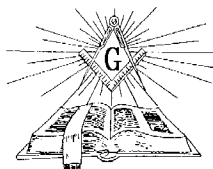


**WEBB LODGE #166 F. & A.M.
NOVEMBER 17TH, 2014 TRESTLEBOARD (#323)**



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Brethren: The Regular Communication of Webb Lodge #166 F. & A.M. will be held at the **Scottish Rite Center, 2553 Washington Road, Augusta, Georgia, on November 17th, 2014.** (Not at the Wrightsboro Road Temple) **This will be a Joint Communication** with all the Lodges in the 10th District. 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. JOINT NOVEMBER COMMUNICATION: The regular communication this month will be held at the Scottish Rite Center, 2553 Washington Road, Augusta, Ga. This will be a joint communication and a Thanksgiving Day Celebration and Dinner with all the lodges in the 10th District. Webb Lodge is hosting this 2nd annual event. Dinner (A Traditional Thanksgiving Feast) will begin at 7:00 pm with the program starting at 8:00 pm. Please make a note that it will not be held at the Masonic Temple but at the Scottish Rite Center this month.

2. THE COMMON GAVEL: (Bro. Stoney) One of the two working tools of the Entered Apprentice is the Common Gavel. For speculative Masons, the common gavel is metaphorically used to divest ourselves of vices and superfluities. Which is to say we are to chip away at our "rough edges" so that we may eventually become "living stones" for the Builder's use. On the surface, the common gavel seems to be just that, a common implement with little depth to its symbolism. However, as with most things Masonic, it is a more complex metaphor than what we see at first blush. In the third degree, we are taught the Divine creative force working in the world is betrayed and violently rejected by some men. The ruffians represent that element in society that is disruptive, selfish, and lawless. Our personalities cause us to think of the ruffians as those "other guys" in the world, the "criminal element" if you will. Unfortunately, the ruffians are also us. The catechism teaches us to divest ourselves of vices and superfluities. Let's first define the two words and then see how they affect our lives. "Vice" comes from a Latin word meaning, "a flaw or weakness. A flawed stone is not fit for the builder's use and is cast aside. Since we are all flawed as a result of our heritage of sin, should we then all be thrown out? Of course not! We are not stones whose internal flaws cannot be corrected. Ours, thanks to the Creator, can be fixed. The other word mentioned, "superfluities," also derives its meaning from a Latin base and means "overflowing", implications of waste and excess, something unnecessary. We humans are the only animals with this problem. We eat too much, exercise too little, work too hard, sleep too little, etc. All these superfluities are what Buddha was referring to when he said that despite all of our excessive behaviors, we are always dissatisfied, even miserable. It is not much of a mental stretch to realize it is the desire for those superfluities that is actually the source of our dissatisfaction. Happiness in the long run, i.e., a happy life, as distinguished from the happy moment of self-indulgence, is the goal of a Master Mason and the work starts as in Entered Apprentice. One should master this concept before entering upon the path to becoming a Fellowcraft Mason. Lastly, remember the working tool we just reviewed is the "common" gavel. It is not the gavel of a Worshipful Master. It is not a badge of authority or control over other men. Nor is it an instrument used in attacking other people even to remove their vices or to get something from them. It is a gavel we all hold in common, the tool of the mind which we all have and may use to perfect a simple life.



3. VETERANS DAY: Why does this holiday land on November 11th? The idea of honoring US soldiers in November reaches back to the first World War, though we did not call it Veteran's Day back then. American troops made significant headway in 1918, rebuffing a German offensive along the western front. By November, Germany had had enough. It agreed to a cease-fire, signing the official armistice at 5 am on November 11th. The treaty took effect 6 hours later. On the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month as the saying goes, the world knew peace once again. The "War to End All Wars" had ended. For the next 36 years, America remembered November 11th as Armistice Day. Armistice Day was to honor veterans of WWI. After WWII, President Eisenhower declared that Armistice Day would be known as Veteran's Day and would honor all Veterans of all wars. This was issued in 1954 and has been known as Veteran's Day since that date.



4. MASON OF YEAR: The lodge membership will again vote on the Mason of the Year Award during the regular communication in December for 2014. As you know, a secret ballot will be taken to determine who the lodge membership feels has contributed over and beyond for the year 2014. This individual will receive a Masonic Watch (If it is his first award, if not a monetary award will be given), his name will be placed in the office on a permanent plaque for being **"ONE OF THE FAITHFUL FEW."** Please attend and make your vote be known.



5. ANNUAL COMMUNICATION: The annual communication of Webb Lodge #166 will be held at the Masonic Temple on December 15th, 2014. If you are interested in becoming an officer, committee member, coach, ambassador, etc., please see the Worshipful Master or the Secretary prior to the communication. Please come out and let your voice be heard as to who will lead **“YOUR LODGE”** in 2015. We need your help. Corinthians 12:14-20 states “now the body is not made up of one part but of many.” The same is true for our great Fraternity. You see, we are not members of the fraternity but **WE ARE THE FRATERNITY!** Just as the body requires many different parts to function, so does Masonry. Each one of us has a role and part to play in Masonry and just because one is not an officer or on a committee does not mean he is any less a part of our fraternity. **WE NEED “YOUR” HELP.** Please attend Lodge and be **“ONE OF THE FAITHFUL FEW.”**



6. 2015 DUES: Brethren it is that time of the year again. The annual dues statements are in the process of being sent with the annuals and all 2015 Dues Cards will be included for those **“EMERITUS” and “LIFE MEMBERS”**. If you do not receive your dues statement for 2015, please forward the amount of \$50.00 to the lodge, (or \$100.00 for those of you who do not have your 2014, dues card) 3201 Wrightsboro Road, Augusta, GA. 30909 as soon as possible. All dues for 2015, are due by December 31, 2014. If you have a financial problem please notify one of your officers so that we can act accordingly. There are still several brethren who have not paid for 2014, your statement will reflect a \$100.00 balance due. Please check your current dues card and make sure you are not one of these brethren. Those brethren who have not paid for 2014, or 2015, have until June to pay their balance or they will be suspended per Webb Lodge By-Laws. So Mote It Be.



7. LAUGHTER IS THE BEST MEDICINE FOR EVERYONE: Here are a few corny turkey one liners for the holiday season which you can tell your children (or in most of our cases, our grandchildren): 1. What happened when the turkey got into a fight? He got the stuffing knocked out of him! 2. What do you call a 500-pound turkey? Sir! 3. What did the mother turkey say to her disobedient children? "If your father could see you now, he'd turn over in his gravy!" 4. Which side of the turkey has the most feathers? The outside. 5. What do you get when you cross a turkey with an octopus? Enough drumsticks for Thanksgiving! OK enough is enough!!!



Freemasonry is on the lips of many, But in the Hearts of few. He who would teach it must first Practice it, and let his good example recommend it to others. (A. Pike).

8. A WONDERFUL THANKSGIVING STORY: A blind boy sat on the steps of a building with a hat by his feet. He held up a sign which said: "I am blind, please help." There were only a few coins in the hat. A man walking by took a few coins from his pocket and dropped them into the hat. He then took the sign, turned it around, and wrote some words then put the sign back. Soon the hat began to fill up. A lot more people were giving money to the blind boy. That afternoon the man who had changed the sign came to see how things were. The boy recognized his footsteps and asked, "Were you the one who changed my sign this morning? What did you write?" The man said, "I only wrote the truth. I said what you said but in a different way." I wrote: "Today is a beautiful day but I cannot see it." Both signs told people that the boy was blind. But the first sign simply said the boy was blind. The second sign told people that they were so lucky that they were not blind. Should we be surprised that the second sign was more effective? Moral of the Story: Be thankful for what you have. Happy Thanksgiving to all!



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



Worshipful Master
Jack P. Goldenberg

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(Return Service Requested)