

GEORGIA MASONIC BLOOD DRIVE 2016

This year's Georgia Masonic Blood Drive has served our fraternity proudly. We as Georgia Freemasons have now contributed over 30,225 units of blood in now the seventh year of our blood drive. Once again we have contributed nearly 5000 units for this Masonic Year.

What does this mean to us as Georgia Freemasons?

Most blood banks or blood providers will tell you that one donation will save three lives. We as Georgia Freemasons have now saved over 90,675 lives. Nearly 15,000 lives in this Masonic Year alone.

These numbers are just simply incredible! Can you tell me of another charity that can claim to have saved the lives of an entire medium sized Georgia City in one year? We as Georgia Freemasons can claim we have done this each year for the past five years.

This is such an important Masonic Charity. As in all good projects, we need dedicated and passionate advocates. Unfortunately, our Blood Providers in this State will not share their numbers with the Georgia Masonic Blood Drive. This is where it is important for all the chairmen of each and every Lodge's Blood Drive to report their results to our state Blood Drive Chair. We must keep our own numbers and statistics in order to be counted. Our Blood Providers are generally more focused on processing and safeguarding the blood products then sharing those numbers with us. At the conclusion of each and every blood drive the Blood Drive Chairman or a Lodge Officer needs to email their results to be counted for the next Masonic Year. Please do not wait or allow these numbers to accumulate. We need to know how many events you are involved in and the dates of these Blood drives. I would at this time request that each lodge secretary, when clearing his desk, ask for any and all units donated to our cause and email me these results.

Each year we are getting closer and closer to National Recognition as a National Masonic Charity. This year the American Red Cross has given their blessings and their encouragement for the Georgia Masonic Blood Drive to become a National Masonic Event. We will try again to gain National Recognition from the Conference of Grandmasters of North America.

We as Freemasons can partner with our local Churches and Communities with larger Blood Drives. We can get our senior members out of their shut in surroundings for a day. We can inform our communities

of what we as Freemasons do for our neighbors each and every day, by displaying our Lodge shirts and caps while contributing to our community festivals and events. I have not heard of one event where someone has not approached a member and asked that most important question..... "What do Masons do"? "And How do I become one?"

M.Steven Fishman, P.M. 33⁰

Webb Lodge No.166
Georgia Masonic Blood Drive Chair
mstevenfishman@juno.com
706-829-1155