



2005 No. 5 ~ MAY 2005

OFFICERS FOR 2005

Worshipful Master	Joseph W. Brooks, PM	Senior Deacon	Douglas Hrabe
Senior Warden	Marc B. Bohn, PM	Junior Deacon	Michael Paller
Junior Warden	W. H. "Beaux" Pettys	Senior Steward	Walter R. Bishop
Secretary	Thomas E. Lawrence, PM	Junior Steward	Matthew Paller
Treasurer	C. David Johnston, PM	Tyler	Donald E. Sawyer
Chaplain	A. Harold Cox, PM	Director of Work	Jeff W. Hodges, PM

LOW COUNTRY BOIL RAISES \$5000

On Saturday, April 2nd, Gate City Lodge #2, assisted by the Motor Corps Unit of the Yaarab Shrine, held the Third Annual Crawfish party. Despite terrible weather, a couple of hundred people attended and \$5,336 was raised. The funds were split evenly between the Scottish Rite and Shrine Hospitals for children, with each facility receiving \$2,668!

Some of you will remember that last year's crawfish party was for the International Women's House, a safe house for battered women. This year our cause was inspired by Ruby Cresswell, the four-year-old daughter of our newly raised brother, **Kenneth Dale Cresswell**. Ruby suffers from an ailment known as Kawasaki's Syndrome, a rare blood disorder that has affected her heart (among a long list of things). Ruby was treated at the Scottish Rite Hospital and her family, selflessly, wanted to do something to give back to all Masonic hospitals for children instead of raising funds for them personally. Because of the reputation of Bro. Cresswell and the outstanding support of the Masonic fraternity, over a dozen local business' helped make this event a success by donating their services, goods, time, and money. We Masons paid for the party itself, so every dime collected at the door went towards the hospitals. Along with 500 pounds of crawfish present there was gumbo, jambalaya, shrimp, sausage, salad, liquid refreshments, and an air-filled moonwalk for the kids. Door prizes included two bicycle beach cruisers, an Apple G-5 computer, and many gift certificates to area restaurants.

If you were one of the many that braved the cold, windy weather of that day, you saw Masons, Shriners, and the local community all working together to give back to some very worthy hospitals. A warm THANK YOU to all who helped make this success and we expect to see YOU at next year's event.

SICKNESS & DISTRESS

At the April 12 meeting the following were noted as being ill:

- Bro. **George Evoy**, an Honorary Member of gate City, suffered a fall, but is doing well;
- Ruby, Bro. **Kenny Cresswell's** four-year-old daughter, is expected to be in and out of the hospital for several months for treatment for Kawasaki syndrome.
- Bro. **Don Sawyer**, our Tyler, had been ill but is recovering and was at the April 12 meeting.

THREE RECEIVE E.A. DEGREE

Three men were initiated into Freemasonry at the April 26 meeting and we expect to pass and raise them in May and June. Plan to attend to welcome our new Brethren.

Meeting Notice

There will be a regular stated meeting of Gate City Lodge No. 2, F. & A. M., on May 10, 2005, at 7:30 p.m., in the Masonic Center.

There will be a regular stated meeting of Gate City Lodge No. 2, F. & A. M., on May 24, 2005, at 7:30 p.m., in the Masonic Center.

OFFICERS' CALENDAR

Every Tuesday evening is "Lodge night" for the officer line. When there is no meeting the time will be used for practice or other team activities.

Young Men, Fresh Ideas, New Leaders

- that's Gate City Lodge in 2005!

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The committee reports at the April 12th meeting show the breadth of fraternal work within our Lodge:

Activities – Bro. **Mike Paller** reported that we hope to have the DeMolays exemplify some of their work at one of the May meetings.

Attendance – Secretary WB **Tom Lawrence** said that has a membership list for the Committee. The Committee is developing plans to call each member to obtain e-mail addresses and to urge him to attend.

Charity – Bro. **Mike Paller** reported that the Low Country Boil, to benefit the Scottish Rite and Shrine Hospitals in the name of Ruby Cresswell, was a great success. *See article elsewhere, this issue.*

History – Bro. **Fred Williams** reported that he is preparing yearly synopses from the minutes to help the PMs make input to the up-dated History of the Lodge.

The Trestle Board – Bro. Williams said that he will be unable to attend meetings for the next several months and he will look to all members to become “reporters” so we can continue to have a lively monthly publication.

GATE CITY SCENE

Bro. **Doug Hrabe**, our estimable JD, was given a surprise birthday party by his wife Lisa on March 17, at their home. Bro. Hrabe says he was indeed surprised and was very pleased.

Our Honorary Member, Bro. **George L. Evoy** was featured in the April 2005 issue of Masonic Messenger. His picture was on the cover and there was a full-page tribute to him by our own WB **Richard Sagar**.

Historian and Editor **Fred Williams** will be working as a consultant in Project Management with Progress Energy, Lake Mary, Florida. The assignment, for an indefinite time, begins the last week in April.

Gate City men attending the Scottish Rite Reunion in April included **Tom Lawrence**, **Joe Brooks**, Jeff Hodges, **Mike Paller**, **Harold Cox**, and **David Johnston**. WB Lawrence said the next class will be in October.

Director of Work **Jeff Hodges** will hold a White Card class for officers and others interested after the second meeting in May.

MASONIC DEFINITIONS

Realizing that we often use archaic terms in Freemasonry, SW “**Beaux**” **Pettys** offers definitions from “A Dictionary of Freemasonry,” by Robert McCoy (1815-1895). They will be run as space permits.

All Seeing Eye Whom the Sun, Moon and Stars obey, and under whose watchful care even comets perform their stupendous revolutions, beholds the inmost recesses of the human heart, and will reward us according to our works.

“TRADITION”

This is opinion. It does not necessarily reflect the views of the officers of Gate City Lodge. Opinions on this or other topics will be considered for publication.

At the meeting on April 12 a motion was made to purchase golf shirts with the name of the Lodge on them; so far so good: all present seemed in favor. The motion included another provision, however, that the shirts be worn by members, including the officers, to Lodge meetings during the summer months. A lively discussion ensued, with only two present not contributing.

At the heart of the discussion was the appropriate attire for the officers of the Lodge, some feeling that tuxedos are too formal, while others felt that such attire is entirely appropriate. Among the assertion made was the old reliable, “That’s the way we’ve always done it,” which, in my opinion, that is no reason at all. In truth, it is traditional for the officers of Gate City Lodge No. 2 to wear formal attire at all meetings, and that has been the practice since the founding of the Lodge in 1887. The attire reflects the solemnity of the work done within the Lodge room, the antiquity of the rituals we follow, and the honor and prestige of being an officer of one of the premier Masonic Lodges of Georgia, the South, and even the nation. Freemasonry is steeped in tradition - as it should be, as that is its nature - and Gate City’s tradition of formal attire will not be lightly discarded - nor should it be.

I have sat in a Lodge in Oklahoma where the Worshipful Master wore boots, Levis, an open-neck shirt, and a Stetson; I often visit a Lodge in Pennsylvania where the officers wear tuxedos with tails and the Worshipful master wears a top hat. It is the quality of the brotherhood that counts, not the clothes of the brothers.

We are a Lodge of men, with each succeeding generation applying their wisdom and experience to determine what is right and appropriate for our Lodge. In time, it may well be that Gate City Lodge will relax its officer dress code. I hope that tradition will be part of that decision. That’s my opinion. - FLW.

GATE CITY OPPOSES POTENTIAL SALE OF
MASONIC CENTER

Gate City’s Masonic Center Director, WB **John Guest**, reported at the April 26 meeting that an offer had been made to purchase the Masonic Center property for \$10,000,000. There was a spirited and thorough discussion of the idea, with no one present in favor of the idea. While it is clear that long-term funding of the operation and maintenance of the facility is of some concern, selling it would create more problems than solutions. Gate City would encourage a drive to endow the costs of the facility far into the foreseeable future.

GATE CITY WEB SITE

Keep looking for <http://www.gatecity2.com>. It should be approved soon.

Don’t go hungry! Good eats about 6:30 before every meeting!