coming back in it calls for two trips a week to the post office to keep the box from being stuffed. I then have to update all the records showing 2012 dues paid and then make out the dues cards and mail them.

I would like to ask for help from the membership as follows:

If you receive a dues notice and do not think you should pay dues or if you do not get a notice and think you should pay dues PLEASE call me so we can get it straight.

Remember brethren your dues for 2012 are due and payable on or before December 31, 2011. We have 8 members who still owe 2011 dues. Your notice will reflect this by showing that you owe two years. If your 2011 dues are not paid by October 31, you will be dropped NPD. If this happens and you pay them by December 31, you will be automatically re-instated.

Next Favor:

When you pay your dues PLEASE return them in the envelope provided for you. We use the envelopes to check and correct all records in the ledger books and computers.

We have many who hand me their dues at a meeting:::This is OK but even if it is cash OR check please put it in the envelope.

Next favor:

Please pay your dues promptly so that the lodge will have money to operate on.

If you will do these things it will certainly be appreciated by the secretary and will surely make my job easier.

Brethren I have no idea who wrote the following article but I feel that it fits very well in this slot.

#### MASONIC MEMBERSHIP CARD

I hold in my hand a little scrap of paper 2 ½ X 3 ½ inches in size. It is of no intrinsic worth, not a bond, not a check or receipt for valuables, Yet it is my most priceless possession. It is my membership in a Masonic Lodge.

It tells me that I have entered into a spiritual kinship with my fellow Masons to practice charity in word and deed; to forgive and forget the faults of my brethren; to hush the tongues of scandal and innuendo; to care for the crippled, the hungry, and the sick, and to be fair and just to all mankind.



**COME TO LODGE  
AND ENJOY THE  
FELLOWSHIP**

**PRAYER LIST**

**W/B Hugh Bickley**

**W/B Rick Sirmons**



**OUR ST JOHN'S DAY  
FISH FRY**

**HAVE VISITED  
YOUR LODGE'S  
WEB SITE AT  
ACACIA94.COM**

It tells me that no matter where I may travel in the world, I am welcome to visit a place where good fellowship prevails among brothers and friends.

It tells me that my loved ones, my home, and my household are under the protection of every member of this great Fraternity, who have sworn to protect and defend mine as I have sworn to protect and defend theirs

It tells me that should I ever be overtaken by adversity or misfortune through no fault of my own, the hands of every Mason on the face of the globe will be stretched forth to assist me in my necessities.

And finally it tells me that when my final exit from the stage of life has been made, there will be gathered around my lifeless body friends and brothers who will recall to mind my virtues, though they may be few, and will forget my faults though they may be many.

It tells me that and a great deal more, this little card, and makes me proud, yet humble, that I can possess this passport into a society of friends and brothers that are numbered in the millions.

See you in lodge brethren.  
Jack

**YOUR SPACE  
ARTICLE SUBMITTED BY W/B JIM NEAL, PM**

**Masonic Research**

For the serious researcher or those who just like to surf on occasion, if you have not discovered Paul M. Bessel's site you need to pay it a visit. Paul M. Bessel is an attorney in the Washington, DC area who has developed a very comprehensive web site on Masonry. Ranging from up-to-date graphs and maps showing changes in membership through articles on Civil War Generals who were Masons it is a good source to list among your favorite places. Interested? Go to: <http://bessel.org/>  
Have fun.

James A. Neal, PM

**2011 Acacia Lodge Officers**

