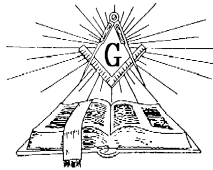


WEBB LODGE #166 F. & A.M.
DECEMBER 15TH, 2014 TRESTLEBOARD (#324)



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Brethren: The **Annual Communication** of Webb Lodge #166 F.& A.M. will be held at the Masonic Temple, 3201 Wrightsboro Road, Augusta, Georgia, on **December 15th, 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. 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. **WEBB LODGE ANNUAL COMMUNICATION:** Brethren the annual communication this year will be on **December 15th, 2014**. Please put this important date on your calendar **NOW** so that you may participate in the election of your officers for the ensuing year. We need your help in the chairs and to serve on a number of important committees.

2. **MASON OF YEAR:** The lodge membership will again vote on the Mason of the Year Award during the annual communication this month 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 check for \$150.00 and his name will be placed in the office on a permanent plaque for being **"ONE OF THE FAITHFUL FEW."** The results will appear in the monthly newsletter in January and a presentation will occur during the regular communication in January 2015. Please attend and make your vote be known.



3. **DUES:** Brethren, it is that time of the year again. The dues cards for 2015 have arrived and are available. The annual for this year has been mailed with the dues notices, or in the case of the life & emeritus members your 2015 dues cards will be attached. Some of you have not paid for 2014, so check your card and make sure you are not one of those in arrears. If you are, your dues notice will reflect the sum of \$100.00 for two years. Dues for 2015 are payable by December 31, 2014, so please remit as soon as possible. If you are having financial trouble please notify me so that appropriate action may be taken by the lodge.



4. **LAUGHTER IS THE BEST MEDICINE; BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND:** (Especially for Worshipful Brother Bob Hogan, Martinez Lodge #710) A Letter from a Mother to her Son. I am writing this slow cause I know you can't read too



fast. We don't live where we did when you left. Your dad read in the paper that most car accidents happen within twenty miles of home, so we moved. I can't send you the address as the last family who lived here took the numbers with them for their next house so they wouldn't have to change their address. This place has a washing machine! But, the first day I put four shirts in it, pulled the chain and haven't seen them since. It rained here only twice last week: three days the first time, and four days the second time. About the coat you wanted me to send you, Aunt Bev said it would be a little too heavy to send in the mail with them heavy buttons, so we cut them off and put them in the pockets. We got a bill from the funeral home, and it said that if we didn't make the last payment on Grandma's funeral, up she comes. About your sister, she had a baby this morning! I haven't found out whether it's a boy or a girl so I don't know if you are an Aunt or an Uncle. Your Uncle John fell in the Whiskey vat. Some men tried to pull him out but he fought them off and drowned. We cremated him and he burned for three days. Three of your friends went off the bridge in their pickup. One was driving and the other two were in the back. The driver got out, he rolled down the window and swam to safety. The other two drowned, they couldn't get the tailgate open. Aunt Mabel is knitting you some socks. She would have sent them by now but I told her that you had grown another foot since she last saw you, so she has to knit another one. Not much more news this time. Nothing much has happened! Love, Mom (by the way that is my beautiful 4 month old granddaughter, Lilly. Daughter of my son Todd and his wife Stacey.)

5. **FROM SANTA'S WORKSHOP:** "Daddy," she said, her eyes full of tears, Will you talk to me and quiet my fears? Those bad boys at school are spreading a lie about the impossibility of reindeer that fly. There is no Santa Claus, they say with a grin there is not one now and there never has been. Her Daddy looked at her questioning face and puffed his pipe while his frantic mind raced. He had put this off as long as he could, he had to think fast and it better be good. Whispering a prayer, he began with a smile. "Well climb on my lap, dear, let's talk awhile. Remember at church how we learned to pray, asking God to take care of us each day? And you know how we say grace before each meal? To this same God whom we know to be real. Though we never see him, we know he is there watching his children with such loving

care. God started Christmas a long time ago when he gave us his son to love and to know. A spirit of giving came with that birth, and God's generosity filled the whole earth. Man had to name this spirit of giving just as he names all things that are living. The name Santa Claus came to someone's mind probably the best name of any to find. There is, you can see, and I think quite clear, truly a Santa who visits each year. A spirit like God, whom we never see, he enters the hearts of your mother and me. Each year at Christmas for one special night we become him and make everything right. But the REAL spirit of Christmas is in you and in me and I hope you are old enough now to see that as we believe and continue to give, our friend Santa Claus will continue to live.



6. THE THREE LESSER LIGHTS: (Bro. Stoney) What do you really know about the Three Lesser Lights? We are told



they are arranged in triangular form about the Holy Altar and represent the sun, moon, and worshipful master. Over time we come to know they are always lit when the lodge is opened and extinguished when it is closed. Nowhere in our ritual are we told why we have them, how they came to be, or what their secret symbolic meaning might be beyond the fact they appeared in printed references in the 17th Century, which adds almost nothing to our understanding of their meaning. I believe they are one of the symbols in Freemasonry that a brother is supposed to translate for himself, getting as much from the lesser lights in direct proportion to the amount of labor and thought his is willing to devote to the process of examining their meaning. Different Masonic jurisdictions place the lesser lights in a variety of locations upon the lodge floor. What is common is that they are arranged in triangular form about the altar; what is different is the shape and size of the triangle. That there are three lights by definition dictates they will be either triangular or a straight line. Why not have two or four lights? Most Masons will immediately recognize the significance of the number three. We have three degrees, three steps, three ancient grand masters, etc. Three is also the numerical symbol for God. Please note the symbol three for God predates the concept of any Trinitarian doctrine. It comes from the triangle which is the first possible figure made from straight lines. The triangle has no loose ends and is without beginning or end, which concisely defines God. Sun worship was among the very first religions and predates recorded history. It was only natural that early worshipers would place a light beside their altar or holy place and name it for the sun. Ancient peoples made much of sex. Their primary impulses were self-preservation and mating followed closely by protection of children. It naturally followed that they would believe that the great shining god in the sky would also have a mate, especially when the mate was so plainly evident, i.e., the moon. With a father and mother, it naturally follows there would be a child. Ancient peoples saw the earth's nearest planet, Mercury, as that child, the one the God kept closest to him. Thus explains the origin of the three lesser lights in the earliest recorded accounts of the mysteries of Eleusis. Albert Pike asserted that Masonry "absurdly substituted" the Master of the Lodge for Mercury. Pike also said each Mason is free to interpret our symbols for themselves. The sun does give light and rules the day giving life. The moon, on the other hand, is not necessary for the night however, our ancestors, not understanding celestial matters, ascribed all manner of weird and wonderful powers to the moon, like witches, dogs baying at the moon, evil preferring the dark, etc. So the moon, like the sun, played an important role in ancient man's life and religion. That the Master of the Lodge is included as a lesser light is quite logical to most Masons. His duty is to rule and govern the lodge with regularity and dispense light to the Craft which is spelled out in his oath to "set the craft at labor under good and wholesome instruction..." Whether he dispenses light is another issue, that it is his duty, is without question. We still say the words because they are old. As the illumination of the Three Lesser Lights allows us to see, examine, understand, and live by the three Greater Lights, so light from the East, as provided by the master, gives each brother the opportunity to see, examine, understand and live by the great principles of fraternity and brotherhood.



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



**Worshipful Master
Jack P. Goldenberg**

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