

THE SPRIG

FEBRUARY 2015

ACACIA LODGE #94 ANCIENT FREE MASONS COLUMBIA, SC

Vol 20 Issue 2

Tidings from the East by WB Thomas L. "Jack" Coker Worshipful Master

2015 OFFICERS

WB Thomas L. Coker WM
Jamie A Sanders SW
John Edward Hill J W
WB Art B Ford Treasurer
WB Richard G. Miner
Secretary
Stewart Sneed Sr Deacon
Erik Lloyd Jr Deacon
Randy Edwards Steward
J. Chris Shipman Steward
WB Wayne C. Smith Jr.
Chaplain
WB Thomas A. Baker
Tyler
Charles A. Marthers
Organist



DATES TO REMEMBER

2/5

Regular Communication
and Business Meeting

2/12

Proposed Entered
Apprentice Degree

2/26

Proposed Master
Mason's Degree

Why not attend
All Three?

Dinner and Fellowship
at 6:30 PM
Lodge opens at 7:30

Brethren:

It seems like we may be doing a good bit of degree work in the next few months. We have two petitions to vote on at our February meeting if the reports are favorable. Pending a favorable ballot we will have an E/A in February. I think we will also have a M/M in Feb. In March we hope to have three candidates for the F/C degree as we are supposed to have the paperwork to do a courtesy candidate along with ours.

I hope we will have a good turn out for our February business meeting so that we can assign parts and plan some practices. I also have some information from the Worshipful Master's Workshop that I need to pass along to the officers and members.

Brethren as you go through each day, consider the following:

A MASONIC BROTHER

The brother whom I write about does not go about shouting his Masonry, yet he reveals the teachings and principles of the institution...

In his business dealings — he always acts on the square.

He walks in quiet dignity. What he has he willingly shares with others less fortunate, not because he seeks praise, or fears criticism, but just because he knows the joy of sharing.

He is never too busy to say a kind word. He is always too busy to indulge in idle gossip.

He believes in the glorious destiny of America. He is willing to speak out boldly and is not ashamed of being a patriotic citizen.

He is forever conscious of his divine Heritage and strives to make religion and life one.

WHAT IS MASONRY? IT IS WHAT THIS BROTHER LIVES!

See you in Lodge.

WB Thomas L. "Jack" Coker

What you do has far greater impact than what you say — Stephen Covey

ACACIA LODGE #94
 is located at
 1518 HAMPTON ST
 COLUMBIA, SC 29201
OFFICE HOURS
 MON-THURS 9AM-2PM
(803) 256-2538

Regular communications
 held every first Thursday
 at 7:30 (dinner at 6:30)



**SICK AND
 DISTRESSED**

WB Don Michie
 WB James A. Neal
 Charles A. Marthers

Why so blue? Ever wonder why our lodge is referred to as a “Blue Lodge”? It is not painted blue. People in the lodge are not usually depressed in spirits. So what gives?

According to Coil's Masonic Encyclopedia, there may be a number of reasons why symbolic lodges are called Blue Lodges. Since ancient times, the color blue has been associated with immortality, eternity, and fidelity. References to this color in the Bible emphasize the special place blue holds as a color symbolizing goodness and immortality. The Druids also honored blue, while the ancient Egyptians used it to represent Amon, one of their most important gods. The ancient Babylonians also associated the color blue with the gods. In Medieval times, Christians saw blue as the symbol of perfection and hope, as well as of immortality and fidelity.

It is not known when blue first came to be associated with Freemasonry, although some historians think that initially the color was used in Craft Masonry to represent the sky. For today’s Masons, blue symbolizes brotherhood and emphasizes the fact that Masons should seek out virtues as extensive as the blue dome of heaven.

From the Secretary’s Desk by Worshipful Brother Richard G. Miner

I would like to take this opportunity to share with you the status of our lodge membership. This is a summary of the annual report we sent to Grand Lodge, giving our membership status for 2014.

- In 2014 We raised 5 new brothers.
- We had 5 brothers who did not pay their 2013 dues and were dropped from our membership roster.
- We had 10 brothers pass on.

This gives us a total loss of 10 brothers, making our 2014 final membership 133. Of those, we now have a total of 59 brothers who are 40-year “life” members. The following brothers made a donation to Acacia in 2014. Thank you for supporting our beloved Lodge.

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| Alton Banks | J Smith Harrison |
| John Benson | Alford James |
| Rev. Ewell Black | David R Jameson |
| Cordell E Bunch | C W Joines |
| David Clamp | Erik Lloyd |
| WB James Curtis | WB James Neal |
| Don L Cousins | WB Richard Smarr |
| J Thomas Davis | John Staser |
| Randy W Edwards | WB David P Stuard, Jr |
| RW Jeffery Hall | Frank C Varn |

I am looking forward to a great 2015, and I am honored to be serving as your lodge secretary. Thank you for all the help you have given me this past year.

It is by associating with wise people that you become wise yourself — Menander

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Giff B. Carpenter
- 1 Richard Mosley
- 3 Max L Brandes Sr
- 6 Clyde Joines
- 7 Walter Turbyfill Jr
- 8 James W Dugger
- 10 Lawrence Wilder
- 17 RW Jeffrey L Hall
- 17 Ronald E Thorton
- 17 Benjamin Brooks
- 19 WB Wayne C.
Smith, Jr
- 21 Ewell C Black, Jr
- 23 WB Hugh Bickley
- 25 William Pope



If any of you would like to participate in or have any ideas for this event, please contact me as soon as possible either by phone at (803) 226-5827 or by e-mail at spriofacacia94@hotmail.com.

Brethren, as you may recall from recent issues of the Sprig of Acacia, I penned a series of articles describing how the statue of George Washington came into being and how it came to be located on the South Carolina State House steps. These articles prompted a creative response from Worshipful Brother Jim Neal, who came forward with an idea for a public Masonic event. It was his suggestion that, on the birthday of our Brother George Washington, Columbia area Freemasons, in full regalia, should gather on the State House steps, for a wreath-laying ceremony at the base of the George Washington statue. This ceremony would include presentations by high-level Masons from the 8th and 10th districts as well as the South Carolina Grand Lodge, and could even be televised on local TV. In so doing we would inform the general public that George Washington, our nation's first President, was a Mason, a fact of which not too many individuals may be aware, and that many other US Presidents and prominent individuals were also Masons. Such an open event would cast a good light on Masonry, dispel issues of a Secret Brotherhood and perhaps even act as a recruiting tool. The TV tape could be provided to other stations around the state for timely rebroadcast. Another consideration might be to provide taped copies to Grand Lodges of other states for their follow-on consideration for potential future Public Masonic events.

George Washington attended lodge regularly, even in the battlefield, although he had many excuses not to. What's your excuse? Attend lodge — no reservations required.

Brother George is turning 283 and you're all invited — WB David Stuard, Jr

As Brother Art says above, Acacia #94 has been organizing a ceremony to honor the real birthday of our brother, George Washington, which is actually on Sunday, February 22, as opposed to the generic "Presidents Day" on the previous Monday. This event has seemingly caught fire around the 8th and 10th districts, and several other bodies, including the Grand Master himself, are now indicating that they would like to participate. The plan is to meet at our lodge, which is nearest to the Capitol, and then to assemble on the State House steps, North Side, at the Statue of George Washington. I have already filed the necessary paperwork at the Capitol, and they will have a Podium in place for our use. I have also received word from WIS TV, "The State" Newspaper, and most recently, ETV, all of whom say they would like to cover the event, which will include speeches and prayers, a pledge of allegiance, and a wreath-laying at the statue. The time is from 3 to 4 PM on Feb 22, and everyone is invited. It is our desire to present to the public our true Masonic and American Heritage, and I hope you will all make plans to join us.

I heard the bullets whistle, there is something charming in the sound — Washington



He harkens after
prophecies and
dreams; and from
the Cross-row
plucks the letter
“G”

Richard III
Act 1 Scene 1



While there exists no record proving that Shakespeare was a Mason, several lines in his plays would seem to indicate that he was familiar with the Order and those who did belong. For your consideration, I offer the following as evidence...

Now...Whence come you?

Merry Wives of Windsor, Act 4, Scene 5

Let's part the word...

Love's Labor Lost, Act 4, Scene 2

The singing Masons building roofs of gold,
Henry V, Act 1, Scene 4

You made good work, you and your apron men,
Coriolanus, Act 4, Scene 6

Where is thy leather apron and thy rule?
Julius Caesar, Act 1, Scene 1

I will, as 'twere a Brother of your Order,
Measure for Measure, Act 1, Scene 4

Guard the door without, Let him pass not,
Othello, Act 5, Scene 2

They never meet, but they do square,
A Midsummer Night's Dream, Act 2, Scene 1.

Tidings from the Acacia Lodge Message Board by You, the Brethren

This month we received only a few messages from our readers, as several of you chose to submit articles instead. Rest assured that, be they long or short, we will print all submissions of merit. Thank you all for your contributions, and remember, if you have anything to say for the good of Masonry or of this Lodge in particular, we want to hear it. You may e-mail your articles, or your tweets, or your holiday pictures to sprigofacacia94@hotmail.com or you can just click reply to the electronic mailing.

Mrs. Carol Coker wrote in, with a few facts about Jack: “He will be a 50-year member in the Columbia Chapter No. 59, Order of the Eastern Star, on Feb 22, 2015. He will also be a 50-year member of the Scottish Rite on March 13, 2015.”

- Ed's note: Congratulations on both counts, Worshipful.

Brother Erik Lloyd writes: “Hello Brothers. I apologize for not being able to attend the 2nd Degree due to a test the next day. Just so you know, I made Dean's List for the 2nd time and I am sure I will attend the next Degree. I am glad to hear Brother Charlie is recuperating again and I hope everyone is in good health.”

- Ed's note: Good Job Erik and yes, we're glad about Charlie too.

Act well your part, for therein all the honor lies — Alexander Pope