



TRESTLEBOARD

PHALANX LODGE NO. 31

Volume 214, Issue 1

<http://www.phalanx31.org>

January 2011

Message From the East

Brethren,

First I would like to thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve Phalanx Lodge as Master in 2011. I look forward to serving you and the Lodge to the best of my ability.

I want to thank the installing Officers and congratulate all of the elected and appointed 2011 Officers. With these men in place, I am confident that Phalanx will prosper and have another great year in 2011. I would like to commend W.B. Mike Hamrick for doing a great job as Master in 2010 and then carrying on as Secretary. You have shown a deep devotion to your Lodge and its members.

I would also like to thank those in attendance for the Installation and must acknowledge Brothers James

Lofton, Bill Clark and Steve Porter for the fine meal.

Brothers, we will be starting off 2011 with several events in the community, over the next four months. Our first activity we will be helping with all of the events for the Winter Special Olympics at the end of January.

In February we will be helping at the Ronald McDonald house. Phalanx will be inviting other Lodges to get the interior of the house complete, 28 bedrooms must be put together for the parents along with some common areas and the kitchen.

Then in March, we have been asked to help and host the Ronald McDonald house during its Grand Opening. I will be given these dates when they re-

ceive there Certificate of Occupancy. During the Grand Opening, we will greet families and the public in an event which will be on television and the radio.

Our third event will be on April 2nd at the Scottish Rite from 9:00am to 2:00pm where we will be doing a Blood Drive with The Community Blood Center of Charlotte. For every pint given by a Mason the Ronald McDonald house will be giving a parent one free night of lodging, this will be a win-win situation for everyone.

Our next event will be with the Spring Special Olympics which entails the opening ceremonies, events and the closing of the games. Please consider your availability for any or all of the events as you can assist.

I would like to thank Bill Stout who continues to work on and produce our Trestleboard.

Many members from other lodges have commented that our Trestleboard is the best they have ever seen and enjoy reading it.

I look forward to working with all of you with events throughout the year. We also have several guests speakers and an outdoor Degree planned for the summer. Along with all these events we will be having petitions coming in and degree work starting soon.

Brethren, I look forward to seeing you in Lodge.

Fraternally,
Brad Hufeld
Master
Phalanx Lodge #31



Front l-r: WB Bob Braswell, Ralph Harkey, WM Brad Hufeld, Kai Ferell, WB Angus Mercer, Ralph Lee.
Back l-r: Charles Cutlip, Steven Porter, James Lofton, WB David Morgan, Bill Clark, WB Mike Hamrick

"How well are we guarding the West Gate?"

This was a question asked by Most Worshipful Brother Dwight L. Smith, in his 1962 book, *"Whither are we traveling?"* Smith was, at the time, a Past Grand Master and Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Indiana. His book outlined the problems facing the Craft over four decades ago and, if one did not look at the publication date, would think he was reading a document written today.

Indeed brethren, how well are we guarding the West Gate; that gate through which all men must pass to be admitted to the Masonic fraternity? Most Worshipful Brother Smith felt that Masonry was and is a selective organization, but that we were not being very selective in signing petitions to sponsor candidates. He quotes:

"Whence came the idea that a man - almost any man - has an inherent right to become a Freemason? Is it not a privilege to be conferred upon the worthy?"

He raises a thought provoking question in this quotation. One such suggestion of why Masonry has taken on a "come one - come all" mentality is the economy. According to the Most Worshipful brother,

"A lodge pays a heavy price for a new Temple, so costly to maintain that membership must remain above a certain figure." This certainly rings true today. Some of the buildings we have today which were built over the last 20, 30 or 40 years are now in poor condition and in need of repair. One must look only to the struggles of the Scottish Rite, York Rite and Oasis Shrine Temple for a specific example of recent times. Our initiation fees and dues have not kept up with the "cost of living", as Worshipful Brother Peter Schuetz addressed in a stated communication a year or so ago. According to his research, our initiation fee alone would be in excess of \$700 today! Yet, rather than raise the dues, most lodges seemingly try to get more men to join in the hopes of having a greater influx of funds to support our brick and mortar. In the process of throwing open the door at the West Gate we allow our fraternity to become as dilapidated as our aforementioned buildings. While we want new members, we want them for the right reasons.

Another of Most Worshipful Brother Smith's thoughts was on the matter of sloppy investigative committees. He argues that, "Lodges are not utilizing their most

capable members for duty on investigating committees." Are we falling into that trap? Are we picking three members of the lodge, who happen to be there, on the night the petition is read? Are we saying "Eenie, Meenie, Mienee, Moe" and sending them off to investigate the petitioner? Sometimes these three brethren, by no fault of their own demonstrate a further lack of seriousness in the investigation process because they have little or no experience. I know I have been in that situation, personally, and was so thankful that I was paired up with a Past Master or someone of more experience. Even with the Phalanx tradition of placing a Past Master on the committee, it is often difficult to get the three members of the committee together at the same time. I submit to you, brethren, that this is one of our duties as a Mason. "It is unnecessary to recapitulate the duties which, as a Mason, you are bound to discharge or enlarge upon the necessity of a strict adherence to them; as your own experience must have established their value."

Often the investigating committee asks the petitioner few questions of any substance and is unable to answer any serious questions or concerns that the peti-

tioner may have about the fraternity. Thus, these three brethren, who are different from the two who signed the petition as a recommendation, come away knowing very little about the man, his family or lifestyle.

The Grand Lodge of North Carolina has an established system for Masonic education. This system is administered through the Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Education, of which I am proud to be a member. The curriculum outlines various meetings with the petitioner in his preparation for advancement at each level - once prior to receiving his Entered Apprentice Degree, once after receiving his Entered Apprentice Degree, once after receiving his Fellowcraft Degree and twice after receiving the sublime degree of Master Mason. The first meeting is after a successful balloting and before the petitioner receives the first degree, itself.

The reason for the first meeting is clearly outlined in the system as follows:

"At the first meeting, the committee will give the candidate such instruction as he needs to enable him to receive the first degree in the proper spirit, and will furnish him such information about the principles and teachings of Masonry as will give him a clearer understanding of the kind of society he is about to en-

Message From the West (con't)

ter.”

There are those who, for one reason or another, become Masons before they are really ready to assume the privileges and duties of membership. Many of these Masons, their good intentions notwithstanding, undergo a change of heart and their curiosity being satisfied, they progress no further. Sound familiar? How many have we raised at Phalanx in the five and a half years I have been privileged to be a part of the fraternity? This is a rhetorical question but, if you thought of an answer, go a step further and ask yourself “Where are they now?” It is hoped that the first meeting will dispel any reservations that the proposed petitioner may have, pro or con, and provide him with the widest possible experience and information on which to base his decision to apply for membership.

The Grand Lodge of North Carolina has enabled us, as individual lodges, to guard the West Gate. It is up to us, brethren, to utilize the tools at our disposal for the betterment of the Craft and the considerations of its petitioners.

After the petitioner is balloted on and has his initial meeting, the second meeting takes place after the Entered Apprentice Degree is con-

ferred. The purpose of which is also outlined in the system:

“The candidate...will meet with this committee four more times... When he is ready to accept the responsibility of membership, he can do so intelligently and with a clearer knowledge of what it is all about”.

Sadly however, there are many Masons and lodges in our own Thirty-Second District that either do not use this wonderful tool or are unaware of its existence. Regardless, the tool is at our disposal and, if faithfully applied, will aid ensuring none but worthy men become Masons. For in it are contained wonderful lectures that explain the principles of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth, which Freemasonry must continue to practice. Included are lessons, whereby a man learns of the religious and political tolerance that the craft must practice if it is to remain true to its roots.

Freemasonry is not for everyone. If so, everyone would join. There is no room in the Craft for those with no personal integrity, those who are not of good moral character and those who do not view themselves “on the level” with every man. Yet, lodges have many such men on the roles of membership, because we are not do-

ing a good enough job guarding the West Gate.

Brethren, it is my contention, or rather emulation, that we should spend less time teaching lessons on **Robert's Rules of Order** and more time guarding the West Gate. For if we are guarding properly, the other things we seem to pay attention to might just fall into place as outlined in the Lodge System of Masonic Education.

In closing, may I extend brotherly love, relief and truth to all of you who may read these words. Phalanx Lodge #31 is a very busy lodge, and thankfully so. We cannot accomplish the mis-

sion we are called to without everyone working in harmony. If it is within the length of your cable tow, I implore you to get involved with establishing the proper path for petitioners and new members to follow. In doing so, you assure that the West Gate is properly guarded and the Temple is closer to being completed. May the blessing of Heaven rest upon us and all regular Masons; may brotherly love prevail and every moral and social virtue cement us.

Fraternally,
Ralph Harkey
Senior Warden

Birthdays

Join us in wishing Happy Birthday to:

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

February

02 - James H. Beard
04 - Earl J. Campbell
05 - Martin J. Travis
07 - John P. Kirkpatrick
10 - David L. Morgan
12 - Vance L. Morris
16 - Jesse A. Campbell
20 - James E. Beckham
20 - Teddy H. Brooks
22 - James D. Monteith
24 - Douglas R. Whitaker
24 - Gennaro Lorusso
24 - Alan T. Ames
24 - Jon S. Porter Jr
28 - Linwood E. Wade

Obituaries

James Joseph 'Jim' DeLargy, a very adoring husband, loving father and grandfather, died Monday September 6, 2010 at his home on Polkberry Trail. He was 78 years old.

Funeral services were scheduled for Saturday, September 11, 2010 at 2:00 p.m. in Lady's Funeral Home Chapel, Kannapolis, NC. The family received guests at the funeral home following the service.

Mr. DeLargy was born in Baltimore, MD, a son of the late James J. DeLargy and Alice Healy DeLargy. In addition to his parents he was preceded in death by a brother David DeLargy and a sister Kathlyn Brocato.

He worked in sales and marketing having received his degree from the Baltimore College of Commerce in Baltimore, Maryland. He had worked as a regional sales manager for Kimberly-Clark Corp. and Standard Packing Corp. and later owned and operated DeLargy's Office Supply & Printing in Charlotte. A U.S. Air Force Veteran, he served in the 51st Fighter Interceptor Wing in Japan and Korea.

He was a member of the Meridan Masonic Lodge #728 AF & AM in Charlotte, where he was a past secretary. He was also Past Governor of

the Charlotte Moose Lodge #113 and American Legion Post #182 in Little Rock, Arkansas. He and his wife Helen, have enjoyed raising Mini Dachshunds over the years.

He is survived by his wife, Helen Porter DeLargy; children, Bridget Krenz and husband Alan, Mary Furr and husband Ron, Kathlyn Rowell and husband Doug, Jimmy DeLargy and wife Beth, Helen Schoenberg and husband Gerd and Michael DeLargy and his wife Kim; fourteen grandchildren, two brothers Danny DeLargy and John DeLargy; three sisters Alice Bradley, Peggy Meagher and Mary Edwards; a brother-in-law Robert Porter and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

The family would like to express a special thanks to his special nurses, Barbara, Kara and Debra. Memorials for Mr. DeLargy may be made to: Hospice and Palliative of Cabarrus County, 5003 Hospice Lane, Kannapolis, NC 28081 to whom the family also thanks very much for their help and kindness.

Lady's Funeral Home & Crematory assisted the family with arrangements.

Claude 'C.B.' Bunch Barbre Jr., of Charlotte, died December 10, 2010 after a brief illness. He was born August 30, 1921 in Albany, GA to Claude Bunch Barbre, Sr. and Julia Marie Smith.

He graduated from Goldsboro High School in 1937, and attended Biltmore Junior College in Asheville for a year before entering the U.S. Army during WWII in 1942. He attended Ohio State University in the Army Special Training Program until the Battle of the Bulge when the program ended, and he was transferred to 2nd Army Headquarters in Memphis, TN where he served as staff sergeant. At war's end, he completed his academic requirements, graduating with degrees in history and economics at Mercer University, GA. He was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity.

C.B. was the owner of Barbre Realty and general manager of three other Realtor corporations. He was active in real estate for over 55 years and was a life member of the Charlotte Association of Realtors. He was active in land development throughout his career, and influential in shaping a number of city and county communities.

C.B. was a 50-year

member of the Masonic orders: a 32nd degree Mason, a member of Scottish Rite and Oasis Temple. A long-time member of Myers Park Country Club in Charlotte, as well as a number of other golf clubs, he was an avid golfer who cherished memories of six holes-in-one, and annual pilgrimages to the Masters Golf Tournament in Augusta, GA. He was a 70-year member of St. Martin's Episcopal Church.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Julia, his father, C.B., Sr., and his brother Robert 'Bobby.'

He is survived by his loving wife of 62 years, Betty Jo Singletary, daughter Loy McGill and husband Paul Stewart McGill of Winston-Salem; Claude Bunch Barbre, III and wife Jill Kirby Barbre of Chicago, IL; grandchildren Barbre Elizabeth McGill and Duncan Stewart McGill; sister Felicia Cox, and numerous beloved in-laws, nieces and nephews.

A memorial service was held at 11:00 a.m. Tuesday, December 14, 2010 at St. Martin's Episcopal Church.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be sent to St. Martin's Episcopal Church, 1510 East Seventh Street, Charlotte, NC 28204, or to a charity of choice.

Secretary's Corner

Brethren,

I do appreciate that you've asked me to continue to serve Phalanx Lodge and you as Secretary this year. I want to thank Brother Bill Stout for his efforts as Secretary last year, and for his continuing service as Webmaster and Trestleboard editor. Brother Stout, you've left a bar which is set very high, and big shoes to fill. I will do my best to maintain that legacy.

Brethren, to date we've received dues payments from half of our Members. Dues cards should be going out in the coming weeks. If you've not yet done so, please drop this payment in the mail as soon as possible.

If you are not receiving your Trestleboard by email but would like to, please contact Brother Stout at webmaster@phalanx31.org.

Fraternally,
Mike Hamrick, PM
Secretary

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

Stories From the South

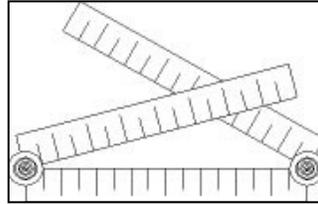
Brethren,

Another year has passed, and a new year is upon us. With each new year comes a time to reflect on the past year, and more importantly, on our lives in general. It's a time to weigh the pros and cons and see if we feel we are moving in the right direction, or if we have somehow stumbled and need to regain traction.

Of course, with all the seriousness in the world these days, it's important to remember all those things that make us laugh and brighten our day. And what would be a new and improved year if we didn't take that extra plunge with our annual resolutions to help make life more interesting. Below is a list of some New Year's resolutions to help

make 2011 an interesting year. Feel free to use anyone of these in your own personal resolutions.

- Take a dive off of Niagara Falls.
- Spend some time in India trying the different flavors of interesting cuisine.
- Practice your martial arts skills with an angry tiger.
- I will not bore my boss by with the same excuse for taking leaves. I will think of some new excuses.
- I will never again take a sleeping pill and a



laxative on the same night.

- Eat more paint.
- Start buying lottery tickets at a luckier store.
- Look up the definition of "Resolution" in the dictionary.
- I will do less laundry and use more deodorant.
- Take up a new habit: Maybe smoking!
- Read a book that doesn't contain any pictures.
- When the wife asks how her new hair style looks, try not to laugh.
- Resolve not to resolve

because what I resolve to resolve will be broken before the resolution is resolved in the first place.

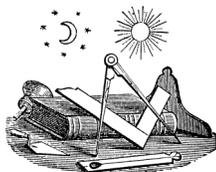
- If I see a UFO I won't tell anybody about it.
- When someone asks, "How are you today?" Be completely honest and give details to back it up.

I hope 2011 brings everyone happiness and success, and may the Great Architect of the Universe watch over and protect us all.

Kai Ferell
Junior Warden

2011 LODGE OFFICERS

Worshipful Master	Brad Hufeld	704-844-8976
Senior Warden	Ralph Harkey	704-614-6715
Junior Warden	Kai Ferell	704-995-4676
Treasurer	Angus Mercer, PM	704-542-1422
Secretary	Mike Hamrick, PM	704-724-8454
Senior Deacon	James Lofton, Jr.	704-488-1020
Junior Deacon	Steven Porter	704-361-7185
Senior Steward	Bill Clark	704-628-6652
Junior Steward	Ralph Lee	704-661-3220
Chaplain	David Morgan, PM	704-882-6179
Tyler	Charles Cutlip	336-309-1522



Upcoming Dates

Check the Website Calendar for the latest schedule!!

- Tue., Jan 11** — Stated Communication
6:30pm Dinner, 7:30pm Lodge Opens
- Tue., Feb 8** — Stated Communication
6:30pm Dinner, 7:30pm Lodge Opens
- Tue., Mar 8** — Stated Communication, DDGM and DDGL official visit
6:30pm Dinner, 7:30pm Lodge Opens
- Wed., Mar 30** — School of Instruction
- Thur., Mar 31** — School of Instruction
- Sat., Apr 2** — Blood Drive
9:00am—2:00pm, Scottish Rite Building
- Tue., Apr 12** — Stated Communication
6:30pm Dinner, 7:30pm Lodge Opens
- Tue., May 10** — Stated Communication
6:30pm Dinner, 7:30pm Lodge Opens
- Tue., Jun 14** — Stated Communication
6:30pm Dinner, 7:30pm Lodge Opens
- Tue., Jul 12** — Stated Communication
6:30pm Dinner, 7:30pm Lodge Opens
- Tue., Aug 9** — Stated Communication

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.