



TRESTLEBOARD

PHALANX LODGE NO. 31

Volume 213, Issue 8

<http://www.phalanx31.org>

August 2010

Message From the East

Brethren,

What a wonderful July... for most, the first July Stated Communication, certainly in recent memory and well attended, with a stellar Fellow Craft degree on the 27th. In years past, I've truly missed the fellowship and opportunity for Masonic conversation and education in the month of July.

It was great to see a wonderful crowd at that Stated, which included a number of Brothers from Excelsior Lodge. While it may be debatable whether their chief reason for attending was Masonic fellowship or taking the Traveling Gavel, they actually got both. It is rewarding to know that this Gavel continues, as originally intended, to promote visitation of other Lodges in the district.

Kudos to those who participated in the July 27th Fellow Craft Degree. Ranging from some of our newest Master Masons to our seasoned veterans, I am very proud of the quality of the work performed

by everyone that evening. It was exemplary, thanks to each of you.

Our August Stated promises to be a special one as we will be presenting Service Awards to 6 Brothers. Between them these men have a total of two centuries of Masonic affiliation. I look forward to having a good crowd in the lodge to honor these Brothers.

Brothers, we seem to have "lost" several of our members...well, not really lost them, but their mailed Trestle Boards are being returned, and we do not have and cannot find current phone numbers for them. Please look for that list elsewhere in this month's Trestle Board and let me or the Secretary know if you have current contact information on them.

With regard to the Secretary, please keep Brother Bill Stout and his family in your thoughts and prayers as he has now moved to Ohio to be closer to his father who was recently diagnosed with prostate cancer. Brother

Stout has done a remarkable job during this, his first year as Secretary, and I am thankful for his support as well as his efforts to redesign the website and his diligence to craft and distribute the monthly Trestle Board. Brother Stout has agreed to continue as Secretary through this August meeting, and I have appointed Worshipful Brother John Caudle as the Acting Secretary for the balance of this calendar year.

Please mark your calendars per the "Upcoming Dates" section found in this month's Trestle Board. Of note are the upcoming Master Mason Degree on Tuesday, August 31 with Dinner at 6:30pm and the Lodge opening at 7:15pm, and the York Rite BBQ Fundraiser on October 1.

I continue to be thankful for my association with, and marvel at the teachings of, this wonderful fraternity as I seek guidance from its moral COMPASS and strive to leave behind the PATH of a "just and upright Mason".

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

The Craft and Words

Regrettably, the word "secret" could have an evil connotation in the minds of too many people outside of Masonry. The "secret" may be simply an ambition, an idea, a hope, a desire. But even the secret is one of the quilts, the brother's trust in you must not be violated. To betray the confidence placed in you would be unforgivable. To keep his secret may cost you sleepless nights, but it must be kept. The only one who can release you from this is the brother, himself.

In actuality, you have also told your brethren that they can count on you to stretch forth your hand to keep them from falling. You may have offered

them your strength, your ability, your knowledge when they need it. There are no reservations. It matters not whether the aid they need is mental, physical, or monetary. Your promise contains no "butts."

When a brother is in danger of any kind, it is your duty to advise him of his impending peril. In doing so, you must remember that it is not by your "plumb line" that you judge him, but by his. And it is his Square and his Level, not yours, by which you are to determine his actions. His opinions may differ from yours politically or religiously, but they are his tools, not yours. When he goes astray from his principles, then

and only then, should you quietly remind him that he is in error. Then you should assist him to find the right track for him to follow. Are you listening closely my new brothers because allot of this is what Masonry is about and what it will take you some time to hopefully understand.

The concepts of Brotherly Love are to be found in the Five Points of Fellowship. By following them you will help, aid, and assist every brother who might need your support. You will defend your brother against attacks by others, verbal or physical. You will guard his good name as your own. You will do these things and much more---much more.

It is important to remember that it is Brotherly Love, the principle ingredient in Freemasonry, that unites men of every country, sect, and opinion into a great Fraternity. It is Brotherly Love, in every sense that phrase implies, that can unite the world into one circle with a common interest, peace on earth and goodwill to all men.

So my Brothers, learn these lessons well, teach them to the men around you.

Fraternally,
Brad Hufeld
Senior Warden
Phalanx Lodge #31



Secretary's Corner

Brethren,

There are several of the Brethren that have gone missing and we are asking for your help in locating them:

George G. Bacogeorge
Darren E. Brown
Cameron Curtis Caudle
Christopher E. Farmer
Anthony L. Garagiola
Matthew S. Jordan
John Herman Litschert
Theodore Stamps Little
William R. Mooney
Douglas R. Whitaker

If you have an address, phone number, or email address, please forward it to us so that we may follow

up to contact them.

We still have 30 brothers who have not yet paid their dues, You know who you are as I am including a dues notice with your Trestleboard. Please take care of this important responsibility today.

On a personal note, as stated elsewhere, I am forced by family circumstance to resign as Secretary. I have been honored and greatly enjoyed serving the Lodge. I will continue to serve in any way that I can and will continue to publish the Trestleboard and maintain the

Website. I look forward to someday returning to the Lodge on a regular basis.

My father has been diagnosed with an advanced and aggressive prostate cancer. When I was considering becoming a Mason, I sought input from him. As he wasn't a Mason, I was not expecting much in the way of a positive response. Much to my surprise, he told me that if I ever was asked to join, I should jump at the chance. He told me stories of Masons that he knew while serving in the Army and later in life. Sadly, my father did not know that

he needed to seek to become a Mason.

He taught me and my two brothers many things as we were growing up. He taught us to always do the right thing, to treat everyone fairly and with dignity. He taught us that to be a good leader you have to be a good follower.

He took care of us as we were growing up and now I have the honor of taking care of him.

Fraternally,
Bill Stout
Secretary

THE CANDIDATE

by RW Alan R. Heath, Grand Lodge of Maine

It was his dream to become a Mason,
Though he wasn't sure quite why.
So he made an application,
Then waited months for a reply.

No committee came to pay a call,
To meet him and his wife,
No invitation to Mason's hall;
Nor offer of advice.

Finally a postcard in the mail,
Said, "come Monday night at six,
And bring us twenty dollars,
If you want to see our tricks."

He made that solitary journey,
And entered by the door,
But not one hand was offered,
As he slowly crossed the floor.

They fed him beans and hot dogs,
And a piece of apple pie,
Then lead him to a little room,
With no explanation why.

The work was done with care and skill,
No one could argue that.
But, the candidate was forgotten,
As they patted themselves on the back.

He came to the lodge hall two more times,
And was raised to the third degree.
That was the last time they saw him.
What could the trouble be?

They scratched their heads and wondered,
As again they cried and moaned,
"Our time has all been wasted!"
"We should have stayed at home."

It seems to me that they've missed the
point,
But they need to understand.
It's not just how well you do the work,
It's how you treat the man.

Because you can only be a Mason,
When you're a Mason in your heart;
And along with his jacket seams,
They had burst his dream apart.

So, if you get an application,
Please, call on that man at once.
Invite him and his family,
To tour your hall and share some lunch.

Answer all his questions,
Let him share your pride.
A Mason's work, is honest work;
That's not a secret to hide.

And when it's time to present him,
With the gift of a degree,
Remember, genuine friendship is,
The true gift of masonry.

Pick him up and take him home.
Isn't he worth the trip?
No candidate should come alone.
Please, don't ignore this tip.

All should rush to greet him,
As he enters by your door.
Extend your hand in friendship,
That's what a Mason's grip is for.

Remember your obligation,
As you lead him to the gate.
It's up to you to guide him through,
Not to hurt or humiliate.

Now armed with proper instruction,
Masonry's door will open wide,
Thanks to you, his best example,
Of what a Mason should be inside

And thank him sincerely for coming.
Invite him back to his new home,
For a brother will not be a brother,
If he feels unwelcome and alone

7TH ANNUAL
CHARLOTTE YORK RITE BODIES
BBQ FUNDRAISER

Friday, Oct. 1, 2010
11:00am - 8:00pm

\$8.00

3 Sandwiches
or
BBQ Plate
Includes
BBQ, Slaw
Beans & Roll
BBQ or sweet slaw

1229 N. Sharon Amity Rd
(between Monroe Rd
& Randolph Rd)

Dine In
or
Carry Out

For Large
Orders
call early day
of event
704-365-4294

Birthdays

Join us this month in wishing Happy Birthday to:

- 03 – Albert T. St. Clair
- 03 – George A. Ginn
- 04 – David M. Wilson
- 08 – Frank M. Sellers
- 10 – Charles W. Whitmire
- 11 – Warren M. Miller
- 12 – David A. Austin
- 14 – Josie L. Smith
- 15 – James S. Corne
- 16 – William E. Graham
- 18 – Larry E. Glasson
- 24 – Jeffrey M. Britt Sr
- 28 – David J. Potts
- 30 – Claude B. Barbre
- 30 – Thomas J. Mann

Stories From the South

Brethren,

Both Phalanx Lodge #31 and North Carolina have a proud history. Here is some North Carolina Masonic trivia:

North Carolina can express pride in having been the birthplace of three American presidents who were Masons. Only Ohio exceeds that, with four Masonic presidents.



Andrew Jackson, James Knox Polk and Andrew Johnson are beautifully honored by a statue depicting them all at the entrance to the North Carolina state capitol at One Eden Street, Raleigh. (A statue of Brother Zebulon Vance was moved to make

room for it.) Look carefully, however, and you will realize there is not a word about their having been Masons.

The Three Presidents Statue was the product of sculptor Charles Keck. Harry Truman, one of America's most famous

Masonic presidents, came to Raleigh to unveil it October 19, 1948.

Who is responsible for this embarrassing omission in history? The statue committee? Our state government? Grand Lodge? More than 350 lodges? Hundreds of schools and uni-

versities? Historians?

There seems to be no sensible way to place a postscript plaque nearby. Instead, there is a plan now under consideration to name the Grand Lodge Building at 2921 Glenwood Avenue The Three Presidents Building.

It would surely show that our fraternity is officially proud that three of its own master Masons made it to The White House.

Fraternally,
Ralph Harkey
Junior Warden
Phalanx Lodge #31

2010 LODGE OFFICERS			Upcoming Dates	
Worshipful Master	Mike Hamrick	704-724-8454	<u>Check the Website Calendar for the latest schedule!!</u>	
Senior Warden	Brad Hufeld	704-844-8976	Thu., Aug 5 — Officer's Meeting — 6:30pm	
Junior Warden	Ralph Harkey	704-614-6715	Tue., Aug 10 — Stated 6:30pm Dinner, 7:30pm Lodge Opens	
Treasurer	Ken Caudle, PM	704-502-8640	Tue., Aug 31 — Master Mason Degree 6:30pm Dinner, 7:15pm Lodge Opens	
Secretary	Bill Stout	704-996-4110	Thu., Sept 9 — Officer's Meeting — 6:30pm	
Senior Deacon	George Ginn	704-291-9445	Tue., Sept 14 — Stated 6:30pm Dinner, 7:30pm Lodge Opens	
Junior Deacon	Kai Ferell	704-995-4676	Thu., Oct 1 — York Rite BBQ 11:00am—5:00pm	
Senior Steward	James Lofton, Jr.	704-488-1020	Thu., Oct 7 — Officer's Meeting — 6:30pm	
Junior Steward	Will King	704-400-3042	Tue., Oct 12 — Stated 6:30pm Dinner, 7:30pm Lodge Opens	
Chaplain	David Morgan, PM	704-882-6179	Thu., Nov 4 — Officer's Meeting — 6:30pm	
Tyler	Ralph Lee	704-661-3220	Tue., Nov 9 — Stated 6:30pm Dinner, 7:30pm Lodge Opens	
			Thu., Dec 9 — Officer's Meeting — 6:30pm	
			Tue., Dec 14 — Stated	

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.