

Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry

Southern Jurisdiction of the United States of America

Orient of Georgia, Valley of Augusta

2553 Washington Road, Augusta, Georgia 30904-3103

Telephone Number 706-733-5387, Fax Number 706-733-5354

Email - scottishrite2553@comcast.net

Website: www.augustascottishrite.org

**FEBRUARY 2ND, 2017: TRESTLEBOARD (#129)
LADIES & GUESTS INVITED
ELECTIONS AND GUEST SPEAKER**



1. **FEBRUARY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING:** February's EC meeting will meet on the last Thursday (as usual) of February (February 23rd) at 6:30 PM. If you cannot attend please call or email the Secretary. (706-829-1665), goblak@comcast.net.



2. **UPCOMING ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS:** Election of Officers will be held at the Scottish Rite Center for all Bodies at the regular meeting in February. If you have any interest in serving the fraternity please let your intentions be known to the Secretary. If you do not have any interest in going through the chairs your talents are still needed. Interest sheets and cards are available each month in the lobby. This paperwork has a multitude of areas in which we need your help, whether it be for the degrees, building maintenance, dinner preparation etc. Complete the paperwork and turn it in to the Secretary so that we may get "YOU" involved in "YOUR" Scottish Rite. **"Take the Time and Make the Effort," "Be One of the Faithful Few."**



3. **NOW YOU KNOW:** There are four classes of men in this world; first, those who are masons neither in name nor nature; second, those who are Masons in name only; third, those who are masons only by nature; and lastly those who are masons in both name and nature. I remember how those words from "An Address To a Newly Raised Brother," lecture impressed me. It was a personal conversation between a wise Past Master and his new brother. I am in contact, as are many of you with hundreds of men that are masons in name and nature. I know many men that are masons in their heart. Unfortunately, I am familiar with too many men that are neither Masons by name or nature. I rarely have contact with the remaining class, those who are Masons in name only. They don't attend lodge, reunions, ceremonials, festivals or Masonic functions. Recently I had several discussions with a Mason. His actions and words were in stark contrast to his obligations. His demeanor while in public view was quite embarrassing to those that love the craft. I remind my brother, when emotions overcome logic, to remember who you represent, who you are and that all times represent Freemasonry.

Always maintain dignity, listen patiently and decide and act with impartiality. Why do some men follow individuals of this nature? I cannot answer this question. Brethren; Evaluate who you associate with, no matter if he is a mason or not, use your "own" mind, follow your "own" heart and do what is right for the fraternity. Remember your obligations..... So mote it be.

IT IS A GRAND MISTAKE TO THINK OF BEING GREAT WITHOUT GOODNESS AND I PRONOUNCE IT AS CERTAIN THAT THERE WAS NEVER A TRULY GREAT MAN THAT WAS NOT AT THE SAME TIME TRULY VIRTUOUS. (BENJAMIN FRANKLIN)

4. **ANTI-MASONIC RESPONSES** (Bro. Stoney) From time to time we all have encountered anti-Masonic situations. They can come in the form of written pamphlets, individual prepared packets, books, family, friends, or acquaintances. The first thought of a Scottish Rite Mason should be the person or organization presenting the anti-Masonic literature/comments has a right to their opinion. You should read or listen, as the case may be, with an open mind without any preconceived notions. It is amazing what you can learn from folks with whom you disagree. If the anti-Masonic opinions are in written form, try to find the author and start a dialog with him/her. If, on the other hand, you are speaking with an individual, listen carefully and when they finish ask that they listen with an open mind to what you have to say. OK, we have established the ground rules for civil discourse between two entities who disagree. Most of what you will encounter is dated as far back as the early 1700s and goes right up to the present. It seems that because we are an organization that has secrets, there is a target on our back for all sorts of speculation. Also, given the fact ours is a system of morality, the religious element enters in as well. It is easy to see how the profane could confuse our Craft with a religious cult given we pray and have a volume of sacred law on our altars. We also go to great lengths in our quest for an understanding of the concept of Truth. Volumes have been written by both adept and not so adept Masonic authors. Much has been written by others who are opposed to the Craft. So, the anti-Masonic person has a rich field from which to choose. Most, for whatever reason, seem to focus on Albert Pike's *Morals and Dogma*. I would suppose it is because he hits on so many different philosophies, religions and myths that he is ripe for the picking, especially when taken out of context. While *Morals and Dogma* is an official publication of the Supreme Council, it is not ritual nor catechism. In fact, in the preface, Pike asks the reader to give his ideas a fair reading, then accept or reject as the reader sees fit. Any writing, when phrases are taken out of context by ignoring what is before and after the commas can be made to sound as horrible as the author wishes. The Christian Bible is an excellent example. If one did not know the whole story how, would it look for a loving God to toss His first human creation out of the Garden of Eden? Or, why would that same God utterly destroy Sodom and Gomorrah and all the cities of the plains sparing only Zoar? Or Jesus, the very embodiment of peace, beating merchants with a cord and destroying their goods. Any literary work can be distorted to satisfy the preconceived notions of the author. Our job as Masons is to know the Craft well enough to respond in an ordered, respectful and logical fashion. Some folks will not allow facts to get in the way of their opinions. To them, there is little we can do to make our case. To others, we can certainly explain that *Morals and Dogma* is simply one man's opinion about how man relates to God, how God relates to man, and how man fits in God's Creation. Nothing more! It is not any kind of authoritative Masonic tome. By the same token, as you know, there is not any centralized body to which all Masons around the world belong. Each state in America has a sovereign Grand Lodge which is subservient to no other organization. If the Grand Master in a state decided the Scottish Rite no longer promulgated the ideas and principles of good citizenship and morals, he could very easily prohibit Masons in his state from being members. He has that same authority over all the Masonic appendant bodies within his jurisdiction. The profane oftentimes confuse the various Masonic entities, failing to grasp that the Grand Lodge is the final arbitrator of Masonic law within their jurisdiction. So, what do we do when confronted with disparaging opinions concerning our Order? Listen respectfully, respond calmly with facts and logic, and in all cases, hold yourself above the fray and not allow emotions to rule the day.



HAPPY VALENTINES DAY FROM THE SCOTTISH RITE



5. **THOSE RETIRED YEARS;** Among Retirees what is considered formal attire? Answer:



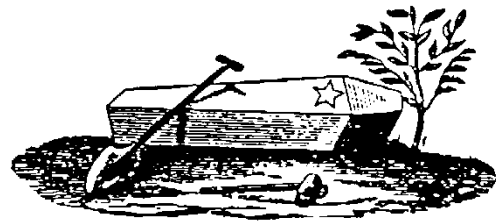
Tied Shoes. 2. Some people try to turn back their odometers. Not me. I want people to know why I look this way. I've traveled a long way and some of the roads weren't paved. 3. How old would you be if you didn't know how old you are? 4. The golden years are really just metallic years: gold in the tooth, silver in your hair, and lead in the rear. 5. Life would be infinitely happier if we could only be born at the age of 80 and gradually approach 18. 6. Age seldom arrives smoothly or quickly. It is more often a succession of jerks. 7. I'm aware that other people's grandchildren are not as bright as mine. 8. I'm wondering, if you're only as old as you feel, how could I be alive at 150? 9. I'm supporting all movements now...by eating bran, prunes, and raisins.



6. **SPRING REUNION 2017:** Brethren: Please take the time and make the effort to inform all members of your blue lodge that the Scottish Rite will be holding our next reunion in May of 2017. Dates have not been established at this time but look for this information in upcoming issues of this newsletter. Let's try to spread the word and hopefully we will have a large spring class.

Reunion
2017

7. **FAREWELL TO OUR BRETHREN:** The Valley of Augusta Scottish Rite must say farewell to the following 14 brethren who have passed in 2016. Please remember these brethren and their families in your prayers. **Brothers; Clayton K. Bizzell, William A. Bush, Eric Fleishner, James L. Hewett III, Carrol L. Hyler, Bobby C. Jenkins, Sr., John R. Jenkins, Chris C. Karamichael, John W. Kendrick, Chester P. Radoszewski, Charles F. Sidener, Hugh J. Simon, David B. Wilkes and Franklin Wood.**



8. **2017 HONOUR MEN:** The Valley of Augusta will be selecting our recommendations to the Supreme Council for our Honour Men for 2017 in the next month or so. We will compile a list of brothers who will be eligible for the KCCH (Red Cap) and 33° (White Cap), honors, prioritize them and send those recommendations to our Deputy, Illustrious Brother Ted Collins. He in turn will review and make his recommendations to the Supreme Council which will decide at the end of August who will actually receive the awards. We have approximately 5100 Scottish Rite Masons in the state of Georgia and these awards are given every other year (odd years, 2015, 2017, 2019). In the past we have had around 35-40 red caps, and 20-25 white caps awarded to the entire state of Georgia by the Supreme Council. We have 6 Valleys in Georgia (Augusta, Atlanta, Albany, Columbus, Macon and Savannah) which will divide these awards. So as you can see it is quite an honor to receive one of these prestigious honours. These brothers will be announced once the Supreme Council makes their decision.



EDITOR AND SECRETARY
T. GREGORY OBLAK, 33°



PERSONAL REP. OF THE S.G.I.G. IN GA.
RONNY D. LANHAM, 33°

