

THE SPRIG

NOVEMBER 2012

ACACIA LODGE 94 ANCIENT FREE MASONS COLUMBIA, SC

Volume 17 Issue 11

2012 OFFICERS

Jeffrey Hall WM
Richard Miner SW
Doug Hall JW
Art Ford Treas.
Jack Coker Sec.
Thomas Rotureau SD
John Rotureau JD
Wayne C Smith Jr Chaplain
Eric Crowe Stew
Art Nebiker Stew
Thomas Baker Tyler
Charles Marthers Organ

DATES TO REMEMBER

Regular Communication
11/1
Ladies and Awards
Night 11/15

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Cardell Bunch
Joseph Jenkins
James Neal
Osgar Jordan, Jr.
Johnson Leviner, Sr.
John Staser
David Jameson
Carl Craig
Levi Hardwick

FROM THE EAST By JEFF HALL, WM

Greetings once again from the East. Welcome to the November issue of the Sprig of Acacia. We have a very busy month ahead of us Brethren. We will be electing our new Worshipful Master, Senior and Junior Wardens at our November business meeting. We will do the appointed officers at the December business meeting as well as the installation of officers. This will give the elected officers time to decide on their appointments and discuss the duties with them. If you are asked to serve the lodge as an officer, please pay attention to the duties of your office. The lodge counts on everyone to do their part and to make every effort to attend your lodge's functions. This will ensure that we have a successful year and the duties are spread equally among the officers. I would like to have all current officers in coat and tie for the November meeting so that we can take our officers picture for WB Jack.

We also have our Ladies and Awards night banquet on November 15th at 7:00pm. The meal will be catered by Mike Morrow from Hilda Catering. He always provides a great meal with all the fixings and I guarantee that you won't go away hungry. Please make plans to attend and bring your lady for a night of good food and fellowship. This is our opportunity to thank the ladies for all of their support throughout the year. I look forward to seeing you all there and I hope we have a great turnout. As most of you know, we had to have some major repairs to our elevator last month. Due to the good management of funds by the Square and Compass Corp. we were able to absorb the repair without a special assessment to the participating bodies. I also want to extend my thanks to Columbia Chapter 59 OES who made a very sizable contribution to the elevator repair. We are very fortunate to have them as partners and they

always support us in our efforts to keep our building in a good state of repair. If you happen to run into one of the members of Columbia 59, please take a moment to thank them for their support. It is greatly appreciated. Finally Brethren, remember to exercise your right to vote this month. This will be a critical election for the future of our country so please get out and support your county by doing your duty. Many have fought and died for this right and it is our duty to honor their sacrifices and perform our duty. Guard well the West Gate. I want to wish you all a very happy and Blessed Thanksgiving. Enjoy this holiday with your friends and families. For those of you who will be traveling, be safe and may the Grand Architect continue to bless each and every one of you and yours. Fraternally,
Jeff Hall WM

FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK By Jack Coker, PM

Our meeting on November 1, 2012 will be the most important meeting of the Masonic year. This is the meeting when we will select those who are to lead our lodge for the ensuing year. On this date we will elect the Worshipful Master, Senior Warden, and Junior Warden,

the Warrant Officers of the lodge. We will also elect the Secretary, and Treasurer. At the December meeting the Worshipful Master will appoint the Senior Deacon, the Chaplain, Organist, and Tiler. The Senior Warden will appoint the Junior Deacon, and the Junior Warden will

appoint the two Stewards. Also at the December meeting all elected and appointed officers will be installed and are asked to wear coat and tie for pictures. Keep in mind brethren that those who are **elected** to be Warrant Officers now will probably eventually be Master of Acacia Lodge.

LODGE PRAYER LIST: Roger Doyon

CONTRIBUTIONS

John E. Benson
David R. Jameson
Robert N. Milling
Joseph E. Wallace
Wilbur L. Harling
Alfred G. James
Richard S. Smarr
Vernon H. Davis, Sr.
James L. Curtis

**LADIES AND AWARDS
NIGHT WILL BE HELD
AT THE HAMPTON
STREET TEMPLE ON-
NOVEMBER 15th
STARTING AT 7:00 PM
WITH A DINNER BY
HILDA CATERING.
MAKE YOUR PLANS
NOW TO ATTEND**



This decision is far too important to be left to a few. Every member of Acacia Lodge who can possibly attend should be there for this most important meeting. Our attendance lately has not been too good and we need everyone to have an input in these elections.

Our 2013 dues are coming in pretty well, and several brethren who had not paid their 2012 dues have paid them and are off the endangered list. However we still have 10 who have not paid their 2012 dues. Brethren please take care of this or on November 1, I will have to send you a notice of erasure. If this happens you can still be automatically reinstated if you pay them before December 31, 2012. After this it will require petition, investigation and ballot to be reinstated.

YOUR SPACE ARTICLE SUBMITTED BY Wayne Smith, PM

The Kindle Edition of the book "Masonry Defined - A literal Masonic Education" compiled from the writings of Dr. Albert G. Mackey and many other eminent authorities by E.R. Johnston. This book was copyrighted Jan. 11, 1930.

What follows is a part of the introduction to the book. I found it interesting and as true today as it was when it was written many years ago. I thought you all would enjoy reading it as well, and maybe sharing it with others to possibly spark more of an interest in Masonic Education among the Brethren in SC lodges.

"...There are thousands of Masons who can repeat the ritual, but who have no conception of what it all means. There is nothing said in the ritual that should seem mysterious. Everything in Masonry has a beautiful meaning if rightly understood, and everything done in the ritual work is meant to teach a distinct moral lesson.

Masonry would die out in 5 years if it had to depend upon 85 percent of the membership. It is the small minority - the really interested Masons - who have kept and are keeping the order alive today. These few men give unselfishly their time and intelligence as officers of their lodges. How long would any lodge last if all the members merely paid their dues, rarely if ever attended lodge, and considered their duty done? Does Masonry mean anything to you, or are you just a "member"? Some Masons seem to take a pride in saying, "Oh, yes, I belong to the order, but have not been in a lodge room in years." Of what benefit is Masonry to this man, and what earthly benefit is he to Masonry? Then again, you will hear a Mason say, "I have lost my interest in Masonry." He never had any real interest to lose. All he has lost is his curiosity. If he had been interested he would have learned something about it, and his interest would have been increased instead of dying out. The mason who pays his dues because he is ashamed not to, is simply throwing his money away. He gets no benefit whatever, and his attitude of indifference sets a bad example to the younger Masons, who look to him for inspiration and guidance.

Taking the secret work and learning the ritual does not make a Mason any more than learning the A B C's makes a child a scholar. It is merely the cornerstone; the building is yet to be erected.

How many Masons understand the beautiful lesson of the third degree? If this lesson were learned and understood and practiced, Masonry would be on a higher plane than it is today. There would be more real Masons and fewer "members." Too many Masons say, "I have not the time to read," but they had or took the time to take their degrees and learn the lectures. The same amount of time spent in intelligent study would give them the groundwork for a real knowledge of Masonry; for, if Masonry is worth going into, it is worth knowing something about."

E. R. Johnston, 32°