

*'Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry*

*Southern Jurisdiction of the United States of America*

*Orient of Georgia, Valley of Augusta*

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**DECEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2016: TRESTLEBOARD (#127)  
LADIES & GUESTS INVITED**



1. **DECEMBER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING:** The Executive Committee will **NOT** meet on the last Thursday of December because of the Christmas holiday. The meeting will begin promptly at 6:00P.M. (Not 6:30 as usual) on Thursday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016 just prior to our regular Lodge of Perfection Meeting in January. If you cannot attend please call or email the Secretary. (706-829-1665, email: [goblak@comcast.net](mailto:goblak@comcast.net).
2. **DECEMBER LOP OF PERFECTION CHRISTMAS PROGRAM;** You do not want to miss the December 1, 2016 LOP Christmas Musical Program. It will be performed by the all male Garden City A cappella Chorus. They have an unbelievable Christmas program prepared for us this year. They performed their Christmas program 7 times last year and actually will be performing at Fort Gordon the same afternoon just prior to our performance this year. The Scottish Rite allowed them to use our facility earlier this year in preparation for a National Competition. They in turn wanted to return the favor with a 45 minute performance on Thursday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016. Please put this on your calendar now and bring your spouses, children, grandchildren and friends to hear this amazing musical group of 20-25 male vocalists.





3. **THE GORMOGONS:** (Bro. Stoney) Gormogons are not what you see on the side of buildings, those or gargoyles. I thought I had better clear that up quickly before you lost interest and went on to some other article in this newsletter. The Gormogons were a short-lived secret society established in 1724 in England. They were formed in opposition to Freemasonry. One of their principle rules was that no Mason could join who was not first degraded and then had to renounce the Masonic Order. They were rather pretentious in that they claimed greater antiquity than even Masonry. In fact, they claimed to be descendent from an ancient society originally formed in China.


There was a great deal of back and forth between the organizations which is aptly illustrated in the following verses by Henry Carey written in 1729:

*The Masons and the Gormogons are laughing at one another while all mankind are laughing at them; then why do they make such a pother? They bait their hook for simple gulls, and the truth with bam they smother; but when they've taken in their culls, why then 't is – "Welcome, Brother!"* Please do not accuse me of poor spelling or grammar, the above was transcribed exactly as written in the Olde English style of the day. In any case, the Gormogons made a big splash during their time in the sun and published a great number of defamatory articles against Freemasonry. Albert Pike in his book *Esoterika* goes into a bit more detail about the order but I suspect some of what he says might be speculation and conjecture. How much is fact based is up to the reader's imagination. That being said, at the end of the day, Masonry continued on and the Gormogons became a speck on the pages of history.



*Hope all of you have a  
great Holiday Season*



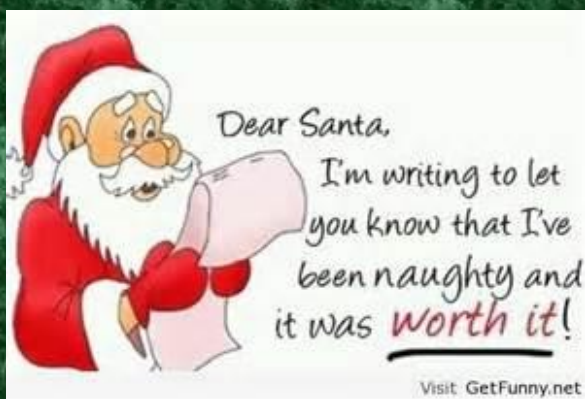
4.  **INTERESTING THOUGHTS:** 1. The real art of conversation is not only to say the right thing at the right time, but also to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment. 2. The older you get, the tougher it is to lose weight, because by then your body and your fat have gotten to be really good friends. 3. He who hesitates is probably right. 4. A penny saved is a government oversight. 5. If you can smile when things go wrong, you have someone in mind to blame. 6. The sole purpose of a child's middle name is so he can tell when he is really in trouble. 7. There is always a lot to be thankful for if you take time to look for it. For example I am sitting here thinking how nice it is that wrinkles don't hurt.

5. **DUES 2017:** All dues notices for 2017 have been sent and are payable (\$75) by December 31, 2016. If you have not paid for 2016 please remit \$150.00.



*Men can do their Christmas shopping for 25 relatives in 25 minutes.*





6. **RENOVATIONS CONTINUE:** All of the interior lighting (approximately 545 bulbs) throughout the Scottish Rite Center has been converted from incandescent and fluorescent to LED. (Light –Emitting Diode) This conversion will save the temple tremendously on the cost of electricity, save labor time for bulb replacement since most of the bulbs will last approximately 3-5 years and it will also cut down on the amount of heat generated from all of those bulbs (a 250 watt LED can be picked up and held while lit, plus the color of the light is purer white than the yellow color of incandescent lighting. See if you can tell a difference !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



7. **JANUARY LOP MEETING:** The Venerable Master wanted to have a talent show for the January LOP meeting made up of our membership, their families and friends to showcase our local talent. However: We have not had any volunteers as of this date. If we do not hear from you concerning this we will bring in a guest speaker for this meeting. If you or your family or friend has a talent and is willing to perform please notify the secretary ASAP.

*How many observe Christ's birthday! How few, His precepts!"*

— Benjamin Franklin

*"Christmas can be celebrated in the school room with pine trees, tinsel and reindeer, but there must be no mention of the man whose birthday is being celebrated. One wonders how a teacher would answer if a student asked why it was called Christmas."*

— Ronald Reagan

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