Masonic Messenger
Official Publication of the Grand Lodge of Georgia, Free & Accepted Masons
April 2019

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MASONIC MESSENGER
Vol. 109    April 2019    No. 1

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Please send changes of address to the Grand Secretary
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on your lodge secretary’s monthly report.
The editor does NOT keep the list of addresses.

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Email: Coffeybr@gmail.com
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Email: gtylerjc@gmail.com
706-988-9048

The Masonic Messenger
2 / April 2019
Brethren, there was a mistake in the February publication regarding the District Convention Dates for 2019. The dates which were sent and published were for 2018. We apologize for any confusion this may have caused.

- The Editor

District Conventions for 2019
2nd District: 9:00 AM April 6, 2019 in Blakely @ Magnolia Lodge No. 86
4th District: 9:45 AM August 17, 2019 in Newnan @ Coweta Lodge No. 60
5th District: 10:00 AM September 14, 2019 in Atlanta @ Atlanta Masonic Center
6th District: 9:00 AM May 4, 2019 in Griffin @ Meridian Sun Lodge No. 26
7th District: 9:00 AM May 10 and 11 in Rome @ Cherokee Lodge No. 66
8th District: 10:00 AM May 18, 2019 in Elberton @ Philomathea Lodge No. 25
9th District: 9:00 AM September 28, 2019 in Buford @ Buford Community Center Town Park and Theater
10th District: 10:00 AM June 8, 2019 in Augusta @ Clarence H. Cohen Lodge No. 749
11th District: 10:00 AM September 21, 2019 in Valdosta @ Azalea Lodge No. 716
12th District: 9:00 AM April 20, 2019 in Warner Robbins @ Tyrian Lodge No. 111

2019 Masonic Home Trustee Meetings
Saturday, April 13, 2019 @ 1:30 PM Masonic Home
Wednesday, June 5, 2019 @ 11:00 AM Masonic Home
Wednesday, August 14, 2019 @ 11:00 AM Masonic Home
Saturday, October 5, 2019 @ 1:30 PM Masonic Home
Monday, October 21, 2019 @ 11:00 AM Al Sihah Shrine Temple, Macon GA
Wednesday, October 23, 2019 @ Conclusion of Grand Lodge
**Grand Master’s Calendar**

*the Grand Master’s Calendar is correct as of the date of publication but may not reflect changes made after that date. For current information on the Grand Master’s travels, please see the digital version of the calendar at [https://glofga.org/glofga/index.php/gm-s-calendar/2017-calendar](https://glofga.org/glofga/index.php/gm-s-calendar/2017-calendar)*

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Being More Civil to All with Whom We Meet

Lately I have meditated much on how Americans, as well as us Masons, could be more civil one to another. It seems that most everyone in our national government has become so polarized to anyone who disagrees with them that they will do everything in their power to hurt the one with whom they disagree. Many are becoming more offensive and rude to the ones with which they disagree.

Politicians have been shot, public figures have been humiliated in public and even bombs have been sent to various ones expressing their disagreement. How do we begin to heal this hate in others?

Obliviously no one can “pull themselves up by their own bootstraps” so I believe it is time that we as Masons need to be practicing outside our lodges what we learn within. Masons have a deep respect for other Masons worldwide. Imagine the excitement we receive when meeting a person in another state or country whom we discover is a Mason. An immediate bond is formed and after a few minutes of conversation, it seems like we have known this “brother” a long time. It makes no difference as to his nationality, religion, or his political views. If we find we disagree on one item, there are always many other subjects we can enjoy together.

I remember my Dad telling me when I was a very young boy how Masons were always ready to help other Masons in distress. He said there was a certain sign he could give, even if he were a thousand miles from home, and a Mason would stop and help him. I purposed in my heart at that time that I was going to become a Mason when I turned 21 and I did!

It is time to extend our Masonic charity beyond the lodge room. I am not talking about divulging anything we shouldn’t, but if we truly exhibit the three of our important tenants – brotherly love, morality, and relief to all with whom we meet, we could begin to change our country for the better. When we see a member of the human family in a destitute condition, I believe it is our duty to contribute to his relief, whether or not he is a Mason. If all of our Georgia Masons would look for and find opportunities to help others, think about what a tremendous change would occur in the immediate future. Then we would all have a more civil society we could enjoy. This attitude could spread like wildfire and change our country for the better.

We are defined by how we treat others. It is ok to disagree but let’s do so in a civil manner. My wife and I disagree but after we both listen to each other, we unite and move forward together. Masons should do the same, as well as all of our government leaders. In other words, we can disagree without being disagreeable.

Let’s all follow the instruction of Jesus in Matthew 7:12 when he taught us to treat others like we want to be treated. When we disagree, which we will, treat each other with respect and love. Listen to their opinion and they will more likely listen to your opinion. Remember sometimes both opinions could be wrong!
The Grand Lodge of Georgia

Free and Accepted Masons
Macon, Georgia 31201-6779

EDICT NO. 2019-1

TO ALL CONSTITUENT LODGES UNDER THE CONSTITUTION OF THE GRAND LODGE OF GEORGIA, FREE & ACCEPTED MASONs:

I hereby issue this Edict, to-wit:

WHEREAS, it has come to the attention of the undersigned that questions have arisen over the effect of a member resigning from Freemasonry in Georgia and confusion may exist among some brothers and appendant bodies over the effect of a resignation, and

WHEREAS, the Masonic Code of Georgia is silent as to resignations (which term shall include withdrawals or similar words when used herein) from Freemasonry or the effect of same and it is my desire that peace and harmony prevail in this jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, this edict shall apply to all Masons who have resigned or who shall resign in the future:

NOW THEREFORE, it is my edict that:

In order to resign from Freemasonry, a member of a Georgia lodge must be in good standing, his dues paid for current year, and not under charges. However, a member who resigns is still subject to Masonic charges.

A resignation must be dated and submitted to the Grand Secretary, state the name of the member resigning, be signed by the member resigning, set out his member number, and name all lodges, concordant, and appendant bodies to which he belongs.

The member must immediately withdraw from all Masonic-related activities.

The resignation shall be effective as of the date the resignation is received by the Grand Secretary but only upon acceptance by the Grand Master.

To be effective, the resignation must state that it applies to all subordinate lodges to which the member belongs both in Georgia and all other jurisdictions and shall constitute a resignation from all concordant and appendant bodies and clubs of which he is a member even if the resignation does not so state. However, the words “resign from Freemasonry” shall have the same effect.

When a voluntary, written resignation is submitted, and accepted by the Grand Master, the member signing that resignation shall give up all rights and privileges of a Mason just as if he had been expelled.

Have You Considered Becoming a Perpetual Member?
Contact the Grand Secretary’s Office
The Grand Secretary shall attempt to establish a status in Grand View of “Resigned”. If this is not possible, the Grand Secretary shall use such status as he deems appropriate and note the member’s history as “Resigned” with the date of resignation.

A member who resigns can request reinstatement only by applying to the Grand Secretary’s office, not to any subordinate lodge. The Grand Secretary shall refer the request to an investigating committee of at least three members of Grand Lodge appointed by the Grand Master who shall report to the Grand Master before the next session of Grand Lodge unless the request is received less than ninety (90) days before the opening of the next Grand Lodge session in which case it shall lay over until the following year’s session. Notice of the request for reinstatement shall be published in the Masonic Messenger to allow any member to comment or object in writing. However, objections on the floor of Grand Lodge can be made orally by any permanent member of Grand Lodge, currently elected Masters, or any other Master Mason with the consent of Grand Lodge, at the annual communication.

The request for reinstatement shall be submitted to Grand Lodge for a vote. Reinstatement must be approved by Grand Lodge before it becomes effective. A member who resigns is not eligible to petition any lodge for the three degrees and no such degrees may be conferred upon said member.

A resignation submitted prior to the date of this Edict shall be effective upon the terms and conditions set forth herein even if it does not fully satisfy all of requirements set forth herein unless withdrawn in writing within 30 days after the date hereof.

Each Secretary of all Subordinate Lodges shall read this Edict at the first regular communication of their Lodge after receipt of same.

SO ORDERED and this Edict is given under my hand and seal as Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons for the State of Georgia, and under the seal of the said Grand Lodge, this 25 day of March, 2019.

Michael H. Wilson, Grand Master

Attest:

V. S. “Mac” McGee,
Grand Secretary
Brothers,

As we enter 2019, I want to share with you the outstanding job the Masonic Home of Georgia is doing for our kids. We have many in the last year who have graduated from the program and left the home to become successful citizens fully capable of succeeding in life.

Through the hard work and the generosity of our fraternity, we have completed the construction of two cottages and are pleased to announce they are now occupied by our kids. With the third cottage nearing completion, we now have beautiful, modern and more cost efficient space for more children that need our assistance to develop themselves physically, mentally and spiritually.

I encourage anyone who knows of a child in need to contact Ms. Angela McAfee, Director of Social Services at the Home (phone: 478-743-5154, email: angelamcafee@masonichomeofgeorgia.com). Below is a link to the application process for a child that you may be aware of in your community that can benefit from our Masonic Home of Georgia.


I also strongly encourage you to visit the Home and to participate in the upcoming workday at Shellman’s Bluff on March 1-2, 2019. The workday at the Home will be April 13, 2019. Feel free to join us even if you do not feel like working.

Fraternally,

Michael H. Wilson  Curtis R. Anderson  John Snipes
Grand Master  Chairman, Board of Trustees  Superintendent
Masonic Membership Program

It is our greatest wish that you will embrace this program and with your own good works we may grow our Fraternity together. The concept is very simple. All we need to do is share the history and knowledge of who we are, and what we do to our eligible friends or family members who we feel are qualified and would become good Masons.

We are not asking anyone to join, rather, we are creating curiosity and hopefully the desire of our friends or family members to ask more questions about Freemasonry and in time, the ‘RIGHT’ question. A Freemason is never prouder than the moment they Raise a friend or family member. It is a Legacy that has been passed down through the ages since the earliest days of our Fraternity.

All we ask of you is a referral of eligible friends or family members who you believe might make a good Freemason. Please take the Post Cards and distribute them to the Brethren of your Lodges with a good firm explanation of what Grand Lodge is hoping to achieve. This is a bold program which we believe will create the Good Brethren that will carry our Craft into the future.

Have the Brethren fill out the post cards and drop them in the mail or simply go online to www.BeAMasonGA.org, and leave the information there. We will do the rest. We will be sending a series of letters meant to pique the curiosity of the reader. Hopefully you will hear from this referral after they have read the letters. You will then have the opportunity to answer any questions that they may have. Many of us have a great desire to share the fellowship of Freemasonry to our friends and families but without the ability to ask them to join we may have lost the opportunity to do so. We believe that this plan will create that opportunity for us. If your referral does not live close by but has asked the right question we will help you work to find an active Lodge close to them where they may have their degree work done as a courtesy to your Lodge. Brethren this is something we can do together to grow our great Fraternity.

So let’s get started!
Freemasonry Around Georgia

On December 14, 2018 the Grand Master, MWB Michael H. Wilson, presided over a charter ceremony for West Georgia Daylight Lodge #760. The Lodge officially changed its name to James E. Miller Daylight Lodge #760, in honor of Past Grand Master James E. Miller. The Grand Master read aloud the new charter in the presence of Lady Liz Miller, widow of PGM Miller, and the Worshipful Master, WB Bill Buffton. MWB Wilson then presented the new charter to WB Buffton, with Lady Liz looking on. After the charter ceremony MWB Wilson installed the new officers of James E. Miller Daylight Lodge #760 including the new master of James E. Miller Daylight Lodge #760, WB Roger W. Buterbaugh.

Blue Mountain Lodge #38 F & AM three Veterans were presented with Quilts of Valor by Lynda Duke, the Group Leader for Dahlonega Valor Quilters, a sew group associated with The Common Thread quilt store in Dahlonega. These quilts are handmade by members of the sew group and were presented to the U.S. Army Veterans - WB Paul Hanson, WB Craig McCamish and his wife Teri McCamish. This is the first presentation by Lynda Duke to husband and wife veterans. Quilts of Valor Foundation began in 2003 by Catherine Roberts and has awarded over 209,620 quilts to Veterans of all branches of service. Go to https://www.qovf.org to find out who to contact in your area to nominate a veteran for a quilt of valor. A quilt of valor is a thank you made by quilters that share the love of our great county and those who serve.

When it came time to start collecting Christmas presents this year in Bay County, Florida, the local Masons found themselves wondering how they were going to help out during the holidays considering they had lost everything in Hurricane Michael, including toys that children were used to playing with not to mention anything bought early beyond what Santa was planning to bring. So when local Masons from Cedartown’s Caledonia Lodge No. 121 heard that their fellow brothers in Florida needed help, they sprung into action. With donations gathered from Polk County and the surrounding area (including several bikes provided by Rome Shriners,) Matt Miller travelled down to Florida with a load of toys and goodwill, playing the role of Santa and helping their local lodge members give back during the holidays. Miller rolled up to the lodge with a trailer full of toys to deliver to Florida.
WB David Burk presents a $500 check to Grayson Elementary School to aid the school in the shortfall of funds to feed needy children in their lunch program. The School ran short this year by $500 so Grayson Lodge #549 donated the money to help with their program. WB David presented check to School during a recent Council Meeting and reports that tears came from all present after the presentation.

**FAIRBURN LODGE ESTABLISHES FIVE SCHOLARSHIPS WITH THE SCOTTISH RITE FOUNDATION OF GEORGIA**

The Scottish Rite Foundation of Georgia, Inc. has been providing scholarships to Georgia college students since 1980. Fairburn Lodge No. 180 wanted to preserve its name while also benefitting those students by taking advantage of the Foundation’s named scholarship program. For a donation of $25,000 the Foundation will give a $1,000 scholarship annually in the name of the donor or someone the donor wishes to honor or remember in perpetuity. Fairburn Lodge donated $125,000 to the Foundation to fund five scholarships named for the Lodge. Since its formation the Foundation has provided over 2,300 scholarships. In 2019 the Foundation will give out 75 scholarships including 12 named for individuals or lodges. For more information on the Foundation and how to apply for scholarships please visit www.gascottishrite.org.

**Rockmart Lodge No. 97 Hosts End of the Year Festivities**

The members of Rockmart Lodge No. 97 held a number of end of year functions including a breakfast for first responders in Rockmart, a Widow’s appreciation, a toy drive for Christmas, and also had Santa down from the North Pole to greet and get the Christmas lists from the children in the community. Good Work Brethren!
Worshipful Brother Charles Stewart, longest-serving Scottish Rite Mason in the Southern Jurisdiction.

Wor. Bro. Charles Stewart is the longest-serving Scottish Rite Mason in the Southern Jurisdiction, having served over 76 years. His mind is as sharp as a tack. He was born in Macon and attended Bibb County schools. He was raised in Mabel Lodge No. 255 in 1942 and served as Worshipful Master of that lodge in 1948; his dad was also a Worshipful Master of Mabel. He also became a member of Al Sihah Shrine in Macon and the Macon Scottish Rite in 1942 and is a member of those three bodies to this day. He was Grand Marshal for GM Carl Dohn. He became a 33rd in October 1975. Harry Truman, his dad and he signed the same page in the 33rd book at the Supreme Council. He knows a lot of Georgia Masons, including Tom Perry. He said he once knew all of the Grand Lodge officers, PGM Bobby Simmons gave him his 75 year award from the Grand Lodge this past summer. He served with the Merchant Marines for 2 1/2 years during WWII. He worked for Southern Bell for 40 years in several cities in Georgia, including Macon, Atlanta, LaGrange and Augusta.

Scottish Rite Foundation Presents Check

Brother Jim Weaver receives his check for the first place in the Scottish Rite 2018 Raffle. The prize was for $10,000. Presenting the check is Gary Monk, Georgia Scottish Rite Foundation board member.

New Acacia Guild Members

SGIG and PGM Ted Collins and WB Steve Fishman received their sashes as members of the Scottish Rite Acacia Guild from Chuck Morgan, Gulf Coast Region Major Donor Officer for the Supreme Council of Scottish Rite. The occasion was the Scottish Rite Charitable Relief Workshop in Augusta, Georgia February 23, 2019. The Acacia Guild program recognizes all Scottish Rite, SJ, members who join by making a $1,000 cash contribution in the Acacia Guild. This gift can be made in a single payment or can be made by contributing $83.33/month for twelve months by credit card or withdrawal. The $1,000 gift will be split: one half will go to the House of the Temple Historic Preservation Foundation, Inc. and the other will go to assist with the RiteCare Scottish Rite Childhood Language Program, scholarship programs, and other worthy activities.
Upcoming Events
Yaarab Shrine
400 E Ponce de Leon Ave
Atlanta, GA 30308

Elvis Concert
March 16, 2019
5:00 pm

Children’s Easter Party
April 20, 2019
Noon - 3 pm

Rainy Day Giveaway
April 27, 2019
6:00 pm
Win $10,000 in reverse raffle

77th Yaarab Shrine Circus
Jim Miller Park
3245 Callaway Rd SW
Marietta, GA 30068
May 17-27, 2019
Masons Day: May 18th All Masons and their families will be admitted free (with current dues card)

8th Annual Sportsmen’s Raffle
July 27, 2019
Noon - 5:00 pm
Refreshments all day - free food
For tickets call
404-872-5818 x 300

Shriners Believe in Philanthropy
Shriners Hospitals for Children was founded in 1922 with the goal of providing expert medical care for children with no financial burden to the patients or their families. Today that philanthropic effort supports the health care system’s 22 facilities across the U.S., Canada and Mexico, treating children up to 18 years of age who have orthopaedic conditions, burns, spinal cord injuries, cleft lip and palate, and more. Our advanced care is provided in a family-centered environment that is focused on maximizing a child’s quality of life, regardless of the families’ ability to pay.

Shriners Believe in Fun
Shriners International is recognized around the world by an ancient symbol – the fez. The modern man who wears the iconic red fez is a man who values philanthropy, brotherhood, family and of course – fun.

Shriners Believe in Brotherhood
Shriners are a brotherhood of men committed to family, engaged in ongoing personal growth, and dedicated to providing care for children and families in need. Our backgrounds and interests are diverse, but we are bound together by our shared values and a desire to have fun, do good and build relationships that can last a lifetime.

Shriners Believe in Family
Although Shriners International is a brotherhood, it is also an organization focused on bringing families together. Many of our fraternity’s activities are designed to involve family members, promote our shared values and help develop the next generation of community and business leaders. A variety of affiliated groups for both women and children, emphasizing personal growth, fun and friendship, participate with Shriners.

To learn how to refer a child, please visit shrinershospitalsforchildren.org or call the patient referral line at 800-237-5055 in the U.S., or 800-361-7256 in Canada.
2019 Georgia Grand York Rite Sessions
May 6 - May 7, 2019
Location-Grand Chapter Building
811 Mulberry Street, Macon, GA 31201

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

• A Joint Memorial/Divine Service will be held @4:00pm, on Sunday, May 5th
• Grand York Rite Banquet will be @ 6:30pm on Sunday, May 5th
• Grand Council RSM will open @ 7:30am on Monday, May 6th
• Grand Commandery will open after lunch on Monday, May 6th
• Grand Chapter RAM will open @ 7:30am on Tuesday, May 7th
• Installations of Grand Line Officers will be held during the body’s respective session
• The Grand York Rite Session will conclude on Tuesday morning and will not continue through to Wednesday as has been done in the past
• The York Rite Presiding Officer degrees such as the Order of the High Priesthood for Past High Priests, the Order of the Silver Trowel for Past Illustrious Masters and the Knight Crusader of the Cross for Past Eminent Commanders will be conferred on MAY 7, 2019 immediately following the Grand Chapter session at the Grand Chapter building.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Wade Smith, Grand Recorder/Secretary for the York Rite - email: wadesmith@yorkriteofga.org; or the office @ 478-742-2557
Georgia DeMolay is proud to offer a 3 coin set for sale to commemorate the Centennial Celebration of the founding of DeMolay. The set includes a 1 ounce 0.999 Fine Silver coin, a Brass, and a Verbroneze coin. The coins are encased in a protective plastic case. You will also receive a handsome mahogany display box as pictured above to showcase this beautiful set.

THE FIRST 100 COIN SETS ORDERED will be individually numbered and will receive a Certificate of Authenticity with their coin set.

This is a pre-sale. Coins must be ordered now in order to secure your piece of DeMolay history. Orders are now being accepted. The cost of this once in a lifetime coin set is $100.

Your coin set can be reserved at the following link:

https://www.gademolay.org/coin/

Please note: Online order will include a $10 fee for shipping and handling for your order.
A Message from the DeMolay of Georgia to All Sitting Worshipful Masters
Worshipful Master’s Pins

As a testament to the intimate connection between Blue Lodge Freemasonry and the DeMolay Chapters of Georgia, for more than twenty years the DeMolay Foundation of Georgia has given each new Worshipful Master of every Georgia Lodge a pin denoting his office and the year. I still have mine from my year serving as Worshipful Master and many Brethren across the state own multiple pins for the many years of service they have rendered to the Craft. Additionally, many Past Masters continue to proudly wear the pin long after their year in the East is over so that all may see when (and in some cases, how many times) they have occupied that Oriental Chair. Please don’t forget the DeMolay Foundation of Georgia and the DeMolay Chapters of Georgia in your programs for the year or in your contributions for the young men who continue to work and strive for the Masonic virtues in their young lives and into the future.

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https://www.gademolay.org/coin/

Please note: Online orders will include a $10 fee for shipping and handling for your order.

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The Common Gavel
By Brother Tim Henry, 32°

Sunscrean and Biscuits

My room at my grandparent's was my Granny's sewing room. I slept on a mattress that you naturally rolled to the middle of and stayed there. Granny's sewing room was a closed in back porch with a single lightbulb and a pull string. There were two windows and one of those retractable clothes lines that went across the ceiling. The great thing about that “bedroom” was its location. The kitchen door was at the end of the room, the washing machine and the deep freeze (as Granny referred to it) were in the “bedroom” as well. My memories often go back there and remind me of many of life’s lessons that my Grandparents instilled in me. I was the youngest grandchild and my parents were divorced. Life at home was chaotic and tough, summers were often spent with my Grandparents. They were the guiding force in my life.

Most mornings I was awoken from the sounds of pots and pans being rattled around and the smell of something frying and biscuits in the oven. I would lay in the bed and listen to my grandparents talk about the coming day. My grandad would sit at the end of the kitchen table, it was one of those 1940’s tables, chrome chairs and flowered top with a wide chrome band around the edge. This table was what we ate at when it was just the three of us, the big table was reserved for the guest and family gatherings. The kitchen table had a staple of items on it, there was a big aluminum salt shaker and a bowl of tomatoes and this magical wheel of butter. I know many of you have seen this “butter” it came wrapped in wax paper and was never put in to the “Frigidaire.” It stayed out on the table carefully concealed underneath a green chicken.

Our lives are full of opportunities in which we can apply things- sunscreen to sensitive areas when outside, ointment to soothe a burn, letters and text to change one’s way of thinking and acting. I have watched generations of people sit in church and fill notebook after notebook with every word and utterance that a preacher can deliver. Those same people are some of the hardest hearted and most closeminded people on earth.
Sitting and listening or memorizing lines without any application is futile.

Sunscreen does no good when left in the tube, ointment soothes no burn if not applied. The only way to get the intended benefits of these items is to open the tube and rub a little in. The reality is that we lack application. As brothers we are lectured on “charity, duty, innocence, faith, meekness, humility” and a variety of other virtues that our fraternity holds dear.

My granny always made fresh biscuits. My granddaddy hated a leftover biscuit. Those biscuits would emerge from that oven hot and warm, wonderful edges with just the right amount of crust. The trick was to get the butter that was nestled beneath that chicken immediately into and on that fresh biscuit. When the application was carried out correctly the butter would soak into every crevice and soft opening in the biscuit. Our lives are filled with opportunities and glimpses of what and who we can become. I don’t believe that the Grand Architect intended for us to be callused and immoveable. I believe as an Entered Apprentice arises from our alter he has been given the opportunity to grow and hear and absorb the art of “Masonry”. The Entered Apprentice is invested with the knowledge that for centuries *This Great Light* has been the rule and guide for all GOOD Mason’s. We as brothers in turn are presented with the opportunity to relinquish and fill, to give and not expect, to love and embrace.

I miss those wrinkled hands pressing out dough into a cast iron skillet. I miss the smell of a cigarette being lit by a Zippo lighter. I cherish the moments of laying in that sewing room and hearing my grandparent’s voices softly floating across the room to my ear. I have been blessed with those memories and I pray that I’ll do honor to those that have come before me. Learning to listen is one of the hardest tasks I have ever taken on. I must employ every ounce of energy to pry back prejudices and hard-set frame work to give way to another’s idea. I remind myself that no matter how we may differ in CREED and THEOLOGY we all agree that the GREAT LIGHT offers freedom to all that embrace it.
FFV, FFA, & F&AM

Through the second installment of “Masonic Myths, Legends, and Lies,” I realized that another April would be a
great time to talk about a marvelous organization known as the Future Farmers of Virginia which would grow to
become the Future Farmers of America. FFA is one of the premier youth organizations in the USA and is a stu-
dent organization for those interested in agriculture and leadership. The FFA has surged in membership in re-
cent years, with new chapters being formed in high schools and middle schools across the US. We have been
lucky at my school to have two wonderful FFA Advisors and Agricultural teachers which helped me for so many
years answer such inquisitive questions like, “Why can’t mules have babies?” and “Why are we not eating baby
chicks when we eat eggs?” Two of my own students recently had their project make it all the way to the Nation-
als level and I am very proud of those two young ladies.

The movement in agricultural education began in earnest a little over 100 years ago in 1917 with the passage of
the Smith–Hughes National Vocational Education Act. The Smith–Hughes Act was authored and introduced by
Senator Hoke Smith (Freemason) and Representative Dudley Hughes, both Georgians. This act essentially pro-
moted vocational education in “agriculture, trades and industry, and homemaking,” and provided federal funds
for those purposes. As such, it is the basis both for the promotion of vocational education, and for its isolation
from the rest of the curriculum in most school settings. The act itself was actually an expansion and modification
of the 1914 Smith–Lever Act (known as the Agricultural Extension Act) and both were based largely on a report
and recommendation from Charles Allen Prosser’s Report of the National Commission on Aid to Vocational
Education. At that time, very few students attended school past the elementary level and even fewer went on to
high school. The Introduction of the Smith–Hughes act increased the diversity of educational opportunities for
children and made those educational opportunities more relevant to the needs of rural students.

FFA originates from the effects of this movement away from agriculture as a result of increased education. As
more students gained higher and higher levels of education, many began to lose interest in the farm and move
away in order to pursue different vocations. This issue was prevalent in many parts of the country, but the alarm
was raised first in Virginia.

In 1925, Walter S. Newman became the Virginia State Supervisor of Agricultural Education. Newman along with
Edmund C. Magill, Harry W. Sanders, and Henry C. Groseclose, staff of the Department of Agricultural Educa-
tion at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute, worked to generate a solution to this problem of declining interest
among boys in vocational or agricultural education. Newman proposed forming an organization that offered
farm boys “a greater opportunity for self-expression and for the development of leadership...[so that] they will
develop confidence in their own ability and pride in the fact that they are farm boys.”

Thus was born the idea of the FFV. The original meaning for the abbreviation FFV stood for the “First Families
of Virginia.” The “first families” referred to the families of both George Washington and Thomas Jefferson. Re-
peating to Washington and Jefferson, Groseclose once stated that, “The Future Farmers of America should fol-
low the example of these great sons of early Virginia by using scientific knowledge, intelligence, and enthusiasm
to the end that agriculture may again be known as the profession of the real aristocrat.” Groseclose later suggest-
ed a name: Future Farmers of Virginia.

In September 1925, Henry Groseclose set out his expectations for the members of the FFV, and what the pur-
pose of the establishment of the Future Farmers of Virginia was by saying, "In my opinion the farm boys of Vir-
ginia who are enrolled in vocational agriculture are equal to any other group of boys in the state. But somehow the boys themselves seem to have a feeling of inferiority. Especially is this true when the farm boy goes to the city and has to compete with his city cousin. This condition should not exist. I believe that a strong organization of our boys in agriculture would help them to overcome this handicap. Let's form an organization that will give them a greater opportunity for self-expression and for the development of leadership. In this way they will develop confidence in their own ability and pride in the fact that they are farm boys."

The idea was presented during an annual vocational rally in the state of Virginia in April 1926, where it was met with positive reaction. Henry Groseclose immediately began work on a constitution and bylaws for the new organization and in 1926, he also wrote, and brought into use, the formal ceremony that would form the organizational pattern to structure each meeting. When he developed levels of memberships for the FFV, which transferred through to the FFA, he established a three-tier system of Degrees. These three levels included the Greenhand, the Virginia Farmer, and the Virginia Planter. Each Degree had its own requirements and prerequisites for attainment.

As an aside, in 1927 H.O. Sargent, a federal agent for agricultural education for African-Americans at the U.S. Office of Education, and G.W. Owens, a teacher-trainer at Virginia State College, wrote the first constitution and bylaws for the New Farmers of Virginia, an organization for African-American agriculture students. The organization held its first state rally that same year. New Farmers of America as it would later be called would merge with FFA in 1965.

Two years later, in 1928, the FFV became a nationwide organization. This developed into the organization that is known today as the Future Farmers of America, or The National FFA Organization, or just FFA for short. In 1928, the Future Farmers of America would be established in Kansas City, Missouri and the First National FFA Convention would be held in Kansas City, Missouri as well. On that date, 33 delegates from 18 states were in attendance. One year later, there would be 33 states represented by 64 delegates at the Second National FFA Convention. By that time also thirty-five state associations with approximately 1,500 chapters and 30,000 members would become affiliated with the national organization. Active membership in the FFA would exceed 100,000 for the first time in 1935. The FFA was burgeoning into a formidable front line defense for agricultural education in the nation.

A year later, the official dress would be adopted, the official colors, the first FFA manual printed, and for the first time, delegates would be restricted to boys only (it would be another 30 years before girls would be allowed to join.) In 1939 28.5 acres of land would be purchased near Alexandria, Virginia for the first FFA-owned national headquarters; interestingly, the land was part of George Washington’s estate. War came and in 1942 only 217 people would attend the National Convention as 138,548 FFA members were serving in the Armed Services in World War II. By 1948 this would change as a record jump in membership from 238,269 in 1947 to 260,300 occurred. So many members attended the 20th National FFA Convention that a folding-cot hotel was set up in the basement of the Municipal Auditorium in Kansas City to house them all. By 1950, the FFA had been granted a Federal Charter and specifications were made to ensure that a U.S. Department of Education staff member be the national FFA advisor all a result of the work of Harry S. Truman who was a great supporter of FFA.

The by-laws drawn up by Henry Groseclose became the foundation of the newly national organization. Also, the formal ceremony that Groseclose developed was taken on by the FFA as a national ritual that is still used today though the Degree names have changed a bit. Today, there is a five-level system. The individual FFA Chapter may confer the Discovery Degree, Greenhand Degree, and the Chapter FFA Degree. Further, State FFA Associations recognize their top members with a State FFA Degree and the National FFA Organization awards top members from each state with the American FFA Degree.

In an FFA meeting the officers have stations about the room. The President, who presides over the meeting, opens by asking the Vice-President if all the officers are at their stations. The VP responds “I shall call the roll of officers, determine if they are at their stations and report back to you, Mr./Mdm. President.”

The Vice-President then goes through the roll of officers, asking each to recite their duties. The VP ends with “…I preside over meetings in the absence of the President, whose place is beneath the rising sun.”
The Chapter Advisor then asks: “Why is the President so stationed.”

The VP responds using language which brings to mind the FFA logo of an owl perched atop a plow in a field while the sun rises behind: "The rising sun is the token of a new era in agriculture. If we will follow the leadership of our president, we shall be led out of the darkness of selfishness and into the glorious sunlight of brotherhood and cooperation. Mr./Mdm. President, all officers are at their stations."

Unique to the group is the office of the Sentinel, who, believe it or not guards the door much like in the Chapter, Council, and Commandery. The Sentinel’s duties are such: "Through this door pass many friends of the FFA. It is my duty to see that the door is open to our friends at all times and that they are welcome. I care for the meeting room and paraphernalia. I strive to keep the room comfortable and assist the president in maintaining order."

There is even a Chaplain.

It is at this point that many of you might be thinking that I might just turn a non-Masonic topic into a Masonic one. You would be right and I would be guilty. However, this speaks not to the fact that I attempted to do this on purpose, but that our wonderful Fraternity has such far-reaching impacts and deep-seated roots in this country and our nation’s history.

In fact, the men mentioned above which started the FFV: Walter S. Newman, Edmund C. Magill, Harry W. Sanders, and Henry C. Groseclose were all Masons. Newman was a member of Purdie Lodge #170, Windsor, VA; McGill, Hunters Lodge #156, Blacksburg, VA; Sanders, Glen Allen Lodge #131, Glen Allen, VA; and Henry Groseclose, Ivanhoe Lodge #235, Wytheville, VA. In fact, Groseclose drew upon not only his association with the Grange (Groseclose was a Seventh Degree Grange Member) but also, as is clearly evident, his familiarity with the three Degrees of Freemasonry to generate his organizational structure. He drew upon the opening rituals of our bodies and the recitation of duties to frame the meetings of the FFA.

Knowing this history of Georgia’s role in starting agricultural education, knowing our Masonic links to the FFV and FFA, I would encourage members of these bodies and of any Masonic bodies in Georgia to get to know these students who are turning into such great leaders as a result of the FFA. Get involved if you can. Contact your local middle and high school and see if you can assist them in any way. The two ladies I taught had to generate an immense amount of money to take their project to Nationals. Had I known at an earlier period, it would have been a great charitable cause for us as a Lodge to help continue that history by assisting these two wonderful young ladies in their endeavors. So mote it be!
Every Freemason knows in a general way that there is a rule in Freemasonry which prohibits its members from soliciting non-members to join the Craft. But it is a rule that is misunderstood and is misinterpreted by too many of our members. Many will be surprised to learn that there never has been and there is no rule at the present time which states "You shall not solicit anyone to join the Craft." In England the rule is stated that there can be no improper solicitation of a non-member to join; unfortunately, this creates the impression that there is a "proper" way to solicit but that is not true. The trouble arises because of the use of the word "solicitation."

The correct statement of the rule is that each non-member must seek membership in Freemasonry of his own free will and accord. This is easy to understand and eliminates the necessity of considering what is the meaning of the word "solicitation". But the statement of the rule in the negative is so ingrained in the minds of many of our members that it calls for a careful explanation.

This rule is so strictly construed by some of our members that they will not, under any circumstances, discuss Freemasonry in any way with a non-member. This may be due to the fact that the member remembers part of his Obligation and also believes that Freemasonry is a "secret society" or an ingrained fear that he may say something that would be considered improper. For too long we have failed to discuss this subject fairly and completely so that our members may be correctly informed of the meaning and application of this rule.

The rule that a person must seek membership in the Craft of his own free will and accord has been the traditional rule of the Craft for many years. It is not a Landmark of Freemasonry, however. This rule makes our organization unique and it has worked well over these many years. Occasionally some of our members who are amateur physicians announce that they have the instant cure for our loss of net membership. They prescribe that this rule should be repealed and that we emulate the work of some of the service clubs which have membership drives and award prizes to members who bring in the largest number of petitions. They fail to recognize that many of these service groups and fraternal organizations are having the same problems that we have. These enthusiastic innovators fail to recognize that we have been successful as an organization and have survived these many years because we are unique and that we have many benefits to offer our members that do not exist in other groups. They also fail to recognize that too often the trouble arise because this rule is misunderstood and therefore wrongly applied. Furthermore, if we made all the changes urged by some of our members we would no longer be a Masonic organization but would be converted into something else.

From a practical standpoint the rule is that a non-Mason must desire to become a member of his own free will and accord and that no Mason should give him a "sales talk" to join the Fraternity. This does not mean that a Mason must remain silent if a non-member inquires about the nature of our organization, its history, its philosophy, or its work. Certainly it does not prevent a member from explaining to a non-member the qualifications needed to become a Freemason. And, above all else, when an interest is shown by a non-member we ought to make it clear that our organization never issues invitations to non-members to join. When questions are asked by a non-Mason you cannot disclose the modes of recognition or the details of our degrees. Such matters are private and can be of no concern to the non-Mason. But there are many things that can be explained such as that
Freemasonry is a serious organization, that its ceremonies contain no horse-play, that the fundamental principles of Freemasonry are based on the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man, that religion and politics are divisive subjects and are barred from Masonic meetings, and that the Craft engages in many charitable projects. You can give details of the social programs that are conducted by the lodges and the appendant bodies. Engaging in this sort of discussion with a non-member is merely conveying information and is not soliciting or giving the non-member a sales-talk.

When a lodge presents an Open House Program at which members explain the nature of Freemasonry, its history, its philosophy, and its work this is not solicitation. Telling the persons present we do not have membership drives and never extend invitation to non-members to join our Fraternity but must come of their own free will and accord is not soliciting but is informational; it will prevent a person who joins the Craft from saying "I did not know about your rule and would have applied ten years ago for membership; I have been waiting all this time for an invitation and was beginning to feel that I was not qualified to become a member."

There are many good reasons why a non-Mason should not be given a "sales talk" to join the Fraternity. If one is urged to file a petition and he does not pass the ballot box he will probably become angry with the friend who gave him the "sales talk" and look upon our group with an unfriendly feeling. He can properly ask himself "Why have I been placed in this position?" On the other hand, if he passes the ballot box in the course of our ceremonies he will be asked on a number of occasions if this is of his own free will and accord. If he has been given a "sale talk" how can he answer this question in the affirmative? And if he answers with a "no" the ceremony must end at this point. If this takes place how will he feel towards his friend who "sold" him on the idea to seek membership and on the organization that rejected him because of some rule not known or understood by him?

What will be considered as a "sales talk" will depend on the relationship between the persons involved and all the surrounding circumstances. For example, it would be improper in the first instance to ask a non-Mason "Why have you never become a Mason?" It would be improper to tell him "You have all the necessary qualifications to become a Mason and I will be glad to sponsor you for membership." Clearly and emphatically the first step must always be taken by the non-Mason indicating in some way his interest in the Craft and his desire to become a member. When this occurs the time has arrived to tell him that he has the necessary qualification for membership and that you will secure a petition for him.

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**Did you enjoy the article above regarding solicitation? Are you looking to expand your Masonic light this year but don’t want to wade through mounds of old books. The Georgia Lodge of Research could be the answer to help you learn from others and to share your own interest and knowledge. The Georgia Lodge of Research meets every fifth Friday at the Atlanta Masonic Center in Atlanta at 7:30pm in the South Lodge room. It is a great opportunity to hear papers read and lectures given on a number of Masonic topics by men of all levels of scholarship and ability. While we try to encourage research about Georgia Masons and Georgia Masonry, we welcome opinions and ideas on all things Masonic.

A book is published each year called Transactions with all the papers presented that year as well as reprints from back issues of Transactions and other Lodges of Research from around the country. Joining is easy; just fill out a petition and this can be an individual or a Lodge, dues are $30 a year and that includes the book. Back issues are available from our Secretary. We also solicit papers for presentation, you DO NOT need to be a highly educated scholar or a great writer to present your work. We have many experienced Brothers who would love to assist you in sharing your Masonic interest.

For further information you can contact Rick Conn, secretary of the Georgia Lodge of Research at 678-873-3491 or email rickconn@bellsouth.net.**
“Veterans Corner” by Worshipful Brother Rick Conn, MSA

Brothers, I have been asked lately by a few Brothers about what will happen to their spouse after they pass? Are there any resources that surviving spouses can avail themselves of? We need to prepare all our paperwork now before we pass. Order our Headstone, and other paperwork necessary to make it easier on our families. Here is some information that might be of help.

Surviving Spouses? Is Yours Prepared If You Should Die First?

The death of a loved one is a tumultuous life transition. To prevent their spouses from suffering the consequences of being unprepared when dealing with the numerous details associated with a loved one’s passing, MOAA current and potential members are encouraged to understand the tools and subject-matter experts available to them. MOAA is aware of the limited assistance provided to military retirees and surviving spouses in these situations. Many military bases have Retiree Activity Offices (RAOs) that do their very best to assist. However, these facilities are staffed mainly by volunteers and are severely under-resourced. In these austere times, improvements to RAO services are unlikely. Additionally, many survivors do not reside anywhere near a military installation. Following are several MOAA resources that can help:

1. Member Service Center: The Member Service Center, (800) 234-MOAA (6622), is staffed from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Eastern time with dedicated professionals who have an affinity for assisting the military community. They have been expertly trained to provide or pursue answers to the wide array of questions. If our member service representatives cannot adequately address an issue, they will connect a member or survivor to one of two staff subject-matter experts. These retired military officers possess a combined 50 years of active duty service and have gained in their post-military experience expertise and accreditation as financial and benefits counselors and educators. They routinely advise MOAA members on the full range of military and federal benefits - TRICARE, Medicare and TRICARE For Life, Social Security, VA benefits, and the Survivor Benefit Program, to name a few.

2. Publications and Guides: MOAA has an array of publications designed to assist paid members and their survivors. Most publications can be accessed online. Copies of printed publications can be obtained via U.S. mail by calling the Member Service Center. The following publications pertain to military survivor issues: a. Survivor's Planning Guide. Following the death of a loved one, it can be overwhelming to keep track of what arrangements need to be made, who needs to be contacted, and notes on important phone calls. Designed by surviving spouses, this handbook is intended to help you do just that.

b. Survivor's Checklist: First Steps for Moving On. Keep this essential checklist on hand to refer to when dealing with a death in the family.

c. Turning the Corner. Losing a loved one is never easy, and each person's experience is different. This publication is meant to help you recognize and understand some of the aspects of the grieving process and help guide you through this difficult time.

d. Your Guide to Military Burials. Use this resource for planning and decision-making regarding military burials and rights and to create a plan for the future.

e. The other publications in MOAA's library include topics such as personal finance, military benefits, transition, spouse and family, and MOAA chapters. The most popular publications include Aging Into Medicare and TRICARE For Life and Survivor Benefit Plan: Security for Your Survivors.

3. Surviving Spouse Membership: Finally, MOAA will transfer a member's Life Membership into a Surviving Spouse Life Membership for the surviving spouse or the remaining time of a premium membership into a Surviving Spouse Premium Membership. Additionally, we invite all survivors to join our Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter, which provides a common space for surviving spouses across the country to connect 136 with one another and communicate about challenges of adjusting to a new life and the resources available. You can reach out to this virtual chapter by emailing mssve02@gmail.com . Survivors also might be interested in joining a local MOAA chapter. Local chapters frequently can provide assistance with issues members and survivors face or offer some like-minded camaraderie. Locate your nearest local MOAA chapter.

Source: MOAA Newsletter | March 7, 2019
'Summer is on its way... Plan a 'FUN' GACHIP Event'!!!!

There is no better month of the year then April when spring is in full bloom to be the outgoing spokesman for GACHIP and organize a community event. Our full summer season is only weeks away! Now is the time to contact your local school teachers, Sunday school teachers, local Police Departments, Public Safety Organizations, Day Care Centers, Retail Stores and all your friends to promote and schedule a GACHIP Event.

As is often said, when you are joyful, when you say YES to life and are thankful for all of your good fortunes, and take the time to have fun in projecting positivity all around you, YOU become a SUN in the center of every constellation, and people will support your endeavors!

Just think of the opportunities your Lodge has to prepare for a fun event with GACHIP. For example, reach out to your local Eastern Star, Rainbow Girls and of course our Shrine Clowns to be part of the event in your community, church or school. Our Shrine Clowns are a 'BIG HIT' at GACHIP events. Their fun demeanor makes it all worthwhile to celebrate: 'FUN 101'! Considering what we do is such a valuable and worthy cause, why not celebrate at the event? Some Lodges invite the Rainbow girls to an event with a face painting table for children after the ID process is complete. The Shrine Clowns are great at entertaining the children while they wait for ID Kits to be completed. If you hold an event at your Lodge, plan an Eastern Star refreshments table! A cup of coffee, juice and cookies for the kids is often the best way to make a new friend.

With heartfelt thanks to many of you, our 2019 event calendar is beginning to fill up. So do not delay! Schedule an event soon so our 'A TEAM' of District Directors can arrange equipment delivery and support and train for your event. As we all know and should continually reinforce our GACHIP Kit provides invaluable tools of photography, voice recordings, digital fingerprints, and unique DNA for each child. It is probable to say that Masonry is the only organization providing such a complete child ID Kit to parents. This truly sets us apart in serving our communities and being serviceable to our fellow man. Especially being of service to the youngest of these creatures, our beloved children.

Take a look at the great Acworth Lodge pictures showing 'FUN' at an event at Home Depot recently. Your local Home Depot is a fantastic venue to hold events during their Saturday Kid's craft workshops. Check with your local Home Depot to find out when their next Saturday Kid's craft workshop is being held. Then plan a GACHIP event!

Wow!!! What a difference we all can make!
Tom Vancel
Thomasville Lodge No. 369

Clois Ray Hubbard
Mickey Fuller Lodge No. 720

Bobby Lee Hamlin
Mickey Fuller Lodge No. 720

Jimmy Vann Pope
Buchanan Lodge No. 78

Henry Clay
Auburn Lodge No. 230

David Michael Herman
Chamlee-Sardis Lodge No. 444

Ralph Albert Smith
Morrow Lodge No. 734

Dewey Loyd Shirley
Morrow Lodge No. 734

Hubert Carlton Dobbs
Mackey Lodge No. 120

Lee Willard Benson
Roger Lacey Lodge No. 722

Ronald Bobby Bolinger
Shannon Lodge No. 100
Denver Ray Bishop
Buchanan Lodge No. 78
James Dunn Calloway
Quitman Lodge No. 106
Dean Labron O’Donald
Quitman Lodge No. 106
Gene Perry w/ son Matt Perry
Auburn Lodge No. 230
Marvin Stuart Smith
Mickey Fuller Lodge No. 720
John Charles Sinquefield
Mickey Fuller Lodge No. 720
Gene Gillespie
Sylvan Lodge No. 429
Bobby Carroll Padgett
Ducktown Lodge No. 572
65 Year Awards

James Harvey Pasley, Jr
Nelms Lodge No. 323

Earnest Paul Ellison
Latham Lodge No. 12

Arnold Lee Johnson
Pickens Star Lodge No. 220

70 Year Awards

Howard David Graham
East Point Lodge No. 288

Charles E. Pullen
Thomasville Lodge No. 369

Lamar Perlis
Cordelia Lodge No. 296
Leon Blair
Thomasville Lodge No. 369

Initiated, Passed, and Raised in West Point Lodge No. 43 in 1943 before affiliating with Thomasville Lodge. A veteran, Brother Blair served as Worshipful Master of Thomasville Lodge in 1968.
Past Grand Master Nichols and Grand Lodge Officers Present 80 Year Award to South Carolina Mason

Past Grand Master Larry Nichols and a slate of Grand Line officers including RW Brother Mac McGee, Grand Secretary, Worshipful Brother Mike Kessler, Senior Grand Deacon, and Raymond Gray, Past Grand Chaplain and DDGM for District 5-B recently presented an 80 Year Award to 103 year-young Brother Leonard Levenson who lives in Chamblee. Brother Levenson was born on March 16, 1916 and had his award presented to him on March 17, 2019. Brother Levenson was raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason in 1939. Brother Levenson served his country in World War Two as a soldier in the 1st Marine Division. He is a 32° Scottish Rite Mason and a Shriner.

Congratulations Brother!
In Memoriam

Members Reported Deceased from January 30 to March 25, 2019

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<th>Name:</th>
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<td>EVANS, JUNIOR MONROE</td>
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Children’s Store Closing:
Richard and Sharon Bailey

Due to health reasons we are having to give up The Kid’s Store. It has been a gratifying journey to do something that has helped so many. We have had the pleasure of meeting so many people over the years that we would have never met had it not been for this little project of ours. And of course with your help our Children have gained the rewards. Not only has our Children’s Home benefited but we have been rewarded with so many blessings from this. It saddens our hearts to give it up.

If anyone wants to take over this project please contact us at 912-579-2300 or 912-294-6374. We will sell all or part of our merchandise at our cost to you. We can work with you. This is a great offer that could be a fund raiser for your lodge and or The Masonic Children’s Home. We will be glad to help you in any way we can. Thank you again for all your support through the years. We love each of you.