



Volume 1/ Issue 2



THE APEX

Bulletin for Peach State Commanders of the Rite



Message from the Deputy

Illustrious Sirs,

This is the day that the lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it. 2020 has shown us that recalibration is inevitable. 2021 is a time for us to access, reset, and adjust.

We must access what is important, set goals to improve and adjust to changes. Recalibration in 2021 means not doing things the same way, thinking outside of the box, and doing business differently. I am looking forward to another successful year in the Orient of Georgia.

Due to the rising number of COVID-19 cases especially, for the safety of our membership, we will continue to meet virtual. We do not know what lies ahead but Georgia will face it together.

Two Vaccines, one from Pfizer-Biontech and One from Moderna have been authorized for use. We should still always wear our masks while practicing and living under the new norm way of life. Please stay safe, keep praying, be careful and follow the recommendation from the CDC and your Doctors. We are still experiencing losses from COVID-19 in the Orient of Georgia.

As you know our Sovereign Grand Commander, Dr. Deary Vaughn made his transition in December 2020, may God bless his soul. Please keep the family in prayer. In the Constitution and General Regulation of the United Supreme Council, of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Prince Hall Affiliation Southern Jurisdiction. Article IX, Vacancies in the office shall be filled effective at the time of death. ILL. Corey D. Hawkins Sr. 33° has officially succeeded to the office of Sovereign Grand Commander. Ill. Sirs, please keep him and the United Supreme Council in prayer.

We have completed the year 2020, as usual we are looking at the positive and negative, but nothing is perfect, however, we must strive to improve on the brotherhood each year. I would like to thank our President ILL. C.E. Alexander, 33° and his officers for doing a phenomenal job collecting dues for the Peach State Commanders of the Rite, and for keeping me and the members informed.

In closing, I pray for continued blessing upon our organization. I pray for you, you pray for me, and we will watch God change things. Special thanks to the officers and members of this great organization.

Remember the Word (TRUST) in your life Trust does not come with a refill once it is gone, you probably will not get it back, and if you do it will never be the same and that is a fact.

Peace Be Still,

SGIG Primus T. James, 33°, Active
Deputy for the Orient

Deputy of the Orient

SGIG Primus T. James 33 Active

Officers

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III C.E. Alexander

Vice-President

III Victor Lee

Secretary

III Donald Taylor

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III Matthew Lewis

Chaplin

III Rev. Henry Davis Sr.

Sergeant at Arms

III Matthew Bonham

IG's Corner

Greetings Illustrious Sirs,

We as Illustrious Sirs and Sublime Princes must remember that we are Master Masons, regardless of what other degrees we have accomplished.

I pray that we as Brothers and Sisters stay safe, make phone calls to our Brothers, Sisters, Family and Friends to see if they are okay during these trying times.

Continue your outstanding Masonic service to your community and always remember to spread **God's Love**.

Someone Cares

So many people need us
Yet there be precious few;
To do the works of Jesus
As He would have us do.

Then let us share a rosebud
And let us share a smile;
To help the sick and needy
And make their lives worthwhile.

So many old and Lonely
Who hunger for a touch
To let them know we love them
And care so very Much!

For when we think of others
We think of Jesus too;
Who shows His love for mankind
Through all good works we do !

It doesn't take a mountain
But just the little things;
Which warm the hearts of others
To whom the Christ we bring.

Then let us not be backward
As words of Christ we share;
Through gestures of compassion
That all may know we care!

Fraternally,

SGIG Benjamin Barksdale 33°, Active

Former Presidents

III. Cory D. Shackelford Sr.

III. Derwin Canty

III. John Gilliam

III. Kirby Turner

SGIG. Larry Martin

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III. Irvin Grant

III. Charlie Hodges

III. Robert Darby

SGIG. John Robinson

SGIG. Benjamin Barksdale

From The Desk of the President



Greetings Illustrious Sirs,

And Happy New Year. Welcome to 2021. A year in light (A.L) where the good Graces of God and His Mercy have anointed us to continue His work here on Earth. And for that I say "Thank you Lord."

Thank you, Illustrious Sirs, for participating, mobilizing, engaging, educating, and even transporting Georgia Citizens of all communities across this Orient of Georgia in this most consequential and historical election of our times. Your willingness, devotion and "ONE VISION ONE FOCUS" drove the victory ticket of President - Elect, Joseph Biden and Vice President-Elect, Kamala Harris to the Peoples' House, The White House in Washington, DC and for that I say, "Thank You." And, for an unprecedented and historical turnout in Georgia's runoff election which elected Rev. Raphael Warnock and John Ossoff to the U. S. Senate. And for that again I say, "Thank you."

Now, as we are all witnessing, COVID-19 is continuing to devastate our Global Nations and the State of Georgia in Thousands of infections and even deaths. Unfortunately, we have experienced some of our membership becoming infected and even succumbing to this life changing virus.

But with much Prayer and Hope, science has ushered in a vaccine, a hopeful cure to this threatening virus. Let us continue to pray and support the science to combat this microorganism that continues to devastate mankind everywhere.

I ask that each of you to stay safe and cherish your families and friends during these times.

Finally, on November 30, 2020, The PSCOR launched the First publication of The APEX, News Bulletin. We hope that you received it and was well pleased with its read and presentation. THE BEST IS YET TO COME as we continue to grow and build upon our First Edition. We continue to ask and welcome your submissions to The Apex.

Stay tuned.....Our next Edition will feature our New Sovereign Grand Commander, The Honorable Corey Hawkins, 33° Active.

ONE VISION ONE FOCUS.... Let's grow our Membership.

"Leadership does not change who you are."

"Leadership reveals who you are."

C.E. Alexander, 33°

President

Georgia PSCOR

Medical Alert



Science versus Speculation

Our faith is tested at many levels, yet we as Scottish Rite Masons know that our actions are guided by a higher Being and place our faith in those things not seen and sometimes untested. We enter 2021 with the effects of COVID-19 having taken the lives of greater than 350,000 American lives as of this writing. A disproportionate amount of people of black and brown hue has been afflicted and succumb to the effects of this pandemic. A multiplicity of events has allowed this pandemic to spiral to this current level, lack of leadership, political, miseducation and misdirection as well as racial and economic bias. Let's just be open, we as a people have not had a positive experience with medical science. We know about smallpox in blankets, non-treatment of men with syphilis, utilizing the cells of family members for scientific advancement without permission of the family just to recall a few of the indiscretions. It is not without warrant for our population to view this pandemic with skepticism. The origin of this aspect of corona virus is in question as to why we did not isolate and control the breakout when we were first made aware in December 2019. Again, a manifestation of politics and misdirection.

Let's define vaccine, a biological preparation that provides active acquired immunity to a particular infectious disease. You are given in a vaccination a particle which allows your own immune system to make defenses which will stop or reduce the effects of the infectious disease. You CANNOT get the disease from the vaccination. You can have reactions to the items which make up the vaccine especially if you are a highly allergic person. Most just have muscle aches at the injection site, possible low-grade fever, stomach upset. Therefore these vaccines are first tried in a diverse population to determine what works and what does not. The COVID-19 vaccine was generated by advances in science and DNA engineering which in the past would have taken years to produce. These methods have allowed for a vaccine to be brought forward in a timely and effective process. No steps were skipped, no corners cut. Yes, it was approved by the FDA under Emergency Use Authorization because the testing up to December 2020 demonstrated that the benefit was better than the risk of not getting a method to control the spread of the disease.

We are hit the hardest and suffer the severest consequences of this disease. We have a disproportionate effect of hypertension, diabetes and obesity in our people. A good percentage of our population have poor dietary habits and diminished opportunity for healthy food options in our communities. There are many methods to address the problems listed yet that is not the purpose of this article. As of this writing there are two vaccines authorized within the United States for distribution, Pfizer-BioTech and Moderna. Others will follow as they complete their clinical trials. Yes, I got the vaccine on Wednesday, 30 December 2020. My hospital received the Pfizer version. I accepted the vaccine because of three things, I am an anesthesiologist, and I am potentially exposed every day of my vocation, I have a few of those pre - existing conditions and COVID-19 has affected my household. So, for me the benefit outnumbers the risk. I will not tell you what to do, I can only share my story. I believe the science and not the speculation. I expect each of my Fraters to read trustworthy sources, speak with your medical team, evaluate the information and make the appropriate decision for your household and your wellbeing. COVID-19 is real and potentially lethal. Fraters use what you know and not what you heard. The life you save maybe your own or someone in your immediate family. I am encouraging all Scottish Rite Masons to embrace the science and dispense with the speculation.

Trust the Science Reduce the Speculation

Fraternal Greetings,

Maurice B. Gilbert, MD, FASA 33°, KT

Happenings Around the Orient

On November 5, 2020 PCIC / GIG Matthew Bonham of C.L. Mathews Commanders of the Rite and Jacob Harrison Consistory #85 was elected as Executive at Large for the Columbus Chapter of the NAACP. As an Executive at Large he is a member of the Executive Committee which has general control of the affairs and programs of the chapter, subject to the authority of the chapter and the provisions of the Constitution and approved bylaws. In the case of Branches, Executive Committees shall appoint, employ and enter into employment arrangements with employees of the Unit subject only to employment procedures and qualifications approved by the National Office.

The Executive Committee renders a report, containing the reports of all standing and special committees, at the regular meetings of the chapter and whenever otherwise required.

The Executive Committee is responsible for approving the Chapter President's appointments of Chairpersons of the various Standing Committees as presented by the President.

Other duties of the Executive Committee are:

- To create special committees as needs arise.

- To fill all vacancies in Chapter offices and on the Executive Committee.

- To decide matters of Chapter policy subject to endorsement by the Chapter and in accordance with national policy.

The Standing Committees of the Branch shall be: **Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics (ACT-SO)**, Armed Services & Veteran Affairs; Communications, Press & Publicity; Community Coordination; Criminal Finance; Freedom Fund; Health; Housing; Labor & Industry; Legal Redress; Membership and Life Membership; Political Action; Prison Branch; Religious Affairs; Young Adult; Youth Works; and **Women in the NAACP (WIN)**

Illustrious Bonham also serves as the DDGM for the Columbus 4th Masonic District of the MWPHGLGA.

Lebanon Commanders of the Rite, Valley of Augusta

Helps Community during 2020

For those of us who are involved in our communities 2020 has been a challenging year. However, when the opportunity arose the members of Lebanon Commanders of the Rite made the best of those opportunities. With this being an election year, members of Lebanon Commanders of the Rite teamed with Greater Interfaith Coalition to drive voters to the polls. Also, in the months of November and December members of Lebanon Commanders of the Rite were involved in getting food to those in need. Members of Lebanon Commanders of the Rite teamed with Unity in the Community which is community initiative involving several non-profit organizations, give to families in need food and toys for Christmas. Although the pandemic of 2020 hampered many of us who are involved in our communities, Lebanon Commanders of the Rite found a way to give back. As things are slowly but surely starting to get back to a sense of normality Lebanon Commanders of the Rite will once again find many ways to give back to the community.

GIG Christopher Woodley



Food for Thought

The most common way people give up their power is by thinking they don't have any.

Alice Walker

Our country has witnessed the power that we as a people of color in this great state of Georgia by our determination in two elections to turn this state blue. So, when you hear our people say that their vote does not matter remind them of the power that was displayed during this election cycle.

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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Sovereign Grand Commander Dr. Deary Vaughn



Dr. Deary Vaughn was born on November 21, 1936 in Rocky Mount, North Carolina to Laura Robberson Hines Vaughn and Elijah Vaughn. He was the oldest sibling of three brothers and one sister. Deary graduated from Phillips high school in Brattleboro, North Carolina in 1955. This post-secondary education included community college of the Air Force, University of Nebraska, Conyers state college, and North Eastern State University. He graduated from a noncommissioned officers Air Force Academy and held an Honorary Doctorate in Humanities from liberty Baptist college.

At an early age, his parents taught him a love of his Savior and his devotion to God, shaping his personal integrity, honor and commitment to humanitarianism and excellence. He was a faithful member of the Hainerberg Chapel Wiesbaden, West Germany and later in life and until his passing was a member of the Antioch Missionary Baptist Church in Muskogee, Oklahoma where he served as chairman of the Board of Trustees, membership committee chair and vice president of the usher board.

He joined the United States Army in 1954 and immediately opted instead to serve his country and the United States Air Force in 1955. While serving the United States Armed Forces, he was assigned tours all over the United States and Europe, his final duty station was Tinker Air Force Base where he retired as a Command Master Sergeant After 33 Years of Service. Still wanting to serve he began working for the Disabled American Veterans Association as a service officer until his retirement in 1991.

From picture-perfect photographer in the Air Force, to dynamic service officer, to Masonic devotion his humble service and charity shined in all he did. He was The Master Mason and served the fraternal order as the Sovereign Grand Commander of the Southern Jurisdiction, Scottish Rite Masons, Prince Hall affiliation until his departure. He also served as Grand Master, for the jurisdiction of Oklahoma for 30 years. He served at every level of masonry and held every leadership position that the paternity offered.

The void of his loss will be felt by family, friends and loved ones.



Memorial to Our Beloved

To Our Falling Fraters

You Have Transitioned to that Celestial Chamber

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

SGIG Dr. Deary Vaughn

Sovereign Grand Commander

AASR Southern Jurisdiction

GIG Charlie Ellison Atlanta 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.
