



# TRESTLEBOARD

## PHALANX LODGE NO. 31

Volume 213, Issue 4

<http://www.phalanx31.org>

April 2010

### Message From the East

Brethren,

First I must commend the work that the participants in the degree work have accomplished. In a few short months, we've initiated 8, passed 4 and raised 5 good men. I wish to thank you for the time and energy that you have invested, not only with your participation, but also for the time spent on preparation, the memory work, and the quality of the degrees which have been presented.

I hope that you are able to attend the April 14<sup>th</sup> Stated Communication. Brother J. Allen Hughes, Administrator of the Masonic Home for Children (MHCO) will be our guest speaker, presenting a short talk on MHCO and entertaining questions. One interesting note, Brother Hughes, similar to our immediate Past Grand Master, Most Worshipful Master Dan Rice, was a resident of M H C O in his youth. Brethren, this is an excellent opportunity for us all to refocus on one of our Masonic Charities, really one of the principal charges to us as Masons in North Carolina. I also

hope that you will consider bringing your wife or girlfriend, or even a friend who you feel might one day express an interest in becoming a Mason himself. Please note that the Daughters of the Nile have agreed to provide cookies and punch to our guests following Brother Hughes' presentation while we finish our business meeting.

A word of gratitude must be extended to the committee which was appointed to evaluate the 2010 budget. There were some very difficult decisions to make, and you evaluated all line items with equal scrutiny, and I am proud to say that Phalanx now has a budget which reflects a very small deficit of just over \$200. I am comfortable with this given the fact that we decided this year to send both of our Deacons to Wilkerson College, rather than just one. I believe this to be a wisely invested \$600 in additional expense for 2010, knowing that 2011 will show a \$1,200 savings in this line compared to 2010. Even with this, please know that all expenses will be

examined with a frugal eye in hopes that we will in fact finish the year without a deficit. Through this process, the "elephant in the room" was clearly the current dues structure. We are required to set dues at a level which will cover the operating expenses of our lodge, and Brethren, we are not at that point. While seemingly a topic to be avoided at all times, we must plan a frank discussion about the level of our dues at Phalanx Lodge. I would like to at least begin this discussion at our May 11<sup>th</sup> Stated Communication. I would only ask that you approach that discussion with an open mind and an honest heart.

Finally, in our focus on the MHCO this month, please note elsewhere in this Trestleboard, the current "Needs List" of the home which has been culled from their website. In looking through this list, I know that I myself have some of these items which sit unused in my garage and attic. Please take a moment to review the list, and should you have any items, as I do,

that you are willing to donate, or if you are willing to make any purchases, please either bring these to the lodge or call me personally and I will arrange to have them picked up at your home. We have an opportunity here to meet some of the basic needs of the children and youth at the home. Please consider taking advantage of this opportunity.

And one last note: *Ideals are like stars. You will not succeed in touching them with your hands, but, like the seafaring man, you choose them as your guides, and following them, you will reach your destiny.*— Carl Schurtz.

I look forward to seeing you in the Lodge.

Fraternally,  
Mike Hamrick  
Master - 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*



## From the Secretary's Desk

Brethren,

April is upon us and so is the pollen that we have all grown to love so much each spring.

With the spring comes spring cleaning and a renewal of life. This issue of the Trestleboard has a major focus on one of our two charities—The Masonic Home for Children at Oxford. If you don't know about the Home, take some time to learn. It's important. It is part of why we are Phalanx Lodge #31.

In a future issue, we will fo-

cus on our other charity: WhiteStone—A Masonic & Eastern Star Community.

We still have almost 1 in 5 brothers who have not paid their 2010 dues. Please see to this important business item as soon as possible. If you don't have your 2010 dues card, I'm talking about you.

I look forward to seeing you in Lodge.

Fraternally,  
Bill Stout  
Secretary

## Message From the West

Brethren,

Freemasonry plays a strong and vital part in the higher planes of thought. It looks ahead and far beyond man's reach. It sees what lies farther out than any range of scientific instruments. It orients man's perspective to science as well as to his life. This we have all heard in the our obligations and degrees.

If you sit back and look with detachment at what is going on in the lodge it is basically the same thing going on in the universe, the thing that stands out is the reality of what you may call the human spirit.

It is a continuous working force in an orchestra, a football team, or in our Lodge.

Clearly, this human spirit is something very real and actually operating and existing in our everyday lives. It is here that the inner meaning of our degrees offers our initiates the bright promise of understanding the nature of man's mind, including his own.

Fraternally,  
Brad Hufeld  
Senior Warden  
Phalanx Lodge  
#31



## Birthdays

Join us this month in wishing Happy Birthday to:

03 - Alvin L. Bradley  
03 - Blair J. Carpenter  
03 - Willie C. Brumbalow  
03 - Anthony T. Pressley  
04 - Arleigh G. Deyton  
04 - Irwin Belk  
04 - Charles A. Laymon  
05 - Ernest A. Morrison Jr  
08 - Thomas M. Sellers  
10 - Boyce M. Brown  
11 - John C. Donaldson  
11 - William W. Sealey  
13 - Robert T. Dickson  
14 - Richard A. Vinroot  
14 - Kai T. Ferrell  
14 - Walter E. Dickson  
16 - Tony A. Woodward  
20 - John L. Campbell  
21 - Lewis D. Berryhill  
22 - Charles W. Whitley

Brethren,

As you all know it is the duty of the Stewards to provide for the comfort of the brothers. In an effort to increase the comfort we are able to offer, many of us participated in a very successful workday this past month!

First and foremost, thank you to the brothers that participated! During the workday, though, we discovered some needs we have and this is a request that any brothers able to assist by providing a service, donating materials or donating money to help address these needs would be greatly appreciated.

I have listed our current needs below and if you have any questions at all

## From the Stewards

about any of these, please feel free to contact me at 704-488-1020 or [SeniorSteward@Phalanx31.org](mailto:SeniorSteward@Phalanx31.org).

**Paint** for the upstairs common area, as well as the Masonic library and storage room, as well as cost of painting or donation of services to paint. Approximately \$900 if paint materials and service provided by outside contractor.

**Carpet** for upstairs common area, as well as the Masonic library and storage room, as well as cost of installation or donation of services to install. Approximately \$4,000 if materials and installation provided by outside contractor.

**Two sets of bathroom faucets** for the two upstairs bathrooms- Approximately

\$25 per set- I will donate the time to install these.

**Two 36" vanity tops with sinks** attached to replace the upstairs bathroom vanity tops- Approximately \$200 each. I will donate time to install the tops.

**Neutral colored paint**- enough to paint two bathrooms-approximately 3 gallons. Approximately \$70 for paint and materials. I will donate the time to paint the bathrooms.

Fraternally,  
Jim Lofton  
Senior Steward  
Phalanx Lodge #31

## Masonic Home for Children at Oxford

Brethren,

Brad, Kai, & myself met in Monroe at noon on Friday for our trip to Oxford. After a stop at Cook Out we were on our way. Arriving at our motel around 4:00, we settled in before heading to the children's home. At Cobb Center, we greeted the friends we had made on the last trip and made new ones.

Allen Hughes gave a presentation about the home. Chris Richardson made some comments and had two boys from the home introduce themselves—Luke (13) and DJ (12).

We then took off on our tour with our young guides. First to the printing room, a very impressive operation that can print anything from flyers, newspapers, to books. Then to Temple Cottage, operated by Kenny and Pam a set of house parents that oversee daily duties along with caring for their 3 boys.

Each cottage is set up to house 8 boys or girls. They have a living room area with all amenities, dining room and so forth. Then we headed off to see the boys rooms. All rooms are private with two sharing a bath-

room.

While standing in the hallway another brother and myself noticed a young man at the far end of the hallway peaking out the door, TJ also 12, to see who these strangers were invading his home. We introduced ourselves and found he was from Wake Forest but originally Syracuse.

Since that weekend I have sat and thought of these young children often. Thinking what had brought them to the home and how their lives were changed being there? After our visit to the home that weekend I truly

understand how much these young children and the home need the help of our Masonic brethren.

Lets all pitch in and do our part to help them out. If you have any items listed below lets all round them up and maybe some of us could take another road trip to drop them off.

Fraternally,  
George Ginn  
Senior Deacon—Phalanx #31

## Current Needs—Spring 2010

### Master Mason Cottage

- Roaster
- Yard Tools
- Couch pillows
- Kid pictures
- Kid area rugs
- Electric Skillet
- Long Handled Duster
- Bird Batch for Yard

### Alumni Cottage

- Lego's (age 7 and up)
- Wii games
- Queen size sheets
- Pillows
- Large Area Rugs
- Towels and Wash Clothes
- T.V.

### Temple Cottage

- Grill Cover
- Rocking Chairs (4)
- Boy's Comforters
- Kitchen Towels
- Picture Frames
- Wii Games
- Duffle Bags
- Axe Body Wash

### Gray Cottage:

- 4 Slice/Bagel Toaster
- Vacuum Cleaner
- Digital Camera
- Shoe Shine Kits
- Outdoor Furniture
- Beach Towels
- Gift Cards
- Vacuum Cleaner

### Eller Cottage

- Outdoor Grill
- Griddle
- Bath Mats and Matching Towels
- Outdoor Swing for Patio
- Patio Furniture
- Living Room Lamps
- Bedroom Lamps
- Comforters Girls Room (age 9-12)
- Wii Games
- PG Movies
- Vacuum
- Rake, Shovel, Hoe, and other tools for Gardening
- Blower

### Williams Cottage

- Croc Pot
- Serving Platters
- Serving Bowls
- Throw rugs for girl's rooms
- Wii Games
- Cereal Containers (3)
- Bread Container
- Kitchen Dish Rags
- Large Wok Skillet
- Large Cooking Pot
- Patio Furniture
- Outdoor Water Hose Reels

### Clothing Department:

- Beach Towels
- Flip Flops
- Pajamas
- Laundry Baskets

### Bemis Cottage:

- Blender
- Pictures to hang on walls

### Cottage 7

- Outdoor Shed
- Large Plastic Storage Containers
- Board Games (Taboo/Don't be a dork)
- Wii Games
- Wii Controllers
- Gift Cards

### Parham Cottage:

- New Living Room Furniture or professionally cleaned or recovered
- Plastic food storage containers (no extra large ones) preferable stackable
- Plants, flowers, vegetables, herbs
- Cooler (picnic)
- 3 Rods and Reels
- Tackle Box
- Hose and Nozzle
- 2 Plastic pitchers
- 2 large cereal containers

### Recreation Department:

- Beach Towels
- Flip Flops
- Sunscreen
- Pool Toys
- Goggles
- Handheld Weights

### Direct Care:

- TI - 83 calculators (10)
- TI - 84 calculators (10)
- Disposable Camera's
- Scrapbook supplies
- Board games
- Holiday/Seasonal Decorations
- 2" - 3" Binders
- Money for Educational Material for Summer Enrichment Program

### Card Supplies:

- Cardstock paper
- 12x12 Scrapbook Paper
- Double sided tape
- Brads
- Craft gift cards
- Rubber stamps

### For Our Volunteers:

- Needs in Clothing Dept
- Needs in Ceramics
- Needs in Recreation
- Needs in Card Making
- Sponsorship of Summer Trips
- Sponsorship of Individual Children for Sumer Camps
- Repair of Tennis Courts
- Preparation of a Volleyball Court
- Preparation of a Horseshoe area w/ supplies

## Stories From the South

Brethren,

Several years ago, the story is told of a Mason who always wore his Masonic ring and lapel pin when in public.

On some occasions, he rode the bus from his home to the downtown area.

On one such trip and when he sat down, he discovered the driver had accidentally given him a quarter too much change.

As he considered what to do, he thought to himself, "You'd better give the quarter back. It would be wrong to keep it."

Then he thought, "Oh, forget it, it's only a quarter; who would worry about this little amount."

Anyway, the transit company gets too much fare; they will never miss it.

Accept it as a 'gift from God' and keep quiet.

When his stop came, he paused momentarily at the door, then he handed the quarter to the driver and said, "Here, you gave me too much change."

The driver with a smile replied, " I noticed your Masonic ring and lapel pin.

I have been thinking lately about asking a Mason how to join. I just wanted to see what you

would do if I gave you too much change.

You passed the test.

Can you tell me how to become a Mason?"

When the Mason stepped off the bus, he said a silent prayer, "Oh God, Great Architect of the Universe, I almost sold you and my beloved Masons out for a mere quarter."

Our actions are the only Masonic creed some will ever see.

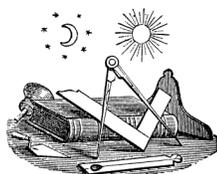
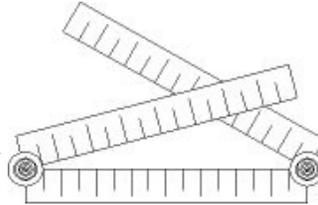
This is a really almost scary example of how people watch us as Masons and may put us to the test even without us realizing

Always be diligent, whether it be at the theater, restaurant, grocery store, service station or just driving in traffic.

Remember, whether it be a lapel pin, a ring, or an emblem on the car, you carry the name of our great fraternity, the most ancient society in the world, on your shoulders whenever you call yourself a Mason.

You never can tell who might be watching!

Fraternally,  
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!!**

- 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
- Tue., April 22** — MM practice - 6:30pm
- Tue., April 27** — Master Mason Degree  
6:30pm Dinner, 7:15pm Lodge Opens
- 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  
James K Polk Lodge Grounds
- Thu., May 6** — Officer's Meeting — 6:30pm
- Tue., May 11** — Stated  
6:30pm Dinner, 7:30pm Lodge Opens
- Tue., May 25** — Grand Master Dill's 32nd District  
Official Meeting , held at Steele Creek #737

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](mailto:Secretary@Phalanx31.org).