



Work & Lectures

A Metropolitan Atlanta Masonic Newsletter



david @ morelight . org

October, 2008
Newsletters

<http://news.morelight.org>

DeKalb County Masonic Association Report

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DCMA This Month

I'm sorry to say that I got this issue out too late to re-announce it, but on Saturday, 4 Oct, we took 19 residents, 8 staff members and 4 children of staff out to Stone Mountain Park. Stone Mountain 449 was out in force, and hosted the meeting right after their monthly Pancake Breakfast. Your DCMA presented each child with spending money, a member of Tucker 42 presented each child with a Psalm book from the Gideon Society, and gift bags were presented by Stone Mountain OES Chapter 205 as well as by the Moon family. Stone Mountain 449 also cooked pizza and served lunch. Adventure passes were donated by the Park - thank you so much, Nan Nash!

Newsletter News

Brethren,

I regret to report that the source of our free newsletter printing is no longer able to offer that service.

I put a lot of time and effort into this newsletter, but I am unable to finance its publication.

I began putting out this newsletter with the goal of taking up where our former DCMA newsletter left off with the passing of WBro. Jimmy Davis nearly two years ago. Since then, I have also tried to cover Masonic news and announcements for the greater Atlanta area, as well as providing some informative articles based around some theme relating to Masonry in general, so that readers from further away would also find it of value.

In order to meet that first goal, I will keep the essential DCMA items on page 1 so that we can continue to print about 40 of these out every month for the meetings.

In order to meet the other goals, I will continue to produce the online (pdf) version monthly, although I will not be distributing printed versions of the full newsletter for the foreseeable future. Sorry.

I hope that someone from each lodge will print out one or two full copies to bring to lodge for those brethren who are not online.

Lastly, I apologise for the lateness of this issue; it seems that the computers at my house have taken seriously ill, and I am *still* trying to restore them.



Brethren from Chamblee-Sardis 444, E. A. Minor 603, Glenwood Hills 703 and Metro Daylight 743 prepared and/or served hot dogs, chili and fixin's for supper at the Railroad Pavilion (rental donated), after which our guests went to watch the laser light show before heading home.

DCMA This Year

President: Mike Wilson, Lithonia 84 & EA Minor 603
 1st VP: David Herman, Chamblee-Sardis 444 & Internet 9659, EC
 2nd VP: Ray Skiles, Glenwood Hills 703
 Sec/Treas: Bill Eleazer, E A Minor 603, Glenwood Hills 703 & Metro Daylight 743

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

DCMA Next Month

November will see our Annual Meeting at E. A. Minor 603, where the election and installation of officers will be our primary order of business. Please come out and fellowship with the brethren of your neighboring lodges. Collectively we have the potential to do so much more - come give us a try. All meetings are open to non-Masons.

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.

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

Masonic Talk

"I'm seeking a little light," said the New Brother, sitting down by the Old Tiler and reaching for his cigar case.

"I think I have a match-" the Old Tiler felt in his pocket.

"I get you!" grinned the New Brother, "But that's not the light I am looking for. I want light on a Masonic subject."

"I don't pretend to be the only Masonic illuminant," answered the Old Tiler, "but if I have what you want, be sure I'll let it shine."

"Every now and then," began the New Brother, "I hear Masonic talk in public places. At a poker game in a club where I was recently, I heard one man say, 'Them you have passed, but me I shall not pass!' Lots of men say they will do this or that on the square or on the level. I run across 'and govern yourself accordingly' in print every now and then. Are such public quotations from Masonic work against good Masonic practice?"

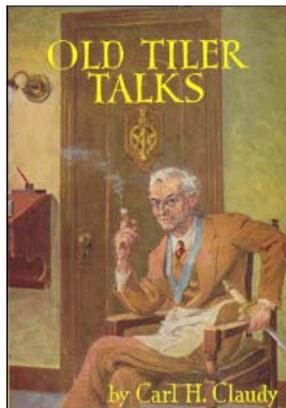
"It seems to me your question isn't very complete," answered the Old Tiler.

"Why not?"

"It takes no account of motives. If you hear a man say that the stream rose and his house and his children were in danger, but a tree fell across the rushing waters, so that in His mercy God damned the stream, you have heard testimony to His glory. And if you hear some man couple the name of Deity with the word which begins with D, you listen to profanity. Same sounds in each case; the difference is, the motive, the meaning.

"If I declare that I will do what I say I will do 'on the square,' any one understands that I mean I will act honestly. If any hearer knows the expression is Masonic, surely the fraternity has not been injured. But if I say to a stranger, or within a stranger's hearing, 'these are certain Masonic words, and we use them in the degrees' and then repeat various phrases, I skirt dangerously close to breaking my obligation, and by the very fact that I seem to be careless with Masonic business, I am doing it harm!"

"That's very plain, said the New Brother. "Suppose some man wants to learn if I am a Mason? Suppose I meet a man with a Masonic pin and want to examine him Masonically? What about that?"



"You shouldn't want to do things which can't be done!" laughed the Old Tiler. You might, indeed, put the stranger through an examination as to what Masonry he knew, but it wouldn't be Masonic. You have no right to constitute yourself an examining committee. That is the Master's prerogative.

"Suppose he wants to talk Masonic secrets with me?"

"No Mason wants to talk Masonic secrets with any man he doesn't know to be a Mason! The man who wants to talk secrets, without having sat in lodge with you, or being vouched for to you, is either very new or a very poor Mason or no Mason at all!"

"But surely one can talk Masonry with strangers; if they wear the pin and have a card they are probably Masons, and-"

"Talk all the Masonry you want! But make sure it is the Masonic talk you could utter in the presence of your wife. Your true Mason won't want you to talk any other kind in public. Not long ago I was on a train, and behind me two men, neither of them Masons, arguing about Masonry. The things they knew which were not so wonderful! But I never opened my mouth. And the conductor, whom I have known for years as a Mason, heard them, and all he did was wink at me. We knew the truth; they didn't. What was the use of stirring up an argument?"

"What about giving some sign or word in a mixed company, so I can let the other fellows know I am a Mason?" asked the New Brother.

"Oh!" cried the Old Tiler. "You've been reading novels! You have an idea that when you go to a card party you should wiggle your ears or something, so that other Masons will know you are one, too! Nothing to that! Masonic recognitions are not for pleasure, but for need and use. You have been taught how to let others know, if you need to. You know how to recognize a Mason when he lets you know. But these are not for social gatherings, and the man who lards his speech with Masonic expressions is merely showing off."

"I asked for light; we could substitute you for one of the Lesser Lights," said the New Brother.

"If you mean that for a joke," the Old Tiler answered slowly, "I shall think my words were wasted."

"I didn't," protested the New Brother. "I was only trying to say, perhaps clumsily, that I thought you'd make a good Master!"

"Then I shall think only of the motive, thank you for the compliment, and forget the way you put it!" smiled the Old Tiler.



List of Special Events - October, 2008

The Grand Master's Calendar

19 Oct, Sun - Cornerstone Laying Ceremony (open)
at Rising Star 4 (Marion & Madison), Eatonton. 7:30 start.

26-8 Oct, Mon-Wed - Grand Lodge Committees & Session
(tyled) Macon (various start times)

Degree Conferals

Conferal schedules are TENTATIVE; confirm with host lodge.

06 Oct, Mon - Master Mason Degree
at Snellville 99, Snellville. 6:30 meal, 7:30 start.

14 Oct, Tue - Master Mason Degree
at Clarkston 492, Clarkston. 6:30 meal, 7:30 start.

23 Oct, Thu - Master Mason Degree
at Douglasville 289, Douglasville. 6:30 meal, 7:30 start.

23 Oct, Thu - Master Mason Degree
at Chamblee-Sardis 444, Chamblee. 6:30 meal, 7:30 start.

25 Oct, Sat - Master Mason Degree by Wool Hat Boys
at The Sand Pit. 4:00 start; meal break, 2nd section after dark.

27 Oct, Mon - Entered Apprentice Degree
at Hapeville 590, Hapeville. 6:30 meal, 7:30 start.

Associations, Clubs, Instruction

11 Oct, Sat - Gwinnett Co. Masonic Assn. (open)
at Duluth 480, Duluth. 6:30 meal, 7:30 start.

22 Oct, Wed - South Side Mem. Assn. & School of Instr.
(tyled) at Hampton 70, Hampton. 6:30 start.

29 Oct, Wed - South Side Mem. Assn. & School of Instr.
(tyled) at Hampton 70, Hampton. 6:30 start.

05 Nov, Wed - DeKalb Masonic Memorial Club (open)
at Clarkston 492, Clarkston. 2:00 start.

06 Nov, Thu - Gwinnett Co. Masonic Assn. (open)
at Mountain Park 729, Stone Mountain. 6:30 meal, 7:30 start.

11 Nov, Tue - DeKalb Co. Masonic Assn. (open)
at EA Minor 603, Lithonia. 6:30 meal, 7:30 start.

30 Nov, Sat - Forsyth Co. Masonic Assn. (open)
at ??? When ???

25/50 Year Awards, PM's Night

09 Oct, Thu - Douglasville 289, Douglasville.

11 Oct, Sat - Fergus 135, Loganville.

11 Oct, Sat - Duluth 480, Duluth.

12 Oct, Sun - East Point 288, Peachtree City.

14 Oct, Tue - Samuel S. Lawrence 721, Marietta.

21 Oct, Tue - Panthersville 543, Stockbridge.

Fundraisers

11 Oct, Sat - Barbeque
at Roswell 165, Roswell. (no times listed)

11 Oct, Sat - Barbeque & Yard Sale
at Samuel S. Lawrence 721, Marietta. 11-2 BBQ, 9-2 YS,

11 Oct, Sat - Chickenque
at Jonesboro 87, Jonesboro. 11:00 to 7:00

1 Nov, Sat - Pancake Breakfast
at Stone Mountain 449, Stone Mountain. 7:30 to 10:30

1 Nov, Sat - Pancake Breakfast
at Grant Park 604, Lithonia. 7:00 to 11:00

2 Nov, Sun - Barbeque
at Lithonia 84, Lithonia. 11:00 to 2:00

22 Nov, Sat - Turkey Shoot
at Campbellton 76, Campbellton? 10:00 to 4:00

6 Dec, Sat - Pancake Breakfast
at Stone Mountain 449, Stone Mountain. 7:30 to 10:30

7 Dec, Sun - Barbeque
at Lithonia 84, Lithonia. 11:00 to 2:00

GACHIP Programs

11 Oct, Sat - at Lilburn Daze, Lilburn
by Mountain Park 729. 8:00 to 4:00.

24-25 Oct, Fri-Sat - at Child Dev. Assn. HQ, Roswell
by Roswell 165. 1:00 to 6:00.

25 Oct, Sat - at South Douglas Elem. School, Douglasville
by Flint Hill 371. 10:00 to 2:00.

2 Nov, Sun - at Druid Hills Days, Dellwod Park, Atlanta
by Gate City 2. 1:00 to 4:00.



	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday		
First	449-5F Stone Mtn, DCMA:10 (Sat) 600-5A Union City 099-9F Snellville, -7/8/9/New Years Day 734-6C Morrow	074-5A Plametto 096-5E Georgia, -7/8 228-9F Norcross 288-5D East Point 295-5C Masters 480-9F Duluth, -7	543-5F Panthersville 642-5B Capitol City 714-5C North DeKalb, DCMA:3 743-5C Metro Daylight, 10:30a (2 nd Tue if holiday)	216-5D Fulton 125-6C Daylite, 10:30a DeKalb Masonic Memorial Club, 2:00p (492)	041-5F Pythagoras, -1/7 165-5B Roswell, -6/7/8 729-9F Mountain Park, -7			
Second	042-5C Tucker 178-5F Philologia 371-5A Flint Hill 447-5D Piedmont 454-5D College Park 590-5E Hapeville	002-5C Gate City, -7 124-5B Sandy Springs 180-5A Fairburn, 7:00p 235-5B Alpharetta	492-5F Clarkston, DCMA:7 603-5F E. A. Minor, DCMA:11 674-5E Ben Hill 691-6D Stockbridge	742-7C James E. Sledge Daylight, 11:00a (7 st Wed in Jul, Dec)	059-5D Atlanta-Peachtree 084-5F Lithonia 171-7B Mableton 289-5A Douglasville 416-5A Bolton 421-9E Sweetwater	444-5B Chamblee-Sardis, DCMA:2 486-5C Palestine, -Holidays 519-5F Zingara 604-5B Grant Park, DCMA:6 640-5B Capitol View	262-5E LeRoy Duncan 703-5E Glenwood Hills, DCMA:1 251-6C Rex	076-5A Campbellton, 8:00p 755-5A Palmetto Daylight, 8:00a 323-7F Nelms
Third	449-5F Stone Mtn, -11/12 600-5A Union City 099-9F Snellville 734-6C Morrow, -11/12	074-5A Plametto, -12 096-5E Georgia, -1/2/3 228-9F Norcross, -12 295-5C Masters, DCMA:4	480-9F Duluth, -12 543-5F Panthersville, -12, DCMA:8 642-5B Capitol City	216-5D Fulton -6/7/8/12 125-6C Daylite, 10:30a, -12	041-5F Pythagoras 165-5B Roswell, -12 729-9F Mountain Park, -12 754-5C Charity Daylight, 10:30a			
Fourth	042-5C Tucker, DCMA:9 178-5F Philologia 371-5A Flint Hill 447-5D Piedmont 454-5D College Park 590-5E Hapeville	002-5C Gate City, -6/8/12 124-5B Sandy Springs, -12 180-5A Fairburn, 7:00p, -10/11/12 235-5B Alpharetta, -12	492-5F Clarkston, -12 603-5F E. A. Minor, -12 674-5E Ben Hill 691-6D Stockbridge	Southside Mem. Assn. & Lodge of Instruction, 6:00/7:00	084-5F Lithonia, -12, DCMA:5 171-7B Mableton, -12 289-5A Douglasville, -11/12 416-5A Bolton, -11/12 421-9E Sweetwater	444-5B Chamblee-Sardis, -11/12 486-5C Palestine, -11/12/Holidays 519-5F Zingara, -12 640-5B Capitol View	251-6C Rex	076-5A Campbellton, 8:00p, -12 755-5A Palmetto Daylight, 8:00a -11/12 323-7F Nelms, -12
Fifth	PM Club of Chamblee		Fifth District Officers, 7:00		Georgia Lodge of Research, 7:00			

Perpetual Metro Masonic Calendar!

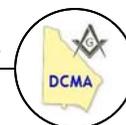
KEY: 000-13A Imaginary, 7:00, -2/10, DCMA:12 would mean: Imaginary Lodge No. 0, Sub-District 13-A, meets at 7:00, does not meet in Feb or Oct, and hosts the DCMA in Dec.



Work & Lectures



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Today's Lodge Newsletters: New Working Tools

by WBro. Tim Bryce, Palm Harbor, FL, USA

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"We write to communicate, not to put people to sleep." - Bryce's Law

I have seen a lot of Craft Lodge newsletters over the years. Most are as interesting as watching grass grow and are useful for nothing more than lining bird cages. Most say the same tired things over and over again. For example, here is typically what you find:

January - "Gee, I want to thank the Craft for electing me into the East."

March - "Boy, wasn't that spaghetti dinner great last month?"

May - "Wow, I can't believe the year is already half over. "

July - "We had a lot of fun at Grand Communications. Hope you have a safe summer; see you in a few months."

Sept - "I hope everyone had a great summer."

Nov - "Well, I can't believe the year is coming to an end. I want to thank everyone and their Brother for helping out."

For most newsletters, you can take the same copy year after year and just change the names of the officers. Nobody would notice.

When I lecture on newsletters, I tell the audience you should talk about the future, not the past (what's done is done, let's keep looking forward). I also tell them to keep it positive and upbeat. And by all means, include a clear and understandable Calendar of Events for people to schedule their time. I see a lot of newsletters where they pad the copy with the names of the Past Masters, which is nice once in awhile, but not every issue. Instead, how about including some Masonic Education, news, or even some humor?

However, with the advent of desktop publishing and the Internet, there have been some substantial improvements in Lodge newsletters lately. Two excellent examples of the progress that has been made in Lodge newsletters can be found at:

"Between the Pillars" - from <http://alabasterlodge.org> (*archives; apparently no longer published*)

Buck Creek Lodge No. 410 F. & A.M., Alabaster, AL, USA - Editor: Bro. Danny McHale

"Weekly Masonic Newsletter" - from <http://rurallodge.com>

Rural Lodge A.F. & A.M., Quincy, MA, USA - Editor: Bro. Graeme Marsden

Both are delivered via the Internet as standard Adobe PDF files. The editors of these virtual publications add much more than the same tired Lodge officer reports. They include news, essays, trivia, Masonic Information, and humor. By using their imagination and skills in the use of desktop publishing, the publishers have made reading Lodge newsletters meaningful again. There is more content (more meat), and much better design. Newsletters such as these are unofficial ambassadors for the Lodge and promote attendance, participation, visitation and membership. For example, I have never visited these specific Lodges, but I definitely would if I visited their area.

Best of all, such electronic publications slash production costs since no paper is involved. They are delivered by e-mail to their members and interested parties or through Internet discussion groups. This means they can deliver more information, more frequently to their constituents, at a fraction of the cost. Grand Lodges could well take a lesson from these Craft Lodge publications.

Again, because they are virtual publications, they are no longer restrained by the confines of a paper publication and can offer more content, more frequently.

But the question remains, can a simple newsletter truly impact a Craft Lodge? You betcha. First, it reflects the personality of the Lodge (tired versus stimulating; lethargic versus ambitious). Second, it gets the word out as to the plans and activities of the Lodge. I would wager you this: those Lodges without a newsletter or offer nothing more than a "bird cage liner" are probably the same Lodges that are suffering from apathy, lack of attendance, and a decline in membership.



Keep the Faith.

Work & Lectures



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Newsletter Problems

David Herman, DDGM

What's the toughest part about putting out a newsletter?

GETTING NEWS!

When I compose the list of upcoming events for the "metro area", I try to find out what events are planned for the area. By this, I mean anything in the 5th District or within about 20 miles of I-285, as well as events further out which might be of interest to metro Masons - realizing that for many of us, a 30+ mile commute is routine, and hoping we'd drive that far to visit a lodge once in a while.

I get email regularly from several brothers, listing happenings for various areas, and include much of that information, based on the event and the location.

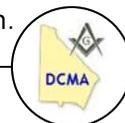
I check each of the web pages for 5th District lodges, as well as those of nearby lodges in Clayton, Cobb, Henry and Gwinnett counties. Sadly, I find many of these web pages months out of date (some even years out of date), and not very helpful for current announcements.

This month, I even telephoned the Secretary or Master of each lodge in the 5th District, as well as some other nearby lodges. About 15 went unanswered; I left messages at about 20 (only two of them returned my call); and for 15 or so lodges, I actually spoke with the Secretary (or Master). Of these few, many had never heard of this newsletter (now nearly two years old); two asked to be added to the distribution (done!), and a few even had events that I have listed on page 3. But most of the people that I actually managed to talk to had nothing that they wanted to announce.

Brethren, I'm of the opinion that there should *ALWAYS* be *something* going on. It may not be going on this week or even this month, but the brethren of your lodge, more especially the officers, should all have a good idea (*and they should all have the same idea*) of what the next "thing" is - whether it's a fish fry next week, or a Thanksgiving program six weeks from now.

For one lodge, the next "thing" might a brother giving ten minutes of Masonic Education at the meeting, or scheduled Degree Work. For another, it might be a trip to the Children's Home, or to Grand Lodge; and for yet another, it might be a workday to clean the lodge, or a joint pancake breakfast with the Eastern Star next month.

*Whatever your lodge's next goal is,
it really shouldn't be a secret.*



Lodge Night

By Bro. Nickolas Tkatschuk, Under the Lucky Star Lodge No. 7,
GL of Poland and Internet Lodge No. 9659, UGL of England

1. He slowly opened the door to his locker. He hung his police uniform on the hooks and took out his suit. It was Lodge night.

2. He watched as the last employee left his business, locked the building and made the evening bank drop. He then headed off with a whistle on his lips and a spring in his step. It was Lodge night.

3. The young man helped his wife clear the table. He then said good night to his children and snuck into his room to change his clothes. Upon leaving he smiled at his wife and kissed her. It was Lodge night.

4. It had been a hard day. Navigating through the complexities of the legal system was rewarding work. It was also tiring. Normally he would have been headed home for a relaxing evening. But tonight was not normal and he felt none of the usual fatigue as tonight was Lodge night.

5. Life had not been pleasant since his wife died. His family lived far away and with each passing year it became harder and harder to do the simple things in life. And most of all he missed his life-long partner. Tonight he felt a little less pain and life didn't seem nearly as bad. It was Lodge night.

6. The accident had been terrible. But there was some consolation that his skills as a doctor had saved a life. Still it would not be easy and there were possibilities of complications. But for a while he could place his worries in the hands of others as tonight was Lodge night.

7. It is hard looking for work when the job market is scarce. Each day he faced the nameless horde of people who continue to tell him that he was not needed. He faced rejection and the possibility of hardship at every turn. Tonight he knew he was wanted and needed, it was Lodge night.

8. He sat alone in the small room wearing clothes that were not his. He had received warm welcomes from a number of men he didn't know and a few he did. Now with an ancient relic of a bygone age they told him to wait patiently, yet he looked forward to it with anticipation. It was his first Lodge night.

From all walks of life we come. We donate our time to an age-honored tradition. We donate our money to help those who cannot help themselves. We gather in fellowship and part in peace. For a while we can lay aside our differences and worries to bask in our shared experiences. We can talk with men who are our equals, men who work to better themselves. And we serve as mentors to our newly-raised Brethren.

Tonight is Lodge night and I am glad I am a Mason.