

## MUSINGS FROM THE DEEP SOUTH THE PILLAR OF STRENGTH

“Strength of purpose achieves the impossible” - **Anonymous**

As we start this new Masonic year let us look to the strength within each of us, and examine how we can control and use those strengths together to make a better lodge and us better people in that lodge. Our lodge is at a turning point. We have the possibility to raise more masons this year than we have in 20 years. This is both a very exciting and a very delicate time for our lodge. We, each one of us should look to helping the lodge grow by harnessing our strength of purpose to make ourselves and the lodge better. We will need strength of character to face the challenges this year will bring, as we try to control our budget deficits that we have been building on for the last 5 years. Our purpose will be to make our events and stated meetings break even and to develop fund raising events that we can build on in the future. We will be calling on many of you to help with this purpose, by making reservations for our stated meeting dinners and our events. This has not been the usual case for many years, but we need to be fiscally responsible and not be wasteful with the food and preparations we make. We will need many volunteers to make any fund raising event a success; these events can not be driven by only a few members. So, I ask each of you to find the strength to answer our call and help with all of the many items we will need this year, from degree work for our many new masons to volunteer help for our fund raisers to just making a reservation for an event or stated meeting dinner. Let us find the strength this year to turn around our lodge and become what I know we can be, a self sustaining and great place to be.

“Anyone can give up, it's the easiest thing in the world to do. But to hold it together when everyone else would understand if you fell apart, that's true strength.” - **Anonymous**

Let's hold in together this year and achieve true strength!!!!

### PEACE AND HARMONY

“Cultivate Peace and Harmony with all.” – **MWB George Washington**

We know from our teachings that Peace and Harmony are the Strength and Support of Masonry. Our minutes end with the words “peace and harmony reigned among the Brothers”. These are very important principles that Masons are called to live by. We as Masons must be able to put forth our own opinions in a manner that allows for peaceful discussion and work our way to achieve consensus in a harmonious way. This is a great distinction for Masons, we observe other bodies that do not live by this principle and we see that they accomplish very little. All one has to do is look to the congress or the parliament to understand that our principles far out gain any others. The founders of Masonry understood this and wanted society to be able to function and accomplish many things; but, alas this seems reserved to our own Lodges. I believe it is our charge to attempt to bring these principles to a larger audience, so that society can learn the value of this approach and begin to move forward in a better way.

“The trials on the road to world harmony are no greater than the courage of those who accept the challenge.” - **Carl Lewis**

## MUSINGS FROM THE DEEP SOUTH

Let's us each one dedicate ourselves to bringing strength and support to all, just as MWB George Washington wanted.

FRATERNALLY,

JAMES L. RITTER, P.M.