



Work & Lectures

A Metropolitan Atlanta Masonic Newsletter

news @ morelight.org

April, 2008

http://news.morelight.org



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Behind the Scenes

DeKalb County Masonic Association Report

The Children's Home Trustees

April being the month of the 5th District Workday at the Children's Home, I thought I'd include this peek behind the scenes of the Home, condensed from the GL website.

The Georgia Masonic Children's Home is comprised of four halls and two cottages, where the children reside in a family type atmosphere under the care of dedicated houseparents. The home has an education department responsible for meeting the needs of each child. This includes choosing the appropriate academic environment, tutorial assistance and permitting students to participate in a variety of extra-curricular activities while monitoring their academic needs on a daily basis.

There are 12 Trustees who oversee the operations of the Masonic Home. Theirs is a labor of Love... for the Children and for Freemasonry. They serve without financial compensation so those less fortunate and far less capable of caring for themselves might have a warm, safe home in a family environment where they can study, play, be happy, and mature into productive members of society.

Pictured below, standing L to R: Trustees from districts 1, 3, 4, 12, 6, 5 (Norman Wheeler), 7, 2, 10, 11; and seated: J. Edward Jennings, Jr. Deputy Grand Master; A. Joe Clark, Chairman, and 8th Dist. Trustee; and Ted C. Collins, Grand Master of Masons in Georgia



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.

DCMA This Month



Join us at Masters 295 on Tuesday, 15 April, 6:30 meal, 7:30 meeting. This month's program has not yet been announced. Masters 295 meets at 3038 LaVista Road, Decatur, 30033-1311.

DCMA Next Month

Our May meeting will be hosted by Lithonia 84 on Thursday, 22 May, 6:30 meal and 7:30 meeting. Next month's program has not yet been announced.

DCMA Last Month

If you missed our February meeting, you missed an evening of fellowship in the heart of Brookhaven at North DeKalb 714. WBro. Dallas Johnson spoke to us about the Georgia Masonic Children's Home, as well as some options that lodges could use to raise funds to support the skyrocketing costs of giving our kids a healthy, loving environment and a quality education.

DCMA This Year

- President: Mike Wilson, Lithonia 84 & EA Minor 603
mikew @ morelight.org or 770-482-3338
- 1st VP: David Herman, Chamblee-Sardis 444 & Internet 9659, EC
davidh @ morelight.org or 404-310-8541
- 2nd VP: Ray Skiles, Glenwood Hills 703
rays @ morelight.org or 678-313-0802
- Sec/Treas: Bill Eleazer, Glenwood Hills 703
bille @ 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.

Our Neighbors to the North

Brethren, the Gwinnett County Masonic Association also meets monthly at the various lodges in their county. During April, they are meeting at Dacula 433 on the 8th.

WBro. McNeal of Norcross 228 is the 1VP this year, and we are trying to schedule some joint meetings for next year, so please try to attend one of their meetings if your schedule allows. They are a great bunch of guys - ask them about the Donkey!

Where's YOUR News?

We'd be honored to support the community by publishing *your* news and events - all you have to do is let us know by emailing news @ morelight.org with all the information you'd like listed.

Old Tiler Talks

by Carl H. Claudy
PGM, District of Columbia

On the Painful Process of Becoming a Past Master

The newly elected and installed Master had finished his speech. In it he had promised many things to the lodge, and outlined a beautiful program for the coming year. In conclusion he said: "Thus I hope to make my year a good year. I propose to increase the attendance, better the degree work, have more entertainment, see that instruction is more carefully carried on, do more charity, have better turnouts at such funerals as we may have to hold; in other words, with your assistance, I propose to make this the most attractive lodge in the world."

"Pretty nice speech," said the New Brother, sitting down beside the Old Tiler. "You know, I think I'd like to go in line."

"Indeed, it was a very good speech. The boy has the makings of a real Past Master," smiled the Old Tiler. "But about going in line -- don't forget the process hurts."

"Hurts? I don't believe I get you exactly."

"Probably not. When you have been longer in the lodge, you will recognize a certain similarity about all speeches from newly elected and installed Masters. They all think the same way. As soon as they get near the east they begin to think what they can do for the lodge and how they can make it better. They make high plans and do a lot of brain work, and then they tell the lodge about it. I wonder it never occurs to any of them how conceited they are when they are first elected."

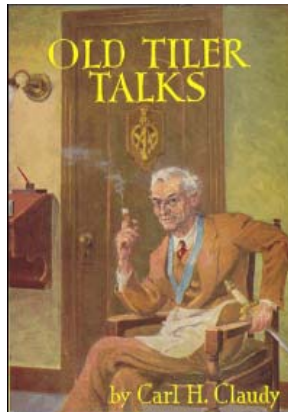
"Conceited? Why, young Jamison isn't conceited; he's a nice, modest chap."

"Sure he is! But he tells you all the things he is going to do, quite forgetting that a long line of predecessors have not succeeded in doing them. They talk that way with the world and the lodge at their feet, and both to be conquered."

"But neither ever is conquered. Every Past Master has done all he knew to make this the best lodge in the world. It's a pretty good lodge at that, but it isn't what it might be—if we were all perfect. As any Master's year slips along and he finds that the attendance isn't much better than it was, and the degree work just as lacking in beauty as it had ever been because this, that, and the other officer, with the best intentions but no equipment, is making a spectacle of himself, he finds that the process of becoming a Past Master hurts, and hurts badly."

"Most Past Masters are worth a lot more to the lodge as Past Masters than as Masters because of the lessons they learn while Master which they didn't know before. And Jamison has the makings of a fine Past Master; one who will think and work, and be a genuine asset to the lodge."

"But Jamison will improve the degree work -- he has a lot of plans—"



"He'll try. But, my brother, you can't make men over. All our officers are pretty fixed in their ways. They do the best that is in them to do. They are earnest, lovable, conscientious men. They struggle to learn the work, letter perfect. But God makes some men orators, and to some he gives a sing-song voice which would ruin the most beautiful words in the language; and we have our share of them. Jamison won't be able to change them, hard as he may try."

"Do you think he shouldn't try, then?"

"Heaven forbid! Of course he should try. We should all try. The officers should try, and do try. But if we all succeeded in our straining after perfection, there wouldn't be any fun left in the world at all, or any glory in Masonry. In a perfect world Masonry would have no place. Since Masonry is in existence to make men better, if all men were best it wouldn't be needed.

"No, Brother, it's a good thing for the lodge that Jamison can't make this a perfect lodge of perfect Masons. If he could, we wouldn't have any excuse for being. But if he didn't try, he wouldn't be the good man that he is."

"Well, I am amazed," said the New Brother. "You have such peculiar ideas—"

"I am an old tiler," grinned the Old Tiler. "I have watched them go up to the east with high hopes and great plans for years and years. And I have seen them step down at the end of their year, happy to be out of the chair, deeply sorry they couldn't do what they tried to do, disillusioned as to the capacity of one man to change a thousand men, worried that they haven't carried the old lodge farther on the road."

"But years have taught me that it is given to very few of us to set many stones in the structure of Masonry. We are lucky if we set one brick right—if, indeed, we can bring one stone which is good work, true work, square work; to the structure, and receive therefor a Mason's wages, we have done well."

"And that is what Jamison will do. He won't succeed in making fifty more men come to the lodge this year than came last. He won't stage a degree any better than a dozen Masters before him have staged. He won't have any more calls for charity than many have had. He won't have any better candidates or any better taught entered apprentices or fellowcrafts than others have had. He will just go along with the lodge, and guide it and direct it and do the best he can, but, unless he is the one man in a hundred, he won't do any more than all of them who trod that road before him could do."

"Then you think he'll be a failure?"

"Decidedly not! I think he'll be a success. For he will try: try earnestly, try hard, think, labor and struggle with his job. And at the end of a year he will have set one stone in this lodge, at much cost to himself. He will make himself into a good Past Master, a man who knows his lodge, who understands its membership, who is able to think fast and work hard, a man who loves his order and his jewel. The one thing he can do best for this lodge is to make himself into a good Past Master—and if he does that, he will find, in after years, that it paid, even if it did hurt."

"I—I don't know that I want to go in line," said the New Brother, thoughtfully, as he walked away.



List of Special Events - April, 2008

1 Apr, Tue - Fish Fry - Palmetto 74, Palmetto.

2 Apr, Wed - "Technology of Children's Healthcare of Atlanta" - Lecture by Dr. Riski M.D. and staff from Children's Healthcare. Fulton 216, Atlanta. 6:30 meal, 7:30 *open meeting*.

5 Apr, Sat - GACHIP Program - Fulton 216, Atlanta. 8:30 - 3:00.

5 Apr, Sat - BBQ Fundraiser - at EA Minor 603, 11:00 - 4:00. Supporting EA Minor 603, Grant Park 604, Glenwood Hills 703 and Metro Daylight 743.

5 Apr, Sat - Pancake Breakfast - Stone Mountain 449. 7:30 - 10:30.

6 Apr, Sun - BBQ Lunch - Lithonia 84, 11:00 - 2:00.

8 Apr, Tue - Gwinnett County Masonic Association - Dacula 433, Dacula. 6:30 meal, 7:30 meeting.

12 Apr, Sat - 5th District Workday - At the Children's Home, Macon. 8:00 - 12:00.

12 Apr, Sat - Master Mason Conferral - Tucker 42, Tucker. 8:00 am meal, 9:00 conferral by Tennessee degree team.

12 Apr, Sat - Master Mason Conferral - Nelms 323, Smyrna. 6:30 meal, 7:30 meeting.

12 Apr, Sat - Pancake Breakfast - Kennesaw 33, Marietta. 5:00 - 11:00.

15 Apr, Tue - DeKalb County Masonic Association - Masters 295, Decatur. 6:30 meal, 7:30 meeting.

16 Apr, Wed - "Solomon: The Man Behind the Temple" - Lecture by Dr. Stipe, Ph.D. in the Hebrew Bible. Fulton 216, Atlanta. 6:30 meal, 7:30 *open meeting*.

16 Apr, Wed - "I am in a Char, now What do I Do?" - 9th Dist. Stewards/Deacons Workshop. Duluth 480, Duluth. 6:30 meal, 7:30 meeting.

17 Apr, Thu - Entered Apprentice Conferral - Roswell 165, Roswell. 6:30 meal, 7:30 meeting.

30 Apr, Wed - 5th District Meeting - Atlanta Masonic Center. 7:00.

Masonic Graveside Services

Brethren, I have been asked to collect the following information from any Memorial Club or Association, so that metro Secretaries consult the 5th District website to find a group to reach out to for help. *I have received very little information so far!*

Please contact me at news @ morelight.org or 404 310 8541 with the following details: Club Name, area of coverage, and contact person's name and phone number (and email).



Traveling Trophy Roundup

4th District
SW of Atlanta
Carroll 69 Traveling Gavel : Carroll 69, Carrollton
Bowdon 206 Traveling Gavel : Temple 322, Temple
Buck Creek 639 Traveling Gavel : Buck Creek 639, Carrollton
Tyus 671 Traveling Gavel : Tyus 671, Tyus

5th District
Includes Atlanta
5th District Traveling Gavel : Gate City 2, Atlanta
Clarkston 492 Traveling Gavel : Gate City 2, Atlanta

6th District
South of Atlanta
Jonesboro 87 Traveling Gavel : Riverdale 709, Riverdale
Rex 251 Traveling Gavel : Rex 251, Ellenwood
East Point 288 Traveling Gavel : Mickey Fuller 720, Bryon
Lakewood 443 Traveling Hat : Hapeville 590, Hapeville

9th District
NE of Atlanta
Gwinnett County Donkey : Mountain Park 729, Stone Mtn.

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

If you know of any other Metro Atlanta area traveling trophies or any published trophy acquisition rules, please let us know.



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.

6

Snellville 99
Stone Mountain 449
Union City 600

7

Gate City 2
Sandy Springs 124
Clarkston 492
E. A. Minor 603
Ben Hill 674
Gwinnett County Masonic Assn. at Dacula 433

8

Cobb County Daylight 742, 10:00 am

9

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

10

Glenwood Hills 703

11

Campbellton 76
Nelms 323
Masonic Home Workday for Dist. 5 8 10 11
DDGM/MELD/Trustees - Macon

12

13

Tucker 42
Piedmont 447
College Park 454
Hapeville 590

14

Kennesaw 33
Georgia 96
Norcross 228
Masters 295
Panthersville 543
Capitol City 642
North DeKalb 714
DeKalb County Masonic Assn. at Masters 295

15

Fulton 216

16

Pythagoras 41
Mountain Park 729
Charity Daylight 754, 10:30 am

17

18

Samuel S. Lawrence 721

19

20

Snellville 99
Stone Mountain 449
Union City 600

21

Gate City 2
Sandy Springs 124
Clarkston 492
EA Minor 603
Ben Hill 674

22

Southside Memorial Assn. (location varies), 6:30 pm

23

Lithonia 84
Chamblee-Sardis 444
Palestine 486, 7:00 pm

24

25

26

27

Tucker 42
Piedmont 447
College Park 454
Hapeville 590

28

29

5th Dist. Meeting, 7:00 pm, Atlanta Masonic Center

30

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



Lodge Officer Meetings

WBro. Tim Bryce, PM, MPS

"The best surprise is no surprise." - old adage

Ever notice some Craft Lodge meetings seem to run better than other Lodges? True, they may have some good people sitting in the right chairs, but the secret to a good Stated Communications is just some good old-fashioned planning. This can probably best be accomplished by holding a Lodge Officer meeting prior to the communications, such as a week before.

There are quite a few Lodges where the officers rarely, if ever, meet to plan activities and discuss the general business of the Lodge. Such Lodges can typically be characterized as reactive in nature and not in control of their destiny. However, those that meet on a regular basis tend to be more proactive with very few surprises.

Unlike scheduled Lodge meetings, an officer meeting can be held just about anywhere and at any time, whatever is convenient for the officers. Although agendas will vary, it is not uncommon to discuss the following items at such meetings:

- * Officer and committee reports.
- * Review of the last Lodge communications; what worked and what didn't.
- * Review agenda for next Lodge communications and discuss required preparations for it.
- * Review pending motions, resolutions, and any pertinent legislation to come before the Craft.
- * Review assignments and schedules.
- * If a degree is planned, perhaps time can be devoted for rehearsals.

The idea is to get the Lodge officers on the same page before the next Lodge Communications so that it goes off smoothly and professionally, thereby saving time and confusion during the meeting. In particular, there should be little, if any, arguments during a regular communications by the officers over legislation and committee reports as this should have been resolved in the officer meeting. Inevitably, a smooth meeting makes the Lodge officers look like a cohesive team which is appreciated and admired by just about everyone, members and visitors alike. It also adds to their credibility as effective managers of the Lodge.

It is not uncommon for the Secretary to record the minutes of officer meetings which can be helpful for continuity. Such minutes are normally reviewed only at officer meetings and not the regular communications of the Lodge unless directed by the Worshipful Master.

In addition to reviewing the business and communications of the Lodge, officer meetings provide a convenient venue to also conduct some training of the officers, either by tests or lectures.

The only concern about holding officer meetings is not to make them a burden on the officers. Yes, they should be performed on a regular basis, such as biweekly or monthly, but if you do it too much, you might just burn out your officers.

Always remember the objective of officer meetings is to make your officers more proactive, not reactive; and a lot more professional in how they run the Lodge. Instead of playing catch-up and fumbling through Lodge communications, a polished officer corps instills confidence in the Craft and allows you to control your own destiny.

Keep the Faith.

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The 6:30 Degree

Bro. Walter K. Belt

You may have a skillful Master
Who presides with practiced ease,
Who arranges clever programs
That will entertain and please,
One who calls in witty speakers;
Who knows his way about;
But a lavish Junior Warden
Is the boy who brings them out!



You may have a good degree team
Where each member knows his part.
Drilled to function as a unit
With especial skill and art,
With the finest of equipment,
Jewelled crown and sumptuous shroud;
But a groaning banquet table
Is the bait that draws the crowd!



Dave Digresses: Lodge Helpers

David Herman, PM, Chamblee-Sardis 444
District Deputy to the Grand Master

I love it, and I'm sure you do to, when I get to lodge and there's already a pot of coffee going. Or when someone goes upstairs to set the lodge up, only to find out that it has already been lovingly set up - gavels, lights, staves and all.

Brethren, these things don't just happen by themselves. Most lodges have a brother or three who are always there, lending a hand, but who manage to avoid the spotlight - by chance, it seems... until you look further.

There are brothers out there who come to lodge regularly, but, for their own reasons, don't ever go through the chairs. Perhaps the needs of their families or careers prevent them from committing to the time requirements. Perhaps they are not comfortable with public speaking or taking on a leadership role. Or perhaps they just like to come out early and make the coffee, or set up the lodge room.

Whatever their reasons, they should be respected - no, more than that. They should be thanked for the little chores they do that leaves less work for the rest, and for the good judgment they demonstrate to the rest of us by knowing their own obligations, and setting their own limits.

These are the lodge helpers, the members who come to the meetings, but never take a chair or deliver a lecture... but are always there with a smile and a handshake, and listen with joy as others perform the ritual, night after night, year after year.

The lodge helpers are also those brethren (and wives and families) who you don't see for months at a time, but come out every year to help with the Pancake Breakfast, the BBQ, or the Fish Fry. They can't make it more often - life imposes other demands - but they set aside that day or two every year to be with you, and to help the lodge.

So often, it seems, we lament that we don't have a list good men lined up in the wings, hoping to be found worthy to be appointed as Junior Steward. But aren't they really acting not only in their own best interest, but also in that of the lodge in general, when they refuse to be overcommitted? Some of us remember the Lesson in the South better than others, I'm afraid.

Let's not get frustrated that Bro. Jones won't take a chair, if he's there early for every meeting anyway. Rather, let's be grateful that Bro. Jones came to lodge tonight and all those other nights, and made the coffee, and sat on the sidelines through elections, debates, and ritual both refined and rough, and keeps on coming, still finding value in the company of good men.

So, the next time you get to lodge and find coffee already made, or some other chore already done, look around for the lodge helper, shake his hand (again), and tell him that you appreciate him.

Because you do, don't you?



GACHIP Mega-Event

J. Richard Sims, SW, Masters 295
5th District GACHIP Director

Brothers of the 5th District, there is an event coming that will redefine the GACHIP program on Saturday May 17th 2008. Some definite activity will be the GBI, Dekalb and Atlanta Fire departments, Search and Rescue dog demonstrations and other Non Profit Child Safety organizations, Bomb Squad, maybe a couple of helicopters

Even some Star Wars characters have volunteered, with them comes Herby the Love Bug and the Bat mobile. We will also have free food and beverage (hot dogs, and cokes) supplied by the GBI. We are planning on some other things as well, still in the works.

At this time our plan A is to use the stadium beside Georgia Perimeter College off of Clifton Springs Rd. If we are unable to secure that location then we will be having the event in the GBI parking lot across the street. Should know by April 1st, where it will be held, I will update all. It is our true expectation to have 800 to 1000 kids at this event.

With that said, I need volunteers from as many 5th District lodges or others as possible. Gentlemen of the 5th, don't let the other Districts show us up. Several have already signed on to help. I need a Grand showing from the 5th District lodges. The cost of 2.00 per child will be divided among those lodges that wish to participate. Even if you can not provide volunteers, I hope that you will pledge to support some number of kids for this event.

I ask that you please forward this email to any Brother that may have an interest in assisting with this event or wishing to donate to the support of the event. Any additional funds raised will be used to purchase addition machines. Please mail checks to my Lodge address below so we can ensure they go towards this event.

I challenge each Brother to match or beat my small contribution of just \$20.00 to support 10 children. Remember that if you write a check, part of it is deductible on 2009 taxes. Please help us make a difference with the Children of Georgia.

Other Metro GACHIP Events

On Saturday, 5 April, Fulton Lodge will be hosting a GACHIP registration for up to 500 children at the Atlanta Masonic Center, 1690 Peachtree St NW.

Interested parents are encouraged to bring their children between 8:30 am and 3:00 pm. Pre-registration is recommended - visit <http://fultonlodge216.com> and click on the "GACHIP Registration" link, or go directly to <http://www.eventbrite.com/event/93727341>

Brethren who would like to volunteer to help or just come see the program in action are equally encouraged.

See you on Saturday!