



Work & Lectures

A Metropolitan Atlanta Masonic Newsletter



Formerly the DCMA Crier

December, 2007
Communications

<http://morelight.org>

DeKalb County Masonic Association Report

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DCMA This Month

While the DCMA hasn't recently met in December, for those of you who just can't get enough fellowship, the Gwinnett County Masonic Association will be meeting just over the county line, at Norcross 228 on Tuesday, 4 December. Visitors are encouraged to attend and see how they do things 'up north' of here. :)

5th District January Schedule

January is always a busy month for the 5th District, and this year will be no different.

Monday the 7th will be the annual meeting of the Past Master's Club of Chamblee. PMs of any lodge are welcome; starting at 6:00 at Chamblee-Sardis 444.

Wednesday the 9th will be the first of four School of Instruction sessions, 7:00 at the Atlanta Masonic Center.

Monday the 14th will be the Grand Master's Official Visit to the District, hosted by Hapeville 590.

Wednesday the 16th - 2nd School of Instruction session.

Friday the 18th will see the DCMA at EA Minor 603, 6:30.

Saturday the 19th will be the Wardens and Masters workshop, starting at 8:00, followed by the Grand Master's Forum and lunch, at the Atlanta Masonic Center.

Wednesday the 23rd - 3rd School of Instruction session.

Tuesday the 29th will be a 5th District Officers meeting, open to all Master Masons who care to attend; 7:00 at the Atlanta Masonic Center.

Wednesday the 30th - last School of Instruction session.

DCMA Last Month

On Tuesday, 13 November, we held our Annual Meeting; Mike Wilson was elected to President, although he was not available to be installed - Mike, our prayers are with you and your family, especially during this trying time.

Bill Eleazer continues as Sec/Treas; David Herman advanced to 1st VP, and Ray Skiles, PM & Sec of Glenwood Hills 703, was elected as our 2nd VP. Congratulations, Ray!

Clarkston won the Banner, Tucker won the Gavel, RWBro. Oliver Grantham received the Bud Bailey Award, and David Herman received the Mason of the Year Award. Congratulations, brethren!

DCMA Next Month

As we go to press, a date has yet to be set for our annual planning meeting. We would like a representative from each lodge, as well as all DCMA officers present at this meeting; other interested parties are welcome to attend.

On Friday, 18 January, we will meet at Glenwood Hills 703, which is presently meeting at the temple of E A Minor 603 in Lithonia.

DCMA Next Year: 2008

- President: Mike Wilson, Lithonia 84 & EA Minor 603
dcma.pres@morelight.org or 770-482-3338
- 1st VP: David Herman, Chamblee-Sardis 444 & Internet 9659, EC
dcma.1vp@morelight.org or 404-310-8541
- 2nd VP: Ray Skiles, Glenwood Hills 703
dcma.2vp@morelight.org or 404-310-8541
- Sec/Treas: Bill Eleazer, Glenwood Hills 703
dcma.sec@morelight.org or 770-922-5412

*The DCMA... Determined to Cover Masonry in Atlanta!
We'd like for your lodge to join us - ask one of us how.*

GACHIP

GACHIP - the Georgia Child Identification Program - is one of the most comprehensive Child Recovery, Identification, and Abduction Awareness Programs ever to be offered to parents in the state of Georgia, and it is done at no cost to the parents, and the parents keep all the information - we keep nothing. For more information, contact any DDGM or MELD Officer, or visit <http://gachip.org>

Standard Disclaimer

This publication is created to inform the brethren. Any views or opinions that manage to sneak in are solely those of the editor, who does **NOT** speak for any organization whatsoever. Really.

Oh, No!

I changed computers in November. That's the good news. The bad news is that I lost my email address book. So please email me again, >> news @ morelight . org << to get back on the list.

Old Tiler Talks

by Carl H. Claudy
PGM, District of Columbia

Promotion

The New Brother's face showed a bad case of peeve, and his voice reflected it as he greeted the Old Tiler in the anteroom.

"S'matter, son?" inquired the Old Tiler. "You look like a cross between a thunder cloud and the Black Hole of Calcutta!"

"Politics!" snapped the New Brother. "I thought it was bad form, undignified, un-Masonic to electioneer for officers. It's bad enough any time, but when they electioneer for one who isn't in line for promotion and to throw out one who has served years in the chairs, I think it's terrible!"

"Yes, yes, go on," encouraged the Old Tiler. "Get it all out of your system."

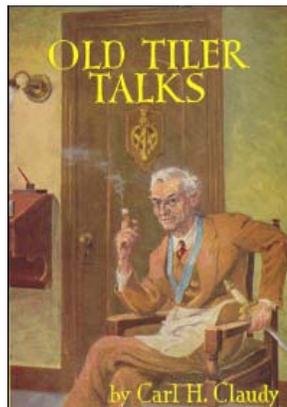
"Tonight they elected Bill Jones Junior Warden. He doesn't attend regularly, does he? And Smith, who was in line for promotion, was dropped. Smith never missed a night last year and did his best as Senior Deacon. Jones is more popular than Smith, and may make a better officer, but the point is that Smith worked and Jones never has. So I'm peeved!"

"Wiser heads than yours have been peeved at politics in a lodge," answered the Old Tiler. "It's a difficult question. By Masonic usage any electioneering is taboo. The unwritten law and the theory contend for a free choice of officers by unbiased votes. But men are men first and Masons afterwards, and politics always have been played. I know of no way to stop a brother from telling another brother how he ought to vote!"

"That doesn't dispose of the injustice of Smith," answered the New Brother. "It isn't right."

"The majority thought it was right," countered the Old Tiler. "Now that Jones has the job, I'll tell you that I knew Smith wouldn't get it. He has been faithful to his work, never missed a night, done his best. But his best just wasn't good enough. You speak of Jones being more popular than Smith. There must be a reason, and if he is better liked he'll make a better officer."

"But it is still an injustice." The New Brother was stubborn.



"You argue from the standpoint of the man who believes that a man elected or appointed to be junior Steward has a neck-hold on the job ahead of him," answered the Old Tiler. "According to your idea any junior Steward who attends lodge and does his work ought to be elected to the succeeding position each year as a reward of merit. Actually the job, not the man, is important. The good of the lodge is more important than reward for the man.

"You don't realize that Masonry is bigger than the individual, that the lodge is bigger than its officers, that the positions in line are greater than the men who fill them.

"A Master may make or mar a lodge. If he is a good Master, well-liked, popular, able, attentive to his duties and enthusiastic in his work, the lodge goes forward. If only enthusiasm and faithfulness recommend him and he lacks ability, and the respect and liking of his fellows, and he has not the equipment to rule, the lodge will go backwards. Smith is a nice fellow faithful, enthusiastic. But he has more from the neck down than from the ears up. Jones hasn't attended lodge much, but he is a brainy man, accustomed to preside, knows men and affairs, and, if he bears out the judgment of the brethren, will carry this lodge to new heights.

"Smith was given his chance for four years. In that time he could not demonstrate to the satisfaction of his brethren that he would make a good Master. It was a kindness to drop him now and not let him serve two more years. It is hard to be told 'we don't want you,' but the lodge showed wisdom in choosing as Junior Warden a man in whom it believes, rather than merely rewarding faithful effort.

"I am sure the Master made a nice speech to Smith and thanked him for his work. His brethren will show him they like him as a brother if not as a Junior Warden. Smith will not be as peeved about it as are you. He has been a Mason long enough to know that the majority rule is the only rule on which a Masonic lodge can be conducted. He won't understand his own limitations, or believe he couldn't be as good an officer as Jones, but he will bow to the decision of his fellows and keep on doing the best he can. That is Masonry at its best. Politics is often Masonry at its worst, but in the long run the right men get chosen to do the right work. Sometimes it's a bit hard on the man, but the good Mason is willing to suffer for the love he bears his mother lodge."

"As a peeve-remover you are a wonder!" smiled the New Brother. "But I wonder how you'd like to be supplanted by another Tiler?"

"When the lodge can find a better servant, I shall be glad to go," answered the Old Tiler simply. "I try to be a Mason first, and an Old Tiler afterwards!"

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His Christmas

by Carl H. Claudy
PGM, District of Columbia

Since I don't know of many events scheduled for December, I've included a bonus Old Tiler Talk. Enjoy!

"Did you have a happy Christmas?" inquired the New Brother in the anteroom.

"Indeed, yes! Did you?"

"Not particularly. Same old day, same old expense, same old gifts, same old things," yawned the New Brother. "What did you do that made it happy?"

"First thing I went to church," answered the Old Tiler.

"Why, I didn't know you were a church goer!" The New Brother was surprised.

"It is debatable," confessed the Old Tiler. "But on Christmas I like to go to church. Anyway, I had to see the rector. I had a turkey for someone who would need it. After church I got in the automobile and the chauffeur drove me to see Brother Fosdick and-

"Whoa! You have a car and a chauffeur?" demanded the New Brother.

"Always on Christmas," grinned the Old Tiler. "Feel mighty important, too! But it's not mine, of course. A banker lends it to me."

"Oh!"

"I couldn't get around without a car," explained the Old Tiler. "So Brother Vanderveer lends me his. I called on old Brother Fosdick. He hasn't been in lodge in ten years, but he doesn't know it. He thinks he was at the last meeting, and will be there the next. His mind isn't as clear as it was. He orders me to vote on this and how to do that, and is so important about it that he has a good time, thinking he is still a power in the lodge. It's not much of a Christmas present, but it's what he likes best."

"Oh!" said the New Brother.

"Then I was driven to the Masonic Home. Had some toys for some pets and never can deny myself the pleasure of giving them."

"Pets?"

"Pets is the word. Two children of a brother of this lodge."

"Oh!"

"We had a riotous time, the kiddies and I. They showed me their tree and all their gifts and we played tag a while and they blew horns and it was real Christmas-like. It's a shame to take up so much of the children's time but I had a lot of fun and they were very kind, of course because I am old."

"Is that it!" said the New Brother.

"The big kick came in the afternoon. I made a few calls on sick and housed brethren, and then went to dinner. After dinner we got in the car and went to the orphan asylum, and I had the time of my life. We must have given away five hundred dollars in toys and games and books and dolls."

"You gave away five hundred dollars?"

"No, we did. I didn't pay for them. I am poor. Brother Vanderveer paid for them. All I did was buy them and take them there in Brother Vanderveer's car. He went along because he likes to."

"All you did was spend the money and distribute it and plan it. He just went along, I see," said the New Brother.

"Yes, I'd pay for part of them, but that would take some of the joy from Vanderveer," the Old Tiler explained happily. "We had fun. Then we went back to Brother Vanderveer's home and he gave me a present- think of that! There it is!" The Old Tiler pointed to a handsome stick. "He's quite a wag, is Brother Vanderveer. He's already done so much for me, lending me his car and all. I had no present for him, I told him so. He said I had already given him Christmas, which was nonsense, because I hadn't given him anything. I hardly know where the day went. But I had a real good time. That's what Christmas is for, isn't it?"

"I always thought it was a day to get up late and laze around and stuff myself and go to bed disgusted," snapped the New Brother. "I think I'll try your scheme next time."

"There's plenty of room for you in the car," answered the Old Tiler. "I'd love to have you and so would Brother Vanderveer."

"Oh!" said the New Brother, thoughtfully.

Traveling Trophy Roundup

4th District
SW of Atlanta
Carroll 69 Traveling Gavel : Carroll 69, Carrollton
Bowdon 206 Traveling Gavel : Sand Hill 350, Sand Hill
Buck Creek 639 Traveling Gavel : Buck Creek 639, Buck Creek
Tyus 671 Traveling Gavel : Tyus 671, Tyus

5th District
Includes Atlanta
5th District Traveling Gavel : Tucker 42, Tucker
Clarkston 492 Traveling Gavel : Tucker 42, Tucker

6th District
South of Atlanta
Jonesboro 87 Traveling Gavel : Riverdale 709, Riverdale
Rex 251 Traveling Gavel : Rex 251, Rex
East Point 288 Traveling Gavel : East Point 288, Peachtree City
Lakewood 443 Traveling Hat : Lakewood 443, Lovejoy

If you know of any other traveling trophies, or any current trophy locations, or any published trophy acquisition rules, please let us know.

Where is the 7th District Gavel?

Where is the Gwinnett County Donkey!?

Please let us know of any other Traveling Trophies!

5th District Gavel rules at <http://5dist.morelight.org/gavel.html>
Clarkston 492 Gavel rules at http://www.clarkston492.com/traveling_gavel.htm



Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Schedule of Regular Communications for Lodges meeting within about 10 miles of I-285 and/or in DeKalb County.

All meetings start at 7:30 pm unless noted otherwise.

2

Stone Mountain 449
Union City 600

3

Kennesaw 33
Georgia 96
Norcross 228 - Hosts GCMA
East Point 288
Masters 295
Panthersville 543
Capitol City 642
North DeKalb 714
Metro Daylight 743, 10:30 am

4

Fulton 216
DeKalb Masonic Memorial Club at Clarkston 492, 2 pm

5

Pythagoras 41
Mountain Park 729

6

Leroy Duncan 262

7

Campbellton 76
Nelms 323

8

9

Tucker 42
Piedmont 447
College Park 454
Hapeville 590

10

Gate City 2
Sandy Springs 124
Clarkston 492
E. A. Minor 603
Ben Hill 674

11

Cobb County Daylight 742, 10:00 am

12

Atlanta-Peachtree 59
Lithonia 84
Chamblee-Sardis 444
Palestine 486, 7:00 pm
Grant Park 604

13

Glenwood Hills 703

14

Samuel S. Lawrence 721

15

16

Union City 600

17

18

19

Pythagoras 41
Charity Daylight 754, 10:30 am

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The State of the Lodge

by WBro. Tim Bryce, PM

In every organization I have been involved with, I have found it important that the senior officer report on the condition of the institution at least once a year. This is similar in intent to the President's State of the Union address. As such, I think it is proper for a Worshipful Master to prepare such an address at least once a year to report to the Brethren on the state of the Lodge. This can be delivered either orally at a Stated Communications or in the Lodge newsletter (or both). Although such a report can be produced at the beginning of the year (to set the stage for the incoming Worshipful Master's year), it is probably more beneficial to deliver it at the end of the year, such as the last Stated Communications.

I prepared such an address myself during my year in the East and I believe the Craft found it beneficial to hear my description of the status of the Lodge. For such an address, several areas should be considered:

* **MEMBERSHIP** - Did the Lodge experience an increase or decrease in membership during the year? Why? If available, use statistics to show trends. Be sure to differentiate between new members, transfers, reinstatements, demits, deaths, and simple dropouts.

* **FACILITIES** - Describe the condition of your Lodge's facilities (particularly if you own it as opposed to renting it). Structurally, how sound is it? What modification/improvements were implemented during the past year? What else needs to be addressed? Why?

* **PARTICIPATION** - You can get a pulse of the Lodge's level of participation simply by measuring attendance at Lodge functions versus total membership. In addition to Lodge meetings, be sure to include other activities, such as social affairs, fund raisers, community projects, etc.

* **FINANCES** - Although some Masons do not like to waste time discussing financial affairs, it is important for a Lodge to understand how well it is both generating income and managing expenses, particularly as it applies to an annual budget. If benchmarks were missed, discuss why and what should be done about it in the future.

* **MASONIC EDUCATION** - Discuss how proficient the Lodge is in its ritual work and knowledge of Masonic catechisms and etiquette. Are the officers and other key people certified in their work? What can be done to improve it?

* **CHARITY** - Has the Lodge taken sufficient steps to help others? For example, how well is it supporting Masonic widows and orphans, local schools and other community related activities?

* **SICKNESS & DISTRESS** - It is very important to remember those Brothers who are suffering from health or financial problems. How well did the Lodge support the Brethren during the past year? Were any programs implemented to this effect and, if so, what have been the results?

* **HARMONY** - Although this can be a touchy subject, it is important to hold a frank discussion on the harmony of the Brethren. Do you have harmony or are there polarizing political influences in play? If so, are Brothers staying away from Lodge as a result? What can be done to overcome this problem?

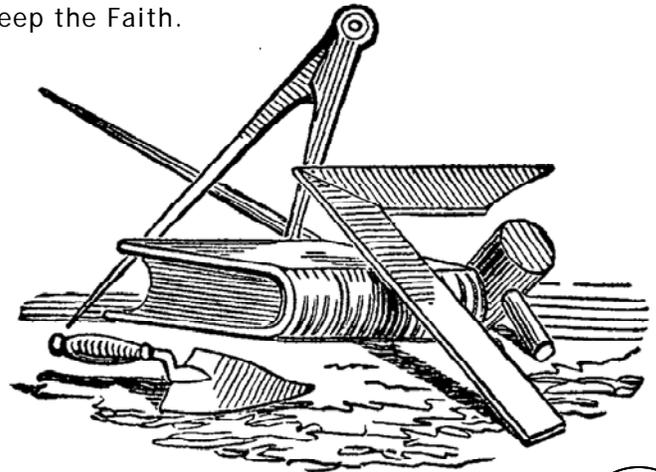
* **OTHER GROUPS** - If you have an allied and appendant body meeting at your Lodge, such as the Eastern Star, High Twelve, DeMolay, Job's Daughters, the Rainbow, etc., what is the state of these groups? Will they be able to support the Lodge in the future or not? What can be done to better support such groups?

* **OBJECTIVES** - Finally, how well did you, the Worshipful Master, fulfill the objectives you specified at the beginning of the year? Come on, fess up. After all, rarely does anyone bat 1.000 during their year. What recommendations do you have for the next Worshipful Master?

Such a report provides an interesting snapshot of the Lodge and should be recorded with the Lodge's minutes. More importantly, we cannot make progress if we do not know the genuine status of the Lodge. True, you may be able to give a glowing report of the things you accomplished, but it is also important to draw attention to the weaknesses and missteps of the Lodge. After all, we learn from our mistakes. If you want the Lodge to be honest with you, you must be honest with them.

Always remember, it is difficult to motivate the Craft if they do not know the true condition of the Lodge.

Keep the Faith.



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Davo Digresses: The Importance of Communication

Communication is an essential part of maintaining a relationship. This holds true for the relationships among the members of a lodge, and especially between the members and the lodge itself.

Well, that sounds good and important - but what does it really mean? It means that people - even brothers - need to keep in touch with each other to maintain a close, current friendship. Sure, your brother is your brother even if you haven't heard from him in ten years... but the brother you see all the time, call to check on, meet for lunch or go fishing with... that brother enriches your life by being an active part of it. And you get the opportunity to do the same for him.

If you attend lodge regularly, chances are that you have gotten to know a few brethren better than the rest; this is normal human behavior. But have you noticed a brother who stays off by himself, or attends infrequently? Maybe just letting him know that you care enough by asking why would be enough to help him get through a rough spot, or past his shyness. I know it wouldn't take too many "lonely" lodge nights before I started wondering if my time would be better spent elsewhere.

Likewise with the relationship between the lodge and its members. If the lodge doesn't let the membership (even those who don't or can't make the meetings) know what's going on, they won't feel like they're really members of a loving organization. And if the members don't let the lodge know what they do and don't like, the officers are likely to just carry on with a copy of the programs of earlier years.

Now, I'm no advocate of change merely for the sake of change, but I think everything should be reevaluated from time to time. The changing of officers and planning for a new lodge year is a great opportunity for the officers to sit down and give candid feedback about the programs of the prior year. What worked? What didn't? What should we try to improve, and how? What should we consider not doing for a change?

Some of us are able to go to most or all of our lodge's meetings, and we tend to be well informed and to make our opinions known. But what about the brethren who, for whatever reason, don't get to lodge very often? Even if they can't come and help, I'm pretty sure that they'd like to know what the lodge has been up to, and if there are any special meetings that they should make an extra effort to attend.

Enter lodge newsletters. They are known by a variety of names, can take many formats, and may come out quarterly or after every meeting. I have seen lodge newsletters ranging from a single page of plain text email to 30 or more pages in full color, with articles and features. There are more and more every month, and there's a good reason for that: the internet.

Two of the main problems with newsletters in the days of yore were cost and logistics. While it might take just a few hours to put together an issue, that was only the beginning - next came getting them physically printed, and then getting them mailed (either stamped or metered). With electronic distribution, these two headaches are essentially eliminated - once your issue is complete, you can email it to hundreds or even thousands of people with no cost.

Of course not everyone has email, and I'm not suggesting that regular mail doesn't have its place - because it does. Annual Letters, Dues Card correspondence, fund raiser tickets... all of these are perhaps better handled on paper. But enough people do have email to make it worthwhile to have an electronic newsletter at no cost (other than time) to the lodge. Ask around your lodge; you might be surprised. I find that over 80% of the brethren who regularly attend my lodge have email (more than I expected), as do many who come rarely - or not at all. For those without email, I leave a dozen or so printed copies in the foyer of the lodge and on the note board. This costs me little, and the lodge nothing at all.

Some people think a newsletter is lot of work. Well, it can be, that's for sure. My advice is to start small - perhaps a quarterly issue of one or two pages. With three months worth of activity to report on, and three more to announce, you should have no problem. If you find that you want to add more, you can make it larger, publish it more often, or even do both.

A newsletter isn't the answer to all of a lodge's woes. But I think letting your brethren know what is going on, and letting them know that you care enough to tell them, is a step in the right direction. It won't guarantee increased attendance, but not telling people what is going on is almost guaranteed *not to*.

So I encourage every lodge to communicate with the membership regularly. After all, how can we expect to attract new members if we don't pay attention to the current ones?

