

THE SPRIG

MARCH 2013

ACACIA LODGE #94 ANCIENT FREE MASONS, COLUMBIA, SC.

Volume 18 Issue 3

2011 OFFICERS

David P. Stuard Jr. WM
Douglas Hall SW
Jeffery Hall JW
Art Ford Treas.
Jack Coker Sec.
Eric Crowe SD
Art Nebliker JD
Eddie Hill Stew
Howard Wood Stew
Wayne C Smith Jr Chaplain
Thomas Baker Tyler
Charles Marthers Organ



DATES TO REMEMBER

Fellowcraft Degree 2/21
Regular Business
Communication 3/7
Proposed Master
Mason Degree 3/28

MARCH BRITHDAYS

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

And a very special
Happy Birthday
to
Mrs. Carol Coker

TIDINGS FROM THE EAST by DAVID P. STUARD, JR. WM

On the 26th of January the Scottish Rite Center on Garner's Ferry Road played host to the Grand Master's Workshop for Worshipful Masters, a day of instruction or "fast class" if you will, for those who have so recently been chosen by our various lodges to serve in that capacity. I was there, along with several hundred other newly elected Worshipful Masters representing virtually every lodge of Ancient Freemasons in the great state of South Carolina, a sight which I found inspiring and at the same time quite humbling. We were all gathered there for the same reason, to learn, to take that next step on our Masonic journey, and we were each of us eager to take up the mantle of leadership, but as I wrote in last month's Sprig, I did not yet know how much I did not know. Fortunately, our Grand Master, Most Worshipful Jay Adam Pearson brought with him a retinue of experienced guest speakers, all of whom were well versed in their respective areas of Masonic lore, and each one as eager to pass on what they knew as we were to receive it. Good

thing I brought my notebook.

It is impossible to relate here the sheer volume of information imparted on that day, for to distill it down to fit in a simple newsletter would not do justice to the hard work and generosity of those great men who sought to illuminate us "newbies", most of whom are well known in Masonic circles and, I'm certain, are familiar to most of you, in name if not in person, and some of whom traveled halfway across the state that day, simply to bring us more light. I would be remiss, however, not to try, so here goes.

After the Pledge of Allegiance and the traditional invocation of the blessings of deity, the Most Worshipful G. Ray Marsh, Past Grand Master and current Grand Secretary started with a short introduction, a tip of the hat to all Past Grand Masters, so many of whom were present, some as instructors and others helping behind the scenes. He also gave us a few tips on Lodge Expense Reports and an-

nual IRS filings needed to maintain lodge tax exempt status. Our Deputy Grand Master, Right Worshipful David J. De Chant, Sr coached us all in Masonic protocol, with particular attention to the receiving and introduction in lodge of Grand Lodge officers, followed by Right Worshipful William R. Logan, Jr. our Junior Grand Warden, who called us all to our feet and walked us through the conveying of Grand Honors, both public and private. As I so often say, we learn by doing. Then the tone of the assembly shifted somewhat. First, the Most Worshipful Jack A. Marler, Past Grand Master and current Grand Lodge Treasurer, gave a brief synopsis of Grand Lodge finances and addressed the scheduled increase of per capita Grand Lodge dues, which are set to go up by \$1.25 in 2015, a figure which I find quite reasonable in today's economy. Then the Most Worshipful G. Kent Elkins, Past Grand Master and Chairman of the Fraternal Relations Committee gave an interesting and instructive lecture on the procedures for

SICK AND DISTRESS:

W/B Don Michie
 Bro Roger Doyon
 W/B Hugh Bickley
 W/B James Neal
 Bro Art Nebiker
 And the Parents of
 W/B Jeff Hall and
 Bro Doug Hall



The Officers and Members of Columbia Chapter 59 Order of the Eastern Star would like to Cordially Invite all members of Acacia Lodge 94 and their families to their 100th Installation of Officers at Acacia Lodge 1518 Hampton St. on Sat. March 16, 2013 at 6:30 PM Reception Following

OUR DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER, RIGHT WORSHIPFUL ALEX ROBERTS WILL MAKE HIS OFFICIAL VISIT ON THURS. FEBRUARY 22 FOR OUR FELLOW-CRAFT DEGREE. PLEASE COME OUT AND WELCOME HIM TO ACACIA LODGE

the recognition of foreign jurisdictions, citing increasing attempts by irregular Masonic bodies to gain acceptance among regular Freemasons, even seeking communications and information relating to our rituals and our by-laws. This intrusion is not to be permitted, under any circumstances. He was followed by Most Worshipful D. Samuel Tenyson, Past Grand Master, who currently chairs the Grand Lodge Jurisprudence Committee, and who spoke at length on the proper procedures for the conducting of Masonic trials, which I hope never to need but which, as recent events have shown, will from time to time be necessary. Then, mercifully, we broke for lunch, an excellent repast which our brothers from the Scottish Rite had toiled all morning to prepare for us.

After refreshment, we arose and were taken hold of by our current Grand Master, the Most Worshipful Jay Adam Pearson, who reminded us of our duties to our individual lodges and instructed us at length with regards to Masonic law and to the practices thereof. Many important points were touched upon, too many to include here, but suffice it to say I found it to be

the most informative of all the lectures I heard that day. We also received instruction as to Lodge Websites from Right Worshipful David Irvin, Past District Deputy Grand Master and Grand Lodge Web master, regarding web security, i.e. all things fair to be written in a Lodge web page. Next, Most Worshipful Gerald L. Carver, Past Grand Master, briefly reviewed ceremonial observances and rituals pertaining to our lodge degree work, which many of us think ourselves to be familiar with, but upon hearing him speak I realized that I, for one, still have so much to learn. I paid particular attention during these segments, and also to the one by our Grand Chaplain, Right Worshipful and Reverend Jerry L. Phillips, whose lecture on the proper etiquette for the conducting of Masonic Funerals and Memorial services made me more thoughtful of the reverence which these events require. This too, I hope never to need, but must recognize as inevitable. As you can see, the day was quite eventful, and the agenda packed full from start to finish. It would have been difficult to follow were it not for the talents of our Grand Master, the Most Worshipful Jay Adam

Pearson, who served as Master of Ceremonies throughout the whole shebang. This was his show, and his gift for public speaking and banter kept us interested and entertained all day long. I remained enthralled the entire time and, I must confess, I felt a little like a rock and roll groupie when afterwards I asked him to sign my Ahiman Rezon. He smiled as he did so, saying, "It's you, not me, who makes our Fraternity great". I left with misty eyes and renewed purpose.

Lastly, I must give thanks and praise to the brothers of the E. C. "Cliff" Singleton Scottish Rite Center who opened their doors to us and made us all feel at home. I have not been there in several years but many of them still recognized me and welcomed me as if I had never left. To Brother Layne Waters let me just say "Count Reinfeld shall rise again!" Special thanks to Brother Earl Nichols and Brother John Marcucci for that wonderful meal and for reminding me of the fellowship I'd left behind in my absence. The Grand Master was right. Truly it is brothers like this that make our fraternity great. Point taken, Most Worshipful. I won't forget it.

David P. Stuard, Jr, WM