



# TRESTLEBOARD

## PHALANX LODGE NO. 31

Volume 215, Issue 1

<http://www.phalanx31.org>

January 2012

### Message From the East

Brethren,

We have begun a new year...and what a way to begin it!

Phalanx and Joppa Lodges continue building their historical lineage with the consummation of the merger between the two entities. Tuesday, January 10, 2012 will be the first Stated Communication of the year and the first one since the integration of the two lodges. As always, dinner will be at 6:30pm followed by the business meeting at 7:30pm. I understand that a nice winter time meal is being planned to warm our tummies as we warm our hearts with great fellowship amongst the brethren. Remember to bring a brother with you for this historic night. Personally, I look forward to seeing brethren I have known for quite some time and brethren I am yet to meet. If we are not acquainted, please take a moment to introduce yourself to me. I look forward to getting to know each and everyone of you better over the coming year.

In wrapping up 2011, on December 17, 2011, my sweetheart, Paula Hood, and I were privileged to be the guests of the Daughters of the Nile Latona Temple #154 as they hosted a visit by the Supreme Queen Laura Richardson. Latona Temple, in recent years, has developed a strong relationship with Phalanx Lodge; one which we are looking forward to continuing. The current Latona Temple Queen is Her Majesty Betty Parker, wife of Excelsior Lodge brother and Past Captain of the Oasis Patrol unit Paul Parker. The "Daughters" conducted their Communication followed by a wonderful luncheon. Other attendees included current Oasis (Charlotte NC) Potentate John Sullivan and Lady Judy along with current Egypt Shrine (Tampa FL) Potentate Joseph Osborne and Lady Lynn. Illustrious Sir Osbone's daughter, who resides in Charlotte NC with her husband, was among those ladies in attendance petitioning Latona Temple for affiliation/membership. The address given by Her Supreme Majesty Laura Richardson was quite informative...and moving for some. As Her Supreme Majesty told of the great work that the "Daughters" do to support Shriners hospitals around the globe she, in addition, told stories of some of the recipients of the medical care offered. The stories cast a light on those children in need of medical care in our own communities. It is a great possibility, as well, that directly or indirectly, that one of you reading this message may know someone who has benefited from care given at one of the hospitals supported through such efforts. If you are a patron of the Shriners' cause I, along with the "Daughters" say "Thank You". If you are not, I say "What are you waiting for?" There are numerous methods by which you can become involved. I ask that you don't reduce everything down to money. Time is also a great contribution. Time that you could spend assisting during a fundraising event, time you could spend visiting one of the area hospitals, time you could spend telling someone about what the organization is all about. Many opportunities exist by which you can make a difference. To the "daughters" of Latona Temple #154 I say "Thank You" for your work and the invitation to represent Phalanx Lodge #31 for this occasion.

Brethren, let me end my portion of this TrestleBoard by saying I am looking forward to seeing you on Tuesday, January 10th at 500 N. Sharon Amity Road in Charlotte at 7:30pm (dinner at 6:30pm). If you have a need to reach me, or just want to chat, please give me a call at 704.614.6715 or email me at [rwharkey@hotmail.com](mailto:rwharkey@hotmail.com). It is my wish for each of you that this year will be filled with health, happiness and prosperity along with a renewed sense of brotherly love and friendship.

God bless you,  
Ralph Harkey, Master 2012  
Phalanx Lodge #31

## Message From the West

Brethren,

First off I'd like to wish everyone a Happy New Year, and pray for health and happiness to each and every one of you and your families for 2012! And along with a new year comes a new chapter and new beginning for Phalanx Lodge #31.

As most of you know, last month Joppa Lodge #530 A.F. & A.M. merged with Phalanx, to become the new Phalanx Lodge #31 A.F. & A.M. And along with this merger, came a new location for us to meet. Originally Phalanx Lodge was a traveling lodge, and since I first joined Phalanx in 2005, we've definitely done some traveling. We first met in the Scottish Rite building on Randolph rd., and not too long after joining Phalanx, we then moved to the York Rite Masonic Center just down the road on Sharon Amity.

Now, we've moved again, and once again just down the road on Sharon Amity to a new location. This time we will have the luxury of putting our lodge name on the marquee for

all to see. Granted, it's the members that make a lodge what it is, and not the location in which they meet. But frankly Brother's, it will be nice to settle down for a while and sink our toes into the carpet and relax.

I also want to personally and fraternally welcome our new Brethren from Joppa, and hope they can settle in and feel like one large family. After all, that's exactly what we are to each other. I'm aware that a merger of lodges can be a sad event, in that one lodge seems to fade from existence. But that's truly not the case here. Joppa Lodge is still very much alive, and will always be a part of Phalanx Lodge going forward.

And in closing, as we often remind each other, be ye all of one mind; live in peace; and may the God of love and peace delight to dwell with and bless you.

Fraternally,  
Bro. Kai T. Ferell  
Senior Warden  
Phalanx Lodge #31

## Message From the South

Brethren,

It is again with a humble voice that I thank you for the privilege of being elected as one of the principle officers of our wonderful lodge. I am looking forward to an exciting year that is sure to be filled with many new friendships, stories, and good times. I also look forward to getting to know all of our newest brothers in Joppa Lodge through our time of fellowship at dinner, as well as during degree work and fundraisers. The opportunity to meet new people is something I have always enjoyed, and as masons we have a unique opportunity to learn from our more experienced brothers by simply being around them on a regular basis.

I was fortunate to be able to help some other brothers complete our move the other evening, and I would like to give hearty thanks to all that helped! I will say, there is nothing like moving a 75 year old (1200lb) fireproof filing cabinet, to make us all realize...we're not as young as we once were.

I look forward to seeing you all at our stated, as well as our anticipated master masons degree, once it is scheduled during either Jan or Feb. I will leave you with some interesting trivia facts:

**In 1920, Gate City Lodge #522 in Kansas City MO met every day of the week except Sunday to confer a record 1,107 degrees, averaging 21 degrees a week.**

**The Commissioner of Patents In 1872 ruled that the Masonic Square and Compasses emblem could not be used in any trademark or trade name for commercial purposes.**

**Lux in Tenebris Lodge #3856 in London is for blind Masons. The Latin words mean "Light in Darkness."**

Fraternally,  
Jim Lofton  
Junior Warden  
Phalanx Lodge #31

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## I Stood Before

*Author Unknown*

The Master's Chair  
A Brother craftsman  
Led me there

A trowel now in  
The Master's hand  
With which to spread  
Cement and sand

The words I had  
Been taught to use  
And warned that I  
Should not abuse

That friendship was  
The greatest part  
And faith must come  
From my own heart

An apron pure  
And spotless white  
A trust to keep  
With all my might

And for these things  
I kneel in prayer  
God help me walk  
Both straight and square

## In Memoriam

### Clifford Theodore Evans

Born: 09/13/1938  
Durango, CO  
Initiated: 03/11/1963  
Passed: 06/10/1963  
Raised: 08/26/1963  
Died: 12/16/2011

A Brother who lived respected and died regretted.

Farewell until we meet again

### Frank Maxwell Sellers

Born: 08/08/1921  
Smithfield, NC  
Initiated: 02/04/1952  
Passed: 03/03/1952  
Raised: 04/07/1952  
Died: 11/08/2011

A Brother who lived respected and died regretted.

Farewell until we meet again

### Yancy James Owens

Born: 09/28/1925  
Charlotte, NC  
Initiated: 03/09/1965  
Passed: 03/30/1965  
Raised: 05/25/1965  
Died: 08/28/2011

A Brother who lived respected and died regretted.

Farewell until we meet again

### Roy Julian Vehorn

Born: 07/03/1922  
Pelzer, SC  
Initiated: 02/14/1956  
Passed: 02/28/1956  
Raised: 03/27/1956  
Died: 07/31/2011

A Brother who lived respected and died regretted.

Farewell until we meet again

## Birthdays

Join us in wishing Happy Birthday to:

### December

01 - Roy Edward Atkins  
01 - John H. Litschert II  
02 - Jack Byron Goode  
02 - Stephen Michael Taylor  
03 - Michel Anton Badawi  
05 - John Armstrong Davis  
05 - John Douglas Lamb II  
05 - Charles Ray Massey  
06 - Mark Allen Rosen  
11 - James Grubbs Martin  
11 - Mark Edward Magyar  
12 - James Alton Pollock Jr  
13 - Gary Paul Kleiber  
13 - Warren Stewart Binnick  
13 - Ronald Scott McCorkle  
15 - John Anthony Martin  
17 - Gene Cole Pitman  
18 - John Edward Marr III  
21 - William Lewis Cowan  
23 - Billy Max Walker  
24 - Paul Wilson Poley  
24 - James Shepherd Lofton  
26 - Robert Franklin Oliver  
28 - Howard Kent Schevlin  
28 - Robert Brandon Lacy  
29 - James Daniel Cain  
29 - Robert C. Tosti  
31 - Ralston Murphy Pound  
31 - Horace Charles Horne

31 - William Edgar Graham  
31 - William Neal Robertson

### January

04 - D F Presley  
06 - Frank Boone McDowell  
07 - Marvin E. Morrison  
07 - Paul DeRaine Raynor  
08 - John Arthur Walker  
12 - Curtiss Dean Burnett  
14 - George E. McCormick  
14 - Guy Terry Comer  
15 - William Edwin Webb Jr  
20 - James A Zell  
20 - William Arthur Clark  
23 - John Hendricks House  
23 - James H. Greene Jr  
24 - Marc C. Strickland  
25 - Raymond E. Crawford  
25 - John Thomas Price  
25 - Jeff Michael Walters  
26 - Philip Mark Dunn  
28 - Angus Wilton Mercer  
29 - Walter L. Robinson III  
29 - Graydon Alvice Miller III  
29 - Joel Blady  
29 - Charles Ernest Lilly II  
31 - John Herman Litschert  
31 - James R. Robinson

### February

02 - John Sutton Miller Jr  
02 - Kenneth Ray Morris  
02 - James Herman Beard  
04 - Charles E. Henderson  
04 - Earl Jackson Campbell  
05 - Martin Jacob Travis  
07 - John P. Kirkpatrick  
07 - Gene Rodney Melvin  
10 - David Lewis Morgan  
11 - Lewis Edward Hunt  
12 - Vance Lewis Morris  
13 - Philip Franklin Searcey  
15 - George F. Jones Jr  
16 - Jesse Austin Campbell  
19 - William Odell Manley  
19 - William Scott McCall  
20 - James Earl Beckham  
20 - Teddy Hampton Brooks  
22 - James Derel Monteith  
24 - Robert Mason Lloyd  
24 - Douglas Ralph Whitaker  
24 - Gennaro Lorusso  
24 - Jon Steven Porter Jr  
24 - Alan Thomas Ames  
27 - James E. Stephens  
28 - Linwood Elijah Wade

## Secretary's Corner

Brethren,

We had an outstanding year in 2011 and the coming year should be even better with all the work that is being planned. I am very excited about our future and look forward to working with our Master, WB Ralph Harkey and the 2012 officers, as well as getting to know our Brothers joining us from Joppa Lodge. I've been particularly impressed by the open-armed reception by our Joppa Brothers as well as the extended hand of brotherhood and fellowship offered by WB James Dover and many other East Gate Lodge Brothers.

Remember that 2012 dues are payable now. Please take a moment to drop that payment in the mail if you have not yet done so. If somehow you have not received your 2012 dues notice, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Fraternally,  
Mike Hamrick, PM  
Secretary

## Stories From The South

His name is John. He has wild hair, wears a T-shirt with holes in it, jeans and no shoes. This was literally his wardrobe for his entire four years of college. He was the top of his class. Kind of esoteric and very, very bright.

He became a Mason recently while attending college. After moving to his new town, he finds that down the street from his new apartment is a well-dressed, very conservative Lodge.

One day John decides to go there after work. He walks in with shoes, jeans, and work shirt, and long hair. The Lodge has already started and so John starts looking for a seat.

The Lodge is completely packed and he can't find a seat. By now the Brethren are really looking a bit uncomfortable, but no one says anything. John gets closer and closer to the East end, when he realizes there are no seats, he squats down right on the carpet. (Although perfectly acceptable behavior at a college fellowship, trust me, this had never happened in this Lodge before!) By now the Brethren are really uptight, and the tension in the air is thick. About this time, the Secretary realizes that from way at the back of the Lodge, a Past Master is slowly making his way toward John.

Now the Past Master is in his eighties, has silver-grey hair, and a three-piece suit. A good man, very elegant, very dignified, and very courtly. He walks with a cane

and, as he starts walking toward this boy, everyone is saying to themselves that you can't blame him for what he's going to do. How can you expect a man of his age and of his background to understand some college kid in the Lodge? It takes a long time for the man to reach the boy.

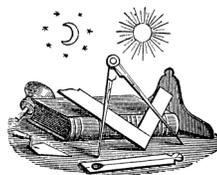
The Lodge is utterly silent except for the clicking of the man's cane. All eyes are focused on him. You can't even hear anyone breathing. The Secretary can't even continue with the "minutes" until the Past Master does what he has to do. And now the Lodge watches as this elderly man drops his cane on the floor. With great difficulty, he lowers himself and sits down next to John and welcomes him so he won't be alone.

When the Secretary gains control, he says, "What I'm about to say, you will never remember. What you have just seen, you will never forget."

Be careful how you live. You may be the only Mason some people will ever meet.

*Author Unknown*

<b>2013 LODGE OFFICERS</b>			<b>Upcoming Dates</b>	
Worshipful Master	Ralph Harkey	704-614-6715	<b><u>Check the Website Calendar for the latest schedule!!</u></b>	
Senior Warden	Kai Ferell	704-995-4676	<b>Tue., Jan 10</b> — Stated Communication 6:30pm Dinner, 7:30pm Lodge Opens	
Junior Warden	James Lofton, Jr.	704-488-1020	<b>Tue., Feb 14</b> — Stated Communication 6:30pm Dinner, 7:30pm Lodge Opens	
Treasurer	Angus Mercer, PM	704-542-1422	<b>Tue., Mar 22</b> — Stated Communication 6:30pm Dinner, 7:30pm Lodge Opens	
Secretary	Mike Hamrick, PM	704-724-8454	<b>Tue., Apr 10</b> — Stated Communication 6:30pm Dinner, 7:30pm Lodge Opens	
Senior Deacon	Steven Porter	704-361-7185	<b>Tue., May 8</b> — Stated Communication 6:30pm Dinner, 7:30pm Lodge Opens	
Junior Deacon	Bill Clark	704-756-0343	<b>Tue., Jun 12</b> — Stated Communication 6:30pm Dinner, 7:30pm Lodge Opens	
Senior Steward	Bill Stout	704-996-4110	<b>Tue., Jul 10</b> — Stated Communication 6:30pm Dinner, 7:30pm Lodge Opens	
Junior Steward	Chris Crump	704-913-1568	<b>Tue., Aug 14</b> — Stated Communication 6:30pm Dinner, 7:30pm Lodge Opens	
Chaplain	David Morgan, PM	704-882-6179	<b>Tue., Sept 11</b> — Stated Communication 6:30pm Dinner, 7:30pm Lodge Opens	
Tyler	Michael Davis	704-957-6046	<b>Tue., Oct 9</b> — 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](mailto:Secretary@Phalanx31.org).