

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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JANUARY 4TH, 2018-----TRESTLEBOARD #140
DINNER & PROGRAM
FRIENDS & FAMILY INVITED



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING: Our next Executive Committee meeting will be held at the Valley of Augusta Scottish Rite on Thursday, January 4th, 2018, 6:00 PM, just prior to our January LOP meeting. We also will have our regular EC meeting on the last Thursday of the month (January 25th, 2018) beginning at 6:30 PM.



JANUARY 4TH, 2018, LOP MEETING: Dinner will be served at 7:00 PM and the Program will begin promptly at 8:00 PM. Our guest speaker is one of our own, Brother Andy King. Brother King will



be talking about the Convention of States. What's a Convention of States anyway? Article V of the U.S. Constitution gives states the power to call a Convention of States to propose amendments. It takes 34 states to call the convention and 38 to ratify any amendments that are proposed. Our convention would only allow the states to discuss amendments that, "limit the power and jurisdiction of the federal government, impose fiscal restraints, and place term limits on federal officials." Join us for a great meal and an interesting program.

Spring Reunion 2018: All Master Masons who desire to be a Scottish Rite Mason can do so at our Spring 2018 Reunion. The Reunion will be held here at the Scottish Rite Center on May 18-19, 2018. The class has been named in honor of James L. Huggins, Sr., 32° KCCH. You may download a petition from our website (augustascottishrite.org) or ask any member. They are also available in the lobby of the SRC. We are all ambassadors for the SR so let's get out to our local lodges and promote The Valley of Augusta.



DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATION: In the Scottish Rite, each state constitutes an "Orient," and each city is known as a "Valley," or separate Scottish Rite organization consisting of four "Bodies" – "The Lodge of Perfection," which confers the "Ineffable Degrees" (4th through 14th), the "Chapter of 'Rose Croix'" which confers the "Historical and Religious Degrees" (15th through 19th); the "Council of Kadosh" which confers the "Chivalric and Philosophical Degrees" (19th through 30th); and the "Consistory," which confers the "Official and Ceremonial Degrees" (31st and 32nd). After experiencing the Degrees, one becomes a Scottish Rite Mason or Master of the Royal Secret. Our order is more than a fraternity of good fellows, engaged in benevolent practices of friendship and relief. It is an aggressively active or militant order, a knighthood devoted to the cause of Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity. To establish righteousness and ordain mercy, to protect all the weak and combat all dogmas or doctrines that would imprison the human spirit. This is the mission of Scottish Rite Masonry. The Scottish Rite seeks to cultivate in the hearts of men, personal morality and the sentiments of tolerance and fraternity. What has been said in this mission is vividly portrayed in the conferral of the Degrees, and the Scottish Rite Mason is dedicated to the effort to make the spirit of Masonry prevalent in society.

WHAT IS CELIBACY? Celibacy can be a choice in life, or a condition imposed by circumstances.



While attending a Marriage Weekend, Frank and his wife Nancy listened to the instructor declare. It is essential that husbands and wives know the things that are important to each other. He then addressed the men. Can you name and describe your wife's favorite flower? Frank leaned over, touched Nancy's arm gently, and whispered, Gold Medal-All-Purpose, isn't it? And thus began Frank's life of celibacy.

UPCOMING ELECTIONS: February 2018 LOP meeting is the month in which we hold our elections. If you are interested in participating in a position in one of the 4 Scottish Rite Bodies please make your interest known to the Secretary (Greg Oblak, 706-829-1665) ASAP.



IT TAKES A CHILD: We were the only family with children in the restaurant. I sat Erik in a high chair and noticed everyone was quietly eating and talking. Suddenly, Erik squealed with glee and said, "Hi there." He pounded his fat baby hands on the highchair tray. His eyes were wide with excitement and his mouth was bared in a toothless grin. I looked around and saw the source of his merriment. It was a man with a tattered rag of a coat; dirty, greasy and worn. His shirt was dirty and his hair was uncombed and unwashed. We were too far from him to smell, but I was sure he smelled. His hands waved and flapped on loose wrists. "Hi there baby; hi there, big boy. I see ya, buster," the man said to Erik. My husband and I exchanged looks, "What do we do?" Erik continued to laugh and answer, "Hi, Hi there." Everyone in the restaurant noticed and looked at us and then at the man. The old geezer was creating a nuisance with my

beautiful baby. Our meal came and the man began shouting from across the room, "Do you know patty cake? Do you know Peek-a-boo? Hey look, he knows Peek-a-boo. Nobody thought the old man was cute, he obviously was drunk. We finally got through with the meal, my husband went to pay the bill and told me to meet him in the parking lot. The old man sat poised between me and the door. "Lord, just let me out of here before he speaks to me or Erik." As I passed by Erik leaned over my arm, reaching with both arms in a baby's "pick-me-up" position. Before I could stop him, Erik had propelled himself from my arms to the man's. Suddenly a very old smelly man and a very young baby consummated their love relationship. Erik in an act of total trust, love and submission laid his tiny head upon the man's ragged shoulder. The man's eyes closed, and I saw tears hover beneath his lashes. His aged hands full of grime, pain and hard labor—gently, so gently, cradled my baby's bottom and stroked his back. No two beings have ever loved so deeply for so short a time! I stood awestruck. The old man rocked and cradled Erik in



children." (Author Unknown)

his arms for a moment, then his eyes opened and set squarely on mine. He said in a firm commanding voice, "You take care of this baby." Somehow I managed, "I will," from a throat that contained a stone. He pried Erik from his chest, unwillingly, longingly, as though he were in pain. I received by baby and the man said, "God Bless You, Ma'am, you have given me my Christmas gift." I said nothing more than a muttered thanks and ran to the car with Erik in my arms. My husband was wondering why I was crying and holding Erik so tightly, and why I was saying, "My God, My God, Forgive Me." I just witnessed God's love shown through the innocence of a tiny child who saw no sin, who made no judgment; a child who saw a soul, a mother who saw a suit of clothes. I was blind, holding a child who was not. I felt it was God asking---"Are you willing to share your son for a moment?"—when he shared his for all eternity. The ragged old man, unwittingly, had reminded me, "To enter the Kingdom of God, we must become as little

Epilogue: There is tremendous happiness in making others happy, despite our own situations. Shared grief is half the sorrow, but happiness when shared, is doubled. If you want to feel rich, just count all the things you have that money can't buy. Today is a gift, that is why it is call **"The Present!"**

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN: Brethren: It is that time of the year again, **"DUES TIME"** and the due date is December 31, 2017 for your 2018 dues. Our dues are necessary for the operation of the Scottish Rite Center. Remind all the brethren you know to pay their dues promptly. Also; Does everyone know when membership day is? **"It's Everyday."** (Kenny May, 33° Membership Chairman)

EDITOR AND SECRETARY

T. GREGORY OBLAK, 32° KCCH



PERSONAL REP. OF THE S.G.I.G. IN GA.

RONNY D. LANHAM, 33°

