ANNUAL MEETING OF ALABAMA COLLEGE, SRICF

At the annual meeting of Alabama College, SRICF, held 16 May 2015 at the hall of Solar Lodge No. 914, two new Fratres were inducted into the First Order, receiving the I° and IV° in full form and having the II° and III° communicated. The two new Fratres are Frater Larry Fouse, IV°, and Frater Tom Nesbit, IV°.

Following the work and routine business, Frater Ken Carpenter, VII°, presented an original research paper. At the conclusion of the paper, the College was called to elections for the 2015-2016 year. The following officers were elected/appointed for the 2015-2016 College year: Celebrant, William J. Burfitt, Jr., VII°; Suffragan, Bran Skipper, VII°; Treasurer, Thomas F. Craig, VII°; Recorder, Michael E. Addams, IX°; 1° Ancient, Eric Collins, VII°; 2° Ancient, Ken Carpenter, VII°; 3° Ancient, Jim Bell, VII°; 4° Ancient, Bruce Niemeyer, IV°; Conductor of Novices, John Strickland, VII°; 1° Herald, Keith Zech, IV°; 2° Herald, Gary Lunsford, IV°; Torch Bearer, Larry Fouse, IV°; Guardian of Caverns, Tom Nesbit, IV°; and Acolyte, Jack Wade, VII°.

FROM THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness — That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.

LOVE OF COUNTRY

Breathes there the man, with soul so dead
Who never to himself hath said,
This is my own, my native land!
Whose heart hath ne’er within him burn’d,
As home his footsteps he hath turn’d,
From wandering on a foreign strand!
If such there breathe, go, mark him well;
For him no minstrel raptures swell;
High though his titles, proud his name,
The wretch, concentred all in self,
Unwept, unhonour’d, and unsung.

Sir Walter Scott

OTHER RELIGIONS

You hear or read sermons nowadays and the biggest part of it is taken up knocking or trying to prove the falseness of some other denomination. Now just suppose, for a change, they preached to you about the Lord and not about the other fellow’s church, for every man’s religion is good. Hunt out and talk about the good that is in the other fellow’s church, not the bad, and you will do away with all this religious hatred you hear so much of nowadays … If they are going to argue religion in church, instead of teaching it, no wonder you can see more people at a circus than at a church.

Will Rogers

July 2015

A Toast to the Flag
by John J. Daly - 1917

Here’s to the red of it-
There’s not a thread of it
No, nor a shred of it
In all the spread of it
From foot to head.
But heroes bled for it,
Faced steel and lead for it
Precious blood shed for it
Bathing it Red!

Here’s to the white of it-
Thrilled by the sight of it,
Who knows the right of it
But feels the might of it
Through day and night?
Womanhood’s care for it
Made manhood dare for it,
Purity’s prayer for it
Keeps it so white!

Here’s to the blue of it-
Beauteous view of it,
Heavenly hue of it,
Star-spangled dew of it
Constant and true,
Diadems gleam for it,
States stand supreme for it,
Liberty’s beam for it
Brightens the blue!

Here’s to the whole of it-
Stars, stripes and pole of it,
Body and soul of it,
O, and the roll of it,
Sun shining through;
Hearts in accord for it,
Swear by the sword for it,
Thanking the Lord for it,
Red, White and Blue!

BROTHERHOOD

The world is crying out for brotherhood today. In the international sphere we have statesmen trembling with dread lest another world-conflict should break out, transcending in terror the catastrophe of 1914, and wiping out our Western civilization from the earth. Only the spirit of brotherhood that looks upward to the heavens for its inspiration can ensure that the resources of modern science shall be a blessing rather than a curse to the sons of men. In our political, our economic, our industrial life there is the same clamant need of human brotherhood, divinely inspired, that will enable men to rise above their sectional interests and seek only the welfare of the whole.

PROVIDENCE

All of us who were engaged in the struggle must have observed frequent instances of superintending providence in our favor. To that kind providence we owe this happy opportunity of consulting in peace on the means of establishing our future national felicity. And have we now forgotten that powerful friend? Or do we imagine that we no longer need his assistance? I have lived, Sir, a long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth—that God governs in the affairs of men. And if a sparow cannot fall to the Ground without his Notice, is it probable that an Empire can rise without his Aid?

—Benjamin Franklin, To Colleagues at the Constitutional Convention