



Alpharetta F&AM #235
194 Milton Avenue
Alpharetta, GA 30004

Worshipful Master, Wardens and Brethren of the 5th Masonic District Convention...

We respectfully submit for your consideration, our application for the distinguished award of Lodge of the Year.

Our Blue Lodge and a-pendent bodies have been experiencing growth in participation, visitation and renewed interest in the Craft. From January through July attendance at each communication has been 24 brothers on average. Brother Masons in the area on business visit our Lodge website and schedule their time accordingly to come join us in fellowship and refreshment while attend our regular communications as we pursue the work of our Lodge. We have had visitation from Brothers in Associate Lodges as far away as the Grand Lodge of India, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Illinois, and Florida. Our brothers have been visiting Lodges in the surrounding area more often than in the past. Visitation to these Lodges has been the catalyst to many plural memberships in our ranks.

Increased participation in the many facets of our Craft is equally important. Our Royal Arch Chapter #162 was recognized by the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons for 100% financial support to the Royal Arch Mason Research Assistance Fund as well as an increased participation in our Council of Royal and Select Masters #54. Members of our Lodge have expanded their horizons in seeking knowledge by joining Atlanta Commandery #9 of the Grand Commandery Knight Templar of Georgia. Our Sisters in the Eastern Star chapter 311 have seen growth in their ranks with Lodge members joining them in their pursuit of their duties in the community. Receipt of many petitions has prompted our Lodge to form our own Degree Team to provide for a consistent, memorable and educational program for the candidates.

We have had the privilege of receiving lectures from state Demolay officers on several occasions. Three members of our Lodge have participated in the Masters and Wardens workshop, nine have participated at the Masonic School of Instruction held at the Atlanta Masonic Center. Three members of our Lodge have been awarded honorary membership in the George Washington Memorial chapter of Demolay.

Increased numbers in our Craft are good but focus on the mission of our Craft is why we exist. To date, in 2007 we have received requests and have provided relief as summarized below.

- “Joey’s” Family found a special place in the heart of Lodge. The anonymity of the family was promised, as a family in need met the challenges of the misfortunes of layoffs from their jobs and major health problems.
- An employee at a place of work who was known to one of our Lodge Brothers, escaped trying times and threatening situations through the financial assistance from our Lodge.
- A past friend of one of our brothers had been contacted for prayers of support and was also assisted through a special collection to enable her to start a new life free from physical abuse.
- Traveling family members of a Brother Mason from Troy F&AM #56 in Alabama were rendered hotel lodging and supporting cash for food when their car broke down while traveling through our area.
- Fellow Masons from MB Council F&AM #13, whose lodge building was destroyed in a tornado, received contributions to rebuild and begin again.
- Contributions to the Masonic Children’s home in Macon are expected to top an all time high for our Lodge this year. Our work day at the Macon campus is scheduled in August.
- In 2008 our Lodge and the City of Alpharetta will celebrate sesquicentennial anniversary. Our Lodge celebration of such a milestone will be a major participant in the events being planned in conjunction with the City of Alpharetta.

In guiding us to the path for more light, our Lodge has received instruction from Grand Lodge MELD representatives during our February communication. Brothers Wayne Glass and David Herman provided lectures on the importance of “guarding the door” of our Craft, Masonic Etiquette and floor work, and the importance of Mentorship. We have scheduled a MELD workshop for the Masonic Mentor program and invited other Lodges in our area to attend.

For the second year in a row, Alpharetta F&AM #235 will host the 5th District Family Day Picnic by providing the manpower for setup, cooking, serving and clean up at the Picnic site. Our 2007 officer installations, as well as previous years, are open meetings so that family and friends can get a glimpse of our Craft. Our Widows night and Past Masters banquet is scheduled for later this year but will have to work hard to top the participation from our 2006 gatherings. Three 50 year courtesy presentations (two for the Grand Lodge of Florida and one from the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania) were conducted at our first July communication.

In summation, as we in the Craft review the things we have done it creates in us a sense of awareness to recognize situations to help our Brothers and Community in the future so that we do not miss new opportunities to extend the points of the compass.

Fraternally and respectfully yours,

Philip L. Spackman, WM
Alpharetta F&MA #235