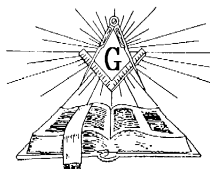


WEBB LODGE #166 F. & A.M.
FEBRUARY 16TH, 2015 TRESTLEBOARD (#326)



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Brethren: The **Regular Communication** of Webb Lodge #166 F.& A.M. will be held at the Masonic Temple, 3201 Wrightsboro Road, Augusta, Georgia, on **February 16th, 2015**. Dinner will be served at 7:00 p.m. and a Lodge of Master Masons will be opened at 8:00 p.m. Please remember to call a brother or widow and invite them to come and share an evening of fellowship with us on that date. If you, another brother or widow need transportation to and from the lodge please call one of the officers. Ladies are invited. (Telephone numbers are located on the reverse side of this newsletter) Widows have an open invitation to come join us for dinner each month and please bring a guest.

1. **MESSAGE FROM THE WORSHIPFUL MASTER:** My thanks to the Brethren for electing me Worshipful Master for 2015. I am deeply humbled to be elected to this position. Webb Lodge has a rich history of just short of 200 years - many dedicated men have stood where I now stand, and I take that legacy very seriously. I want to focus on three avenues of enhancements for our Lodge this next year. I also want to thank Most Worshipful Past Grand Master E. Ray Knittel and Past Grand Marshall Charlie Long for traveling many hours to be here and install our officers. Certainly I would be remiss to not thank Worshipful Brother Ronny D. Lanham for giving me a most beautiful handcrafted gavel that he made for me to use this next year. First, I want to emphasize Membership Revitalization in which we try to get those who do not attend to want to be a part of what we are doing. I plan to have brainstorming sessions to initiate a program to achieve this goal. I have some recommendations to start us out, but this process will require a number of participants which I hope you all have value for. Second, I want to promote visitation of other Lodges in the area. We need to see and hear first-hand what others are doing and enjoy the brotherhood and fellowship we in turn share. This will also provide a vehicle for us to doing things together. We should especially support the other two Lodges that meet in our building by attending their meetings. Third, I want to restore our ancient documents which have not weathered the aging of time very well. The most immediate concern is our Charter which has become almost illegible (not surprising since it is 196+ years old). We have been adding new brethren to our numbers for the last several years and I look forward to the possibilities we have for next year in the area of new members and renewal of existing member participation.



2. **PERFECT CATECHISM (Brother Stoney):** "We do not emphasize the higher concepts of Freemasonry and put too much emphasis on the catechism." How many times have we heard this statement or one like it and taken it for the Gospel? Our society, for whatever reason, has gotten out of the habit of asking the question "Is it true?" Let's look around and see if we can find enlightenment. The definition of our ritual is a good starting point. Masonic ritual is composed of certain words arranged in a specific way which have come down to us from "time immemorial". It is used to confer degrees and as a teaching tool for novices and brethren who attend lodge. When the question of, "Why do we have a ritual" is posed, the answer is not quite so easy. We have been exposed to acquiring knowledge our entire lives. In school we learned that two plus two equals four. We also discovered that two times two equals four or four is the product of two times two. The medical student learns about the physical aspects of the body but nowhere is, or can he be, taught the spiritual aspects of the heart. Everywhere we turn we are shown that real knowledge does not depend upon a certain form of words, but rather it is the fact, and not the word, that is so important. Why then do we place so much emphasis upon the exact memorization of the *words* of the ritual? Isn't it enough to simply tell the facts and not be so particular about every little word? In response, I would have to say one of the greatest appeals of Freemasonry is its antiquity. Our Order can be traced back in its present form to 1717, and has irrefutable documentary evidence of a much longer existence in simpler forms. If we alter our ritual, either intentionally or via poor memorization, the original meanings will be gradually lost along with the story of where we came and when. We should ever strive to perform the ritual "as all have done who have gone this way before." The words we speak are the same George Washington and other great Masons spoke and give us a feeling of kinship which no non-Mason may have. We have the writings of Preston and Dermott to trace those parts of the ritual that are written. The esoteric portions of the ritual began the same throughout all lodges but over time was found variations showing that "mouth to ear", no matter how secret, is not a wholly accurate manner to communicate. Lastly, in our rituals is contained the gem of all those philosophical and moral truths which Freemasonry teaches. In the ritual is found at least one explanation of the symbols. In our ritual are the real secrets of Freemasonry made plain for those who have "ears to hear." Given to the newly raised Master Mason are the keys to begin his Masonic journey, the path of which is almost without end and can indeed last a lifetime and then some.



3. **GEORGE WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION:** The 10th District Officers will be hosting a celebration of George Washington's Birthday at the Scottish Rite Center on Saturday, February 21, 2015. Coffee and Donuts at 8:00 am with the program beginning at 9:00 am. Worshipful Brother James Huggins will be the guest speaker and the Fellowcraft Degree will be conferred. There will be a luncheon following the festivities. Please attend if you can and support the 10th District Officers.

4. STATE WIDE BLUE LODGE APPRECIATION EVENT: Where: Macon Scottish Rite Auditorium. **When:** Saturday, February 28th, 2015. **Time:** 10:00 am. **Guest Speaker:** Illustrious Brother Robert Davis, 33^o GC who has written several books concerning Masonry. **Degree Conferral:** Germania Lodge No. 46 of New Orleans will present the Entered Apprentice Degree. Known as a "RED" Lodge, the lodge works in the Scottish Rite Symbolic ritual. A Free Lunch will be provided for those who attend. This is a tyled event and you must be a Master Mason in good standing and in a lodge recognized by the Grand Lodge of Georgia. Credentials (Dues Cards) will be checked. This is presented by all the Scottish Rite Valleys in the Orient of Georgia. Contact the Secretary (706-829-1665) if you are interested in attending. There is limited space and you will have to have a reservation. We have 24 reservations so far. We will meet at the Scottish Rite and all take a bus to the event.



5. STATEWIDE 2015 SPRING REUNION: The Six Scottish Rite Valleys in the Orient of Georgia (Albany, Atlanta, Augusta, Columbus, Macon and Savannah) will get together on May 30th, 2015, and host a one day reunion for all Master Masons who are interested in becoming a 32^o Scottish Rite Mason. If you would like to be a part of this class please see General Secretary, Gregory Oblak, 33^o for a petition. This event will be hosted by the Macon Scottish Rite.



Make a promise to yourself this year. "I will try to attend my Blue Lodge this year and contribute where I can, participate in both the regular and call communications, and donate my time to helping others who are less fortunate than I."

6. LAUGHTER IS GOOD FOR THE SOUL: 1. Sign Language: a) Sign seen on a local tire store; "invite us to your next blowout." b) Sign seen on a motel: We're as cheap as you are. c) Sign on the door of the Waynesboro post office: PULL. If that doesn't work, PUSH. If that doesn't work, we are closed. Come again. 2. Two little girls, ages 5 and 6 were playing wedding. Their mother overheard these vows: You have the right to remain silent. Anything you say may be held against you. You have the right to have an attorney present. You may kiss the bride. 3. Vegetarian is an old Indian word for "doesn't hunt well."

7. DID I DO GOOD TODAY: Did I help or hurt today, is anyone happier that I passed this way? Will anyone remember that I spoke to them today? And when the day is over and toiling time is through, Will someone say a kindly word, for me; for you? I wonder can I say in parting from a day that is slipping fast, Did I help a single brother from the many that I passed, Is a single heart rejoicing over what I did or said, Does someone whose hopes were fading, now with New Hope look ahead? Did I win this day or lose it, was it well or poorly spent, Did I leave a trail of kindness, or a scar of discontent. As I close my eyes in slumber, to the Architect above I pray, That I've earned one more tomorrow, by the Good I Did Today.

8. GROWING YOUR LODGE: Past Editor of the Masonic Messenger, Fred Lamar Pearson, Jr. wrote an article in the February 2003 Issue and I would like to summarize his article on how many ways to make a Lodge grow. The most obvious is to keep the membership numbers in the black as well as the finances of the lodge. Keep your lodge building and grounds attractive to you and the community. According to Brother Pearson one of the most effective tools is a good newsletter. Keep the brethren informed and entertained. I have tried to do this for the past 28 years and have had several positive comments from the membership, (and also some criticisms.) Experienced Masons can make a difference by responding to a young mason's questions and taking one of them under their wing. Lodge officers should meet on a regular basis and formulate plans. There should always be Masonic Education, good fellowship, and fraternalism at every meeting. Webb Lodge is on the right track so far this year. We have a Worshipful Master who I have a lot of faith in and who hopefully has some new ideas to guide us into the future.



Editor & Secretary
T. Gregory Oblak, P.M.



Worshipful Master
Richard T. Williamson

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WEBB LODGE #166 F. & A.M. 2014 OFFICERS

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(Return Service Requested)