



TRESTLEBOARD

PHALANX LODGE NO. 31

Volume 213, Issue 12

<http://www.phalanx31.org>

December 2010

Message From the East

Brethren,

I want to thank those who assisted with the Bar-B-Q on November 13th. While it proved to be a long day for some of us (and a long night for Master Chef WB John Caudle), it was also an opportunity for fellowship among the brethren as well as with the folks who dropped in to enjoy a meal or to pick up food. We also saw Brother Gene Poore passed in November thanks to the fine work of Brother Brad Hufeld sitting in the East, and the Officers and members of Phalanx who participated, and look forward to his Master Mason Degree in December.

As we close 2010, I will remember this year for the dedication and effort that each of you has put forth, and the brotherly love and concern you have shown toward each other. I must also say "Thank you" with all my heart, as each of you have, this year, given every kindness and courtesy to the office of the Master and its temporary occupant. That debt can never be repaid with corn, wine, oil or gold but only with gratitude and love.

I would like to share with you some of what I have learned this year as Master of Phalanx Lodge.

I learned to, at all times, practice humility. It may seem like a contradiction in

terms when some say that the higher you go; the lower you must place yourself. I tried to be humble enough to accept criticism. I was willing to admit a mistake and, if possible, correct a wrongful action.

I learned that I cannot be angry, as anger may blur vision and impair judgment. I was firm in standing by my decisions and accepting of the consequences.

I learned that I cannot be too proud, because there are brethren who would be willing to remind me of my errors. Likewise, I learned not to try to please everyone, lest I end up satisfying no one.

I learned that I must listen to the counsel of the Past Masters. It is a waste of time and energy to commit any missteps of the past... the lessons learned from the Past Masters are valuable tools in achieving goals.

I learned to prepare myself for some domestic conflicts. Although as Masons, we are taught to properly divide our time to include quality time with our family; being the Worshipful Master is another story. I expected to attend all stated and emergent communications, as well as visit other Lodges; preside in meetings, and participate in Lodge and Dis-

trict projects and activities. Conflict between family and Masonry is inevitable. I learned to develop the determination, patience and skill in balancing my time to put both the Lodge and my home in order to the best of my ability.

I learned not to take myself too seriously, despite the solemnity and magnitude of the Master's authority. The burden that rests upon the Master's shoulders can add wrinkles to a face and white hair to a head.

I learned that I must maintain my sense of humor and take things as lightly as possible. Otherwise, twelve months could seem like an eternity.

I learned that the Master is challenged to find fulfillment during his term of office. Honor and respectability do not come with this position; rather, they are bestowed only upon those who deserve them. That is why I take my hat off to the Past Masters among us who continue to be respected among the brethren. They are living proof that Freemasonry does bring out the best from even the most ordinary men.

Lastly, I learned that inasmuch as a brother might be a proud man, it is in the East that he will be humbled. Inasmuch as he might believe himself

weak, it is in the East that he will find new strengths. It is this self discovery that proves the worth of what is experienced in the East.

As I pass on the **Gavel** and **Hat** to Brother Brad Hufeld as your 2011 Master, I do so with these thoughts on those two symbols:

The **Gavel** is an instrument best used to transform and polish a stone rather than to wield authority; and, it is the **Hat**, the elected position, that the brethren honor and not necessarily the man under the Hat.

While the Master has both power and place, the honor is earned not by thinking of self, but of his honorable duty to the brethren and the Lodge.

Brethren, it has been an honor and a privilege to serve Phalanx Lodge in every capacity that you have asked me to, and I truly look forward to continued service to this Lodge and to you all.

I look forward to seeing you in the Lodge.

Fraternally,
Mike Hamrick
Master
Phalanx Lodge #31

Message From the West

Brethren,

I want once more to express my gratitude, for those members who made it possible for me to be Master of Phalanx Lodge for the 2011 year.

I have several things planned for the Lodge throughout the year.

The first is volunteering and working throughout the year for The Special Olympics in North Carolina. I have Greg Morrill, director of the Olympics, coming to our January 11th Stated Communications. He will be speaking to us about the help he needs for the Winter and Spring Olympics here in Charlotte. We will need to show up for various events and locations to be used as scorekeepers, timers, coaches, award presentations.

One of the major jobs during the Olympics is to be a buddy for your athlete. During this day

you are paired with a child for the day as a chaperone and mentor and to make sure they are eating and getting to their events.

The next thing I have planned is with Ari Harris the Director of the Ronald McDonald House of Charlotte. They will plan a day or two to bring the members of our Lodge to the house on McDowell Rd., we will be helping them set up the rooms throughout the house, bedrooms, common areas, the kitchen and so on. We will need to get the house set up for the 28 families who will call this home for a while. Then we will go back as greeters and kitchen help to make sure we are there for the Grand Opening in March. Mrs. Harris will be coming to our February Stated to go over everything she will need for the house to be complete. The

Grand Opening will be televised and broadcast from a radio station live. This kind of community service will be beneficial to us throughout communities in Charlotte and as of right now we are the only Masonic Lodge at either of these events.

The 3rd thing I have planned in the Spring is a community blood drive. I will be working to have all the Lodges in Charlotte attend, plus brothers from the Scottish rite, York Rite and the Shrine. I have filled out the necessary paperwork so Phalanx will get the credit for the sponsorship once more putting us out into the eyes of different communities. The Community Blood Drive brings their vans and equipment to us at no charge including snacks and drinks and I am working with them to have a live radio broadcast on

the site. I am trying to get permission to have this event be held at the Scottish Rite for more exposure on Randolph Rd. The circular driveway would also be ideal for the buses and radio station to set up out front leaving spaces for 500 cars in the parking lot.

This along with an outdoor Degree with another Lodge will put us on the calendar through the Spring.

There are many other things planned around Charlotte putting Phalanx out in the public's eye and hopefully getting us some new members along the way.

I will continue to work everyday to make Phalanx and my Brothers have a great year in 2011.

Fraternally,
Brad L. Hufeld
Senior Warden
Worshipful Master, Elect

Secretary's Corner

Brethren,

It has been an honor to serve as your Secretary this year in whatever capacity I was able. I appreciate WB John Caudle stepping in to fill my station while I have not been available to attend lodge.

I continue to be amazed at the brotherly love and friendship that exists within our lodge.

Thank you to brethren who have worked to fill the Trestleboard each month. It is my hope that we have set a standard that is surpassed each year.

In an attempt to provide information more timely, I have begun with this month's edition, to publish birthday information for the next month. This month has both December and January so that

our Brethren with birthdays this month are not missed, but now we won't miss the birthdays of our brethren due to the mailing date of the Trestleboard.

2011 Dues collection is going well, one third of our brethren have paid already. Please don't overlook this in all of the Christmas and Holiday hustle. As secretary, I

can tell you that more time is spend on collecting dues than any other activity.

Finally, have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Fraternally,
Bill Stout
Secretary

Stories From the South (continue from back)

A Masonic Christmas Poem

Author unknown

'Twas nigh afore Christmas at the Freemason's Hall
(Civil Services' regular), the order was tall;
Reams from Grand Lodge, a notice of motion,
A ballot or two and a pause for devotion
To brethren departed of the year '94,
Plus a candidate who would soon walk the floor.
Our own Junior Warden, when faced with the crunch
Said, "Let's all call off and go upstairs for lunch."
The Master replied, as Masters all do,
Intoned in a voice reserved for the few,
"Before we partake of the fellowship there
Is the summons to read and a ballot to clear.
Not to mention the candidate, he's quaking with dread
At the stories of whether the goat has been fed."
The Master, exhorting the brethren to work,
A firm grip on the gavel, he turned with a jerk
To the Secretary, putting a shine to each lens,
Polished both to a lustre and reached for his pens.
"It's half past the hour," the Master then winced
At the stuff left to do and remained unconvinced
That the evening would go as smooth as he'd hoped
Since he'd gone to the trouble of feeding the goat.
"Though the ballot's behind us, the notice is gone,
Grand Lodge is finished, the work still goes on."
The Inner Guard knew as the Tyler did too
That knock, knock and knock was the right thing to do.
Sidebenchers slept soundly and were only stirred
When the crack of the candidate's knuckles was heard
The slight groan that penetrated lips that were pursed
Appeared to the Deacon as just a light curse.
Onward they travel, the guide and the man
Seeking truth and enlightenment wherever they can
The secrets were given, the grip and the token,
Obligation was offered, the words then were spoken.
Though never, not once, was one heard to gloat
As the Entered Apprentice never did meet the goat.
The evening now ended, the candidate clear
Junior Warden entreats from the South us to hear
The oath we look forward to right from the start,
"Happy to meet and sorry to part."
Christmas had come to Civil Service that night
As men came together under the light
Giving freely of time as a labor of love
As we bent to the task of the Most High above.
To Stewards, to Deacons, the Tyler, the 'Guard
The Wardens, the Master, who all work so hard,
To Past Masters steady, Sidebenchers too
To Treasurer, Chaplain, the D. of C. who
Help carry the Lodge, year in and year out
To your family extended, a warm Christmas time.
Thank the G.A.O.T.U. we've run out of rhyme!

2011 Committees

Charity

Chairman: Brad Hufeld

Members: Ralph Harkey, Kai Ferrell

Finance and Budget (3)

Chairman: Ralph Harkey

Members: Brad Hufeld, Angus Mercer

Reference (3)

Chairman: Paul Whitfield

Members: Paul Poley, Bob Braswell

The Masonic Home for Children at Oxford (3+)

Chairman: Mack Wilson

Members: Ralph Harkey, Will King, Steve Porter

Whitestone - A Masonic and Eastern Star Home (3+)

Chairman: Angus Mercer

Members: Kai Ferrell, Jim Lofton, Bill Clark

Masonic Education (5+, <15)

Chairman: Bob Braswell

Members: Ralph Harkey, Kai Ferrell, Jim Lofton,
Jeff Britt, Bill Clark, John Harder,
Mike Davis

Demolay (3+)

Chairman: Kai Ferrell

Members: Charles Cutlip, Bill Clark, Ralph Harkey

Birthdays

Join us in wishing Happy Birthday to:

December

01 - John H. Litschert II
02 - Jack B. Goode
02 - Stephen M. Taylor
03 - Michel A. Badawi
05 - John A. Davis
06 - Mark A. Rosen
07 - Richard A. Gerald III
09 - Joseph E. Magee III
11 - James G. Martin
11 - Mark E. Magyar
13 - Gary P. Kleiber
18 - Edwin R. Holt
24 - Paul W. Poley
24 - James S. Lofton
26 - Robert F. Oliver
28 - Robert B. Lacy
31 - Ralston M. Pound Jr.
31 - William E. Graham Jr.

January

07 - Marvin E. Morrison
07 - Paul D. Raynor
12 - Curtiss D. Burnett
14 - George E. McCormick
14 - Guy T. Comer
15 - William E. Webb Jr
20 - William A. Clark
23 - John H. House
24 - Marc C. Strickland
25 - Raymond E. Crawford
25 - John T. Price
25 - Jeff M. Walters
28 - Angus W. Mercer
29 - Walter L. Robinson III
29 - Graydon A. Miller III
29 - Charles E. Lilly II
31 - John H. Litschert

The Man in the Glass

By Dale Wimbrow (1895-1954)

Written in 1934

When you get what you want in your struggle for pelf,
 And the world makes you King for a day,
 Then go to the mirror and look at yourself,
 And see what that guy has to say.
 For it isn't your Father, or Mother, or Wife,
 Who judgement upon you must pass.
 The feller whose verdict counts most in your life
 Is the guy staring back from the glass.
 He's the feller to please, never mind all the rest,
 For he's with you clear up to the end,
 And you've passed your most dangerous, difficult test
 If the guy in the glass is your friend.
 You may be like Jack Horner and "chisel" a plum,
 And think you're a wonderful guy,
 But the man in the glass says you're only a bum
 If you can't look him straight in the eye.
 You can fool the whole world down the pathway of years,
 And get pats on the back as you pass,
 But your final reward will be heartaches and tears
 If you've cheated the guy in the glass.

* The word *pelf* in the first line means "wealth."

**This poem is a favorite of WB Bob Braswell

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., Dec 9 — Officer's Meeting — 6:30pm
Junior Warden	Ralph Harkey	704-614-6715	Tue., Dec 14 — Stated / Installation of Officers 6:30pm Dinner, 7:30pm Lodge Opens
Treasurer	Ken Caudle, PM	704-502-8640	Tue., Jan 11 — Stated Communication 6:30pm Dinner, 7:30pm Lodge Opens
Secretary	Bill Stout	704-996-4110	Tue., Feb 8 — Stated Communication 6:30pm Dinner, 7:30pm Lodge Opens
Senior Deacon	George Ginn	704-291-9445	Tue., Mar 8 — Stated Communication 6:30pm Dinner, 7:30pm Lodge Opens
Junior Deacon	Kai Ferell	704-995-4676	Tue., Apr 12 — Stated Communication 6:30pm Dinner, 7:30pm Lodge Opens
Senior Steward	James Lofton, Jr.	704-488-1020	Tue., May 10 — Stated Communication 6:30pm Dinner, 7:30pm Lodge Opens
Junior Steward	Will King	704-400-3042	Tue., Jun 14 — Stated Communication 6:30pm Dinner, 7:30pm Lodge Opens
Chaplain	David Morgan, PM	704-882-6179	Tue., Jul 12 — Stated Communication 6:30pm Dinner, 7:30pm Lodge Opens
Tyler	Ralph Lee	704-661-3220	Tue., Aug 9 — Stated Communication 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.