WEBB LODGE #166 F. L.A.M. JULY 21ST, 2014 TRESTLEBOARD (#319)



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HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY FROM THE OFFICERS OF WEBB LODGE #166



Brethren: The **Regular Communication** of Webb Lodge #166 F.& A.M. will be held at 3201 Wrightsboro Road, Augusta, Georgia, on **July 21**ST, **2014.** 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. (Telephone numbers are located on the reverse side) Widows have an open invitation to join us for dinner each month and please bring a guest.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT: The Financial Trustees have approved the request of the Scholarship Committee for the funding of four \$1,000.00 scholarships to the following: Ms. Joy Miller, Ms. Hunter Williams, Ms. Lauren Hadden and Mr. Hunter Boose. These students and their families will be present at the Regular communication in July. Each will be awarded a check for \$1,000.00 each to help with their college education expenses. Scholarship Chairman, Gregory Oblak, will introduce each student and present them with their checks in the dining room following dinner.



2. PERSONAL AND MASONIC GOALS: Following are a few questions which I thought might stimulate each of you in



improve your looks.

your own personal lives as well as those of you who are going through the chairs in the lodge. Write a few down and then at the end of the year evaluate how many were accomplished: 1) What must I accomplish this year, professionally and personally, to consider myself successful? 2) What do I consider my greatest strength and how can I utilize it more often in my life? 3) Who have I admired for the success they have achieved and why? 4) What traits do I need to cultivate? 5) Who has admired my success and why? 6) What do I consider a successful partnership? 7) What

opportunity should I consider more often this year? 8) What was my greatest achievement this year and how has it changed my life. 9) What can I do to be more satisfied with how I spend my days?

- 3. THE SECRETS OF FREEMASONRY REVEALED (Bro. Stoney): Since the inception of the United Grand Lodge of England in 1717, there has been a concentrated effort on the part of individuals, the press, various religious organizations, disgruntled brothers and others to expose the secrets of the fraternity. In fact, if memory serves me, the first expose' following the formation of the UGLE was written in 1724. The amount of material written for and against Freemasonry over the past nearly 300 years is staggering. So, what has been exposed? The world outside Freemasonry thinks of our "secrets" as the catechism, grips, words, signs, and tokens of our degrees. If that is the case, a casual review of books in the public realm and the Internet will quickly dispel any notion of those elements of the Craft being secret. And for what reason do we even have grips, words, signs, and tokens if not to be able to identify a brother in both darkness and light and gain admission to a lodge? Determining a man to be a brother is occasion for joy because we have found a man who is of the same moral fiber as ourselves and someone to whom we have a mystic tie that readily encourages us to render any aid required. It also provides an immediate assessment as to his character. However, being the kind of men we are, would we not be naturally disposed to render aid in any case? I contend that the real secrets of Freemasonry are contained within the heart of each Mason as he builds his individual temple to the Grand Architect of the Universe using the tools he has been given during his Masonic journey. Each man's temple is unique to him and serves the greater purposes of Him to whom we make our vows and pledge obedience.
- **4. BLOOD DRIVE:** Webb Lodge has collected another 242 units of blood at the Blood Drive on June 26th, 2014. Thanks to Brothers Bill Ayre, P.M., Jack Bradford, and Zachary Ansley and Brittany for their dedication of time for this effort. Brethren we have saved another 726 lives. Webb Lodge has contributed in the collection of just under 1000 units for the year. Thanks also to Steve Fishman, PM and State Director of the Grand Lodge's Blood Drive Program for instituting this worthwhile program.
- 5. WHAT HAVE I LEARNED, BY ANDY ROONEY: In reading some of Andy Rooney's wisdom, I thought several of his sayings were appropriate and applied to Masonry and several others were just amusing: 1) I've learned that the best classroom in the world is at the feet of an elderly person. 2) I've learned that when you are in love, it shows. 3) I've learned that just one person saying to me, "You've made my day!" makes my day. 4) I've learned that having a child fall asleep in your arms is one of the most peaceful feelings in the world. 5) I've learned that being kind is more important than being right. 6) I've learned that I can always pray for someone when I don't have the strength to help him in some other way. 7) I've learned that life is like a roll of toilet paper. The closer it gets to the end, the faster it goes. 8) I've learned that we should be glad God doesn't give us everything we ask for. 9) I've learned that when you plan to get even with someone, you are only letting that person continue to hurt you. 10) I've learned that love, not time, heals all wounds. 11) I've learned that everyone you meet deserves to be greeted. 12) I've learned that no one is perfect until you fall in love with them. 13) I've learned that when you harbor bitterness, happiness will dock elsewhere. 14) I've learned that

opportunities are never lost; someone will take the ones you miss. 15) I've learned a smile is an inexpensive way to

6. WHEN IS A MAN A MASON? (Eric P Milks, Master Mason, George Walton Lodge #699) This article was



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inspired by a lecture given in 1923 by Joseph Fort Newton, one of my favorite Masonic writers. We have all been told Masonry is an ever-evolving part of our lives. Upon being raised a Master Mason we begin the journey which extends for the duration of our lives. So, at what point can we begin to measure our progress within the Craft. Brother Newton suggests that when one "can look out over the rivers, hills, and the far horizon with a profound sense of his own littleness in the vast scheme of things and yet have faith, hope

and courage which are the root of every virtue." Brother Newton goes on to say when we know in our hearts that every man is as noble, vile, divine, diabolic and lonely as himself: and we seek to know, forgive and love our fellow man, we are indeed walking along the path Masonry has been forging since its inception. He goes on to say when we can "look into a wayside puddle and see something beyond mud, and into the face of the most forlorn fellow mortal and see something beyond sin. When he knows how to pray, how to love, and how to hope...." At the point a Mason can keep faith with himself, with his fellow man, with his God: and at the same time have a sword in his hand for defense against evil, a song in his heart, and glad to live but not afraid to die, then he has truly learned the real secret Masonry has been trying to give to all the world.

- 7. INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE: I was given a copy of the Virginia Masonic Herald Magazine, (similar to our Masonic Messenger), a number of years ago by Bob Heishman and read an article by PGM Donald Robey concerning "The Investigating Committee." The following are excerpts from that publication:
 - 1) The Worshipful Master should choose his committee from members whom he feels are most likely to make the inquiry with promptness, certainty and impartiality. 2) The committee should be composed of a young member, and older member and a Past Master. 3) The Master should "NEVER" appoint the committee in open lodge. He should only inform the secretary. This prevents any problems in the event the committee must file an unfavorable report on the petitioner. 4) The committee is obligated to find out all that they can about the petitioner. Not just a telephone call and or a visit to his home. The committee is obligated to: a) Find the neighborhood in which he lives and speak to his neighbors. b) Talk to the people he works with. c) Visit his home and include his wife in the interview. Explain to him and his wife the time commitment that will be expected of him during his initiation and after his raising. Explain Masonry and the underlying principles. d) Determine the petitioner's motives and whether Freemasonry will blend in with his other activities, such as church, home life, and occupation. e) Through discreet questioning the committee should try to determine if the petitioner is more interested in what he will get out of Freemasonry, an increase in business, etc., than what he can offer to the fraternity. f) Ask the petitioner if he will play an active part in the lodge or will he only be an occasional participant.

The members of the investigating committee are part of the guards of the West Gate. As such, they are charged to allow only honorable men of high moral character who are good citizens and will become active members of our great fraternity. Does Webb Lodge always take the time and expend the effort to do the above type of investigation? Do the members of the committee always give 100%? In my opinion we need to improve on this. Sometimes, because of lack of time, we cut corners. If a member of the committee feels he cannot spend the time he should convey this to the Master and eliminate himself from the committee. The final decision always rests with the Lodge itself but the work of the "Investigating Committee" will enable the members of the Lodge to make a wise and just decision. SO MOTE IT BE.





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

Worshipful Master Jack P. Goldenberg

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

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