

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

DECEMBER 6, 2018: TRESTLEBOARD (#151) CHRISTMAS CONCERT



DECEMBER LOP CHRISTMAS POPS CONCERT: The Valley of Augusta Scottish Rite will be the host for a Christmas Concert by the Columbia County Orchestra on Thursday, December 6th, 2018, Dinner will be at 7:00 pm with the concert beginning at 8:00 pm. The Columbia County Orchestra (CCO) was founded in February 2008, by Rob Nordan, Music Director, who is an area music educator, free-lance musician, and church musician. The purpose of the CCO is to promote the musical arts and foster music appreciation, while also providing an outlet for amateur and professional musicians to express their musical talents in and around the CSRA. The CCO is the parent organization of the overall association of Columbia County Orchestras and the Columbia County Youth Orchestra (CCYO). Instrumentalists come from across the area including the following counties: Columbia, Richmond, Aiken, Emanuel and Toombs. Our current groups do over 15 concerts annually. The CCO has a board of directors, which administrates our non-profit 501c3, IRS approved organization. Charitable contributions can be made to the CCO annually, with the donor receiving federal tax deductible credit. Future plans include; Exploring the possibilities of establishing the ARC (Arts & Resource Center) of Columbia County accessible to the whole CSRA and expanding outreach/educational musical offerings in our area.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING: Our next executive committee meeting will be held at the Valley of Augusta Scottish Rite on Thursday, January 3rd, 2019, 6:00 PM. Just prior to our January LOP meeting. This will be for the December meeting



which will be delayed to the above date due to the Christmas holidays. There will also be another EC meeting on January 31, 2019 for the month of January (Back to the normal date and time, last Thursday of the month and at 6:30 pm rather than at 6:00 pm on January 3rd.)



AN EXPLANATION FOR THE 2020 DUES INCREASE:

Cost per member per year(per capita) which has to be sent to the Supreme Council each year. The Supreme council has already passed a five year plan to increase per capita. 2019=\$26.00, 2020=\$27.00, 2021=\$28.00, 2022=\$29.00, and 2023=\$30.00.

We also have to pay the amount of \$8000.00 a year for the Mandatory Liability and Property Insurance for our Building and Grounds. Cost per member per year for 333 dues paying members (We currently have 419 members which include life and emeritus members who no longer pay dues) That amounts to another **\$24.00** per member.

Dues for the year now stand at \$75 per year. The above two mandatory expenses amount to a total of \$51.00 which means we now only have \$24.00 per member to operate on.

Monthly Operating Expenses to include the following:

1. Utilities: Gas, Water and Electricity.
2. Grass Cutting and Landscaping Costs.
3. Monthly Cleaning Service for the Building
4. Monthly Newsletters, (Postage, Printing and Mailing Services)
5. Comcast: (TV, Internet and Telephone)
6. One Full Time employee Salary, State Taxes, Federal Taxes and FICA.
7. Pest Control (Inside and Outside Termite)
8. Monthly Meals (Cost of Food, Salary for Chef, Donation to Rainbow for Cleanup, supplies etc)

Other Yearly Costs:

1. 2- Reunions per year(meals, books, utilities, props, caps, etc)
2. Donations to our Rite Care Clinic in Augusta. (\$18,000.00)
3. Donations to other Charities. (Varies)
4. Repairs and Replacement of AC and Heating Units and routine Maintenance to the building.
5. Renovations and Upgrades to the facility and grounds.
6. Office Supplies; (paper, ink, stamps, envelopes, dues cards, etc)
7. Almoners Fund Allocations as needed.
8. Travel Expenses for the Personal Representative and General Secretary to Mandatory meetings.
9. Donations to Guest Speakers for honorariums etc.
10. Software annual expense from the Supreme Council.

11. Purchase of furniture, computers, audio-visual equipment etc.
12. Bank costs: (Checks, fees, Security Box, etc)

I am sure there are even others that I am missing but I am sure that I am providing you with the overall picture.

Yearly Revenue:

1. Dues: (333 dues paying members @ \$75.00 each)
2. Augusta National Rental of Building for Training and Grounds for Parking during the Masters.
3. Starting to look for individuals and companies to Rent the Building for weddings, birthdays, business meetings etc.
4. Revenue received from donations for the dinner (which usually does not even cover the cost of the dinner.
5. Donations. Minima I donations from the membership.

Brethren: The Augusta Scottish Rite has not increased dues in 9 years, which was probably a mistake on our part. We had a major company renting our building for 11 years for Master's Hospitality (Which left us 3 years ago) and decided to use that money for operating and charitable expenses and not increase dues to the membership. We have no choice except to try to do additional fundraisers, increase dues, and make a plea for donations. We have a couple of fundraisers in the planning stages as I write this article, we will be increasing dues for the year 2020 (2019 dues notices for \$75 have already been sent and need to be paid by December of this year. Please pay your dues in a timely manner if you can.) And I know there are members who cannot attend meetings because of either age or location but want to help and can afford to help YOUR Scottish Rite. **You can do so by sending in your monetary donation earmarked for Operation and Charitable contributions.**

Most financial advisors opinions are that dues should cover all operational expenses. If that were true the dues should be at the \$250 level per year per member. Also the mandatory per capita charges should be an additional amount and rise each year as those costs to us increase. There are several valleys whose dues have been \$125 for several years and all valleys are looking at adding the per capita on each year to the dues. You also have to realize we are one of the smallest valleys in the state and other larger valleys have many more dues paying members to support their expenses. I hope this explains, or at least outlines, the need for the upcoming dues increase. The Personal Representative, Treasurer and myself are always available for questions.

May Peace be your gift at Christmas and your blessings all year through.

**EDITOR AND SECRETARY
T. GREGORY OBLAK, 33°**



**PERSONAL REP. OF THE S.G.I.G. IN GA.
GARY H. LEAZER, PGM, 32° KCCH**

