

GRAND MASTER’S MESSAGE

4 July 2015

As I write this article our country is celebrating the Fourth of July or Independence Day. The question came to me “Why do we celebrate the fourth of July?” This date should remind us of the freedoms we enjoy because of the brave men and women who fought the British government for the privilege of being free and giving us an independent America. The signers of the “Declaration of Independence” were courageous men who pledged their lives, their fortunes, their future and their sacred honor for the cause of freedom and independence. Most of these brave men lost everything and many lost their lives in the pursuit of the freedoms we now enjoy as free Americans. Also many of the signers were Freemasons.

Some of the signers of the Declaration of Independence were from South Carolina. They were Thomas Heyward, Jr., Edward Rutledge and Arthur Middleton. They were captured by the British during the Charleston Campaign in 1780. They were held prisoners in dungeons at the St. Augustine Prison until their exchange a year later.

Independence Day is associated with fireworks, cook-outs, parades, family reunions, ball games, speeches, concerts and other ceremonies, as well as other public and private celebrations of the history of our government and traditions of the United States. Independence Day is the birthday and National Day of Celebration of the United States.

At the bombardment of Fort McHenry by ships of the British Navy in the War of 1812, Francis Scott Key, a thirty-five year old lawyer and amateur poet, was on one of those British ships trying to secure the release of Dr William Beanes, a prisoner of the British. As they watched the shelling of Ft. McHenry throughout the night, Key penciled a poem describing what he was witnessing. The poem was published in the Baltimore Patriot with the title “The Defense of Fort McHenry,” The poem became known as “The Star Spangled Banner.” Key’s poem was declared in 1931 by the U.S. Congress as the official anthem of the United States. A Mason named John Stafford Smith set the poem to music to the tune of an old English tune called “To Anacreon in Heaven” a difficult melody with a large vocal range sometime between 1770 and 1775. We are more familiar with the first stanza, but the anthem contains four. In indignation over the start of the American Civil War, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr. added a fifth stanza to the song in 1861 which appeared in songbooks of the era.

I hope that as you celebrated the "Fourth of July with your families and friends that you kept in mind that we are free because of the sacrifice of so many brave and honorable men.

May God bless us, our Fraternity and pray that He will bless The United States of America.

Sincerely and Fraternally,
William B. Rogers
Grand Master

[2]

MASONIC EDUCATION CORNER

Engaging Our Membership

Gentlemen, as we enter the “Dog Days of Summer” we are at the time and place in our Lodges to determine what our membership will be and if we have members that are in danger of being dropped from our rolls at the end of the year. This is the time to both, review the results from the Masonic Education Lesson Plan, as found at www.scgrandlodgeafm.org under the Resources Tab, and to move forward in our series on the Lodge of the Future. If your Lodge has not yet had the open discussion about your actual Lodge statistics and direction for the future, the data that you will generate is vital to understanding your Lodge’s Future Success.

Start now with your plans to visit every member who is in danger of dropping membership, and determining why they are in arrears.

The key issue facing us today is how best to maintain our members and engage them. This is best performed today with appropriate use of email and website communication to ALL of our members. It is very unusual today to find any Lodge in our Grand Jurisdiction that has more than 20% of members attending meetings. Why?

If as promised, we are to support one another and continue to improve and enlighten our membership, so why are not coming to our Lodge?

We hear the typical response, but often not supported by real facts and truth. Health issues, work obligations, and relocation are legitimate and often heard, but what about those other members that we are not seeing anymore, or in some cases ever! I submit that many Lodge Officers have members that they have never met! These are often the very members that are questioning the Value of Lodge membership and predictably more likely to drop from our rolls. While it is incumbent on all members to support their Lodge, many report that they feel little or no connection to the Lodge. We must work to improve the Lodge Experience, with more time together, giving every member a responsibility to the Lodge and providing more for the members. Better Education, more discussion, better time spent together over a good meal at Lodge and even in other settings.

Now let’s address ways to engage members that are not active with us, but are still our Brothers and Lodge members. It will take work and effort.

For us to establish a platform for growth and stability, we must address the issue of Creating Membership Value. We must communicate with all of our members regularly; frequency with meaningful information and encouragement to remain active and engaged. We must make our meetings more than meet, read minutes, pay bills and go home. We must recreate the environment of Brotherhood, Fellowship, Education and Support for all of our members with valuable experiences. In essence, we must create an environment where members WANT to come to our meetings.

In the Masonic Education Lesson Plan Number 2 - Engaging Members; we offer a Lodge Education topic and action plans to create an opportunity for improved communications and engagement. Get it at: www.scgrandlodgeafm.org

Will your Lodge become a place where we can come together,

[3]

learn from each other and enjoy being part of something greater than ourselves and make a difference to our members, our Lodge and our community?

Before we address new member engagement, we must make Lodge Membership a meaningful and rewarding experience for all of our members.

Brethren, thank you for your work to improve the Lodge Experience and Advance toward a successful Lodge of the Future and share your results!

Sincerely and Fraternally,
Michael D. Smith, SGW, Chairman
Masonic Education Committee

—o—

INSPIRATIONAL MEETINGS

Friday, August 14, 2015, 6:30 pm, 8th District, RW Brother J. Dean Strickland, DDGM, Brookland United Methodist Church, 541 Meeting St., West Columbia, SC. Brother Jay Fain, Jr., J.W. of Dentsville Lodge No. 398, will be the speaker. Supper will be served.

Saturday, August 15, 2015, 5:00 pm, 27th District, RW Brother D. James Cribb, DDGM, Hampton Lodge No. 204, 206 S. McQueen Street, Florence, SC. RW Brother Jamie Cribb, will be the speaker. Supper will be served.

Friday, August 21, 2015, 6:30 pm, 10th District, RW Brother C. Ray Boland, Jr., DDGM, Scottish Rite Temple, 7230 Gamers Ferry Road, Columbia, SC. Brother Leon Lott, Sheriff of Richland County, will be the speaker. Supper will be served.

Saturday, August 22, 2015, 6:30 pm, 26th District, RW Brother Jack L. Davis, DDGM, Sumter Lodge No. 364, 215 Alice Drive, Sumter, SC. Rev. Brother Nat Brown, PM, will be the speaker. Supper will be served.

Friday, September 18, 2015, 7:00 pm, 12th District, RW Brother Troy W. Shealy, DDGM, Union Lodge No. 75, Union, SC. Brother Damon E. Lam, Executive Officer-Demolay, will be the speaker. Supper will be served.

Saturday, September 19, 2015, 6:30 pm, 23rd District, RW Brother B. Daniel Bishop, DDGM, Great Falls Lodge No. 277, 1 Masonic Drive, Great Falls, SC. RW Brother Michael D. Smith, Senior Grand Warden, will be the speaker. Supper will be served.

Thursday, September 24, 2015, 7:00 pm, 3rd District, RW Brother Mitchell Bryan, DDGM, Unity Lodge No. 55, 35 Trevor Drive, Walterboro, SC. MW Brother Gerald L. Carver, Past Grand Master, Grand Secretary, will be the speaker. Supper will be served.

Thursday, September 24, 2015, 7:00 pm, 6th District, RW Brother Jon S. Majerus, DDGM, Aiken Shrine Club, 1526 Columbia Hwy., North (US 1), Aiken, SC. MW Barry A. Rickman, Past Grand Master, will be the speaker. Supper will be served.

Thursday, September 24, 2015, 6:30 pm, 19th, 20th and 21st Districts, RW Brother John T. Fawcett, DDGM, RW Brother Guy L. Burrell, DDGM and RW Brother Robert W. Culp, DDGM, Cannons Campground United Methodist Church, 3450 Cannons Campground

[4]

Road, Spartanburg, SC. Speaker will be RW Brother Walter C. Disher, II, Junior Grand Warden. Supper will be served.

Saturday, September 26, 2015, 7:00 pm, 25th District, RW Brother Danny E. Johnson, Jr., DDGM, Hartsville Lodge No.173, 437 West Home Avenue, Hartsville, SC. MW Brother Gerald L. Carver, Past Grand Master, Grand Secretary, will be the speaker. Supper will be served.

Monday, October 5, 2015, 6:30 pm, 13th District, RW Brother J. Robin Entrekin, DDGM, Palmetto Lodge No. 19, Laurens, SC. RW Brother Michael D. Smith, Senior Grand Warden, will be the speaker. Supper will be served.

Thursday, October 15, 2015, 6:30 pm, 11th District, RW Brother G. Walker Moore, DDGM, Stonewall Lodge No. 124, 119 Church Street, Troy, SC. Speaker will be RW Brother Richard Williamson, Past Grand Marshal of the Grand Lodge of New Jersey. Supper will be served.

Saturday, October 17, 2015, 6:30 pm, 14th District, RW Brother Claude A. Turpin, Jr., DDGM, Starr Baptist Church, 115 Stones Throw Avenue, Star, SC. The speaker will be Rev. Brother Charlie Hayes, Pastor. Supper will be served.

Monday, October 19, 2015, 7:00 pm, 5th District, RW Brother Donald C. Kirby, DDGM, El Bab Shrine Club, 517 Patterson Mill Road, Barnwell, SC. The speaker will be RW Brother Walter C. Disher, II, Junior Grand Warden. Supper will be served.

Thursday, October 22, 2015, 6:30 pm, 1st and 2nd Districts, RW Brother Roger D. Viduya, DDGM and RW Brother Dale A. Schumann, DDGM, CCMA Masonic Center, 1285 Orange Grove Road, Charleston, SC. RW Brother Walter C. Disher, II, Junior Grand Warden, will be the speaker. Supper will be served.

Monday, October 26, 2015, 6:30 pm, 7th District, RW Brother Joseph E. Wells, DDGM, Edisto Shrine Club, 2265 Five Chop Road (HWY 301), Orangeburg, SC. RW Brother Carey D. Baxley, Jr. PDDGM will be the speaker. Supper will be served.

Friday, October 30, 2015, 6:30 pm, 15th District, RW Brother Cecil C. Conyers, DDGM, Clemson United Methodist Church, 300 Frontage Road, Clemson, SC. Rev. Brother Kyle Caudell, member of Townville Lodge No. 209, will be the speaker. Supper will be served.

Monday, November 2, 2015, 6:30 pm, 16th District, RW Brother Dwight A. Yates, DDGM, Bates Lodge No. 189, Easley, SC. RW Brother Johnny Mack Brown, US Marshal for SC, will be the speaker. Supper will be served.

Saturday, November 14, 2015, 6:00 pm, 29th District, RW Brother Gordon W. Best, DDGM, Belin United Methodist Church, 4183 US 17 Business, Murrells Inlet, SC, MW Brother Gerald L. Carver, Past Grand Master, Grand Secretary, will be the speaker. Supper will be served.

Monday, November 23, 2015, 6:30 pm, 22nd District, RW Brother Jerry N. Smith, DDGM, Indianland Lodge No. 414,9189 Charlotte Highway, Fort Mill, SC. MW Brother Gerald L. Carver, PGM, Grand Secretary, will be the speaker. Supper will be served.

[5]



On February 22, 2015 MWB David J. DeChant Sr. presented Senator Katrina Shealy (Lex.) with a portrait of George Washington which was donated by Roebuck Lodge #357. Also present were: Marshall Johnson JW (Roebuck #357) Steve Sekeley SD (Roebuck #357), Dean Ledford WM (Roebuck #357) RW John King PDDGM 13th, RW Sam Turner, III PDDGM 19th, RW Trent Henderson PDDGM 20th.

The portrait now hangs in the Marion Gressette Building.

INDIANLAND MASONS HELP SUPPORT CHILDREN'S HOME



Indianland Masons, from left, Roger Summey, Bob Harris and Ron Reynolds hold a Red Ribbon Week banner, proclaiming Indianland Masonic Lodge 414's support for Lancaster County youth. Fundraisers, such as the Masons' barbecues, help support charities such as the Lancaster Children's Home.

THREE GENERATIONS OF MASONS



Left to right: Bradley Shealy, WM, Dean Shealy, Secretary, Claude Shealy, Tiler, Justin Shealy, JW.

This is the first time that any Brother in Little Mountain Lodge #281 can think of that we have had three generations sitting in chairs. Brother Claude Shealy, father, his son Worshipful Brother Dean, and grandsons Brothers Bradley and Justin.

SIXTY YEAR PINS



Worshipful Brother Albert Tomlinson receiving his 60 Year Certificate from his son Worshipful Master Andrew Tomlinson (on right) and RW Brother Guy L. Burrell, DDGM for the 20th (on left) at Fairforest Lodge #393. Brother Tomlinson was raised to a Master Mason on April 12, 1955 at Beulah Lodge #259 in Olanta, SC and demitted to Fairforest Lodge #393 in 1975.

NOTICE

The new Grand Lodge email addresses are:

Jery Carver, PGM, Grand Sec. grandsecretary@scgrandlodgeafm.org
 Debbie Morell, Sec. debbie@scgrandlodgeafm.org
 Sandra Areheart, Sec. sandra@scgrandlodgeafm.org
 Connie Bennett, Sec. connie@scgrandlodgeafm.org

ROCK QUARRY MEETING

The Annual Outdoor Rock Quarry Meeting will be held September 18, 2015, 7:00 pm at Sycamore Point, located off Hunts Bridge Road on the Greenville and Pickens line, for the purpose of conferring the Third Degree. Supper will be served beginning at 5:30 pm. In case of rain, the meeting will be held at the Greenville Scottish Rite Center.

IN MEMORIAM

ROGER DALE SIMS
 Past District Deputy Grand Master

August 21, 1946 Lancaster, SC
 July 7, 2015 Lancaster, SC

(USPS 332-760) Official bulletin of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free Masons of South Carolina issued bimonthly from the Grand Lodge Building, 1445 Pisgah Church Rd., Lexington, S.C. 29072-8937.
 ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED
 POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Masonic Light, Gerald L. Carver, Editor, P.O. Box 2185, Lexington, S.C. 29071-2185, Telephone 803-808-4377, FAX 803-808-4315
 E-mail: grandsecretary@scgrandlodgeafm.org



Periodicals postage paid at Lexington, S.C. 29073-9998
 Subscription Rate: One Year, \$10.00; Life, \$50.00
 AUTO
 Vol. 87 August/September 2015 No. 3