



TRESTLEBOARD

PHALANX LODGE NO. 31

Volume 213, Issue 3

<http://www.phalanx31.org>

March 2010

Message From the East

Brethren,

Wow...was February ever a busy month? Each week of the month had its highlight, with a 3rd Degree, our monthly Stated Communication, a 1st Degree and then a 2nd Degree. And now March appears like it may be almost as busy, or perhaps even more. If we can fit them in, we may see a second month in a row needing the conferral of all three degrees.

Let me first say that I am very proud of the work that many of us have been witness to. Your officers, a number of Past Masters and several of our newer Master Masons have teamed together in conferring these degrees, and have approached their work with a deserving seriousness and respect. I have felt a great deal of pride, particularly when on several occasions Brethren visiting from other Lodges have chosen to make an unsolicited comment on the quality of the degree work. Each degree hopefully leaves a deep and lasting impression upon the candidates, and truly is the initial identity of Phalanx to these men. We owe it to them and to ourselves to continue this good work.

As much as these are the high points of the month, I must note one that has required further discussion and consideration. As required by the Grand Lodge, the 2010 Annual Budget was presented on February 9th. With the information available at that time and previous years as benchmarks, the initial presentation was one of a budget deficit for the year. Brethren, I have asked the Finance Committee to partner with several others to evaluate the 2010 Budget to determine if we can amend this to a balanced budget. I

will keep you updated on the progress of these deliberations.

On other fronts, know that we have signed a new lease agreement with the York Rite Masonic Center. You may recall that the Committee which had investigated a move back to the Scottish Rite Temple returned a recommendation not to do so. This coupled with the fact that our previous lease had exceeded its three year term and continued as a month to month, necessitated this new agreement.

We will now be planning a spring date to move quite a bit of Phalanx Lodge archival materials to the York Rite building. As a precursor, March 6th, 10am – 5pm, has been designated a Cleanup Day to organize and straighten up the upstairs area of the building.

Finally Brethren, please be mindful of the "Upcoming Dates" section of this Trestleboard. We have much to look forward to in the coming months.

And one more brief query:

"How many Masons does it take to change a light bulb?"

"All of them!"

I look forward to seeing you in the Lodge.

Fraternally,
Mike Hamrick
Master - Phalanx Lodge #31



Birthdays

Join us this month in wishing Happy Birthday to:

- 01 - Martin D. Ball
- 03 - Jack L. Rimmer
- 03 - Dennis A. Moody
- 08 - Matthew S. Jordan
- 09 - John S. Harder Jr.
- 09 - Robert L. Saye Sr.
- 09 - Charles A. Cutlip
- 12 - Robert C. Richardson
- 12 - Vernon M. Goode
- 17 - Christopher B. Miller
- 19 - Ed J. Davis
- 19 - Anthony W. Yankowsky
- 20 - Robert K. Braswell
- 21 - George Dizes
- 24 - Fred P. Culbreth Jr.
- 26 - Gregory S. Morrison

Deaths

WB Carlton F. Burchett

Born on March 19, 1919 in Petersburg, VA, he died Feb. 24, 2010 at the age of 90. He served in the United States Army during World War II. He was Master of Meridan Lodge #728 in 1971. In addition to being a member of Phalanx Lodge #31, he was a member of the Scottish and York Rites and Order of the Eastern Star, Mizpah Chapter #36. He is survived by his loving wife of 59 years, Lois Whitfield Burchett, two children, Alain Hunter Burchett of Asheville, NC and Millie Burchett Robinson and husband Robbie of Charlotte, NC; two grandchildren, Tristan and Allistair Burchett of Asheville, NC, and one cousin, Elizabeth Burchett of High Point, NC. Memorials may be made to the Masonic Home for Children.

Message From the West

Brethren,

I would like to thank everyone for their hard work and dedication to the Lodge in putting on all three Degrees since the first of the year. We will continue on with each degree for many months to come. Everyone has pulled and worked together and done so well in your efforts and time to make sure each degree was done with complete professionalism.

For our newest Masons, you have entered a new world, symbolically and spiritually, and it is normal to have so many questions. As you progress in Masonic knowledge your vision will broaden; you will become more vitally alive than ever before; you will become more aware of your fellow man, your family, your church and your country.

As I looked across the Lodge it was great to see so many new faces during our latest E.A. Degree.

At this point, you have probably

realized that there is a lot going on in our Lodge. You may think it is sufficient to sit back and watch the activities from the sidelines, but trust me, the time to start learning the ritual and floor work is now. Freemasonry is a participatory Fraternity of friends and Brothers, who are banded together as men and Masons for the common good.

It is important to say that you will get out of Masonry what you put into it. We look forward to you getting involved in your Lodge, visiting other Lodges together and taking part in the Degrees. You will find your rewards will be far greater than you ever imagined. I hope you will find, if you have not already, that being raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason is a life changing event. It was for me.

Fraternally,
Brad Hufeld
Senior Warden
Phalanx Lodge #31



From the Secretary's Desk

Brethren,

Well here it is March already. In business, I was always looking ahead and could feel that the year was almost over even before it had really begun. Now we have published the 3rd of our 12 Trestleboards of the year leaving only 9 more to go. And maybe you noticed that this one is a little bit bigger, has more voices and more information. For those of you that don't make it to the Stated Communications, maybe this will give you a glimpse of what you are missing.

Since the last Stated Communication, we received a Thank You letter, card and picture for our help with the Ski Trip for the children at the Masonic Home for Children. All were evidence that those children had a wonderful experience and we took part in creating the opportunity for that joy in their lives.

I've had the opportunity to talk to several Brothers on the phone, but I had the pleasure of meeting a Brother long absent from our Stated Communications last month. It was a pleasure to see Brother Bill Smith in the lodge for both a Stated and Fellow Craft Degree. I hope to see him and more of you in the future. Don't just be a name on a list, come to the lodge and enjoy the fellowship.

How long has it been since you've attended a Degree? We conferred all three in February and are scheduled to confer all three De-

grees again in March with another Fellow Craft Degree scheduled for April already. Come join us!!

At the Fellow Craft Degree in February, I sat at the end of the row of tables and was able to look down them and see most of the Brothers. Not very long ago, I didn't know any of these people. Now I call them Brothers, and I can't begin to tell you how that warms the heart!!

At the April Stated, Alan Hughes, Administrator, Masonic Home For Children will be making a presentation. His presentation will be open to visitors and guests. Come learn more about the work of this great organization.

We still have 39 brothers who have not paid their 2010 dues and 69 who have not returned their member datasheets. Please see to these important business items as soon as possible.

Fraternally,
Bill Stout
Secretary—Phalanx Lodge #31

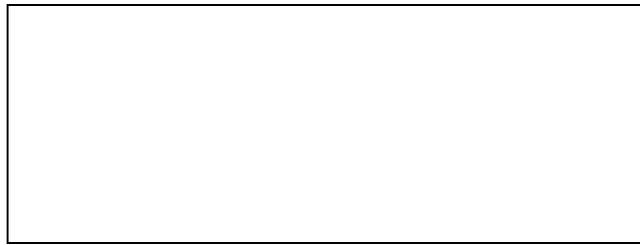
*We look forward to seeing you the **Second Tuesday** of each month for our Stated Communication held at*

*Charlotte York Rite Temple
1229 N. Sharon Amity
Charlotte, N.C. 28211*

*Dinner 6:30 PM
Lodge opens 7:30 PM*



Phalanx Lodge No. 31 A.F. & A.M.
 P.O. Box 472746
 Charlotte, N.C. 28247



Stories From the South

A man came home from work late, tired and irritated, to find his 5-year old son waiting for him at the door.

Son: 'Daddy, may I ask you a question?'

Dad: 'Yeah sure, what it is?'

Son: 'Daddy, how much do you make an hour?'

Dad: 'That's none of your business. Why do you ask such a thing?' he said angrily.

Son: 'I just want to know. Please tell me, how much do you make an hour?'

Dad: 'If you must know, I make \$20 an hour.'

Son: 'Oh,' the little boy replied, with his head down.

Son: "Daddy, may I please borrow \$5?"

The man was furious.

Dad: 'If the only reason you asked that is so you can borrow some

money to buy a silly toy or some other nonsense, then you march yourself straight to your room and go to bed. Think about why you are being so selfish. I don't work hard everyday for such childish frivolities.'

The little boy quietly went to his room and shut the door.

The man sat down and started to get even angrier about the little boy's questions. How dare he ask such questions only to get some money?

After about an hour or so, the man had calmed down, and started to think:

Maybe there was something he really needed to buy with that \$5 and he really didn't ask for money very often. The man went to the door of the little boy's room and opened the door.

Dad: 'Are you asleep, son?'

Son: 'No Daddy, I'm awake'

Dad: 'I've been thinking, maybe I was too hard on you earlier. It's been a long day and I took out my aggravation on you. Here's the \$5 you asked for.'

The little boy sat straight up, smiling.

Son: 'Oh, thank you Daddy!' he yelled.

Then, reaching under his pillow he pulled out some crumpled up bills.

The man seeing that the boy already had money, started to get angry again.

The little boy slowly counted out his money, and then looked up at his father.

Dad: 'Why do you want more money if you already have some?' he grumbled.

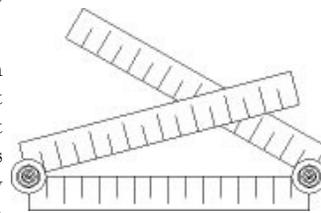
Son: 'Because I didn't have enough, but now I do, Daddy, I have \$20 now. Can I buy an hour of your time? Please come home early tomorrow. I would like to have dinner with you.'

The father was crushed. He put his arms around his little son, and he begged for his forgiveness.

It's just a short reminder to all of you working so hard in life. We should not let time slip through our fingers without having spent some time with those who really matter to us, those close to our hearts. Do remember to share that \$20 worth of your time with someone you love.

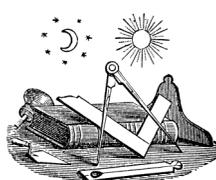
If we die tomorrow, the company that we are working for could easily replace us in a matter of hours. But the family & friends we leave behind will feel the loss for the rest of their lives.

Faternally,
 Ralph Harkey
 Junior Warden - Phalanx #31



2010 LODGE OFFICERS

Worshipful Master	Mike Hamrick	704-724-8454
Senior Warden	Brad Hufeld	704-844-8976
Junior Warden	Ralph Harkey	704-614-6715
Treasurer	Ken Caudle, PM	704-502-8640
Secretary	Bill Stout	704-996-4110
Senior Deacon	George Ginn	704-291-9445
Junior Deacon	Kai Ferell	704-995-4676
Senior Steward	James Lofton, Jr.	704-488-1020
Junior Steward	Will King	704-400-3042
Chaplain	David Morgan, PM	704-882-6179
Tyler	Ralph Lee	704-661-3220



<http://www.phalanx31.org>

<http://www.grandlodge-nc.org>

Upcoming Dates

Check the Website Calendar for the latest schedule!!

- Tue., March 9** — Stated — DDGM Jack Thrower's Official Visit
6:30pm Dinner, 7:30pm Lodge Opens
- Tue., March 16** — Entered Apprentice Degree
6:30pm Lodge Opens, Off-Site Fellowship Afterwards
- Mon., March 22** — MM Degree Practice, 6:30pm
- Tue., March 23** — Master Mason Degree
6:30pm Dinner, 7:30pm Lodge Opens
- Tue., March 30** — Fellow Craft Degree
6:30pm Lodge Opens, Off-Site Fellowship Afterwards
- Thu., April 8** — Officer's Meeting — 6:30pm
- Tue., April 13** — Stated
Alan Hughes, Administrator, Masonic Home For Children
6:30pm Dinner, 7:30pm Lodge Opens
- Tue., April 20** — Fellow Craft Degree
6:30pm Lodge Opens, Off-Site Fellowship Afterwards
- Wed., April 28** — Spring 2010 School of Instruction
Hosted by Excelsior Lodge #261
6:30pm Dinner, 7:15pm Work Begins
- Thu., April 29** — Spring 2010 School of Instruction
Hosted by James K Polk Lodge #759
6:30pm Dinner, 7:15pm Work Begins
- Sat., May 1** — 32nd District Picnic

Brother, if you've received this Trestleboard by mail, it is because we do not have a current email address for you. If you would prefer to receive this via email, and save the Lodge some expense, please email the Secretary at Secretary@Phalanx31.org.