

# Masonic Messenger



Official Publication of the Grand Lodge of Georgia, Free & Accepted Masons

Fall 2022

Annual Grand Lodge Issue



Grand Lodge Of  
Georgia Information  
See Page 4

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Year Awards  
See Pages 42-44

2021 Code Bills For The 235th Annual Grand Lodge — See Pages 10-27

Grand Lodge Office: 478-742-1475

Please send changes of address to the Grand Secretary  
at 811 Mulberry Street, Macon, GA 31201  
on your lodge secretary's monthly report.  
The editor does NOT keep the list of addresses.

# THE GEORGIA MASONIC MESSENGER

VOL. 126 FALL 2022 NO. 1

## Grand Lodge Officers

Grand Master	Donald C. Combs (46)
Deputy Grand Master	Michael A. Kessler (216)
Senior Grand Warden	Benjamin W. Polston, II (6)
Junior Grand Warden	Mark A. Bradley (36, 766)
Grand Treasurer	Larry W. Nichols (59)
Grand Secretary	Van S. McGee (26, 70)
Grand Chaplain	Thomas J. Chapman (109)
Grand Marshal	Charlie N. Rice (46)
Grand Orator	Gary H. Leazer (166)
Senior Grand	Bill Shepard (717, 214)
Junior Grand Deacon	Brian C. Coffey (271, 749, 710)
First Grand Steward	Tom D. Bruce (42, 216)
Second Grand Steward	Scott W. Johnson (68, 376)
Third Grand Steward	Wiley Q. Forrester, III (292)
Grand Tyler	James L. Johns (750)

## Publications

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**FORM FOR CHANGING ADDRESS FOR MESSENGER**

TYPE or PRINT information requested and mail to the  
Grand Lodge address on the back cover.

Name in Full \_\_\_\_\_

Lodge Name and Number \_\_\_\_\_

If you have moved, PLEASE RETURN YOUR ADDRESS LABEL ABOVE  
TO THE GRAND LODGE OF GEORGIA along with your new address:

Lodge Name and Number \_\_\_\_\_

Street or P.O. Box \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Brethren, it is your responsibility to make certain your address is current.  
Be certain your Lodge secretary has your correct address.  
Current addresses are kept in the Grand Secretary's Office in Macon.  
The Editor of the *Masonic Messenger* DOES NOT keep a list of addresses.



# From the Desk of the Grand Secretary Right Worshipful Van S. “Mac” McGee

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## **Procedures for Grand Lodge Communication October 25th and 26th 2022**

For ALL members including committee members.

Please log into Grand View, bring up your account and click on Pre-register for 2022 (blue banner). Open the download file and print your credentials. Bring your scan bar credentials sheet with you AND YOUR DUES CARD. Please remember to bring your apron with you!

When you arrive at Grand Lodge you will check in at registration and pick up any books, ballots, and voting panels, you may then enter the Grand Lodge Session.

Lodge Per Capita must be up to date or Lodge Representatives will be denied voting credentials.

If you have any questions, please contact Julie Hickman at [jhickman@glofga.org](mailto:jhickman@glofga.org).

### **Grand Lodge Information**

Grand Lodge 236th Annual Communication will be held on Tuesday, October 25th, as a full session convening in the “Iron Works” Columbus Trade Center, 801 Front Avenue, Columbus, GA 31901. Out of state guests and vendors will be present. Complete information will also be posted on Grand View. More details are available in this issue of the Masonic Messenger.

### **2022 Code Bills**

The 2022 Code Bills are available in this issue of the Masonic Messenger.

# The 236th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Georgia Free and Accepted Masons

The 236th Annual Communication of The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons for the State of Georgia, will be held on October 25th and 26th 2022 at the “Iron Works” Columbus Trade Center, 801 Front Avenue, Columbus, GA 31901.

**Banquet:** The Grand Master’s Banquet will be held on Monday evening, October 24th at 6:30 pm in the Iron Works Dining Gallery. Tickets are available for purchase in the Grand Lodge Office. Tickets are \$65.00 per person and limited to 175 guests.

**Grand Lodge Session:** The session will begin at 8:30 am, in the “Iron Works” Columbus Trade Center, Tuesday morning, October 25th and will be set to refreshment at 5 pm.

**Box Lunch:** A Box Lunch will be available for purchase for the lunch break on Tuesday, October 25th. The cost is \$20.00 per person. Tickets may be purchased through the Grand Lodge Office.

**Grand Lodge Picnic:** The Grand Lodge Picnic will be held Tuesday evening, October 25th in the “Iron Works” Columbus Trade Center. The Picnic will begin at 6:00 pm for fun, fellowship, and food with special entertainment by The Band of Brothers. Tickets are \$40.00 per person and are available in the Grand Lodge Office. No tickets will be available at the door.

**PLEASE SEE THE TICKET REQUEST FORM IN THIS ISSUE OF THE  
MASONIC MESSENGER**

Fill out the request form and mail to:

Grand Lodge of Georgia  
PO Box 4665  
Macon, GA 31208-4665

Include your check and return address to insure prompt delivery of your tickets.

**ALL TICKETS MUST BE ORDERD BY OCTOBER 7th.  
NO TICKETS WILL BE MAILED AFTER OCTOBER 12th.**

The Hospitality Room will be on the first floor of the Host Hotel, the Columbus Marriott, 800 Front Avenue, Columbus, GA 31901. It will be open Monday, October 24th, 11:30 am to 4:00 pm and 8:30 pm to 11:00 pm. Tuesday, October 25th, 6:45 am to 7:45 am, 8:30 am to 10:45 am, (closed during Ladies Luncheon) and 9:00 pm to 11:00 pm. Wednesday, October 26th, 7:00 am to 8:30 am.

## **IMPORTANT GRAND LODGE INFORMATION**

Registration for the Annual Grand Lodge Communication must be done on Grand View by clicking the blue Pre-register for 2022 banner from your member portal.

There will be no admittance to the Annual Grand Lodge Communication without a current valid dues card.

# Welcome to the 236th Annual Communication

of the

## Grand Lodge of Georgia, Free and Accepted Masons Columbus Marriott is the host hotel

The Hospitality Room will be supplied with homemade goodies and open Monday through Wednesday at designated hours for everyone's enjoyment.

**\*\*\*ALL EVENTS WILL BE HELD AT THE IRON WORKS\*\*\***

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**GRAND MASTER'S BANQUET**

M.: W.: Donald C. Combs

Iron Works

Monday – October 24th  
6:30 P. M.

Tickets: \$65.00

Number of tickets: \_\_\_\_\_

**LADIES LUNCHEON**

First Lady Susan Combs

Iron Works

Tuesday – October 25th  
11:30 A.M.

Tickets: \$35.00

Number of tickets: \_\_\_\_\_

**GRAND LODGE PICNIC**

Special Entertainment

*Band of Brothers*

Iron Works

Tuesday – October 25th  
6:00 P.M.

Tickets: \$40.00

Number of tickets: \_\_\_\_\_

(Dark Suit, Formal or  
Sunday Dress required)

(NO TICKETS SOLD AT THE EVENTS)

### BREAK FOR LUNCH Box Lunch Available Tuesday – October 25th

12:00 P.M.

\$20.00 Per Person

Number of tickets: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*\*All tickets are available for purchase through the Grand Lodge Office\*\*\***

Make Checks Payable to: Grand Lodge of Georgia

Send all orders to: Grand Secretary P.O. Box 4665 Macon, GA 31208-4665

All tickets must be ordered by **October 7th**

**NO TICKETS WILL BE MAILED AFTER OCTOBER 12th**

Please mail tickets to:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

  
**The Grand Lodge**  
**Of Free and Accepted Masons for the State Of Georgia**

**THE GRAND LODGE OF FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS  
FOR THE STATE OF GEORGIA**

**Donald C. Combs, Grand Master**

**RULING NO. 2022 – 6**

WHEREAS, the COVID virus has continued to affect our day to day lives, and

WHEREAS, it has come to my attention many lodges are using past rulings of Grand Master's not to meet, open in proper form and perform the basic tenets of gathering as Freemasons.

THEREFORE, in order to bring clarity to the craft and promote unity for the greater good of the fraternity, IT IS MY RULING as follows:

1. RULING NO. 2022-2, and all prior rulings regarding these matters are rescinded.
2. Each Worshipful Master is responsible for the governance of his lodge and shall care for his brethren in lodge convened. see MC 23-109
3. Special dispensation may be applied for on a case-by-case basis, concerning health and wellness issues which may affect the membership of any lodge due to the COVID virus.

SO ORDERED this 8th day of August 2022



Van S. McGee  
Grand Secretary





Donald C. Combs  
Grand Master



THE ROAST OF  
**BROTHER  
MICHAEL A. KESSLER**  
RIGHT WORSHIPFUL DEPUTY GRAND MASTER OF MASONS IN GEORGIA

**OCTOBER 1, 2022 | 6PM**

IN THE DINING HALL AT THE  
**ATLANTA MASONIC CENTER**  
1690 PEACHTREE STREET NW  
ATLANTA, GA 30319

Join Brother Kessler's friends as they offer up their comical perspectives. The program will raise money to support the travel and charities of Brother Kessler for his journey to the Grand Oriental Chair.

The suggested dress is casual attire, so come out and enjoy a fun and relaxed evening with the Deputy Grand Master.

**WHAT'LL YA HAVE,  
WHAT'LL YA HAVE?**

Food will be catered by The Varsity with their famous on-site food truck and crew.  
*Enjoy all you can eat!*



**\$50 TICKET**



Send donations to:  
Fulton Lodge No. 216  
1690 Peachtree Street NW  
Atlanta, GA 30319

or Scan the QR Code to pay by Credit Card

# **CHARLIE LONG BARN DEGREE**

**OCTOBER 8, 2022**



**THE ANNUAL BARN DEGREE WILL BE HELD AT CHARLIE LONG'S FARM IN RANGER, GEORGIA ON OCTOBER 8, 2022. GATES OPEN EARLY SO COME AND ENJOY THE FARM AND THE SHADE TREES BY THE CREEK. THERE WILL BE ACTIVITIES FOR THE LADIES.**

**MASTER MASON DEGREE WILL BEGIN AT 6 P.M.**

**ADMISSION \$15.00 PER PERSON. BBQ WILL BE SERVED.**

**DEGREE WILL BE CONFERRED BY THE GRAND LODGE OF GEORGIA BOARD OF CUSTODIANS OF THE UNIFORM WORK.**

**ALL MASTER MASONS ARE INVITED AND URGED TO ATTEND.**

**PROCEEDS GO TO THE TRAVEL FUND FOR THE INCOMING GRAND MASTER.**



# Masonic Home of Georgia

The children of the Masonic Home of Georgia had a fulfilling summer. It started with them heading to our camp in Shellman Bluff, GA, where they experienced many trips or picnics sponsored by several different lodges.

The pictures that accompany this article represent some of the lodges that sponsored events for our children, such as a trip to Jekyll Island and summer waves water park on the fourth of July as well as helping out with projects at camp.

The Masons of Georgia as well as their families and friends are very special to all of us at the Masonic Home of Georgia. We appreciate your continued support and we welcome you to come for a visit!

Contributions can be mailed to:

Masonic Home of Georgia  
P. O. Box 4183  
Macon, GA 31208



## CODE BILL RECONSIDERATION

### Code Bill No. 2019-1

A Bill to repeal Section 77-108.1 of the Masonic Code relating to homosexual activity.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GRAND LODGE OF GEORGIA FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS THE Code Chapter 77-1, Coded Section 11-108.1 of the Masonic Code that reads as follows:

“77-108.1. Homosexual Activity. ---Homosexual activity with anyone subjects the offender to discipline. Edit 2015-4.”

Be and the same in hereby repealed in its entirety so that said code section would read:

~~77-108.1. Homosexual Activity. Homosexual activity with anyone subjects the offender to discipline. Edict 2015-4~~Repealed.

David Herman

Past Master, Chamblee Lodge No. 444

**SUMMARY:** Bill seeks to repeal Chapter 77-1, Section 77-108.1. *The Jurisprudence Committee has determined that this bill is in proper legal form and not in conflict with any other section of the Code*

Motion to Postpone 77-108.1

“I move to postpone discussion of the subject regarding Code Section 77-108.1 until October 25, 2022.”

The Motion was adopted and passed October 22, 2019.

# 2022 Code Bills and Resolutions for the 236th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Georgia Free and Accepted Masons

### **Code Bill No. 2022-1**

A bill to modify the procedure for the Enactment of Laws so that bills and resolutions receive an opportunity to be enacted by the Brethren who are in attendance on any particular day of the Grand Lodge session.

Be it Enacted by the Grand Lodge of Georgia Free and Accepted Masons that the Masonic Code Chapter 3, Section 3-113, Paragraph 2, only be amended as follows:

By inserting the words in paragraph 2, "The Grand Master, in his sole discretion, shall determine (1) the order in which the bills and resolutions are to be

brought before the membership and

(2) whether bills are in order after considering the recommendations of the Jurisprudence Committee. By deleting the words "(See FORMS)" in paragraph 4. By inserting the words "No bill or resolution may be tabled or postponed beyond the current Grand Lodge session." as a new paragraph, so that said section as amended shall read as follows:

### **3-113. Enactment of Laws**

1. The enacting clause of all proposed laws and amendments shall be as follows: "Be it Enacted by the Grand Lodge of Georgia Free and Accepted Masons."

2. The printing and distribution to members in attendance at Grand Lodge of all Bills and Resolutions that have previously been referred to the Jurisprudence Committee for their consideration shall constitute the first reading of such Bill or Resolution. Upon the presentation of such Bill or Resolution by the Jurisprudence Committee to Grand Lodge, discussion shall be permitted thereon, the author of the Bill or Resolution speaking first; and its enactment shall be by a majority vote of the members of Grand Lodge present and voting. The Grand Master, in his sole discretion, shall determine (1) the order in which the bills and resolutions are to be brought before the membership and (2) whether bills are in order after considering the recommendations of the Jurisprudence Committee.

3. A bill may add, amend, or revise more than one Code Section; however, such bill shall not contain more than one subject matter which shall be expressed in the caption thereof.

4. No law shall be amended or revised by reference to its title or section only; but such law, section, or sections, sought to be amended or revised, shall be set forth and enacted at length, indicating, by the use of underlines, any language to be added to the section or section, and indicating, by the use of strikethroughs, any language to be deleted from the section or sections. A skeleton form of a bill for enactment of laws which can be used to propose legislation is contained herein. (See FORMS)

5. These provisions shall not be construed to alter the provisions of Section 1- 701 of the Constitution with reference to amendments to the Constitution.

6. All laws and amendments to laws enacted by the Grand Lodge of Georgia shall become effective immediately unless otherwise provided in the bill.

7. No bill or resolution may be tabled or postponed beyond the current Grand Lodge session.

Ross M. Laver, P.M.  
Flint Hill Lodge No. 371  
Fulton Lodge No. 2 I 6

A. Jack Fishman, P.M.  
Fulton Lodge, No. 216

Daniel P. Bennett, P.M.  
Plainville Masonic Lodge No. 364

M. Steven Fishman, P.M.

Webb Lodge No. 166  
Charles Anthony Frazier, PM  
Pythagoras Lodge. No. 41

Roy L. Gay, PM  
Meyerhardt Lodge, No 314

**Code Bill No. 2022-1 SUMMARY:** This bill seeks to amend MC Section 3-113 by adding additional wording to paragraphs 2 and 7. The Jurisprudence Committee is satisfied that the bill is in proper legal form and not in conflict with any other section of the Code.

#### **Code Bill No. 2022-2**

**A Bill to repeal Section 77-108.1 of the Masonic Code relating to homosexual activity.**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GRAND LODGE OF GEORGIA FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS that Code

Chapter 77-1, **Code Section 77-108.1** of the Masonic Code that reads as follows:

**"77-108.1. Homosexual Activity.** - Homosexual activity with anyone subjects the offender to discipline. **Edict 2015-4."**

be and the same is hereby repealed in its entirety so that said code section would read:

~~77-108.1. Homosexual Activity. Homosexual activity with anyone subjects the offender to discipline. Edict 2015-4 Repealed.~~

Ross Laver  
Past Master, Flint Hill Lodge No. 371  
Past Master, Fulton Lodge No. 216

Adam Brodofsky  
Past Master, Fulton Lodge No. 216

William Kayma  
Past Master, Sandy Springs Lodge No. 124

A. Jack Fishman  
Worshipful Master, Fulton Lodge, No. 216

Gary McEntire  
Past Master, Flint Hill Lodge No. 371  
Gary Monk  
Past Master, Metro Daylight Lodge No. 743

Past Master Grant Park Lodge No. 604

William R. Carver, Jr.  
Past Master, Atlanta-Peachtree Lodge No. 59

Daniel P. Bennett  
Past Master, Plainville Masonic Lodge No. 364

**Code Bill No. 2022-2 SUMMARY:** This bill seeks to repeal MC Section 77-108.1. The Jurisprudence Committee is satisfied that the bill is in proper legal form and not in conflict with any other section of the Code.

### **Code Bill No. 2022-3**

A bill to amend Chapter 27-1, Section 27-102 of the Masonic Code of Georgia to clarify who may preside at the installation of officers in a Georgia Lodge.

Be it Enacted by the Grand Lodge of Georgia Free and Accepted Masons that the Masonic Code Chapter 27-1, Section 27-102 only be amended as follows:

By inserting the words "A Past Master of another jurisdiction may not install officers in Lodges of this jurisdiction unless previously affiliated." so that said section as amended shall read as follows:

#### **27-102. Past Masters from Other Lodges**

A Past Master demitting from one Lodge to another in this Grand Jurisdiction retains all the rights and privileges of a Past Master and should be carried on the roll of the latter as an affiliated Past Master. A Past Master demitting from another Grand Jurisdiction to a Georgia Lodge does not become a member of the Grand Lodge, but such privilege may be conferred by a majority vote of the Grand Lodge. A Past Master of another jurisdiction may not install officers in Lodges of this jurisdiction unless previously affiliated.

Jan M. Giddens, PM  
Kennesaw Lodge No. 33

**Code Bill No. 2022-3 SUMMARY:** This bill seeks to amend MC Chapter 27-1, Section 27-102 by adding additional wording. The Jurisprudence Committee is satisfied that the bill is in proper legal form and not in conflict with any other section of the Code.

### **Code Bill No. 2022-4**

A Bill providing who may serve as members of an auditing committee, by amending Code Section 25-116 of the Masonic Code:

## **BE IT ENACTED BY THE GRAND LODGE OF GEORGIA**

### **FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS**

That, Code Section 25-116, relating to "Auditing Committee Appointed", be amended so that said section, as amended shall read as follows:

#### **25-116. Auditing Committee Appointed**

On or before the last regular communication in November each year, the Master of each subordinate Lodge shall appoint an Auditing Committee, which Committee shall examine the books and vouchers reflecting all financial transactions of the Lodge, its officers, committees, commissions, trustees, holding associations and others disbursing Lodge funds. Current secretaries and treasurers of their respective lodges are automatically excluded from serving on auditing committees. Such Auditing Committee shall report to the Lodge the results of its examination at the communication at which the annual election of officers is held or not later than the first regular communication in January following. Provided, it shall not be necessary to appoint such Auditing Committee in those Lodges which have said accounts annually audited by a Public Accountant. All auditing reports, whether conducted by Lodge membership or a Certified Public Accountant shall become part of the Official Minutes of the Lodge.

Chester Gosdin, PM  
Palmetto Daylight Lodge 755

**Code Bill No. 2022-4 SUMMARY:** This bill seeks to amend MC Section 25-116 by adding additional wording for clarification. The Jurisprudence Committee is satisfied that the bill is in proper legal form and not in conflict with any other section of the Code.

**Code Bill No. 2022-5**

A Bill providing notification to appendant and concordant bodies of disciplinary action, by adding Code Section 30-104.1 of the Masonic Code,

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE GRAND LODGE OF GEORGIA FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS**

That Code Section 30-104.1, relating to “Appendant Bodies-Suspension from”, be added, so that said section as added, shall read as follows:

**30-104.1 Appendant Bodies-Suspension from**

Brethren resigning from freemasonry in Georgia, or who demit, or are expelled or suspended (whether indefinitely or definite period of time), automatically forfeits membership in all appendant and concordant bodies and/or orders in which he holds membership for duration of separation from a Georgia subordinate lodge. The Grand Secretary’s Office at the earliest possible convenience shall notify the grand secretaries of the appendant and concordant bodies recognized and operating within the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Georgia, of said resignation, demitted, suspension and/or expulsion of said brother.

See Code Sections 1-103; 1-204; 30-101(1-C), (2-C); 30-111; 77-126; 86-114.

Chester Gosdin, PM  
Palmetto Daylight Lodge 755

**Code Bill No. 2022-5 SUMMARY:** This bill seeks to add an additional Code Section 30-104.1. The Jurisprudence Committee is satisfied that the bill is in proper legal form and not in conflict with any other section of the Code.

**Code Bill No. 2022-6**

A Bill providing clarifying language of renewing petitions for restoration, by amending Section 86-103 of the Masonic Code

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE GRAND LODGE OF GEORGIA FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS**

That Code Section 86-103, relating to “Renewed”, be amended, so that said section as amended, shall read as

**86-103. Renewed**

There is no limit to the number of petitions applications an expelled or a suspended Mason may make submit for restoration, but each petition submitted, application shall be in writing and a new investigating committee shall be appointed upon each petition, before any action may be lawfully taken. An expelled Mason may submit only one petition annually, and twelve months must elapse between each petition submitted.

Chester Gosdin, PM  
Palmetto Daylight Lodge No. 755

**Code Bill No. 2022-6 SUMMARY:** This bill seeks to amend MC Section 86-103 by changing and adding wording for guidance and clarity. The Jurisprudence Committee is satisfied that the bill is in proper legal form and not in conflict with any other section of the Code.

**Code Bill No. 2022-7**

A Bill providing additional guidelines in election of officers, by adding a New Section, to be known as Section 28-113 of the Masonic Code

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE GRAND LODGE OF GEORGIA FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS**

That, Code Section 28-113, relating to “Full Name Used”, be added so that said section as added, shall read as follows:

**28-113 Full Name Used:**

Paper ballots cast in the election of officers for a Lodge, shall contain the first and last name of the brother of the voter’s choice, including, but not limited to: “Sr.”, “Jr.”, initial, or other specific identifier. Paper ballots outside these guidelines are null and void. If no majority exists due to paper ballots being nullified, a new ballot for election of officers shall be conducted. The Worshipful Master is charged to remind the brethren of this code section prior to the election of officers. See Code Section 28-111

Chester Gosdin, PM  
Palmetto Daylight Lodge No. 755

**Code Bill No. 2022-7 SUMMARY:** This bill seeks to add and additional Code Section 28-113. The

Jurisprudence Committee is satisfied that the bill is in proper legal form and not in conflict with any other section of the Code.

#### **Code Bill No. 2022-8**

A Bill initiating a minimum time frame between balloting and conferring of degrees by adding a new section, Code Section 42-112 to the Masonic Code  
**BE IT ENACTED BY THE GRAND LODGE OF GEORGIA FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS**

That Code Section 42-112, relating to “**Balloting and Degree Work at Same Communication Not Proper**” be added so that said section as added shall read as follows:

#### **42-112. Balloting and Degree Work at Same Communication Not Proper –**

No degree work shall be permitted on the same night a candidate for the degrees of Freemasonry has been elected; nor any entered apprentice mason or fellowcraft mason, whose petition for advancement has been granted, will receive the next degree on the same night. A minimum of one day or 24 hours, must elapse between ballot and degree work. This does not prevent conferring degrees during a called communication, after the petition is granted at a regular communication. See Code Sections 41-103, 42-110.1, 42-110.2, 44-106.

Chester Gosdin, PM  
Palmetto Daylight Lodge No. 755

**Code Bill No. 2022-8 SUMMARY:** This bill seeks to add an additional Code Section 42-112. The Jurisprudence Committee is satisfied that the bill is in proper legal form and not in conflict with any other section of the Code.

#### **Code Bill No. 2022-9**

**A bill to amend Chapter 30-1, Section 30-101, Paragraph 2, and subparagraphs**

**a) and b) of Paragraph 2** of the Masonic Code of Georgia to allow plural membership from and with regular out-of-state subordinate lodges, since Masons may spend significant periods of time residing temporarily in this and other jurisdictions for work and other reasons such as owning second homes. This

change will allow plural affiliations to and from lodges in other jurisdictions similar to what is allowed among lodges within the State of Georgia, and is consistent with the rules of the majority of other Grand Jurisdictions.

Be it Enacted by the Grand Lodge of Georgia Free and Accepted Masons that the Masonic Code Chapter 30-1, **Section 30-101, Paragraph 2, and subparagraphs a) and b)** only be amended as follows:

By striking the words “The Grand Lodge of Georgia permits plural membership in a Lodge of this State and in a Lodge of another State when the Lodge granting plural membership is in the State in which such member has for one year permanently resided, and which Lodge under the laws of the State of his residence holds jurisdiction over him.” and striking subparagraphs a) and b) of Paragraph 2 in their entirety and replacing them with the following:

(a) “Any Master Mason who is a member in good standing of a regular Lodge under the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge, who is not under charges, may petition for plural membership in any Lodge whose Grand Lodge is in fraternal relationship with this Grand Lodge and is in comity with it respecting plural membership, and retain membership in his original Lodge, provided he attaches to such petition for plural membership a certificate of good standing issued by the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Georgia under its seal, and provided further that he be elected by the petitioned Lodge pursuant to the laws of that jurisdiction as regards petition, investigation, report, and ballot relating to an application for the degrees of Masonry and complies with the laws of that jurisdiction relating to plural membership.”

(b) “Any Master Mason who is a member in good standing of a regular Lodge under the jurisdiction of another Grand Lodge in fraternal relationship with this Grand Lodge and which is in comity with it respecting plural membership, who is not under charges may petition for plural membership in any Lodge in this State and retain membership in his original Lodge, provided he attaches to his petition for plural membership a certificate of good standing issued by the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge

of his original jurisdiction under its seal, or by the Secretary of the Lodge of which he is a member, under its seal, authenticated by the Grand Secretary of such Grand Lodge, under its seal, and provided further that he be elected by the petitioned Lodge pursuant to the laws of that jurisdiction as regards petition, investigation, report, and ballot relating to an application for the degrees of Masonry and complies with the laws of that jurisdiction relating to plural membership.”

so that said section as amended shall read as follows:

### **30-101. Plural Membership**

Grand Lodge of Georgia permits Plural Membership in an unlimited number of Lodges both within this State and with Lodges in other jurisdictions.

#### **1. Plural Membership-Within Georgia.**

(a) Any Master Mason who is a member in good standing of a regular, or Daylight Lodge, under the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge, who is not under charges may petition for Plural Membership in any other regular Lodge, or Lodges, under the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge, including Daylight Lodges provided he attaches to his petition a Certificate of Good Standing issued by each Lodge within which he holds membership, and provided he be elected by the petitioned Lodge, or Lodges, pursuant to the laws as regard investigation, report and ballot, may enjoy all the rights and privileges of membership in the petitioned Lodge, or Lodges. Dues for Plural Membership shall, in all instances, be the same amount charged by the Lodge for regular membership.

(b) A member who holds Plural Membership, is in good standing and has no charges pending against him may of his own volition drop his membership in any of the other Lodges within which he holds Plural Membership without affecting his membership in the other Lodge, or Lodges to which he belongs by filing a declaration of such with said Lodges. Such declaration shall be filed in duplicate and in the form prescribed by the Grand Secretary, one copy of which shall be retained by the Lodge and the other copy of which shall be for warded over the Lodge's seal to the Grand Secretary. Further, the withdrawing member shall deposit with the Secretary of the Lodge from which he is withdrawing a notice of such withdrawal in an unsealed envelope with sufficient

first-class postage thereon and properly addressed to each other Lodge in which he holds membership. Such notice(s) shall be forwarded by the Lodge Secretary to the Grand Secretary for certification and mailing. Such withdrawal of membership shall not require action of the Lodge.

(c) If any member who holds Plural Membership be suspended or expelled by any Lodge in which he holds Plural Membership, such suspension or expulsion shall, without the necessity of preferring charges or trial in the other Lodge or Lodges in which he holds Plural Membership, constitute suspension or expulsion, respectively, of such member from that Lodge or Lodges. Upon the suspension or expulsion of any member who holds Plural Membership, a certificate of such fact shall be forwarded by the Grand Secretary to the Lodge within which the member holds Plural Membership.

#### **2) Plural Membership-Out of State.**

~~The Grand Lodge of Georgia permits plural membership in a Lodge of this State and in a Lodge of another State when the Lodge granting plural membership is in the State in which such member has for one year permanently resided, and which Lodge under the laws of the State of his residence holds jurisdiction over him~~

~~a) Any Master Mason who is a member in good standing of a regular Lodge under the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge, who is not under charges, and who resides permanently or who is a member of the armed services, assigned to a post either in the United States, or Territory thereof, or foreign country in another jurisdiction whose Grand Lodge is in fraternal relationship with this Grand Lodge and is in comity with it respecting plural membership, may, upon special dispensation of the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Georgia, petition for plural membership in any Lodge holding jurisdiction over him in the State of his residence, or armed services post where he is assigned, and retain membership in his original Lodge, provided he attaches to such petition for plural membership a certificate of good standing issued by the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Georgia under its seal, and provided further that he be elected by the petitioned Lodge pursuant to the laws of that jurisdiction as regards petition, investigation, report and ballot relating to an application for the degrees of Masonry and complies with the laws of that jurisdiction relating to plural membership.~~

a) Any Master Mason who is a member in good standing of a regular Lodge under the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge, who is not under charges, may petition for plural membership in any Lodge whose Grand Lodge is in fraternal relationship with this Grand Lodge and is in comity with it respecting plural membership, and retain membership in his original Lodge, provided he attaches to such petition for plural membership a certificate of good standing issued by the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Georgia under its seal, and provided further that he be elected by the petitioned Lodge pursuant to the laws of that jurisdiction as regards petition, investigation, report, and ballot relating to an application for the degrees of Masonry and complies with the laws of that jurisdiction relating to plural membership.

~~b) Any Master Mason who permanently resides in this State and who is a member in good standing of a regular Lodge under the jurisdiction of another Grand Lodge in fraternal relationship with this Grand Lodge and which is in comity with it respecting plural membership, who is not under charges and has for one year resided permanently in this State, may, upon special dispensation of the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Georgia, petition for plural membership in any Lodge in this State holding jurisdiction over him and retain membership in his original Lodge, provided he attaches to his petition for plural membership a certificate of good standing issued by the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of his original jurisdiction under its seal, or by the Secretary of the Lodge of which he is a member, under its seal, authenticated by the Grand Secretary of such Grand Lodge, under its seal, and provided further that he be elected by the petitioned Lodge pursuant to the laws of that jurisdiction as regards petition, investigation, report and ballot relating to an application for the degrees of Masonry and complies with the laws of that jurisdiction relating to plural membership.~~

b) Any Master Mason who is a member in good standing of a regular Lodge under the jurisdiction of another Grand Lodge in fraternal relationship with this Grand Lodge and which is in comity with it respecting plural membership, who is not under charges may petition for plural membership in any Lodge in this State and retain membership in his original Lodge, provided he attaches to his petition

for plural membership a certificate of good standing issued by the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of his original jurisdiction under its seal, or by the Secretary of the Lodge of which he is a member, under its seal, authenticated by the Grand Secretary of such Grand Lodge, under its seal, and provided further that he be elected by the petitioned Lodge pursuant to the laws of that jurisdiction as regards petition, investigation, report, and ballot relating to an application for the degrees of Masonry and complies with the laws of that jurisdiction relating to plural membership.

c) If any member of a Georgia Lodge who holds plural membership be suspended or expelled by any other Lodge in which he has or had such plural membership, such suspension or expulsion shall, without the necessity of preferring charges or trial in such Georgia Lodge, constitute suspension or expulsion, respectively, of such member from the Georgia Lodge of which he was a member. A certificate by the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge under which such action was taken, under its seal, shall be conclusive evidence in this jurisdiction of the facts set forth in such certificate. Upon the suspension or expulsion of any member of a Georgia Lodge who holds such plural membership, a certificate of such fact shall be forwarded by the Grand Secretary of Georgia to each Grand Lodge in whose jurisdiction such member holds plural membership.

Tom D. Bruce, PM  
Tucker Lodge No. 42

E. Ray Knittel, PM  
Cohutta Lodge No. 64

**Code Bill No. 2022-9 SUMMARY:** This bill seeks to amend MC Chapter 30-1 relating to Plural Membership, specifically paragraph 2, sub-paragraphs a) and b). The Jurisprudence Committee is satisfied that the bill is in proper legal form and not in conflict with any other section of the Code.



### **Code Bill No. 2022-10**

A bill to amend Chapter 86-1, Section 86-102 of the Masonic Code and Chapter 41-1, Section 41-102 of the Masonic Code relating to procedures for petitions for restoration after suspension for non-payment of dues. Said sections of the Masonic Code currently read as follows:

#### **86-102. Restoration, How Obtained**

Any member suspended for a definite time, must, upon expiration of that time, make application for restoration to the Lodge from which he was suspended, after due investigation by a committee, member may be restored to good standing by unanimous secret ballot in the Lodge from which he had been suspended.

Indefinite suspension may never be imposed as a penalty except for non-payment of dues. Upon the payment of such dues and reinstatement fees required by the Lodge suspending him, and upon written petition, and after due investigation by a committee, a member suspended for non-payment of dues may be restored to good standing by unanimous secret ballot in the Lodge suspending him.

A member of a Lodge, the charter of which has been surrendered or forfeited, who was suspended for non-payment of dues prior to such surrender or forfeiture, shall be entitled to the issuance by the Grand Secretary of a certificate in lieu of demit upon his payment to such Grand Secretary of the dues for non-payment of which he was suspended, plus a fee of \$3.50 to the Grand Secretary; and upon the payment thereof, the Grand Secretary shall issue to such applicant his certificate which will show that such member was suspended for non-payment of dues in a Lodge which is now defunct; that such arrears of dues have been paid; that such certificate is issued by the Grand Secretary in lieu of and to have the same effect as a demit to such applicant as a Master Mason, and that the certificate does not constitute a recommendation as to character, each member that has been issued such certificate must upon written petition, and after due investigation by a committee, may be restored to good standing by unanimous secret ballot in the Lodge to which he has made application.

Restoration after expulsion is not within the power of a constituent Lodge, which has power only to recommend the restoration of the expelled member upon unanimous secret ballot. A like petition is required with at least one of the recommenders being a member of the Lodge to which the petition is submitted. Only the Lodge from which expulsion was recommended may recommend restoration, regardless of the residence of such expelled member. (Sections 44-102, 86-107, 86-108)

Following suspension or expulsion for failure to comply with Code Section 44-104, an individual may apply for restoration, and if restored to good standing the requirement for examination on the Catechism of the Master's Degree shall immediately become effective, according to Code Section 44-104, with time limits and all other provisions to apply to the restored individual the same as one who has just received the Master Mason's Degree.

#### **41-102. Joint Ballot**

A joint secret ballot may be had upon two or more candidates for the degree of Entered Apprentice or for advancement to the degree of Fellowcraft or Master Mason, or upon two or more petitions for either affiliation, demit, restoration from expulsion, restoration for non-payment of dues or suspension for a definite period after trial, but a joint ballot may not be had on more than one class of petitions or applications, or relate to more than one degree. In any case when joint ballot shall be taken, if the same should be unfavorable then a separate secret ballot shall be had upon each application. (Section 86-102)

Be it enacted by the Grand Lodge of Georgia Free and Accepted Masons that the Masonic Code Chapter 86-1, Code Section 86-102 only be amended as follows: By deleting the wording "unanimous secret ballot," and by adding the words "majority vote" so that the section as amended shall read as follows:

#### **86-102. Restoration, How Obtained**

Any member suspended for a definite time, must, upon expiration of that time, make application for restoration to the Lodge from which he was suspended, after due investigation by a committee, member may be restored to good standing by unanimous secret ballot in the Lodge from which he had been suspended.

Indefinite suspension may never be imposed as a penalty except for non-payment of dues. Upon the payment of such dues and reinstatement fees required by the Lodge suspending him, and upon written petition, and after due investigation by a committee, a member suspended for non-payment of dues may be restored to good standing by ~~unanimous secret ballot~~ majority vote in the Lodge suspending him.

A member of a Lodge, the charter of which has been surrendered or forfeited, who was suspended for non-payment of dues prior to such surrender or forfeiture, shall be entitled to the issuance by the Grand Secretary of a certificate in lieu of demit upon his payment to such Grand Secretary of the dues for non-payment of which he was suspended, plus a fee of \$3.50 to the Grand Secretary; and upon the payment thereof, the Grand Secretary shall issue to such applicant his certificate which will show that such member was suspended for non-payment of dues in a Lodge which is now defunct; that such arrears of dues have been paid; that such certificate is issued by the Grand Secretary in lieu of and to have the same effect as a demit to such applicant as a Master Mason, and that the certificate does not constitute a recommendation as to character, each member that has been issued such certificate must upon written petition, and after due investigation by a committee, may be restored to good standing by unanimous secret ballot in the Lodge to which he has made application.

Restoration after expulsion is not within the power of a constituent Lodge, which has power only to recommend the restoration of the expelled member upon unanimous secret ballot. A like petition is required with at least one of the recommenders being a member of the Lodge to which the petition is submitted. Only the Lodge from which expulsion was recommended may recommend restoration, regardless of the residence of such expelled member. (Sections 44-102, 86-107, 86-108)

Following suspension or expulsion for failure to comply with Code Section 44-104, an individual may apply for restoration, and if restored to good standing the requirement for examination on the Catechism of the Master's Degree shall immediately become effective, according to Code Section 44-104, with time limits and all other provisions to apply to

the restored individual the same as one who has just received the Master Mason's Degree.

Be it further enacted by the Grand Lodge of Georgia Free and Accepted Masons that the Masonic Code Chapter 41-1, Code Section 41-102 only be amended as follows:

By adding the word "or" and deleting the wording "non-payment of dues or" so that the section as amended shall read as follows:

#### **41-102. Joint Ballot**

A joint secret ballot may be had upon two or more candidates for the degree of Entered Apprentice or for advancement to the degree of Fellowcraft or Master Mason, or upon two or more petitions for either affiliation, demit, restoration from expulsion, or restoration for ~~non-payment of dues or~~ suspension for a definite period after trial, but a joint ballot may not be had on more than one class of petitions or applications, or relate to more than one degree. In any case when joint ballot shall be taken, if the same should be unfavorable then a separate secret ballot shall be had upon each application. (Section 86-102)

Jeffery L. Smith, P.M.,  
Lawrenceville Lodge No. 131

**Code Bill No. 2022-10 SUMMARY:** This bill seeks to amend MC Chapter 86-1, Section 86-102 and Chapter 41-1, Section 41-102 relating to restoration. The Jurisprudence Committee is satisfied that the bill is in proper legal form and not in conflict with any other section of the Code.

#### **Code Bill No. 2022-11**

A bill to amend Chapter 83-2, Section 83-212 of the Masonic Code relating to competency of witnesses in a masonic trial to remove the prohibition from some persons testifying, to allow for trial commissioners to give what weight to witness testimony they deem appropriate, and for other purposes. Said code currently reads as follows:

#### **83-212. Witnesses, Competency**

The witnesses in all Masonic trials, whether Masons or not, shall be persons who have the use of their reason and such religious beliefs as to feel the obligation of an oath, and who have not been convicted of any crime involving moral turpitude.

Be it enacted by the Grand Lodge of Georgia Free and Accepted Masons that the Masonic Code Chapter 83-2, Code Section 83-212 only be amended as follows:

By deleting the wording “and who have not been convicted of any crime involving moral turpitude,” and by adding the words “Witnesses who have been convicted of, or pled guilty to, a felony may testify in a trial; however, the weight given to such testimony shall be at the discretion of the trier of the case – trial commissioners or trial commission chairman. Evidence of such conviction or plea shall be admissible for impeachment.” so that the section as amended shall read as follows:

#### 83-212. Witnesses, Competency

The witnesses in all Masonic trials, whether Masons or not, shall be persons who have the use of their reason and such religious beliefs as to feel the obligation of an oath, ~~and who have not been convicted of any crime involving moral turpitude.~~ Witnesses who have been convicted of, or pled guilty to, a felony may testify in a trial; however, the weight given to such testimony shall be at the discretion of the trier of the case – trial commissioners or trial commission chairman. Evidence of such conviction or plea shall be admissible for impeachment.

Jeffery L. Smith, P.M.,  
Lawrenceville Lodge No. 131

**Code Bill No. 2022-11 SUMMARY:** This bill seeks to amend MC Chapter 83-2, Section 83-212 relating to competency of witnesses. The Jurisprudence Committee is satisfied that the bill is in proper legal form and not in conflict with any other section of the Code.

#### **Code Bill No. 2022-12**

A bill to amend Chapter 6-1, **Section 6-101**, of the Masonic Code of Georgia to change the title of the Superintendent of the Masonic Home to Executive Director.

Be it Enacted by the Grand Lodge of Georgia Free and Accepted Masons that the Masonic Code Chapter 6-1, **Section 6-101**, only be amended as follows:

By striking the words “Superintendent” in paragraphs

10, 11, and 16 and inserting the words “Executive Director” in place of same so that said section as amended shall read as follows:

#### **6-101. Management of Home**

The Masonic Home maintained by The Grand Lodge is located in the City of Macon, Georgia. The Grand Lodge provides support for the Masonic Home by allocation and collection of per capita tax charged each Master Mason who is a member of a Georgia Lodge on June 30th of each year as provided elsewhere in this Code. (Sections 7-101, 7-106)

The Masonic Home is governed by the following regulations:

#### 1. The government and management of the

Home shall be by a Board of Trustees to consist of twelve members, one from each Masonic District of the State, whose term of office shall be three years, four of which terms shall expire each year upon the election of their successors at the annual Grand Lodge Communication. The Trustees shall be nominated by their respective District Conventions. The District Master and District Secretary shall certify the name of such nominee to the next Communication of the Grand Lodge which may either elect or reject said nominee. In the event of a rejection the entire membership of the Grand Lodge in attendance shall then elect such Trustee. It shall be the duty of the Board of Trustees to meet as frequently as may be necessary to consistently provide insofar as possible a home, in fact as well as in name, for the children entrusted to their care. The members of the Board of Trustees, collectively and individually, owe responsibility to the Masons of Georgia, due to the mode of their election, and due to the Masonic Home being maintained by the Grand Lodge, and the Grand Lodge requiring that each Mason in Georgia pay a stated amount each year for its support.

2. The members of Grand Lodge in session, therefore, shall have authority to remove any or all regular members of the Board of Trustees, and to elect a successor or successors during the same communication of Grand Lodge. In that event, any successor shall be a member of a Lodge in the same Masonic District as the member removed from office. The Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master and the

Senior Grand Warden shall be ex-officio members of the Board with each ex-officio member having the right to vote and all other privileges of regular members of the Board, except that ex-officio members shall not hold office on the Board of Trustees or serve on committees of the Board of Trustees. Interim vacancies caused by death or resignation shall be filled by appointment made by the Grand Master until the next meeting of the Grand Lodge at which time the vacancy shall be filled for the unexpired term as herein provided. If an ex-officio member resigns, that position shall remain vacant so long as he remains in the office which gave him ex-officio status on the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees shall elect from its members the Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Secretary of the Board. In addition to these officers, two members shall be elected at large to constitute the Executive Committee.

3. The fiscal affairs of the Home shall be in charge of the Grand Treasurer, who shall be required to give such additional bond as the Board of Trustees may prescribe.

4. Prior to the end of the fiscal year preceding the annual session of the Grand Lodge of Georgia the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Home shall submit to the Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master, and the Grand Treasurer a complete proposed budget which must be tentatively approved by the Grand Master and either the Deputy Grand Master or Grand Treasurer before any monies for upcoming fiscal year may be spent, and which shall thereafter be presented to the Grand Lodge in session for its approval or modifications as it may seem appropriate.

5. The proposed operating budget shall not exceed the anticipated incomes determined by the Board. The Grand Treasurer shall be consulted as to the anticipated income from the Grand Lodge including per capita tax, income from endowment fund and other income from Grand Lodge. Other anticipated income shall be the same as reported in the last year's report available except gifts in excess of \$10,000 appearing to be one-time gifts shall not be included as anticipated income.

6. A copy of a preliminary budget, by categories shall be published in the annual report of the Board of Trustees or included as a supplement thereto for

distribution to those in attendance on the first day of Grand Lodge.

7. No expenditures not included in the budget approved by the Grand Lodge shall be made except under emergent circumstances and then only after approval by the Grand Master and either the Deputy Grand Master or the Grand Treasurer.

8. All monies or other property that are received for use for the Masonic Home that are not designated by the donor for a specific purpose shall immediately be placed in the Masonic Home Endowment Fund, unless prior to the receipt thereof the Board of Trustees has recommended a specific capital improvement project for use of the monies so received, together with cost thereof, and such use of said monies has been specifically approved by the Grand Lodge or, between its annual

communications, by the Grand Master and either the Deputy Grand Master or Grand Treasurer as a needed and necessary project. (Edict 1989-1)

9. The Board of Trustees of the Masonic Home of Georgia may use designated contributions for the purposes and intents for which they were designated with the prior written consent of the Grand Master. Written report of such receipt and use shall be made to the Grand Lodge by the Board of Trustees at the Annual Communication. (Edict 1989-2)

10. The actual care and supervision of the Home shall be committed to a ~~Superintendent~~ an **Executive Director** to be chosen by the Board of Trustees, to serve according to such terms and under such rules and regulations as the Board may direct.

11. All other officers and staff of the Home shall be recommended by the ~~Superintendent~~ **Executive Director** and approved by the Board, which shall likewise fix their compensation and benefits.

12. The Board shall be further authorized to adopt such plan of education, mental, moral and industrial, as will best tend to educate and train such orphans as may be committed to the care of the Home and employ such teachers and instructors as may be necessary to carry such plans into successful operation.

13. This Home shall be maintained for children only.

14. The Board of Trustees shall have full authority and power so to regulate, conduct and maintain the Home that it shall be in all respects, as far as their agency can reasonably accomplish. a Home in fact as well as in name for the care, maintenance and education of orphans, priority being given to orphans of Masons. The Board of Trustees shall have full authority to make and prescribe all such rules and regulations as may in their judgement be necessary to govern the admission of applicants to said Home.

15. The Board of Trustees may, in its discretion, use a portion of the funds appropriated for the operation of the Home in defraying the expenses of maintenance and education of children eligible to admission into said Home at places other than said Home, under such rules and regulations as they may adopt.

16. The salary of the ~~Superintendent~~ **Executive Director** of the Home shall be fixed by the Board of Trustees. No person shall be eligible to be ~~Superintendent~~ **Executive Director** who holds any office or is a member of any committee in any Grand Lodge or Grand Body of Masons, including any and all branches thereof in the State of Georgia, and the holding of any office or the acceptance of any appointment on any committee in any such Grand Body of Masons or branch thereof in this State shall disqualify such ~~Superintendent~~ **Executive Director** from the further performance of his duties as such. However, nothing contained herein shall be construed to prevent the ~~Superintendent~~ **Executive Director** from holding any office in any blue or subordinate Lodge.

17. The Board of Trustees shall have the power to admit to the privileges of said Home, children not orphans of Masons, provided that no such child shall be admitted after the Home population reaches ninety percent of its capacity, nor shall such non-Masonic orphans remain in said Home if thereby eligible Masonic orphans are deprived of its privileges. The admission, rejection, dismissal, placing or other handling of such non-Masonic orphans shall be in the discretion of the Board of Trustees and shall conform in all respects to the rules of said Board.

18. The Board of Trustees shall have discretionary power to sell the personal property belonging to the plant of the Masonic Home.

19. The Board of Trustees shall have the control and management of all funds of the Masonic Home of Georgia, acquired by appropriation from the Grand Lodge of Georgia, or by gift from any source, including, but not limited to, the Christmas, Holiday, Entertainment and Comfort Fund, the Education and Endowment Fund, and the Maintenance Fund, and shall have the right to invest and reinvest said funds in such securities as may be lawful for investment of trust funds under the laws of the State of Georgia, Title to such securities shall be in the "Board of Trustees, Masonic Home of Georgia, of the Grand Lodge of Georgia, F. & A. M., under Section 6-101(13) of the Masonic Manual and Code of Georgia", provided that nothing contained herein shall be constructed to affect or change the provisions of Section 6-102 of this Masonic Manual and Code pertaining to the Georgia Masonic Home Endowment Fund.

20. Effective as of the opening of the 2016 annual session of the Grand Lodge and upon the expiration of the term of any Board member serving prior to that date, whichever is later, no individual Master Mason appointed by the Grand Master, nominated by any one of the twelve Masonic Districts, or elected by the Grand Lodge to serve on said Board shall be eligible to serve more than nine years as a Trustee, consecutive or otherwise, during any fifteen-year period. This limitation applies to all past, present, and future Board members.

21. The Board of Trustees shall be required to submit an annual report to Grand Lodge, during each regular communication thereof, and each annual report shall describe the true conditions existing in the Masonic Home at that time.

Charles E. Long, PM  
Morning Star Lodge No. 349  
Resaca Lodge No. 724  
Sonora Lodge No. 221

C. Edward Bennis, III, PM  
Fickling Lodge No. 129

H. Matthew Mobley, PM  
Pelham Lodge No. 312

Rodger C. Daniel, PM  
Alpharetta Lodge No. 235

Paul Carter, PM  
Meridian Sun Lodge No. 26

David E. Shockley, PM  
Statham Lodge No. 634  
Ralph Freeman, Jr. Daylight Lodge No. 766

Dennis D. Buchanan, PM  
Loftin Lodge No. 688

**Code Bill No. 2022-12 SUMMARY:** This bill seeks to amend MC Chapter 6-1, Section 6-101 by changing title of Superintendent of Masonic Hope to Executive Director. The Jurisprudence Committee is satisfied that the bill is in proper legal form and not in conflict with any other section of the Code.

#### **Code Bill No. 2022-13**

A bill to amend Chapter 23-1, **Section 23-103.1** of the Masonic Code of Georgia to clarify the title of the section governing who may open and/or close a Lodge in ample form.

Be it Enacted by the Grand Lodge of Georgia Free and Accepted Masons that the Masonic Code Chapter 23-1, **Section 23-103.1**, only be amended as follows:

In the title, by striking the words “Past Grand Masters Opening and Closing in Ample Form” and inserting the words “The Grand Master, Past Grand Masters, and Grand Lodge Officers May Open or Close in Ample Form” so that said section as amended shall read as follows:

~~23-103.1 Past Grand Masters Opening or Closing in Ample Form~~ The Grand Master, Past Grand Masters, and Grand Lodge Officers May Open or Close in Ample Form

Only the Grand Master and Past Grand Masters may open and/or close a Lodge in ample form. (Edict 2015-2) Notwithstanding the above, however, Grand Lodge officers may open and/or close a Lodge in ample form with the permission of the Grand Master.

Jan M. Giddens, P.M.

Kennesaw Lodge No. 33

**Code Bill No. 2022-13 SUMMARY:** This bill seeks to amend MC Chapter 23-1, Section 23-103.1 to clarify who may open and/or close Lodge in ample form. The Jurisprudence Committee is satisfied that the bill is in proper legal form and not in conflict with any other section of the Code.

#### **Code Bill No. 2022 - 14**

A Bill to provide for increased access to knowledge and better proficiency in all aspects of Freemasonry by providing a copy of the Cipher Code of the Uniform Work to any Lodge practicing Uniform Work, at the request of such Lodge.; by amending Section 77-122. Cipher Code of the Masonic Code.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GRAND LODGE OF GEORGIA FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS that Section 77-122. Cipher Code of the Masonic Code be amended so that said section as amended shall read as follows:

Section 77-122. Cipher Code. – It is a violation of Masonic law in Georgia to use any description of key, cipher, or written work of a secret character. It is also unlawful for any member to give, sell, furnish, or to keep in stock in any book-store or place of business, the management of which he may control in any manner, any printed, engraved, typewritten, or written book, pamphlet or leaflet containing anything whatsoever pertaining to a key, cipher, or written or printed work of a secret character. Any member so offending, shall be charged with gross un-Masonic conduct by his Lodge and tried. Upon conviction, he shall be subject to expulsion, or to suspension for a definite period, dependent upon the gravity of the circumstances.

Provided, that for the purpose of establishing uniformity in the work, one copy of the Cipher Code of the Uniform Work as approved by the Grand Lodge shall be kept by the Grand Secretary in the safe of the Grand Lodge, and shall be removed only for the use by the Board of Custodians by and with the consent of the Grand Master. It shall not be removed from the building in which the Grand Lodge is located, and shall be immediately returned to the Grand Secretary upon conclusion of the session of the Board of Custodians. One copy of the Cipher Code of the Uniform Work shall be provided to each Lodge in the

State of Georgia that practices Uniform Work, at the request of such Lodge, to be under the care of the Director of Work or in his absence the Secretary, to be kept under lock and key by said Officer except when in actual use, and to be kept upon his person or in

his hands at all times not under lock and key. Twelve copies shall be made of the Cipher Code of the Uniform Work, one copy to be given to each District Custodian, to be kept under lock and key by said Custodian except when in actual use, and to be kept upon his person or in his hands at all times not under lock and key. One copy of the Cipher code will be made and given to each Assistant Custodian except when in actual use and to be kept upon his person or in his hands at all times not under lock and key. (See edict No. 3, 1989. Sec. 213 (a) Cipher Code Custodian Emeritus)

Provided, further, that the “Official Master Copy of the Cipher Code of the Uniform Work” (the one kept by the Grand Secretary as directed above) may contain such written words as shall be necessary to preserve, unimpaired, the meaning of the rituals. The twelve copies authorized by Code Section 77-122 to be used by the twelve District Custodians will remain in letter cipher as they are written on April 2, 2001, and may not contain the written words herein authorized in the “Official Master Copy of the Cipher Code of the Uniform Work.” (See Edict No. 2, 2001.)

David A. Thompson, PM  
Ogeechee Lodge No. 213

**Code Bill No. 2022-14 SUMMARY:** This bill seeks to amend MC Section 77-122 to provide copy of cipher code to Lodges when requested. The Jurisprudence Committee is satisfied that the bill is in proper legal form and not in conflict with any other section of the Code.

#### **Code Bill No. 2022-15**

A Bill to repeal Section 77-108.1 of the Masonic Code relating to homosexual activity. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GRAND LODGE OF GEORGIA FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS that Code Chapter 77-1, Code Section 77-108.1 of the Masonic Code that reads as follows: “77-108.1.

Homosexual Activity. – Homosexual activity with anyone subjects the offender to discipline. Edict 2015-4.” be and the same is hereby repealed in its entirety so that said code section would read: 77-108.1. Homosexual Activity. – ~~Homosexual activity with anyone subjects the offender to discipline.~~ Edict 2015-4 Repealed

**Code Bill No. 2022-15 SUMMARY:** This bill seeks to repeal MC Section 77-108.1. The Jurisprudence Committee is not satisfied that this bill is in proper legal form.

#### **Code Bill No. 2022-16**

23-102.1 Flag of the United States of America All subordinate lodges shall properly display an appropriate size flag of the United State of America on an appropriate flagpole in the proper position of the Lodge, which shall be displayed during every tyled meeting.

To be amended as: 23-102.1 Flag of the United States of America All subordinate lodges shall properly display an appropriate size flag of the United State of America on an appropriate flagpole in the proper position of the Lodge, which shall be displayed during every tyled meeting. Lodges may also display the current official state flag of Georgia. Lodges may also display flags and banners of regular masonic bodies that meet in that space. No other flags may be present in a lodge hall. Offenders will be subject to discipline.

**Code Bill No. 2022-16 SUMMARY:** This bill seeks to amend MC Section 23-102.1. The Jurisprudence Committee is not satisfied that this bill is in proper legal form.

#### **CODE BILL NUMBER 2022 - 17**

A Bill to provide for a change to the fees payable to Grand Lodge each year by Masons obtaining Emeritus status after December 31, 2024, by amending Sections 23-129, 31-114 and 31-115 of the Masonic Code.

Be it Enacted by the Grand Lodge of Georgia Free and Accepted Masons that the Masonic Code Chapter 23-1, **Section 23-129**; and Chapter 31-1, **Section 31-114**, and **Section 31-115**, only be amended as follows:

By adding the word “**year**”, striking the words “**annum capital**”, adding the word “**capita**”, striking

the word “and”, and adding the words “**on or before December 31, 2024**” in two places and adding the words “**Members meeting the stated requirements shall still be Emeritus Members regardless of the date they qualify.**” in **Section 23-129** so that said section as amended shall read as follows:

*23-129. Dues to Grand Lodge*

Every Lodge shall pay the Grand Lodge on or before August 1st of each year per ~~annum~~ **capital capita** tax for each member in good standing on June 30th of that year ~~and~~ who is not a perpetual member (Section 7-101), and three dollars and fifty cents (\$3.50) for each member reinstated, and also three dollars and fifty cents (\$3.50) for each candidate initiated since June 30th of the preceding year and prior to July 1st of the current year. Every Lodge which fails to make such payment, in full, on or before September 1st of each year, shall in addition thereto pay ten percent (10%) on the unpaid balance of such sum as shall have been due on August 1st of each year; and the Grand Secretary is authorized to charge and collect the additional ten percent (10%) in the same manner as other dues to the Grand Lodge are collected. The Grand Master, upon cause shown, may remit this penalty. No such subordinate Lodge, shall be chargeable with dues to the Grand Lodge on members in good standing who have been awarded the Fifty-year Award **on or before December 31, 2024** (Section 9-104) by this Grand Lodge or who have reached the age of seventy-five (75) years **on or before December 31, 2024**, provided they have been contributing members for a period of thirty (30) years as a member of a Lodge or lodges working under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Georgia or any other Grand Jurisdiction with which the Grand Lodge of Georgia is in fraternal relationship. (Sections 7-110, 31-115). **Members meeting the stated requirements shall still be Emeritus Members regardless of the date they qualify.**

By adding the words “**on or before December 31, 2024**” in **Section 31-114** of the Masonic Code so that said section as amended shall read as follows:

*31-114. Life Membership Authorized, When*

The subordinate Lodge may grant Life Membership to a member, exempting him for life from the payment of dues to the subordinate Lodge, provided

that only one life member shall be permitted for each fifty members of such Lodge in good standing at the time of such election and that any life membership which may be granted thereafter shall be granted only upon a special dispensation by the Grand Master upon a showing that such exemption from dues will not jeopardize the financial status of such Lodge. However, the subordinate Lodge shall be liable to the Grand Lodge for the per capita tax on all life members who have not attained the status of Emeritus Masons **on or before December 31, 2024.**

By adding the words “**on or before December 31, 2024**” in **Section 31-115** of the Masonic Code so that said section as amended shall read as follows:

*31-115. Emeritus Members*

An exemption from dues to Masons who have been awarded the Fifty-year Award (Section 9-104) by this Grand Lodge, or who have attained seventy-five years of age **on or before December 31, 2024** is allowed by the Grand Lodge to the subordinate Lodge, provided they have been a contributing member for a period of at least thirty years, not necessarily continuous, nor in the same jurisdiction, nor any other Grand Jurisdiction with which the Grand Lodge of Georgia is in fraternal relationship; and such Masons shall be known as “Emeritus Masons”, but they are still liable to the subordinate Lodge for dues to it, unless such subordinate Lodge shall exempt them by bylaw.

An Emeritus Card shall be issued annually to each Emeritus Mason which shall bear the current year printed thereon and state that the card is valid only through the current year. (Section 23-129)

No Mason may hold Emeritus status in more than one Lodge concurrently.

A Mason who is a plural member of subordinate Lodges in Georgia, upon becoming eligible to hold Emeritus status, may be made an Emeritus Mason in any one of such subordinate Lodges of which such Mason is a member.

A Mason's Emeritus status, once established with a subordinate Lodge, shall remain with such subordinate Lodge until such Emeritus Mason is no longer a member of such subordinate Lodge.

E. Ray Knittel, P.M.



Cohutta Lodge No. 64

Raymond C. Gray, P.M.

Tucker Lodge No. 42

**Code Bill No. 2022-17 SUMMARY:** This bill seeks to amend MC Sections 23-129, 31-114, and 31-115 to change fees payable by Masons obtaining Emeritus status after December 31, 2024. The Jurisprudence Committee is satisfied that the bill is in proper legal form and not in conflict with any other section of the Code.

### **CODE BILL NUMBER 2022-18**

A Bill to provide for the clarification and update of the operation of Perpetual Memberships by amending Section 7-201 of the Masonic Code.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GRAND LODGE OF GEORGIA FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS

That, Code Section 7-201, relating to Perpetual Membership, be amended so that said section as amended shall read as follows:

#### CHAPTER 7-2. PERPETUAL MEMBERSHIP AND HONORARY PERPETUAL MEMBERSHIP

##### *7-201. Perpetual Membership*

Perpetual Memberships and Honorary Perpetual Memberships are authorized in all lodges under the authority of the Grand Lodge of Georgia, subject to the following terms and conditions:

- (a) All funds received by the Grand Lodge of Georgia pursuant to this chapter shall be placed collectively in the Perpetual Membership Fund which shall be controlled, managed, and invested in accordance with the provisions of section 2-215 of the Masonic Code.
- (b) Any member in good standing and possessing a current dues card in a subordinate Lodge may become a Perpetual Member of his Lodge pursuant to the provisions of this chapter.
- (c) The member desiring a Perpetual Membership shall apply to the Secretary of his Lodge for such a membership on forms prescribed by the Grand

Lodge and shall tender therewith either (1) a minimum sum of twenty-one (21) times the annual dues of his Lodge at the time of the application, but in no event less than twenty-one (21) times the sum of dues required to be paid to the Grand Lodge for a Master Mason who is a member of the Lodge on the 30th day of June for such year, pursuant to Section 7-101 of the Masonic Code, or (2) the minimum amount required to establish a Perpetual Membership installment plan pursuant to paragraph (r) of this section. The Lodge Secretary shall complete his part of the application and shall forward the same together with the full fee due, to the Grand Secretary. The date of the application shall be the date the Grand Secretary certifies he receives the application.

(d) The application shall be signed by the applicant and have the certification of the Lodge Secretary. The application shall not become effective until the Grand Secretary has certified the applicant's record. The application shall contain thereon the computations upon which the perpetual membership fee is predicated. If the Grand Secretary determines that the minimum fee tendered by the applicant is in excess of that required, he shall have the power to correct the application and the Lodge Secretary's computations of the fee, accept the application as corrected and refund any excess fee to the applicant through the subordinate Lodge's Secretary. If the fee tendered is insufficient, the Grand Secretary shall return the application and fee to the constituent Lodge Secretary for correction and resubmission. A copy of the completed and accepted Perpetual Membership application and a Certificate of Perpetual Membership shall be furnished to the applicant and his Lodge by the Grand Secretary. These provisions shall be construed so as to permit the Grand Secretary to use computerized records.

(e) After the Perpetual Membership application and fee have been received and accepted by the Grand Secretary, the perpetual membership fee shall not be refundable except under circumstances determined by the Grand Secretary to be mistakes of fact rendering the applicant ineligible for Perpetual Membership as of the date of the application.

(f) After the applicant's Perpetual Membership has been accepted by the Grand Secretary, the perpetual membership fee shall be paid over to the Grand Treasurer as required in Section 4-501 of the Masonic

Code. The funds shall be placed collectively in restricted Perpetual Membership accounts. These funds shall be allocated between and credited to the subordinate Lodge and the Grand Lodge in proportion to the annual dues of the subordinate Lodge and the per capita tax of Grand Lodge due under Section 7-101 of the Masonic Code. The funds shall

be accounted for separately, by the Grand Treasurer, from all other Grand Lodge Funds. In ~~December~~ January following complete payment of the Perpetual Membership Fee, First Year Fees in an amount equaling one time the annual dues of each member for whom a Perpetual Membership was purchased during the preceding calendar year shall be credited or paid proportionately to each respective member's subordinate Lodge and the Grand Lodge. Such amounts paid to the Grand Lodge shall be allocated in proportion to the fees payable for every Master Mason who is a member of a Lodge on the 30th of June in each year. The subordinate Lodge shall receive its portion as a credit on the subordinate Lodge's annual statement issued on or after July 1st each year.

(g) A perpetual member shall owe no further dues to the subordinate Lodge of which he is a perpetual member. Further, a perpetual member is not subject to any increase in dues that may be voted by his subordinate Lodge or any increase in per capita tax by the Grand Lodge. An annual dues card shall be issued to each perpetual member by the subordinate Lodge's secretary unless such member is under sentence of suspension or expulsion from this fraternity. The annual dues card shall denote Perpetual Membership thereon.

(h) The Perpetual Membership fee, less First Year Fees paid pursuant to paragraph (f) of this section, shall be considered principal and shall never be spent. Wherever used in regard to the Perpetual Membership Fund, the word "interest" shall mean all net earned income of the Fund for the calendar year, exclusive of any net profit made from the sale of stocks, bonds or other securities; any loss resulting from the sale of stocks, bonds or other securities shall be deducted first from any profit made on the sale of stocks, bonds or other securities and then from other earned income; and the balance

remaining shall be net earned income. The net profit or unallocated loss, if any, from the sale of stocks, bonds or other securities shall be allocated to a capital gains account, to remain therein subject only to the following. Ninety percent (90%) of the interest less administrative costs, plus such amount from the capital gains account as shall be necessary to add to the interest so as to provide a minimum of five percent (5%) return on each perpetual member's account, shall be credited or paid proportionately to each subordinate Lodge and the Grand Lodge ~~by December~~ in January of each year subsequent to the payment of First Year Fees pursuant to paragraph (f) of this section. Such amounts paid to the Grand Lodge shall be allocated in proportion to the fees payable for every Master Mason who is a member of a Lodge on the 30th of June in each year. The subordinate Lodge shall receive its portion as a credit on the subordinate Lodge's annual statement issued on or after July 1st each year.

(i) The obtaining of a Perpetual Membership in one Lodge by a dual member shall have no effect on his membership in the other Lodge to which he belongs. Dual Perpetual Memberships are permitted. The Perpetual Membership of a member shall not be transferred from the subordinate Lodge in which such member is a perpetual member to another subordinate Lodge until such perpetual member is no longer affiliated with the subordinate Lodge from which the Perpetual Membership is to be transferred.

(j) A perpetual member may affiliate under Chapter 47-1 of the Masonic Code. If the affiliation is with a Lodge under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Georgia, the entire Perpetual Membership he originally paid shall be transferred to the account of the Lodge to which he affiliates. If the affiliation is to a Lodge in another Grand Jurisdiction, the entire Perpetual Membership fee shall remain with the Lodge of which he was a perpetual member at the time of such affiliation.

(k) After receipt from a subordinate Lodge in Georgia, of the Transfer Certificate pursuant to Section 47-105 of the Masonic Code, the Grand Secretary shall notify the Lodge to which a member has petitioned for affiliation of the fact that the transferring member is, or is not, a perpetual member of a subordinate Lodge in Georgia and the amount of the Perpetual

Membership fee to be transferred to the subordinate Lodge in Georgia with which such member affiliates.

(l) If a perpetual member shall be suspended, expelled or withdraws and is subsequently restored to good standing, or re-affiliates from out of state, his Perpetual Membership shall be deemed to be also restored.

(m) If a Lodge consolidates, surrenders its charter, or has its charter arrested, the funds credited to that Lodge in the Perpetual Membership fund shall follow the members and be credited to any subordinate Lodge in Georgia with which the members subsequently affiliate.

(n) Upon the unanimous ballot at a stated communication after having been proposed for membership at some previous stated communication, an Honorary Perpetual Membership may be purchased by any person in honor of a living or deceased Master Mason who is, at the time of such purchase, or was, at the time of his death, a member in good standing of a Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction or another Grand Jurisdiction recognized by the Grand Lodge of Georgia. An Honorary Perpetual Membership may be revoked by majority vote at any Stated Communication of the subordinate Lodge, in which case all funds credited to the subordinate Lodge for such membership shall be transferred to the Georgia Masonic Charities Foundation, Inc. The minimum fee shall be two hundred dollars (\$200). The ~~first five hundred dollars (\$500)~~ amount paid for the Honorary Perpetual Membership fee shall be allocated as follows, sixty-seven percent (67%) to the Lodge through which the application was processed and thirty-three percent (33%) to the Grand Lodge of Georgia. ~~Any amount paid in excess of five hundred dollars (\$500) shall be allocated to the Lodge through which the application was processed.~~

(o) Any person may add an additional amount to the Perpetual Membership or the Honorary Perpetual Membership through the Secretary of the Lodge where such membership is in effect.

(p) All forms required to fulfill the requirements of this section shall be prescribed and supplied by the Grand Lodge. The application form shall contain the computations upon which the fee is predicated and in the case of an Honorary Perpetual Membership, the

name, number, city and state of the Lodge to which the member belongs or belonged at the date of his death.

(q) There shall be no cost to the lodges for the administration of this program by the Grand Lodge.

(r) A member desiring to establish an installment payment plan for the purchase of a Perpetual Membership shall tender such forms required under this section and an initial payment of at least two hundred dollars (\$200). The remainder of the cost of such member's Perpetual Membership will be paid within ~~five (5)~~ three (3) years from the initial payment to the Perpetual Membership Fund in equal installments, no less frequently than annually. The member purchasing a Perpetual Membership on an installment basis shall become a Perpetual Member when all amounts required under this paragraph have been paid. If payment in full is not made within ~~five (5)~~ three (3) years, the applicant may continue the plan by establishing a new plan only upon the discretion of the Grand Secretary. While an approved installment payment plan is in effect, the total amount payable by the applicant for the perpetual membership is not subject to any increase in dues that may be voted by the applicant's subordinate Lodge or any increase in per capita tax by the Grand Lodge. The applicant shall be required to pay annual dues to his subordinate Lodge until his Perpetual Membership Fee is paid in full. If the applicant should die before the Perpetual Membership Fee is paid in full, all monies paid will be transferred to the Perpetual Membership Fund and such deceased member's membership shall be changed to a Memorial Perpetual Membership. Earnings received on fees being paid on an installment payment plan shall not be distributed but shall become a part of the principal of the fund. Upon completion of the installment plan, the total installment payments and earnings thereon shall be transferred to the principal of the fund and subsequent earnings thereon shall be distributed pursuant to paragraph (h) of this section.

Larry W. Nichols, PM (59, 754)

**Code Bill No. 2022-18 SUMMARY:** This bill seeks to amend MC Section 7-201 to provide clarification and update of the operation of Perpetual Memberships. The Jurisprudence Committee is satisfied that the bill is in proper legal form and not in conflict with any other section of the Code.

*The Georgia Masonic Messenger publishes from a variety of sources and points of view. The opinions expressed in the following articles do not necessarily reflect the opinions or policy of the Grand Lodge of Georgia F&AM, The Georgia Masonic Messenger, the Managing Editor, or the Grand Lodge of Georgia Publication Committee but are provided for the interest, education, and consideration of the myriad of Brethren in the state of Georgia whose Masonic interests are as diverse and varied as its membership. The articles provided her are published with an interest toward providing every Mason in Georgia with something which he can enjoy when he receives this publication. Questions, comments, or concerns should be addressed to [Messenger@glofga.org](mailto:Messenger@glofga.org).*

# Esōterikos

## Extended Fellowcraft Lecture

By Worshipful Brother Bill Edwards  
Riverdale Lodge No. 709

Brethren,

What you are about to read is the result of my studies into Freemasonry. I make no claim to being an expert in this field, it is just something that I have stumbled upon through reading various books and experimenting with a calculator. I did not set out to prove some of the numbers that you will find in this article but instead discovered them quite by accident and have here presented them to you in the hopes that it will lead to possible epiphanies of your own.

The Fellowcraft Degree is the least appreciated, yet in my opinion, the most important of the three degrees in Blue Lodge Masonry. In the charge at passing you are told:

*The study of the liberal arts and sciences is earnestly recommended to your consideration, especially the science of Geometry which is established as the basis of our art.*

There is a very good reason for this charge.

In the Winding Staircase Lecture, the newly obligated Fellowcraft is told that “the columns at the outer porch of King Solomon’s temple were 18 cubits in height, 12 in circumference and 4 in diameter.” I started working with these numbers one day and multiplied 18 times 12 and came up with the answer of 216. Just for kicks and giggles, I asked the question, “What is the square root of 216?” It turns out to be

14.7. This gave me pause, because I recognized this number, but couldn’t place it. The more I thought about it the more I knew this number had to be something important. Then it came to me, it is atmospheric pressure at sea level, or *pounds per square inch/gauge (PSIG)*. I quickly dismissed this as a fluke or a coincidence. I thought that there was no way that individuals in the ancient past could have known this, particularly when they had no gauges to measure it.

To finish the equation I multiplied  $18 \times 12 \times 4$  and came up with the number of 864. Using my calculator again, I calculated the square root of 864. I knew that the answer wouldn’t be anything close to the square root of 216 but when I got my answer, I was shocked to find that it was indeed exactly the same answer but expressed in a different way. The answer is 29.39 which is barometric pressure at sea level expressed in inches of water column (only 0.53” shy of the 29.92” accepted science today). I sat in stunned silence for several minutes as the import of this settled in. Did ancient peoples know these things long ago or were they just parroting numbers furnished to them by some as yet unknown intelligence? I don’t know as that question still remains unanswered and in all probability will forever remain as such. But it doesn’t matter, the numbers are there and have been there for at least 2000 years—possibly much longer. It is my humble opinion that somebody in the distant past knew something that we have just recently rediscovered. (Within the past 300-500 years.)

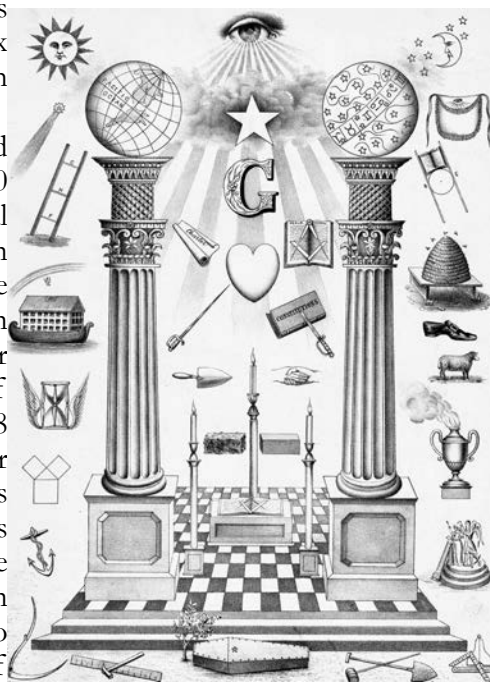
Taking a page out of Albert Pike's *Morals and Dogma*, we learn that the emblem of perfection chosen by the Masonic Order is the cube, partly because it is equal on all sides. But it is infinitely more complex than that. The stones you find located at the stations of the Worshipful Master, the Senior Warden, and the Junior Warden are designated as Ashlars (rough, smooth, and perfect) and are generally not cubes, but should be. The cube represents the concept of Jehovah in a numerical sense. Jehovah is the Hebrew name for God. From the Hebrews we learn that they assigned numbers to the letters of their alphabet (known as gematria), and they spelled Jehovah as JHVH. The numbers associated with these letters are 10, 5, 6, 5. The sum of these numbers equal twenty-six. Numerically speaking the cube has twelve edges, eight corners and six sides also totaling twenty-six. From here on, it gets more interesting.

At each corner of the cube, we find three ninety-degree angles totaling 270 degrees which just happens to equal the same number of days of human gestation, equal to approximately nine months. There are eight corners on the cube. If you multiply the number of degrees you find at each corner of the cube times eight corners:  $270 \times 8$  equals 2,160 degrees. Is this number significant? I find that it is. This number, by a strange and marvelous "coincidence," just happens to be the diameter of the moon as measured in miles. It is also 216 with a 0 added to the end. It is also the same number of years it takes for the sun to rise in each consecutive solar house while the Earth's pole recesses as it moves along the plane of its ecliptic through the Zodiac. It takes 2,160 years to go through each solar house from Taurus to Aries to Pisces to Aquarius, et cetera all the way through the Zodiac.

In the Zodiac there are twelve solar houses.  $12 \times 2160$  equals 25,920 years. This is equal to one complete equinoctial precession or the process of the Earth's polar wobble from start to finish to re-starting (also known as the precession of the equinoxes).

And by the way, Brethren, December 21, 2012, or the end of the Mayan calendar marked the beginning of another 25,920-year cycle. The earth's polar wobble came to the end of its cycle and has begun another revolution. Thus, the cycle continues.

Brethren, astrology, the pseudo-science of astronomy, was practiced by many ancient peoples hundreds of years before the science of astronomy put an end to the wild and, more often than not, erroneous prophecies created by the soothsayers of yesteryear and has since been generally regarded as useless by the scientific community. But is it always? As you have just seen, it does bear some significance to the movements of our planetary system and remarkably, the yearly calendar. For without this knowledge, our calendar year would not be as accurate as it is. It also has a profound effect on the various religions of the world. But that it is another article for another time and then only if I can put it into acceptable language because it is such a delicate subject.



Now, let us revisit the number 864. If you multiply it by 1000 you get 864,000 which happens to equal the diameter of the Sun as measured in miles. Somehow, the ancients figured out the diameter of the Earth to be 8000 miles, roughly (7920 miles). Now divide 864,000 by 8,000 and you get the answer of 108. Now, multiply the figure of 864,000 times the figure of 108 and you come up with the answer of 93,312,000 miles—the distance from the Earth to the Sun!

Taking this a step further, divide the diameter of the Moon into the diameter of the Earth and you will get the answer of 3.70. Now take that answer and divide it into the diameter of the Sun and you should get the answer of 233,513.5 miles—the distance from the Earth to the Moon. All of this is based in Geometry.

I have written this extended lecture of the Fellowcraft Degree in the hope that I have whet your appetite for more knowledge. Hopefully you will at least be interested enough to make a study of the science of geometry so that you may gain more insight into why it is the basis of Freemasonry. But this is only the tip of the iceberg. There is an infinite depth of knowledge waiting for you to explore, should you so desire. Just be careful as to what you study because there is a host of misinformation available to you that may take you down the wrong path.

# Look for the Unique

By Worshipful Brother Brian Coffey  
Chair of Publications  
Martinez Lodge No. 710

In June, Cordelia Masonic Lodge #296 invited me to attend their annual Table Lodge Feast to celebrate St. John's Day. Most Worshipful Grand Master Combs, Grand Marshall Rice, and I attended. For those of you unfamiliar with a Table Lodge, it is a multicourse meal in a Lodge Setting, with Toasts, presentations, and proclamations.

Cordelia Lodge did it right, the five-course meal was fantastic! The Fellowship was great, and we all had a great time I thank WM Louis New, the Officers, and Brethren of the Lodge.

When I visit a Lodge, I like to look for interesting items in the Lodge and I was not disappointed with Cordelia Lodge #296. As you can see in the photographs, it is a great Lodge Hall with an interesting feature. They have actual columns representing the Five Orders of Architecture, and even more impressive was the staircase behind them representing a certain Winding Staircase with which we are all familiar.

I can only imagine being given the Stairway Lecture as a newly passed Fellowcraft in such a Lodge. Not only can the new Fellowcraft Brother *hear* the Lecture on the various symbolism of the Orders of Architecture, Senses, and Liberal Arts and Sciences, he can literally take the steps, see the Columns, and understand and visualize the the ascent toward the Middle Chamber in this Lodge. I think it is an amazing feature of this Lodge and I'm sure the Brethren there are immensely proud of the treasure they hold in their Lodge. I encourage you to look for those cool things that make a Lodge unique. Of course, this means that you should visit other Lodges in your area or around the state. If you find something cool that makes a Lodge unique, tell us about it. Take a few pictures and write a short paragraph or article and submit it to the Editor of the Masonic Messenger, WB Daniel Bennett at [messenger@gloufa.org](mailto:messenger@gloufa.org). We would love to hear from you.



# General Oglethorpe Camp, Heroes of '76 conducts Independence Day Celebration

By Worshipful Brother Brian Coffey  
Chair of Publications  
Martinez Lodge No. 710

For many years, General Oglethorpe Camp, Heroes of '76, Clarence H. Cohen Chapter #162 National Sojourners, Inc. has assisted Brother James Hanby to conduct a Celebration of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence from Georgia. Last year Brother Hanby asked us to take over coordinating and hosting the event.

We presented the Twelfth Annual Independence Day celebration at the Signers Monument in Augusta, GA on Monday, 4 July 2022 to a crowd of over 100 attendees. This is the largest turnout yet. The Signers Monument is dedicated to the three signers of the Declaration of Independence from Georgia: Brother George Walton; Dr. Lyman Hall and Button Gwinnet. Our committee planned the event; engaged two speakers and a musician; coordinated with Masonic and other patriotic and Veteran's groups to lay wreaths to honor the Signers.

Our Camp Followers took an active role, with Lady Heather Vaught designing the Flyers and Programs, Lady Kelli Pierson took photographs and video, and many members of the Chapter/Camp and their Ladies assisted in the planning and presentation of the event.

Brother B. Coffey was Master of Ceremonies; President Goldenberg, Commander Pierson and Chief of Staff Vaught Presented the Colors and President Goldenberg gave the Toast to the Flag, National Chaplain Davies led us in an opening prayer. After two interesting speakers, the names of all Signers of the Declaration of Independence were read as the children present rang a bell to honor the Signers. Members of the Chapter and Camp laid a Wreath at the Monument followed by other patriotic and veteran's groups then Masonic Lodges and Appendant Bodies.

This was carried out with assistance from several Lodges (Webb 166, Martinez 710, George Walton 699 and others) for funding, chairs, fans, water, etc. We have already begun planning to ensure that next year's event will be even better.



# The Lodge has Gone to the Dogs!

By Worshipful Brother Roger Buterbaugh  
Midland Lodge No. 144

The newest member of Rose Hill Lodge #484 is Brinks, the service dog. Brinks assists Brother Matt Burgess, a Combat Veteran of the US Army. After Brother Matt became a Master Mason, the Lodge voted in Brinks, too, and awarded him his own apron. In the picture are (left to right) WB Roger Buterbaugh, DDGM, 4A; Brother Matt Burgess; Brinks; and WB Mark Peeler, Worshipful Master of Rose Hill Lodge No. 484.

Brother Matt trains service dogs as well through a group known as Freedom Fidos. Freedom Fidos rescues canines from shelters, task trains them to be medical instrument service dogs, and provides them at no cost to the recipients who desperately need them. Our current populations are disabled veterans and first responders.

Since he started the company in 2016 he has created 50 Service Dog teams and has 200 Veterans on his waiting list for a service dog. His company is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and accepts donations.

For more information about Freedom Fidos or to make a donation, contact Brother Matt at [Matt@Freedomfidos.org](mailto:Matt@Freedomfidos.org) or go to [www.FreedomFidos.org](http://www.FreedomFidos.org).



## PGM Wilson Honored

By Brother Darold Vissering  
Golden Fleece Lodge No. 6

On August 23 2022 Golden Fleece Lodge No. 6 held an open communication for the purpose of unveiling the portrait of Past Grand Master Michael H. Wilson in the Lodge affording him a place of honor as any Lodge member receives who becomes the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Georgia. The event was attended as an official visit of Grand Master of Georgia, Donald C. Combs and several members of the Grand Line and District dignitaries.



# Mountain Park Raises Three to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason



Mountain Park Lodge No. 729 Raised three Brothers to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason. Brothers Derek Crabtree, John Mikalonis, and Barry Crowell. Congratulations Brothers!

## Flowery Branch Takes Children to the Lake Lanier!

On July 12, 2022, Flowery Branch Lodge, the Children from the Masonic Home got to let loose and enjoy some summer fun at Lake Lanier Islands Water Park. This was the 8th annual visit by the children from the Masonic Home sponsored by Flowery Branch Lodge No. 212. They arrived at 10:30am and found their way to the pavilion which was their home base for the day. They were greeted by members of Flowery Branch Lodge and each received a backpack filled with gifts including sunscreen and a T-shirt to commemorate the day.

They had Papa John's Pizza for lunch and a Chic-Fil-A for dinner before heading back to the Home at 7:00pm. This was the 8th visit from the home and would have been the 10th had it not been for the pandemic and staffing issues. The members of Flowery Branch Lodge are very proud to be able to host this event each year to give the children a day away from the home and just have a good time.



Flowery Branch Masonic Lodge No. 212 F.&A.M. also recently donated proceeds from their 12th Annual Spring Fun Run 5K to Rape Response, Inc. Rape Response, Inc. which provides support, education & advocacy to survivors of sexual assault, ages 13 & older, & their loved ones in a service area that includes Dawson, Forsyth, Habersham, Hall, Lumpkin & White Counties in Georgia. Accepting the \$2500.00 check from W.M. John Cole is, advocacy Director, Jen Tarnowski.



# Worshipful Master! There's No Room!



It looks like Sandy Springs Lodge is starting a new trend as Past Masters accept the invitation to seats in the East as what a warm way to welcome their Worshipful Master home from his travels in foreign countries... (hopefully masters wages were received)”

## An Honor Well-Earned for Labors in the Quarry



April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Tyrian Lodge No. 111 in Warner Robins, Worshipful Master Keel Broome and PGM Bobby Simmons, unveiled the permanent display of Past Grand Master Bobby Simmon's Past Grand Treasurers' Apron and Jewel. Past Grand Master Ted Collins spoke with the brethren and families and assisted with the unveiling.



## Hapeville and Fayetteville Hold Joint Communication



Hapeville Lodge #590 and Fayetteville Lodge #711, held a joint communication at Hapeville with Hapeville Lodge #590 opening, both lodges conducting business, and Fayetteville Lodge #711 closing. A wonderful meal was prepared before the meeting. Great fellowship was enjoyed by all during the meal and the meeting. A very good experience for all involved.

# Collecting Grand Master Pennies and Their History

By Worshipful Brother Brian Kelley  
Mountain Park No. 729



## COMMENTARY

Some may have wondered how the Grand Masters penny came to be, and some may not have given it much thought. I began collecting them around 2016 and was fascinated by the articles related to the pennies in the October 2018 and June 2020 issues of the Masonic Messenger. After reading the articles I began my correspondence with PGM J. Edward Jennings Jr. and contributed to his cause for the Atlanta Masonic Center display. We have become friends, and continue to offer each other insight regarding the Grand Masters pennies. PGM J. Edward Jennings Jr. has prepared a detailed history of each of the Grand Masters pennies. Please refer to the June 2020 issue of the Messenger to see how you may obtain one.

The penny (or token as some may refer to it) began in 1975 with PGM Harris Bullock. PGM Bullock wanted to pay the craft wages for work performed at the Masonic Children's Home, thus had the first Grand Masters penny struck. It should be noted, he only had 1300 bronze, and 13 silver pennies made.

After PGM Harris Bullock, four years would pass before another Grand Master would have a penny made. In 1979, PGM J. Kirk Nicholson (Expelled) would have the next penny made. After 1979, ten years would pass until 1989 when PGM Earl Harris had a penny made for his year. Since then, each Grand Master that followed would have a penny made to give to the brethren during their travels. As of this writing, a complete set of Grand Master Pennies would total 104 coins.

Over the years, we have seen the design change and the types of pennies the Grand Masters have made. Most seen are the bronze penny, a nickel/pewter penny for sitting Masters of a Lodge, a penny with some enameling given to those with 50 plus years of service, and last and rarely seen, a pure silver penny presented by the Grand Master, at his discretion.

It has given me much joy to collect each coin I am able to find. I have assisted Tucker Lodge No. 42 and Mountain Park Lodge No. 729 with their collections

of Grand Master pennies, as well as many brethren that contact me from time to time searching for a specific penny they may need.

I encourage each Lodge to begin a collection. It brings the brethren together for a common cause and promotes camaraderie.

If any brother has saved some Grand Master pennies over the years and now does not have use for them, I am happy to find them a home where they can be viewed and/or discussed. I know of one I would ask all to search for. The collection PGM J. Edward Jennings Jr. has at the Atlanta Masonic Center Museum is missing a single Grand Masters penny to be complete. If anyone has a silver penny from 1992 PGM Rex D. Chilton they wish to donate, please let PGM J. Edward Jennings Jr., or me, know. It will be used for a great cause. The collection is there so it can be viewed by all brethren and visitors.

As for my collection, I currently I have 96 of the 104 Grand Masters pennies. Anyone that wishes to assist me in locating the ones I need, please know I do not expect any of these for free and will make a donation to you, hopefully to be given to the Masonic Children's Home. Those I still need are: 1979 - (bronze) J. Kirk Nicholson, 2001 - (nickel) Gary D. Lemmons, 1975 - (silver) Harris Bullock, 1992 - (silver) Rex D. Chilton, 1995 - (silver) Joseph P. Suttles, 1998 - (silver) James W. Seymour, 2010 - (silver) Leonard E. Buffington and 2012 - (silver) Jerry D. Moss.

To my knowledge, PGM J. Edward Jennings Jr. has the only complete set in Georgia, and if one more PGM penny is located for the Atlanta Masonic Center Museum, he will own 2 complete sets.

With your help, I would like there to be 3 complete sets in Georgia. If you would like to help, please contact me. I can be reached by email at [bkelly567@aol.com](mailto:bkelly567@aol.com) or cellphone at 404-790-0983.

# The Cipher Code

By Worshipful Brother Jerry Purvis  
Morning Star Lodge No. 27  
Macon Lodge No. 5



## COMMENTARY

The cipher code was adopted by the Grand Lodge in 1916. For over 100 years, this book has been safeguarded as one of most sacred and secretive documents in our possession. For many years, in an effort to safeguard the secrets of our order, only 12 copies of this book were available, kept by Custodians to use in the instruction of the craft. Recently, in order to make instruction available to more brethren, the position of Assistant Custodian was created. This allowed for two copies of the cipher code to be available for each Masonic District.

Each year, Schools of Instruction are conducted throughout the Districts and the State, and the cipher code is made available to the Brethren to read and study during the Custodian's visit. Also, each Custodian has the cipher code available as he visits Lodges. When requested, the Custodian will attend meetings and/or practices to assist the Lodge if requested. Unfortunately, not many Lodges request this assistance, but please know that the Custodians are available. It is the Custodian's position to serve his District.

The Board of Custodians meets several times each year in order to make sure we are all teaching the work the same way and to discuss any clarifications that need to be made to the uniform work. The Custodians are dedicated to making sure the work is taught accurately and that all interpret the code in the same way.

A bill has been introduced to be voted on at Grand Lodge, that would make a cipher code available to every Lodge in the State. On the surface, this appears to be a great way for the brethren to learn the work, but in reality, this would be a detriment Georgia Freemasonry.

I have discussed this issue with Brethren from other States, those who make their cipher available to each Lodge, and one State even makes their cipher code available to each new member once they are raised. These Brethren are jealous of the way Georgia teaches the work, since it is more closely connected to one of the original principles of Freemasonry: Mouth to Ear. Those who make the cipher code available to each Lodge have stated that it does not assist in making the

brethren more proficient. Those who want to learn will learn, and those who do not truly have their heart in the work, will not. In those jurisdictions that present the cipher code to each brother, it is said that at their regular communications, most of the officers try to read the work from the book without memorizing anything.

Safety and secrecy of our work is also a big concern. Right now, there are 24 copies of the cipher code, which have been entrusted to dedicated brethren who have demonstrated their devotion to Freemasonry for many years. These brethren make sure that the cipher code is safely guarded. Placing the code in each Lodge would mean that there would be over 400 copies of our most sacred and secret work around the State, and the security of this work in many Lodges is questionable. It troubles me to make this allegation, but many of our Lodges are not very secure. We would be entrusting these books to Directors of Work, many of whom are Directors of Work in name only, who do nothing to attend schools of instruction or learn the work so that it can be taught. In order to read the cipher code a brother has to already be proficient in the work.

It would only take one brother with questionable integrity to destroy the work that Georgia Freemasons have long held so dear.

Our work has been taught from mouth to ear for over one hundred years. During the lecture to a new candidate, prior to his being prepared, he is told by the Senior Deacon that he will proceed as all true Brothers and Fellows have done who have gone this way before. Please keep the traditions of Freemasonry safe by protecting our most secret work.

Please vote against the bill to place a cipher code in each Lodge.

# The Dash

By Worshipful Brother Josh Bobo  
Walnut Grove Lodge No. 703



## COMMENTARY

I don't consider myself an old man by any means however, I probably have more years behind me than I do in front of me. As time passes, the days seem to move more quickly; days turning into weeks and weeks turning into months, and months into years. One paradigm I have discovered over the past few years was once again reinforced this past weekend when giving a Brother his last rites as a Mason: Don't forget to live!

During this service, our late Worshipful Brother's daughter read about "the dash." "The Dash" is the little symbol found on most headstones in between the date of birth and the date of death. That little dash in between represents our life and we should live it to its fullest, and I learned our Worshipful Brother definitely lived.

I learned a few things about my Brother based on his daughter's remarks about her father. I had no idea he was child number eight out of nine. I learned he was a preacher in Colorado. I knew he traveled a good bit, but I had no idea the only two continents he had not visited were Africa and Antarctica. I also saw evidence that he was straight up "fly" in the 1970s, butterfly collar and perm in full effect.

The span of time the dash represents is different for all of us, but the meaning is the same: what did we do in that span of time? Some may measure their dash in successes, others in missed opportunities; some may measure it in charity or service while others may measure it hardships or addictions. At the end of life's journey here on this side, the one true measure, can only be performed by Almighty God and not by man. One of my favorite scriptures in the Bible is Daniel 5:27 - "TEKEL; Thou art weighed in the balances, and thou art found wanting." To me, this means we don't have enough within ourselves to make the journey from this life into the next. The good thing is, God loved us enough that he sent his Son down here to tip the scales in our favor and give us what we need to make the journey, if we accept Him.

I had an older gentleman tell me several years back, "I may not know what the future holds, but I know who holds the future." We can all get caught up in the day to day grind we call life and that is ok, just don't forget to live! Be in the moment, accept the moment for what it is, not what it could be or what it should be, but what it is. Look around and take it all in, from the big things to the little things, and enjoy them all. We all make plans for the future, just don't forget to live while "now" is here. If and when our future plans come to fruition, make sure you enjoy your time there.

Each and every day we rise from the bed, we are gifted with opportunities. An opportunity to return thanks to our Creator for allowing us to see the light of another day, taking nothing for granted. An opportunity to listen, as sometimes we are quick to try and solve a problem when the best thing we can do is be quiet and listen. An opportunity to lift someone's spirits that may not have the perspective on life that you have. An opportunity to help someone on their journey through life and make their burden a little lighter. An opportunity to reach out for help if the burdens of life become too great to bear. An opportunity to tell someone you love them, and that God loves them more.

Always remember: Brotherly Love, Morality, and Relief. Weaving these into the fabric of our lives will make us better men. We should strive to always meet upon the level with every Brother being equal and accepting each other for what we are, act by the plumb and stand upright in a world that waivers on almost every morality, and part upon the square knowing that we can hold each other accountable for doing the right thing, even when no one is watching.

And don't forget to live!

# The Committee on Appeals and Grievances

By Worshipful Brother Jeff Smith  
Lawrenceville Lodge No. 131



## COMMENTARY

One of the most important but one of the least rewarding committees of the Grand Lodge of Georgia must be the Committee on Appeals and Grievances. Rather than being a gratifying venture, it can truly be draining, for the committee makes recommendations at times to expel a brother from this beloved fraternity. This is a solemn act, which is never done with glee or true sense of accomplishment. Rather, it makes the members contemplate how we got to this point. Where did the fraternity fail in admitting the member, or, perhaps more solemnly, where did the fraternity fail the brother?

The Appeals and Grievances Committee is composed of five members appointed by the Grand Master. One is appointed each year to a five year term. The chairman is appointed annually by the Grand Master.

Matters of such grave importance do not come to the committee directly. The Grand Lodge of Georgia has a system of jurisprudence to handle charges levied against a brother. Charges made against a member of the craft are, with some exceptions, voted upon by the member's lodge. The vote is not one of innocence or guilt; rather, the lodge votes to "accept" or "reject" the charges as being worthy of investigation and trial. Trials are held by a system within each of the masonic districts. Each district has a Trial Commission Chairman (think judge) and Vice-Chairman (back-up to the judge) who are appointed by the Grand Master. Likewise, the Grand Master appoints a Counselor for the Prosecution and a Counselor for the Defense for each district. The fifteen Trial Commissioners (think jurors) are elected, five a year for three year terms, at the district conventions with vacancies being filled by the Grand Master. These brethren are tasked with holding a trial on the charge(s) and rendering a verdict.

It is only after a trial is held in the district of the accused brother that the case comes before the Committee on Appeals and Grievances. All cases go to the committee for review even if there is no appeal. The committee reviews the paperwork submitted and the evidence in the case itself to ensure:

first, that the procedures set forth in the Masonic Code have been followed and that the brother did receive a just trial after receiving timely notification of such; second, that justice was done in the case. The second part is the sticky one. While those who heard the evidence are in the best position to decide questions of guilt or innocence and levels of sentence, the decisions must be both reasonable and in keeping with the exemplary manner in which the fraternity and members thereof should comport themselves. For example, in the case of a brother who is found guilty of a particularly heinous crime in the profane courts but, in a masonic trial, receives only a sentence of reprimand may raise the collective eyebrows of the Committee on Appeals and Grievances. The committee may vote to hold a hearing on the finding of guilt, the sentence, or both. When the Committee does decide to hold a hearing, all involved parties are notified through the secretary of the affected lodge.

While all cases before the trial commissions go before the Committee for review, a hearing is not held in most cases. A hearing occurs only if the committee thinks a change is appropriate. When a brother of the lodge wishes to dispute the finding or sentence of the district trial commission he may file a notice of appeal. These cases are set for a hearing before the committee.

The important aspect of the Committee on Appeals and Grievances is that the committee members do not set a sentence or direct a verdict. They only make recommendations to the Grand Lodge based on their review and the hearings held. All cases go before the Grand Lodge of Georgia for a final determination. In that sense, the Committee on Appeals and Grievances is only a recommending body, as it has no power to make binding decisions.

The committee does have a request of the brethren of the jurisdiction: take the time to read and understand the Masonic Code. So many misconceptions and myths are easily dispelled by a firm working knowledge of the code. Educate yourself on the Craft so that you may serve it better.



# We Want YOU to Submit Articles to the Georgia Masonic Messenger!

Brethren,

Do you have an idea for an article? Does your Lodge have some interesting history behind it? Are you interested in a historical topic related to Georgia Freemasonry or Freemasonry in General? Do you feel that you have an insight that would benefit the Craft at large? Does your Lodge of Research routinely have esoteric, historical, or informational papers presented? Have you read a really good book on Masonry recently? Did your Lodge host a really successful event or hold a Lodge social outing?

If you answered “Yes” to any of these questions, please send it in to the Editor of Georgia Masonic Messenger at [Messenger@glofga.org](mailto:Messenger@glofga.org). We would love to publish it in our state Masonic Magazine.

Remember, if you would like to read it in the Messenger, there are probably other Brethren who would too and the only way it gets into the Messenger is for you to send it in! So don't delay! Write it up and send it in today!

# Veteran's Corner

## By Worshipful Brother Rick Conn

New information out on ID cards for all Retirees and military family members. Those of you who have identification cards with no expiration date can choose to upgrade to the new Next Generation Uniform Services Identification, or USID, cards whenever it's convenient -- as long as it's done within the next four years, according to the Defense Department. There is no looming deadline for use of those old non-active duty cards without expiration dates, but the department expects to completely phase out and replace them with the next-generation IDs, which are more durable and have enhanced security features, by 2026, Maj. Charlie Dietz, a spokesman, told Military.com.

In the meantime, cards with expiration dates are required to be replaced within 90 days of elapsing. The Defense Department began the effort to update all those IDs to the new format in July 2020, but the changeover hit delays caused by the pandemic. "DoD plans to phase out and cancel the existing card forms in 2026 when all existing cards with an actual expiration date will have expired," Dietz wrote in an email. "After then, only the USID card will be accepted for installation and benefits access." The USID format for military retirees and dependents represents the first change to those identification cards in nearly 30 years; the last update was in 1993. The new design closely resembles the Common Access Card, or CAC, format issued to active-duty troops and department civilians.

But there was uncertainty among those with cards that list the expiration as indefinite. The IDs are needed to access military facilities and to confirm eligibility for various military benefits, so missing a deadline or losing the identification could disrupt cardholders' lives. Expired cards can be confiscated at base gates. Those with cards with no expiration dates "may have the card replaced at their convenience," according to Dietz. The department recommends they go to the ID Card Office Online and use the office locator to find a site that issues the new cards and book an appointment. Retirees and their dependents, dependents of active-duty troops, reserve members and Medal of Honor recipients are among those who will receive the USID cards. A description of the new cards and a complete list of who is eligible can be found at: <https://www.cac.mil/Next-Generation-Uniformed-Services-ID-Card>

At the onset of the pandemic in April 2020, the Defense Department extended the deadlines for replacing expiring cards in an attempt to keep the military community from gathering in issuance offices and spreading COVID-19.

By February 2021, more than 200,000 of the new IDs had been issued. "Social distancing and other pandemic safety precautions at DoD ID card sites worldwide has delayed the progress of existing card replacement, but generally most of those cardholders who needed to replace an expired card have done so," Dietz said July 13. [Source:MOAA Newsletter|JUL 18, 2022]

For those of you who are in the caregiver program. With about two months left until a congressional deadline, Veterans Affairs officials said plans to expand the caregiver support program to veterans of all eras remain on schedule, even if fixes to other aspects of the program are still in limbo. Currently, the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers—which provides a monthly stipend to qualified full-time caregivers of seriously ill or injured veterans—is open only to veterans who served before 1975 or after 2001. But per a mandate from Congress, the program must be opened to all families by Oct. 1 of this year. In comments to reporters on Wednesday, VA Secretary Denis McDonough said department leaders are on track to do that. "We're going to expand in October," he said. "We're committed to that. It should have already been done by now, but we'll get it done by October."

About 33,000 families are enrolled in the 11-year-old program. Doubts about VA's ability to expand it have surfaced in recent months amid other caregiver program turmoil. In 2021, in anticipation of the upcoming expansion, VA officials rewrote eligibility criteria and reviewed about 19,000 legacy participants to see if they still qualified for the benefit. Specific payout totals based on where veterans live, but generally amount to about \$3,000 a month for the full level two stipend and \$1,800 for the partial level one stipend. In the spring, following months of outcry from advocates that too many families were being purged from the program, VA leaders suspended all program dismissals. Officials later acknowledged that under the new eligibility criteria as many as 90% of the legacy participants could have been stripped of caregiver benefits.

Since then, McDonough has publicly vowed to rewrite the eligibility criteria to better reflect the needs of injured veterans and their families. However, no timetable has been set for when that work will be completed. "We still don't have those new criteria established, but the establishment of new criteria will not impact the launch of the expansion," he said. VA officials have said that once those criteria are developed, they will be applied to existing program participants to see if the program participants still qualify for stipends. However, all current participants are guaranteed to



continue receiving benefits until April 2023, under past promises by leaders.

Outside groups have complained that even after McDonough announced the pause in program dismissals, local officials have continued to review families cases and warn that they could lose eligibility in the future, even though the new program criteria still have not been developed. Past analysis of the program have estimated that the upcoming expansion plans could nearly double participation in it. At the VA web site:<https://www.caregiver.va.gov/support/supportbenefits.asp>.

Check here for more information on the program. Source, Military Times/Leo Shane III Jul 25, 2022

Some news on the COLA front. TSCL Forecast Up to 10.5% increase coming in 2023. Once again, TSCL is being quoted in a number of media outlines regarding its forecast of the 2023 Social Security COLA. Among them is Yahoo Finance, which said this: "Based on new inflation data through June, the cost-of-living adjustment for Social Security benefits, or COLA, could be an increase of 10.5% next year, according to estimates from the Senior Citizens League, boosting the average retiree benefit by \$175.10 every month."

However, the article pointed out that a larger COLA is not all good news for seniors. The COLA will not go into effect until January of next year. In addition, it is likely a Medicare Part B increase will take a large portion of the new COLA. And it could push certain seniors into a higher tax bracket resulting in increased taxes and/or a reduction in some benefits.

Quoting TSCL's Social Security Policy Analyst Mary Johnson, the article pointed out that "A bigger Social Security benefit translates to higher income, which can mean higher taxes for those with incomes above \$25,000 for individuals and \$32,000 for married couples, according to Johnson. Tens of thousands of retirees who have not paid taxes on their benefits in the past may discover they must start doing so in 2023.

"Because the income thresholds are not adjusted like ordinary tax brackets, these once-in-a-lifetime COLA increases could lead to permanently higher taxes for many retirees," Johnson said. "Higher income can also result in cuts in income - related benefits for low-income seniors", Johnson said. A May-June survey from the Senior Citizens League found that 39% of participants who receive low-income benefits reported their low-income assistance was reduced due to this year's 5.9% COLA, while 15% reported they lost access to at least one assistance program. "The most cruel irony is that a high COLA can lead to trims in income-related benefits such as SNAP and rental assistance for low- income beneficiaries," Johnson said.

Brothers do not forget your Georgia Department of

Veterans Services (GDVS). The mission of the Department of Veterans Service is to serve Georgia's 752,000-plus veterans and their families in all matters pertaining to veterans benefits. As part of this mission, GDVS offers a wide range of superb services and programs, including excellent veterans benefits assistance; devoted appeals support; skilled nursing home care; compassionate cemetery committal services; and rewarding veterans education, on-the-job training, and apprenticeship training program management. GDVS representatives strive to ensure Georgia's veterans receive all of the federal and state benefits to which they are entitled. To find a Field Service Officer close to you in you need any help aid or assistance you can go to: <https://veterans.georgia.gov/locations/veterans-field-service-office-near-you> For a complete list of services go to: <https://veterans.georgia.gov>

50 Year Awards



Gerald C. Long  
Blue Ridge #67



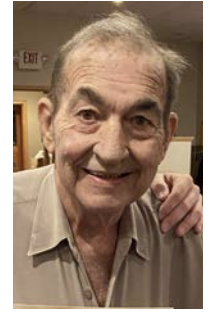
James E. McGill  
Blue Ridge #67



Reed H. Mathis  
Blue Ridge #67



Roy Conner  
Blue Ridge #67



Ruel T. Hice  
Blue Ridge #67



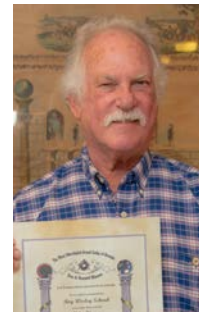
Kenneth W. Hamilton  
Blue Ridge #67



William M. Howard  
Hampton #70



Monte M. McDonald  
Hampton #70



Roy W. Schoub  
Fort Benning #579



Benny L. White  
Canton #77



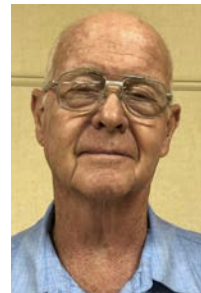
John C. Bray  
Mt. Hermon #304



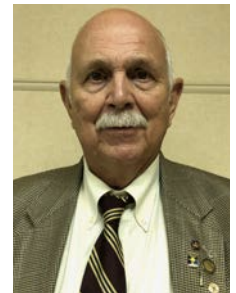
Bill Brookerd  
Ogeechee #213



William E. Dudley  
Riverdale #709



Glynn F. Hutchinson  
Thomasville #369



William B. Denman  
Thomasville #369



Earl Peters  
Thomasville #369



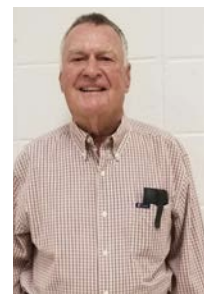
Thomas K. Rhinehart  
Coosa #622



Charles E. Bush  
Magnolia #86



Robert L. Swann, III  
Magnolia #86



Barney E. Brownlee  
Magnolia #86



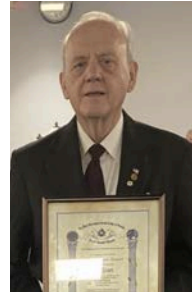
Terry L. Stanfield  
Hill City #319



Oscar S. Pinyan  
Waleska #57



Carl W. Martin  
Waleska #57



Tim Stewart  
Lawrenceville #131



George Thornton  
Sincerity #430



Daniel E. Anderson  
Hapeville #590



Franklin P. Neal Jr.  
Hapeville #590



Alfred D. White  
Zerubbabel #15



David Wallace  
Rising Star #4



Douglas Barker  
Rising Star #4



Jimmy P. Smith Jr.  
Ladrum #48



Doug Hall  
Oak Bowery #81



David Pierce  
Oak Bowery #81



Gary P. Jones  
Martinez #710



Bill Bailey  
Martinez #710



Larry M. Crowe  
Stilesboro #260

60 Year Awards



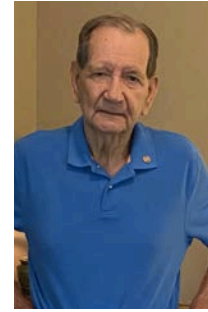
Clyde C. Lassetter  
Sylvan #429



Namon H. Woods  
Grovetown #730



William D. Baxter  
Buck Creek #639



Sam Graham  
Cordelia #296



Marion F. Wells  
East Point #288



Robert C. Keheley  
Alpine #211



Wade Queen  
Buford #292



Bill Currie  
Oak Bowery #81



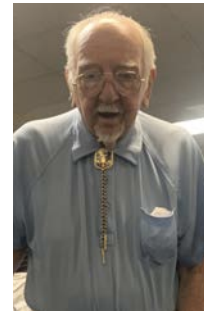
Bobby Edwards  
Rising Star #4  
65 Years



Clyde A. Young  
Plainville #364



Robert A. Troup  
Toccoa #309  
65 Years



Henry E. Collins  
Rossville #397  
65 Years

70 Year Awards



Marcus L. Long  
College Park #454



Charles L. Arnold  
Charity DL #754



Lamar Perlis  
Cordelia #296  
75 Years

# In Memoriam

Members Reported  
Deceased June 1, 2022 -  
August 31, 2022

Challenger Jr., William Henry	1
Freeman Jr., Johnny Austin	6
Lynch Sr., William Ronald	6
Floyd, Gary Wayne	8
Buffington, Douglas Verdell	20
Palmer Sr., Dennis Edward	23
Lunsford, Luther Michael	25
Thompson Sr., Gerald Jan	25
Bennett, Adam Jason	26
Burkett, Wayne Louis	26
Gardner, William Carlton	26
Howell Sr., Thomas Black	27
Brandon Sr., John Robert	30
Wormsley Sr., Kyle Douglas	31
Hammond, Roy Timothy	33
Maxwell, Roy Franklin	33
Smith, Claude James	33
Lassetter, Riley Aldene	35
Thurmond, Claudius Dunson	36
Seibel, Kenneth Alan	37
Sweat Jr., George William	37
Henson Jr., John Wesley	40
Adkinson, Johnny Alfus	41
Goff, John Price	47
Berry, Jack Keith	48
Anderson, Jeffery Dewitt	49
Geiger, Larry Albert	49
Neville, Richard Benjamin	54
Henry, James Franklin	55
Johnson, George Lawton	56
Overstreet, Joe Julian	56

Burnett, Knox Robert	59
Lewis, Leon Starks	64
Williams, Danny Clay	64
Hamilton, Kenneth Wayne	67
Hardegree, Thomas Jefferson	69
Cope, Virgil Clay	70
Carroll, Jimmy Gene	72
Deloach, Ned Franklin	73
Vaughn, Alex Horace	76
Thompson Jr., Olin Fletcher	86
Brannon, Richard Arlen	87
Littleton, Lindsey Eugene	88
Embry, Michael Eugene	90
Swift III, Roy Lee	97
McCart, Willie Donald	99
Rand, George Edward	99
Snell, Gladstone Ferle	99
Searles, Alfred David	100
Pitts Jr., Steven Douglas	104
Frisbee, Michael David	105
Poole, Buddy Stembridge	110
Biele Sr., Thomas Emilio	112
Bland, Elmer Maurice	116
Angel, Robert Lamar	120
McFall, Barton	125
McLarty, Leonard Eldon	126
Edwards, Cecil Clarence	128
Griggs, Martin Collis	129
Allen, Ronald Layne	131
Ayers, Kerry Ralph	131
Craig Sr., Alton Harold	131

# In Memoriam

Members Reported  
Deceased June 1, 2022 -  
August 31, 2022

Rusnak, David Peter	131
Boss, Robert Edward	135
McClung, Ronald Irven	139
Dodd, Joel Lee	141
Burt, Grady Franklin	144
Hall, Jimmy Wayne	151
Mathis Jr., William Emory	167
Bland Sr., Joseph Morris	171
Rehak, Michael Harold	171
Turnipseed, Norman Farrer	171
Maddox, Travis Patrick	176
Smith, William Morgan	176
Ryan, Willard Waymon	179
Webb, Rodger Lynn	182
Whitfield, Webb Lawrence	182
Miles, Phillip Ronald	195
Futch, Marion June	197
Duncan, Ronald Huston	202
Meyer, Donald Edward	205
Padgett, Norman Lewis	206
Fowler, Donald Raymond	207
Kinsey, Charles Alllen	209
Rushing, Dan Edwin	213
Leggett, Hugh Donaldson	214
Lewis II, William Benston	214
Nix, John Conn	214
Whitmire, James Douglas	219
Carter, Carman Russell	228
Lyle Jr., John David	230
Edge, Virgil Nwn	243
Oglesby, Lewis Edward	244

Lane Sr., Charles Michael	248
Lord Jr., James Franklin	255
Bevil, James Cecil	256
Parrish, Randall Reeves	257
Snider, Robert Leon	257
Clark, James Edward	259
Poss, Harold William	262
Preslar, Henry Donald	262
Maney, Wilbur Ollian	265
Mingledorff Jr., Frederick William	271
Helms Jr., Edward L.	272
Hamilton, Herman McKinley	274
Dennis, Charles Monroe	279
Rice, Robert Tribble	288
Scruggs, Bruce Edgar	288
Morgan Sr., John Wayne	289
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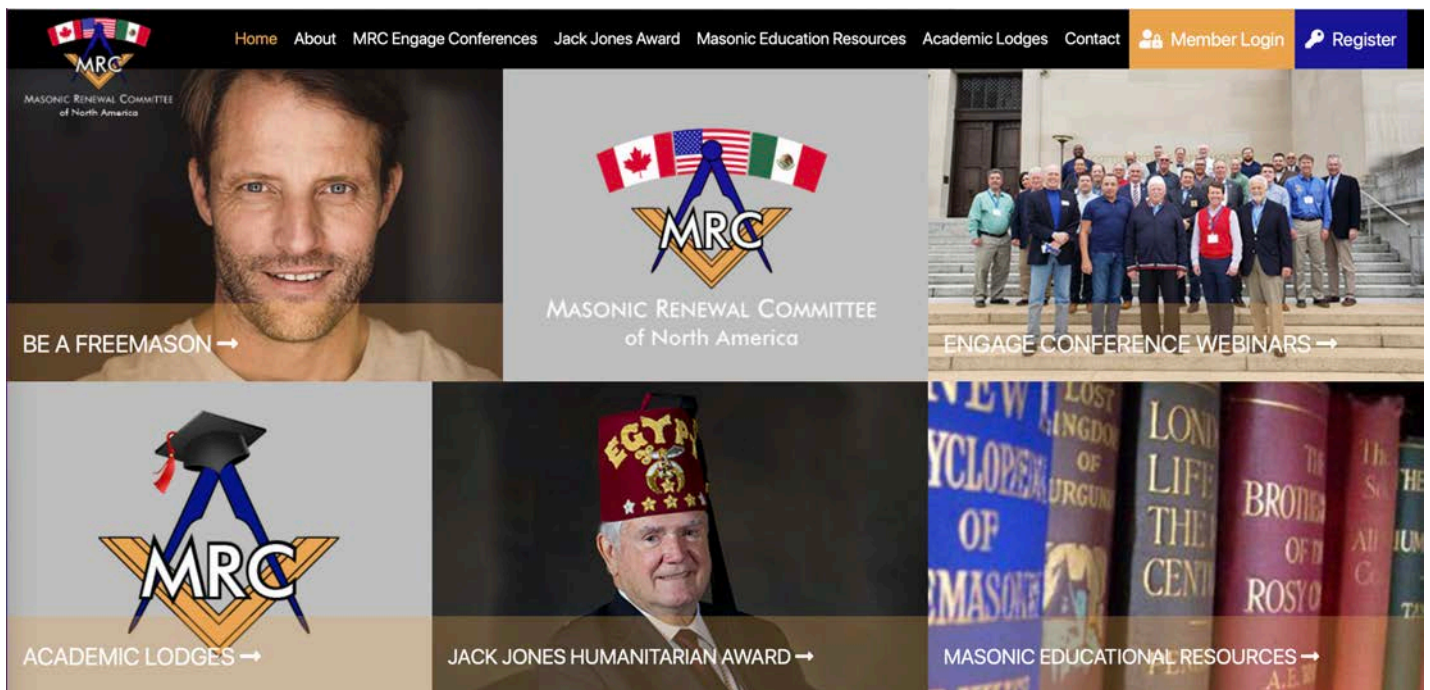
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Are you looking for something new or different to help your Lodge Challenge the Future? Check out the resources available from the Masonic Renewal Committee of North America supported by the Conference of Grand Masters of North America and others. Some wonderful resources are only a click away at: [www.masonicrenewal.org](http://www.masonicrenewal.org)  
 Open a brave new world to improve your Lodge and its membership.



The “Grand Lodge of Georgia” Store is now online at  
<https://av8rstuff.com/GLofGAindex.html>

While many items are from the “Kids Store” (we’re working in partnership with them), we are also going to be offering many new and unique items for our many Masons in Georgia to show their pride, leading their friends and neighbors to inquire as to what a Freemason is and what we’re all about. We are excited about the new outlet we Georgia Masons have to obtain the items we want.

You can also find the link on the Grand Lodge of Georgia website or can contact “Whitey” White (478-997-1011) or Ivy Smith (478-731-6050)