

THE SPRIG

JANUARY 2015

ACACIA LODGE #94 ANCIENT FREEMASONS COLUMBIA, SC

Vol 20 Issue 1

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 JW
WB Art B Ford Treasurer
WB Richard G. Miner
Secretary
Stewart Sneed Sr Deacon
Eric 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

1/8
Regular Communication

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

1/15
Proposed
Fellowcraft Degree

Brethren:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of Acacia Lodge for the confidence placed in me by electing me as Worshipful Master for the ensuing year. It has been 16 years since I served as Master in 1999 and I am finding out that I have forgotten a lot in this time. However I think that with a lot of work, the help of the brethren and a lot of time in the red book I can bring it back. I pledge my very best to the lodge.

I would like to thank all of you who have accepted offices for the upcoming year. It doesn't matter if you hold an elected or appointed office, they are all important and the lodge cannot operate without you.

I have some thoughts on a few projects and hopes for the lodge over the year. I will be bringing these up at our January meeting. I will be asking for your input and support on these plans.

As I said at the installation of officers, Freemasonry is not free. I would ask that all members support our lodge, not only by paying your dues in a timely manner but with your time, talents and abilities.

I would like to have some of our newer members start to learn the lectures, charges, working tools, apron lectures and other parts in the degree work. If you would like to learn a part please let me know and I will assist you in any way I can. We also have others in the lodge who will meet with you and aid you in learning degree work.

Acacia Lodge is our lodge. It will become exactly what we make it. I think it can become the best lodge in South Carolina if we all work together and be determined that it will be the best.

Let's start at the January meeting by being in attendance and ready to go to work. We do not have a dispensation yet but we plan to have the meeting on January 8th instead of New Year's Day. We need all of the new officers to be there, in coat and tie, as we will be taking pictures.

Let's start the year off right with a good attendance and a determination to have a good year.

Fraternally,
Jack

My advice: Keep the flame of curiosity and wonderment alive — Michio Kaku

ACACIA LODGE #94

is located at

1518 HAMPTON ST
COLUMBIA, SC 29201OFFICE HOURS
MON-THURS 9AM-2PM
(803) 256-2538Regular communications
held every first Thursday
at 7:30 (dinner at 6:30)**JANUARY
BIRTHDAYS**4 WB Jack Parker Jr
13 G. Larry Railey
16 Shawn Ludwig
31 James T. Davis**SICK AND
DISTRESSED**WB Jim Neal
WB Don Michie
WB Richard Miner
and
Bro. Charlie Marthers

This month I would like to shed a little light on why Masons end prayer with the phrase, “So mote it be”. On my first visit to a Masonic lodge, I was a little shocked when after the blessing before dinner, everyone in unison uttered the phrase, “So mote it be”. Prior to this time, the only time I had heard this phrase used was in documentaries on witchcraft and paganism. Immediately some of the wild rumors about Freemasonry I had heard over the years started filling my head, but these people seemed to be too nice to be Satanists or of similar beliefs. I decided to put my concerns aside and do some research.

So what did I find? The word mote is simply an archaic verb meaning “may” or “might”, and it traces back to Old English. All we are really saying is, “So may it be.” This also happens to be the definition of the word “amen”, which ends many prayers. The meaning of the phrase is benign in nature, and we can rest easy.

Why do Masons use the phrase? It goes back to the earliest known Masonic document, the Regius Poem dating back to about 1390 AD. It is one of the Old Charges that early Freemasons used to regulate their trade. The poem famously ends with the couplet: “Amen! Amen! So mote it be! So say we all for charity”.

Masons are simply ending their prayers the way it was done in 1390. The next time you say, “So mote it be” after the chaplain finishes a prayer, just remember that you are taking part in an over 600 year-old Masonic tradition.

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

Here’s hoping everyone had a Merry Christmas, and a good new year. We have received our dispensation to hold the January Business Meeting on January 8th and I am looking forward to see everyone at the meeting.

I am going to the doctor on January 7th and I am hoping he will let me take the boot off my foot so I can get out and about. It has been a long 6 weeks of sitting around. I also want to thank W/B Jack Coker for filling in for me while my foot healed. Thanks Brother.

We still have several brothers who will be dropped from the lodge for non-payment of dues. A letter will be sent out to them later in January advising that they have been dropped. It is important that we contact these bothers and not let them drop. Their names were read at the December business meeting, and if you know any of these bothers, please let them know that we are interested and want their continued membership. Their dues must be paid before December 31 to avoid erasure.

I am currently in the process for preparing our annual report for Grand Lodge, and once completed I will review it with you. Thanks for all that each of you have done this year to support our lodge. I’m looking forward to another great year and to your continuing support.



Remember, send your comments, critiques or contributions to the Sprig to this address,

sprigofacacia94@hotmail.com

or, for those of you who receive it by e-mail, just click "Reply"



First of all, I'd like to say how proud I am of Acacia Lodge, for yet another successful year. We have been doing a lot of degree work lately and I believe this will continue, and even increase during the coming year. The new officers are bright and eager to perform, and under the leadership of WB Jack Coker, I expect we will all hone our skills to a keen, sharp edge. I see nothing but good things ahead.

Although I will no longer be serving as an officer, I will always be available to any of you who wish to polish your own performances, as I see it, teaching is my first, best way to give back to the Lodge that has given me so very much through the years. You all know how to reach me, you need only call, I am at your disposal. I will also continue to edit the Sprig of Acacia, as long as it is the will of the brethren, although after this month, my own submissions will be less lengthy. I hope that you, my brothers, will see the benefits of communication and will contribute articles of Masonic interest, as well as make use of the Sprig in it's new capacity as message board, to keep in touch with your brethren both here and abroad. This is, after all, the primary function of any newsletter.

That being said, I received several comments from brothers, vis-à-vis the recent holiday. These varied in length from short and succinct to quite voluminous, but I did promise to print them all, so...

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year brothers! Fraternally,
— Tony Smith

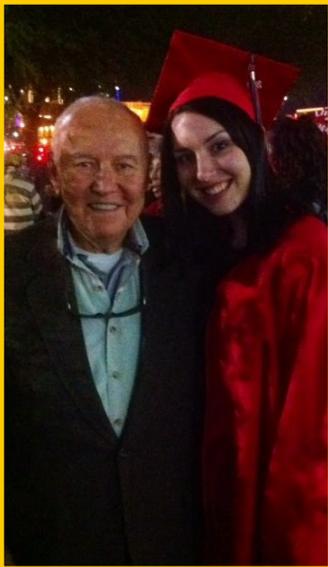
I hope everyone had a safe holiday with family and friends, Let's all look forward to a prosperous New Year, and a Special Shout-Out to Mrs. Worshipful Master for her great lodge Meals.
— Smitty Harrison

Hello fellow Brothers. I hope you all had a Merry Christmas and I am looking forward to our next business meeting and the next Degree. This is going to be a great year for Acacia Lodge, and I am proud to be part of it. — Erik Lloyd

I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas. All is well in the big state of LA. Can't get enough of hunting & fishing. The family is fine, couldn't ask for more out of life. Still I wish I was there with all the brothers, I miss seeing all of you, maybe one day I can show up for a visit. To all a very Happy New Year. — Doug Hall

And lastly, this diatribe from Brother Art Nebiker, who writes...

December is in so many ways a special month, what with all its wonderful celebrations, and for me it was indeed particularly special, as I had the pleasure of attending my grand-daughter's graduation from the University of Nevada at Las Vegas – UNLV, with a Bachelor's in Journalism and Media Communications.



A REMINDER

WB Jack Coker asks that all new officers be sure to attend our January 8th Regular Communication and remember to wear Coat and Tie. We will be taking pictures that night.



There are many opportunities for her in this field and I am sure she will choose a rewarding path.

Graduation was held in an indoor arena with the guests in the stands and the graduates below in the playing field, and as I looked down at over 2,000 red gowns and red miter caps I had the thought that these were 2,000 seeds being planted here today, not only for their individual futures but also for the future of America. All the best Erica and God Bless from your proud Opa.

And if you still have my last year's Christmas Message, well then do break it out and reread it. Not much new and exciting really happened in this past year - - - except for:

Got a new S&F bed.

Got a little more bald and pouchy.

Got a new set of eyes (cataract procedures).

Got a beautiful new set of front teeth, I can really smile now.

Got to eat venison that my son had hunted in the mountains of Utah.

Got a new electric tooth brush with a discount because of fewer teeth to brush.

Got to be an Octogenarian this year. Happily still looking at the green from the top.

Got wonderful warm experiences at the Zoo from both animals and the visiting guests.

Got away from lady friend who only used me as a handyman, she could not even cook.

Got to see my grand-daughter graduate from UNLV with a Degree in Journalism and Media.

Got a new low beam headlight on the car, don't really need a high beam, can't see that far anyway.

Got my house painted so now it looks like someone does live here, it's brick so why did it cost so much?

Got a new bucket list put together and I'll be sure and let you know in next year's Message how it all works out.

Most importantly, all is well with my sons, Eric and Kurt, both personally and professionally, and with their families.

So, enjoy your Christmas and all good things for the New Year.
Guete Rutsch, — Art Nebiker

Editor's note: Ja, mien freunds, eine Guete Rutsch, y un Prospero Ano, et Bonne Annee, however you say it in your house, a Happy New Year to us all. I'll see you all in Lodge.

— WB David P. Stuard, Jr. Editor-in-Chief