



# TRESTLEBOARD

## PHALANX LODGE NO. 31

Volume 213, Issue 6

<http://www.phalanx31.org>

June 2010

### Message From the East

Brethren,

As I sit to write this month's notes, I've just enjoyed a wonderful Memorial Day weekend. I know that there are a number of members of Phalanx who served in the military, and I wanted to take a moment to thank you all for your service to this great country of ours. I do so appreciate the service and the sacrifice that you made to preserve the freedoms that we enjoy.



We had a bit of a 'breather' this month without any degree work, though we do still have two Entered Apprentices I hope to see progress soon. Phalanx did have a number of members attend the May 25th Grand Master District meeting at Steele Creek Lodge. Most Worshipful Billy Dill gave a very informative talk on the state of Masonry and the Masonic Lodges in North Carolina. While he did express some concerns, overall his presentation was quite encouraging. NC Masons are truly the beneficiary of his wisdom as

well as his dedication to and passion for the fraternity.

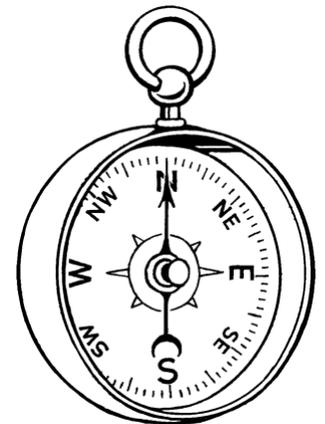
Brethren, we are in the process of evaluating the level of dues for Phalanx Lodge. We are required by code to establish dues at a level which "may be necessary to enable it to maintain itself and discharge all of its duties and obligations". I have charged the "finance committee" which earlier this year 'pared down' our budget, to bring a recommendation on the level of dues to our June Stated Communication. I will update you on their recommendation and the ensuing discussion in the next Trestle Board.

I do want to congratulate our Deacons, Brothers George Ginn and Kai Ferell, on their graduation from Wilkerson College. Wilkerson is a Lodge leadership and management program, jointly sponsored by the Scottish Rite Orient of NC and the Grand Lodge of AF&AM of NC. Your Wardens,

Brothers Brad Hufeld and Ralph Harkey and I are all graduates, and to a man, we can assure you that Phalanx will benefit greatly from this investment in the years to come.

I want to ask that you mark your calendar for Saint John's Day at the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford on Saturday, June 26. This year's celebration begins at 10:00am and will include guest speaker, Dr. Richard B. McKenzie (Professor, Author, Producer), lunch and tours of the grounds, facilities and cottages. I assure you that this day of fun and fellowship will give you a wonderfully new appreciation of the MHCO. I will be travelling to Oxford that morning, planning to leave from the York Rite Masonic Center at around 7:00am. I would welcome others to join me in this pilgrimage. Please let me know if you plan to make the trip. I would be glad to assist in arranging car pooling if necessary. The day's festivities conclude at 2:00pm, so we should be back in Charlotte by 5:00pm.

Lastly Brethren, while I plan to write more in the future regarding the following, I would propose (and ask you to consider)



that Freemasonry is more a Compass, than a Path.

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*



## Message From the West

Brethren,

It is work that makes a candidate into a member. First, it takes work by many members to prepare themselves to be able to confer the degrees with skill. It takes work by one or more members to learn the catechism and to teach it to the candidates. It takes work by the candidate to learn the catechism to gain proficiency to advance to the next degree. And, if the lodge is doing its work well, it will retain an interest in the new member after he receives the third degree and will teach him many fundamentals about the Craft, its philosophy, its heritage, and its organization and work. This is the method whereby the lodge can convert a member into a Freemason. There is a vital difference between being a member and being a Freemason. Following the formalities of receiving the degrees makes the candidate a member, but he does not become a Mason until he has learned about our heritage, has an understanding of the philosophy of Freemasonry, and has adopted the lessons of the degrees into his everyday life. It takes much additional work to bring this about, but it is a necessary part of the work of every lodge which has been neglected for too many years in too many places.

Conferring the degrees does not complete the work of Freemasonry. It is just the beginning. Unfortunately, for too many years the word "work" when used by Masons has described only the ritualistic work conducted by the lodge. And in most places lodge instruction on ritualistic matters, ritualistic schools, teaching by Grand Lecturers and other instructors have done a creditable job in this area of Masonic work.. Some have been critic of our Masonic leaders on the basis that there has been too much emphasis on perfecting the ritualistic work of the lodge with the thought that this is the only thing that matters in order for the Craft to be successful. There is no question that the ritualistic work of the lodge is of vital importance for it contains the philosophy of the Craft and is the vehicle used to teach the candidate the Lessons that are the foundation of Freemasonry. Doing good ritualistic work is important because it is the first exposure of the candidate to the Craft and the first impressions are always lasting ones. The trouble is that so much emphasis is placed on this phase of our work that everything else is neglected. Placing so much emphasis only in the form has caused us to neglect the substance contained in the degrees. It has been the easy way out for many officers who find

it easy to work by rote and to give no attention to the meaning or to the purpose of the ritualistic work.

There is a need for additional work with the candidate before he is initiated, after he has received each degree, and after he has completed all the formal steps to become a member. Some Grand Lodges have recognized this need by establishing Educational Committees which have devised programs to give each candidate additional instruction beyond the ritualistic work of the three degrees. Many of these committees have prepared booklets for the candidates which are excellent and serve a useful purpose. Placing these booklets in the hands of the candidate is fine, but what assurance do we have that the candidate will read the material and that when he reads it he will fully understand it. What we need is more time spent with the new member either personally or in group meetings to answer their questions and to inform them about the nature of the Craft and its work. These additional activities are valuable to the candidate and new member, but they are also important to the lodge, because they enable the officers to set additional members to work. A working member is always an interested member.

It is the duty both traditional and expressed of the Worshipful Master to set the Craft to Work and to give it proper instruction. In too many places for too many years this duty has been interpreted too narrowly and has been confined only to the conferring of the degrees. As a result of this attitude and interpretation there has been too much Masonic unemployment among our members. The apathy that has existed within the Craft in recent years and the continual net loss of members year after year would seem to indicate that more work is needed to make the Craft an important part in the lives of its members.

As in the business world where productivity has been declining each year for some time, we are paying the price with loss of members and apathy. When productivity is reduced in the market place, we have fewer good results from the lesser work performed. It will eventually mean fewer jobs because persons cannot afford to pay the resulting higher prices. With fewer goods purchased, social tensions increase. Reduced profits result and we have more inflation. Everyone is hurt as a lower standard of living results. There has been too much underachievement per worker in the United States for too many years. Likewise, there has been too much

## Message From the West (con't)

Masonic unemployment because we have not utilized the talents of each of our members by putting them to work on projects that will make him an interested and involved member working for the benefit of the lodge and its members. There seems to be a contagious co-relation between the causes that reduce productivity in the market place and in the Masonic organization. So it is worthy of note that if we can bring about an increase in productivity in the market place and in the Craft everyone in our country and in our Fraternity will receive valuable dividends. In the words of Brother James A. Garfield, twentieth President of the United States, "If the power to do hard work is not a talent, it is the best possible substitute for it."

***How can we improve this situation within the Craft?*** It all boils down to the fact that more work will have to be done by everyone involved, apply themselves with diligence in the performance of their duties; to be determined to do a better job than has been done in the past; and to expand the scope of their work and that of the lodge. It means that the officers should consider ways and means of improving conditions in the lodge and its work. It means that the officers must change their point of view that the word "work" is restricted to the ritualistic effort of the lodge. The officers must take a genuine interest in each resident member as these two elements will give some indication of the abilities of the members and what their indi-

vidual interests may be. Each person is different and is not interested in the same thing. We must recognize that not all of our members are interested in the rote learning of the lectures and the degree work and will not spend the time doing something in which they are not interested. When these individual interests and talents are ascertained they should be utilized by the lodge by assigning proper work to the member. It is surprising how members favorably respond to requests to work for the lodge within the areas of their interests. To be singled out to perform a task and to be recognized for the abilities that one possesses is always flattering. This will make the member a better member and the lodge also will benefit from the work done. As the skills, abili-

ties, and talents of the members are explored, it is likely that the lodge may find it necessary to adopt new beneficial programs to put these members to work.

There is much work to be done by the lodge and its member and with the increase in the amount of work done everyone will profit.



Fraternally,  
Brad Hufeld  
Senior Warden  
Phalanx Lodge #31

### Secretary's Corner

Brethren,

Well, the year is almost half over, schools will soon be out, summer once more upon us and sadly, I am beginning to sound like a broken record. We still have 31 brothers who have not paid their 2010 dues.

Of these 31 brothers, 22 have been Master Masons for over 10 years, 17 over 20 years, 13 over 30 years, 9 over 40 years, 3 over 50 years, and 1 over 60 years. That is a lot of years of Ma-

sonry to be wasted by being expelled for non-payment of dues.

I know that it is easy to forget the little things or put them off, but ***your*** dues go to keeping ***your*** lodge operating.

If you have a situation that is making it difficult for you to pay your dues, please contact me. I know what it is like to not have enough money to go around. We are reaching out to you, but you have

to do your part.

Did you know that lodge dues are currently only \$45? An addition \$17 is passed to the Grand Lodge and has already been paid by the lodge for 2010.

Don't forget the needs of the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford. The Spring 2010 needs list is enclosed and they will always accept money.

Fraternally,  
Bill Stout  
Secretary

### Birthdays

Join us this month in wishing Happy Birthday to:

- 04 – Billy E. Smith
- 04 – Neal T. Saunders
- 05 – John M. Dwelle
- 06 – Forest E. Smith
- 11 – Robert W. Golibart
- 12 – Russell W. Kruse Jr.
- 14 – Scott M. Shelton
- 15 – William T. Snow
- 15 – Larry S. Martin
- 18 – Jerry E. Cohen
- 18 – Roger A. Huse
- 20 – Christopher E. Farmer
- 21 – Paul L. Whitfield
- 23 – Michael P. Kleiber
- 30 – James G. Shore

## Stories From the South

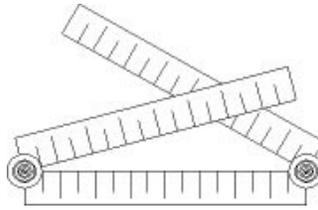
Brethren,

Have you ever wondered why some of our brothers are "Free and Accepted" while we are "Ancient, Free and Accepted" Masons?

Well, "Ancient" was the name assumed by a body of Masons who, in 1738 seceded from the regular or "legal" Grand Lodge of England. They did this because of changes the institution made on the ritual work. The "Ancients" called themselves "Ancient Free and Accepted Masons" and were the "new" lodges. They practiced the old ritual work and condemned the "moderns", as they called them, for changes made in that work. The "moderns", were called "Free and Accepted Masons" and were the "old"

lodges of England. They adopted the new style of ritual work. These differences kept the two bodies apart to the extreme that there would be both in the same community and, sometimes, side by side. They would claim the same jurisdiction and argue over who was right and who was clandestine. In 1813 the two bodies resolved their differences and joined hands, but the lodges were spread through out the world, and particularly in America. They turned out to be impossible to align. Both are recognized by the Grand Lodge of England and both have the same rights and benefits which are accorded a legal lodge

of Master Masons. Although you will find the different lodges in United States (for example, Tennessee is "Free and Accepted", etc.) their jurisdictions are limited to each state. This is why we have "Ancient Free and Accepted Masons", "Ancient Free Masons", "Free and Accepted Masons", etc.



\* \* \* \* \*

Did you know that 15 of the 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence were Freemasons or probable Freemasons?

10 Known Masons: Benjamin Franklin, John Hancock, Joseph Hewes (a

North Carolinian), William Hooper (a North Carolinian), Thomas McKean, Robert Treat Payne, Richard Stockton, George Walton, William Whipple, John Witherspoon

7 with Evidence of Membership And/or Affiliations: Elbridge Berry, Lyman Hall, Thomas Jefferson, Thomas Nelson Jr., John Penn (a North Carolinian), George Read, Roger Sherman

Fraternally,  
Ralph Harkey  
Junior Warden  
Phalanx Lodge #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



### Upcoming Dates

**Check the Website Calendar for the latest schedule!!**

<b>Thu., June 3</b> — Officer's Meeting — 6:30pm
<b>Tue., June 8</b> — Stated 6:30pm Dinner, 7:30pm Lodge Opens
<b>Thu., July 8</b> — Officer's Meeting — 6:30pm (Unless we go Dark)
<b>Tue., July 13</b> — Stated (Unless we go Dark) 6:30pm Dinner, 7:30pm Lodge Opens
<b>Thu., Aug 5</b> — Officer's Meeting — 6:30pm
<b>Tue., Aug 10</b> — Stated 6:30pm Dinner, 7:30pm Lodge Opens
<b>Thu., Sept 9</b> — Officer's Meeting — 6:30pm
<b>Tue., Sept 14</b> — Stated 6:30pm Dinner, 7:30pm Lodge Opens
<b>Thu., Oct 7</b> — Officer's Meeting — 6:30pm
<b>Tue., Oct 12</b> — Stated 6:30pm Dinner, 7:30pm Lodge Opens
<b>Thu., Nov 4</b> — Officer's Meeting — 6:30pm
<b>Tue., Nov 9</b> — Stated 6:30pm Dinner, 7:30pm Lodge Opens

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).

## Masonic Home for Children at Oxford—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

## Contribution to The Masonic Home for Children at Oxford

Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

# Phalanx #31

Gift Type – (mark one)

General Gift \_\_\_\_\_ Designated Gift \_\_\_\_\_ Sponsorship \_\_\_\_\_ Gift-In-Kind \_\_\_\_\_

Pledged Gift \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ a \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ (weeks/months/years)

Memorial/Honor Gift \_\_\_\_\_ Person to be memorialized/honored \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment Method

Cash/Check \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card \_\_\_\_\_ Type: Visa \_\_\_\_\_ MasterCard \_\_\_\_\_ No. \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Signature (required): \_\_\_\_\_

Mail Donations and this form to:

The Masonic Home for Children at Oxford  
600 College Street  
Oxford, North Carolina 27565

For More Information Contact:

The Masonic Home for Children at Oxford  
(919)693-5111/1-888-505-4357  
Visit [www.mhc-oxford.org](http://www.mhc-oxford.org)

The Masonic Home for Children at Oxford is a licensed, residential foster home and a federally recognized 501 (c)(3), (Tax ID No. 56-0603924) not-for-profit charity. All contributions are tax-deductible as prescribed by law. Pursuant to the Internal Revenue Service, donors do not receive any goods or services in return for contributions to MHCO. MHCO prescribes to all ethical and legal practices of fundraising as outlined by the Association of American Fundraising Professionals. All gifts to MHCO are kept confidential. Donor's names, but not donations, may be publicized, unless donor notifies MHCO. Financial Information available on request.