



# TRESTLEBOARD

## PHALANX LODGE NO. 31

Volume 213, Issue 11

<http://www.phalanx31.org>

November 2010

### Message From the East

Brethren,

I believe that Phalanx wrapped up October in fine fashion with good attendance at the Fall Schools of Instruction. Following some wonderful fellowship with Brothers from throughout the 32<sup>nd</sup> District and a delicious meal, Phalanx stepped into positions and opened the Lodge and proceeded through the first section of the Master Mason Degree on the first of the two evenings. Your Brothers truly exemplified some wonderful work and those present should be commended for setting the bar pretty high that first evening.

Our Annual Communication at the November Stated was well attended. It was wonderful to see a number of brethren who have been absent from us for a while. I do wish to congratulate the 2011 Officers on their elections and appointments as follows:

- Master**  
Brad Hufeld
- Senior Warden**  
Ralph Harkey
- Junior Warden**  
Kai Ferell

- Treasurer**  
Angus Mercer
- Secretary**  
Mike Hamrick
- Senior Deacon**  
Jim Lofton
- Junior Deacon**  
Stephen Porter
- Senior Steward**  
Bill Clark
- Junior Steward**  
Ralph Lee
- Chaplain**  
WB Dave Morgan
- Tyler**  
Charles Cutlip

Brethren, I do believe that Phalanx Lodge is in good hands for the future, and I look forward to 2011.

As we approach the conclusion of 2010, I wish to include here a note of sincere thanks to the 2010 officers. Both the Lodge and I have received nothing short of the utmost support from each of you this year, and I will remain forever grateful for that. I can only trust that 2010 has provided you an opportunity for growth, learning and enlightenment as was discussed in our first Officer's meeting in January. To the brethren

who attended communications and participated this year, I thank you for your engagement in your Lodge. Brethren, it does indeed "take a village...". I am proud to note that for 2010, Phalanx Lodge will have conferred 15 degrees and raised 12 Master Masons, more than any of the preceding 30 years in this Lodge.

Please take a moment to note these upcoming dates on your calendars (depending on when you receive this Trestleboard). There is a Fellowcraft Degree scheduled for Tuesday, November 16, with a snack served at 6:30pm and the Lodge opening at 7:00pm. On Saturday, December 11, a Master Mason Degree is scheduled with breakfast at 8:00am and the Lodge opening at 9:00am. Tuesday, December 14 will be the Stated Communication and Installation of 2011 Officers. Please plan to have family and/or friends join us that evening for this inspiring ceremony.

Lastly Brethren, "I ask of each Mason, of each

member, of each brother, that he shall remember ever that there is upon him a peculiar obligation to show himself in every respect a good citizen; for after all, the way he can best do his duty by the ancient order to which he belongs is by reflecting credit upon that order by way in which he performs his duty as a citizen of the United States." - Theodore Roosevelt

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

Brothers of Phalanx Lodge,

I am deeply honored to have been selected as the Worshipful Master of our Lodge. I am sincerely grateful for this recognition from my Brothers, I plan to serve each of you and Phalanx Lodge to the best of my ability.

I believe that six qualities which got me elected to the East were gained in the days as a Stewart and through many years of coming to practices and from the guidance and influence of many great men in our Lodge. These qualities include profession-

alism and the ability to be a good manager and to help make the Lodge and its members become a strong unity of men through fellowship and friendship. I want the Lodge to be a place where Brothers are motivated to excel. I am also focused on teamwork, I hope for all the members, that this Lodge will teach others to be selfless in achieving goals that will benefit everyone, without waiting for reward.

Through the years while going through the chairs, I tried to be an intentional leader, who

concentrated on self improvement and encouraged it in others.

I plan during my year as Master, to be a good listener and always open to my Brothers and new ideas. I have several new events and ideas that I will talk about during our December Installation.

I want once more to express my gratitude to each member in the Lodge. I plan to work everyday to continue in our rich traditions and follow the success of the men that sat in the East before me. I hope to live up to the values and ex-

pectations that you would expect from the Master of your Lodge.

Thank you for putting your trust in me. I will do everything possible to make Phalanx and my Brothers continue to be a part of one of the best Lodge's in Charlotte.

Fraternally,  
Brad L. Hufeld  
Worshipful Master, Elect

## Bar-B-Q Fundraiser



Clockwise from Upper Left: Bro. Jim Lofton, WB Dave Morgan, WB John Caudle, and WB Mack Wilson were just a few of those that worked the BBQ Fundraiser!!

## Birthdays

Join us this month in wishing Happy Birthday to:

- 02 - George T. McDonald
- 02 - Roy M. York
- 07 - Juergen P. Schuetz
- 07 - Winston W. Way
- 08 - Balvantrai B. Desai
- 09 - Arnold Wilson
- 12 - Harvey S. Bailey
- 13 - Robert M. Kirkpatrick
- 13 - James B. Contreras
- 15 - Howard L.

Braverman

- 15 - Billie C. Stout
- 16 - Cameron C. Caudle
- 17 - Louis A. Bledsoe
- 17 - Adrian A. Prince
- 18 - Charles L. Spivey
- 24 - Charles C. Andrews
- 25 - Glenn R. Sigmon

## Stories From the South (continue from back)

In the bottom of the eighth inning, Shay's team scored a few runs but was still behind by three.

In the top of the ninth inning, Shay put on a glove and played in the right field. Even though no hits came his way, he was obviously ecstatic just to be in the game and on the field, grinning from ear to ear as I waved to him from the stands.

In the bottom of the ninth inning, Shay's team scored again.

Now, with two outs and the bases loaded, the potential winning run was on base and Shay was scheduled to be next at bat. At this juncture, do they let Shay bat and give away their chance to win the game?

Surprisingly, Shay was given the bat. Everyone knew that a hit was all but impossible because Shay didn't even know how to hold the bat properly, much less connect with the ball.

However, as Shay stepped up to the plate,

the pitcher, recognizing that the other team was putting winning aside for this moment in Shay's life, moved in a few steps to lob the ball in softly so Shay could at least make contact.

The first pitch came and Shay swung clumsily and missed. The pitcher again took a few steps forward to toss the ball softly towards Shay.

As the pitch came in, Shay swung at the ball and hit a slow ground ball right back to the pitcher.

The game would now be over. The pitcher picked up the soft grounder and could have easily thrown the ball to the first baseman. Shay would have been out and that would have been the end of the game. Instead, the pitcher threw the ball right over the first baseman's head, out of reach of all team mates. Everyone from the stands and both teams started yelling, 'Shay, run to first! Run to first!'

Never in his life had Shay ever run that far, but he made it to first base. He scampered down the baseline, wide-eyed and startled. Everyone yelled, 'Run to second, run to second!' Catching his breath, Shay awkwardly ran towards second, gleaming and struggling to make it to the base.

By the time Shay rounded towards second base, the right fielder had the ball. The smallest guy on their team who now had his first chance to be the hero for his team.

He could have thrown the ball to the second baseman for the tag, but he understood the pitcher's intentions so he, too, intentionally threw the ball high and far over the third baseman's head.

Shay ran toward third base deliriously as the runners ahead of him circled the bases toward home. All were screaming, 'Shay, Shay, Shay, all the Way Shay'. Shay reached third base because the opposing

shortstop ran to help him by turning him in the direction of third base, and shouted, 'Run to third! Shay, run to third!'

As Shay rounded third, the boys from both teams, and the spectators, were on their feet screaming, 'Shay, run home! Run home!' Shay ran to home, stepped on the plate, and was cheered as the hero who hit the grand slam and won the game for his team

'That day', said the father softly with tears now rolling down his face, 'the boys from both teams helped bring a piece of true love and humanity into this world'.

Shay didn't make it to another summer. He died that winter, having never forgotten being the hero and making me so happy, and coming home and seeing his Mother tearfully embrace her little hero of the day!

Fraternally,  
Ralph Harkey  
Junior Warden  
Phalanx Lodge #31

## Secretary's Corner

Brethren,

As we approach the end of the year, I am happy to report that we are down to a handful of brothers who have not yet paid their 2010 dues. And of these, we have every indication

that all intend to correct this situation prior to the December stated. I think I can speak for all of the officers when I say that not having to end the year with any brother being expelled for non-payment of dues is a

satisfying achievements. And we look forward to matching it in 2011!!

Fraternally,  
Bill Stout  
Secretary

## Lost & Found

**Found:** Copper Masonic medallion in the York Rite Parking Lot - contact Mike Hamrick.

## Stories From the South

Brethren,

We all have choices in life...that's what sets us apart from the rest of the Great Architect's creations. What we do with those choices are what sets us apart from each other.

The unofficial slogan for our great fraternity is "making good men better". Once you read the following I think, like me, you will agree that we are a work in progress.

We should never stop striving for those things that are "good, kind and charitable" and our renunciation of all that is "vicious, cruel and oppressive". As you picture the scenes of this beautifully illustrated account of making the right choice, ask yourself "What choices am I

making each day?".

### Two Choices

At a fundraising dinner for a school that serves children with learning disabilities, the father of one of the students delivered a speech that would never be forgotten by all who attended. After extolling the school and its dedicated staff, he offered a question:

"When not interfered with by outside influences, everything nature does, is done with perfection. Yet my son, Shay, cannot learn things as other children do. He cannot understand things as other children do. Where is the natural order of things in my son?"

The audience was stilled by the query. The

father continued. 'I believe that when a child like Shay, who was mentally and physically disabled comes into the world, an opportunity to realize true human nature presents itself, and it comes in the way other people treat that child.'

Then he told the following story: Shay and I had walked past a park where some boys Shay knew were playing baseball. Shay asked, 'Do you think they'll let me play?' I knew that most of the boys would not want someone like Shay on their team, but as a father I also understood that if my son were allowed to play, it would give him a much-needed sense of belonging and some confidence to be accepted by

others in spite of his handicaps.

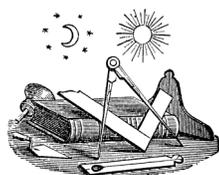
I approached one of the boys on the field and asked (not expecting much) if Shay could play. The boy looked around for guidance and said, 'We're losing by six runs and the game is in the eighth inning. I guess he can be on our team and we'll try to put him in to bat in the ninth inning.'

'Shay struggled over to the team's bench and, with a broad smile, put on a team shirt. I watched with a small tear in my eye and warmth in my heart. The boys saw my joy at my son being accepted.

*(continued on previous page)*

### 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., Nov 4</b> — Officer's Meeting — 6:30pm
<b>Thu., Nov 4</b> — FC Degree Practice — 7:00pm
<b>Tue., Nov 9</b> — Stated /Annual Communication/Election of Officers 6:30pm Dinner, 7:30pm Lodge Opens
<b>Sat., Nov 13</b> — BBQ Fundraiser 11:00am—8:00pm, York Rite Masonic Center
<b>Tue., Nov 16</b> — Fellow Craft Degree 6:30pm Dinner, 7:30pm Lodge Opens
<b>Thu., Dec 9</b> — Officer's Meeting — 6:30pm
<b>Tue., Dec 14</b> — Stated / Installation of Officers 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).