



Volume 1/ Issue 1



THE APEX

Bulletin for Peach State Commanders of the Rite



Message from the Deputy

Illustrious Sirs,

I pray that God's Love has shone upon you and your family this year. Let us not forget our duty to God and our Country. It has been my hope and prayer that each day across the Orient of Georgia, we will find nothing but good health among our families.

Our country and the world are in a State of Emergency due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) has recommended that people do not congregate in groups larger than 10- 50 people and to attempt to maintain a distance of at least six (6) feet from each other.

Although our fraternities follow the established and general parameters; we have experienced losses; these have been deep and painful. Many of our beloved brothers and ladies have transitioned to their final resting place—Congressman, S.G.I.G. John Robert Lewis, 33° and PGSLLR Tyree Walters were two of our giants – when I look back, I recognize their memberships and their participation were more than a small measure to OUR fraternity.

Due to the State of Emergency and recommendation, all Scottish Rite functions within the Southern Jurisdiction have been suspended until further notice, by Sovereign Grand Commander Deary Vaughn, 33°. I will inform you when the suspension is lifted by and only by the S.G.C. Vaughn. It is the desire of our Sovereign Grand Commander and mine that you follow all public safety guidelines and pray for a rapid resolution to dealing with this virus, and also, remember to check on the wellbeing of our elderly members.

To the President, Officers, and members of the Commanders of the Rites, it gives me great pleasure to be part of your first issue. It has been a long concern knowing the lack of a centralized medium within our Scottish Rite family to reach all our Consistories and members, as one. We must be united and work together at every level if we are to remain healthy. It is essential for our Unity.

I congratulate the newly elected President, G.I.G. C. E. Alexander, 33°, and all the elected officers. Also, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to the Editor in Chief G.I.G. Michael Chappell, 33° and the IT Director S.P. Christian Brown, 32°.

May God continue to bless each of you and your families.

Primus T. James, 33°, Active

Deputy for the Orient

Deputy of the Orient

SGIG Primus T. James 33 Active

Officers

President

III C.E. Alexander

Vice-President

III Victor Lee

Secretary

III Donald Taylor

Treasurer

III Matthew Lewis

Chaplin

III Rev. Henry Davis Sr.

Sergeant at Arms

III Matthew Bonham

From The Desk of the President



Greetings Illustrious Sirs,

First of all, acknowledging my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who is the Head of my life and Georgia PSCOR, and through Him The APEX will be a successful publication.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for bestowing this Honor to preside over and lead Georgia PSCOR. Truly my tenure will be spent serving you, the membership, building upon previous platforms, and creating new platforms and business practices which will take us into the future.

And now, welcome to the long awaited inaugural edition of The APEX, The GIGs news' bulletin for Georgia PSCOR. The APEX will allow GIGs to connect, share and applaud the great services performed and demonstrated across and throughout the communities making up this great Orient of Georgia. And also, The APEX will inform and educate our minds, our well-being and welfare of our membership.

COVID-19 has unbelievably changed and rearranged all of our daily lives, habits and day to day practices; therefore, we must change in accordance with the new ways of doing things. Georgia PSCOR is in the process of building and strengthening its business practices and infrastructures.

As The APEX begin its journey within our business practice, I pray and ask that you support and foster its success with your sharing and submissions.

I also pray and ask ALL GIGs to support "THE MEDALLION" program. Through these financial means, Georgia PSCOR will be able to continue to provide the financial support to the charities and scholarships which come before us.

In closing, "To the world you might be one person, but to one person, you just might be the world."

"May the Lord bless you and keep you,

May the Lord make His face shine upon you, and give you peace.....Forever."

Continue to stay safe

One Vision One Focus.....VOTE

C.E. Alexander, 33rd

President

Georgia PSCOR

Medical Alert



COVID-19 and Our Fraternity

If not for the fact that change occurs and our ability to adapt determines the manner and method where we stand. Our ability to cope with the events of 2020 is based on the foundation and fortitude which comprise our metal and brings comfort to our consciousness or psyche. Our minds are inundated with various facts, fake news, political conjecture and falsehoods concerning the COVID-19 pandemic. How are we to make the rational decisions that do not denigrate our mental being with the information overload concerning this pandemic.

We enter into a realm of development of a vaccine which may assist in tempering the response of COVID-19. The phase 3 trials which require testing of the vaccine with human recipients and a study of the response. This effort is done to confirm relevance in a cross section of the population. The studies involved are asking for participation from a cross section of the community. African Americans as a populous have not been and are not eager to participate in unproven methods. Our population has developed a mistrust of science and medical science based on history and experience. The African American community and people of lower economic means have had their rights abused; bodies broken in the name of promoting science for the benefit of others. This history of association and participation must be understood by all in attempts to gain our trust.

Our mental well-being is taxed with the pandemic, political climate, systemic racism and just the challenge of being Fraters in the 21st century. First our Creator would place anything upon us, He hath not prepared us to endure. Second, we have the bond of our fraternity to gain strength and understanding. As it is stated "Iron sharpens Iron". Stand tall in your beliefs for we are a strong and faithful people.

Seek counsel of those we trust in times of uncertainty and concern. Fear not your lack of knowledge but be willing to ask for help and be willing to accept said help. We stand better and stronger as a unit than as an individual.

This segment is designed to be a medical information. Yet for the inaugural launch, I feel we need some words of support and understanding. We have not had the opportunity to commune with our Brothers except for some via electronic means.

This has kept us in touch and allowed some because of co-existing disease to participate and check on the other. I miss being in a room of men with concepts and ideas to meander in friendly discussion and debate. Yet, these times call for us to be cautious, much like when we first entered the Lodge. In due season we shall grip again. For now, Fraters wear your mask, wash your hands, wait six feet from the other and pray for guidance, strength and understanding for this too shall pass.

Fraternal Greetings,

Maurice B. Gilbert, MD, FASA 33°, KT

John L. Martin 367A

1st Lieutenant Commander

Happenings Around the Orient

Members of Albany COR have made the commitment to get involved in this year's presidential election not only by voting and encouraging others to vote, but by also working at the polls and assisting in transporting voters to the polls. G.I.G. Alfred Greenlee, Commander in Chief of Albany Consistory 176, who also serves as a Dougherty County Election Manager, has asked the members to volunteer their time and efforts during this election cycle, due to the absence of our senior volunteers, due to the result of COVID-19 targeting people with preexisting medical conditions. The call went out, and the Fraters responded PCIC's G.I.G. Wildmon Bryant, G.I.G. Derwin Canty and G.I.G. Michael Chappell. Looking good Albany COR!!!!!!

Food for Thought



It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair.

Charles Dickens

I thought this opening of the Tales of Two cities really hit the conditions in this our Land, The United States of America today. What we have gone through so far in 2020, but just like in the story. We hope our lands be reborn into Glory and made Illustrious.

This is your Bulletin Fraters it will only be as successful as you make it, your contribution is a must and is very welcome to improve this to greater heights. Enjoy!!!!!!!

G.I.G. Michael Chappell, Editor and Chief

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John R. Lewis

John Robert Lewis was born outside of Troy, Alabama, on February 21, 1940. Mr. Lewis had a happy childhood — though he needed to work hard to assist his sharecropper parents — he chafed against the unfairness of segregation. He was particularly disappointed when the Supreme Court ruling in 1954's *Brown v. The Board of Education* didn't affect his school life. However, hearing Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s sermons and news of the 1955-56 Montgomery bus boycott inspired him to act for the changes he wanted to see.

Mr. Lewis was arrested 40 times between 1960 - 1966. He was repeatedly beaten senseless by Southern policemen and freelance hoodlums. During the Freedom Rides in 1961, he was left unconscious in a pool of his own blood outside the Greyhound Bus Terminal in Montgomery, Ala., after he and others were attacked by hundreds of white people. He spent countless days and nights in county jails and 31 days in Mississippi's notoriously brutal Parchman Penitentiary.

On March 7, 1965, he led one of the most famous marches in American history. In the vanguard of 600 people demanding the voting rights they had been denied, Mr. Lewis marched partway across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Ala., into a waiting phalanx of state troopers in riot gear.

Mr. Lewis ran for office himself in 1981, winning a seat on the Atlanta City Council. In 1986, he was elected to the House of Representatives. He represented Georgia's 5th District, and was one of the most respected members of Congress. When he entered office, he called for healthcare reform measures to fight poverty and improvements in education. Most importantly, he oversaw multiple renewals of the Voting Rights Act. When the Supreme Court struck down part of the law in 2013's *Shelby County vs. Holder*, Mr. Lewis decried the decision as a "dagger into the heart" of voting rights.

Though the Supreme Court's decision about the Voting Rights Act was a blow to Mr. Lewis, he has been encouraged by the progress that has occurred in his lifetime. After Barack Obama won the presidency in 2008, Mr. Lewis stated that "When we were organizing voter-registration drives, going on the Freedom Rides, sitting in, coming here to Washington, DC for the first time, getting arrested, going to jail, being beaten, I never thought — I never dreamed — of the possibility that an African American would one day be elected President of the United States."

In addition to continuing his work in Congress, Mr. Lewis has reached out to a younger generation by helping to create a series of graphic novels about his work in the civil rights movement. In 2016, he won the National Book Award for the third installment in the series *March: Book Three*, which marks the first time a graphic novel has received this honor.

He accepted the award with co-writer Andrew Aydin and illustrator Nate Powell and spoke of its significance in an emotional acceptance speech. "Some of you know I grew up in rural Alabama, very poor, very few books in our home," Mr. Lewis said. "I remember in 1956, when I was 16 years old, going to the public library to get library cards, and we were told the library was for whites only and not for coloreds. And to come here and receive this honor, it's too much."



Memorial to Our Beloved

To Our Falling Fraters

You Have Transitioned to that Celestial Chamber

You Will be Missed, But Never Forgotten.....

GIG Robert Lawrence - Albany COR

GIG Wilbur Rickman - Albany COR

SGIG John Lewis - Atlanta COR

GIG James Hale Sr. - Atlanta COR

GIG Lewis H. Shields - Ezra COR

GIG Napoleon Clayburn - Lebanon COR

GIG Charles M. Scott - Lebanon COR

GIG Ferrell Turner - Lebanon COR

The APEX is a quarterly publication for the PSCOR. Months for issue are April, July, October, January. The APEX will be issued electronically through the GA COD website, PSCOR Facebook page and through your Local COR Recorder. All submissions for this newsletter must be submitted by the 1st day of each issue month. Email your submission to your zone representative.
