



TRESTLEBOARD

PHALANX LODGE NO. 31

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<http://www.phalanx31.org>

March 2012

Message From the East

Greetings from the East, brethren...

It has been a busy month in between Stated Communications. I hope that this Trestle Board finds you all doing well and excited about the fraternity! We have many upcoming opportunities to fellowship this month. I hope that you will make every effort to be a part of it.

One of the opportunities we have is each Tuesday night. For the last couple of years, Phalanx Lodge #31 has talked about instituting a regular rehearsal night. Since our Stated Communication is on Tuesdays, we have decided to stick with that day. We will gather at the lodge building at 6:30pm and engage in some sort of ritualistic rehearsal. It may be something as involved as the proper protocol for the Grand Master's visit or it may be something as simple as opening and closing the lodge on the Master Mason's degree. Whatever is upcoming in the way of events that is what we will focus on. Let's face it, none of us are perfect and could all use a little brushing up. Somehow, I think there will be things going on to which we can devote our attention. For example, later this month we will take part in the Spring School of Instruction. Additionally, there are a few committees out for brothers who have rejoined our ranks and wish to continue their walk toward Masonic light. We owe it to them, and ourselves, to be proficient in the work as we can be. Wouldn't you agree? I urge you to come out and take part. It is a good couple of hours of fellowship!

On another note, I had the opportunity to begin a new career this past month. Like all atmosphere changes, the tenured employees attempt to get to know the newbie. Many times during the exchanges I was asked "What lodge are you a member of?" It didn't come up in my conversation but the emblems I display through lapel pins and a ring spoke for me. I also had the opportunity to engage in similar conversation in a local retail store. As I was checking out with the cashier she said to me "That is a beautiful ring. My dad has one, too.". Quite pleased to hear that, I immediately said "Oh yeah, what lodge does he belong to?" The young lady stated "Mt. Holly #544" to which I said, "I live in Mt. Holly but am a member in Charlotte." Long story short, I found out that she was the youngest daughter to a man that I heard my father talk about for many years. The gentleman was a business colleague and friend of my dad's. This situation made me think...What if had been in the store acting like a fool, using inappropriate language, arguing with someone or just in a bad mood? She would have still seen my ring, right? What if while at work at my new job I would be seen slothing off or engaging in inappropriate or off color conversation? Don't you think those other employees would have noticed to what fraternity I subscribe?

My point is, brethren, we are Masons 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Whether we think so or not, people are watching you. Remember the tenets of our great institution. Exemplify what we have been obligated to uphold. You never have to apologize for doing what is right. This is definitely a case of the actions of one affect the entire collection.

Travel safely, my brothers...

Bro. Ralph Harkey, Master 2012

Phalanx Lodge #31

Message From the West

Brethren,

I wanted to share a short story about something that happened to me this past September.

I was driving along I-77 South coming from Statesville and heading home to Cornelius. Suddenly I noticed that it was getting warm in my Jeep, as the air conditioner had stopped working.

Looking at the gauges, I saw that the alternator was no longer charging,

and the steering wheel felt very heavy and hard to steer. I thought, "Oh great, I've thrown a belt!" Just when the temperature gauge went into the red, I pulled off to the side of the highway.

Thankfully I'm a member of AAA, so I promptly called and waited for the tow truck. Just before the tow truck arrived, a young gentleman in a pickup truck pulled up ahead of me, stopped, and walked

back to where I was parked. He had noticed the Masonic emblem on my back window, and identified himself as a brother mason, and wanted to offer his assistance and to do his due diligence as a brother mason towards another brother mason.

Just then the tow truck arrived, so we talked briefly, and then we parted ways.

Thinking back on it, it strikes me how respect-

ful that gesture was from one stranger to another. The brotherhood of Masonry is a powerful thing, and one that most definitely makes good men better!! I'll always remember that moment, and perhaps, one day can return the favor.

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

True Men Needed

By Edgar A. Guest

**The world is needing you and me
In places where we ought to be;
Somewhere today it's needing you
To stand for what you know is true,
And needing me somewhere today
To keep the faith, let come what may.**

**The world is needing me and you
To share the tasks it has to do;
It needs high-minded men to stand
Against the thoughtless of the land;
Men who will scorn to stop to wrong
To win the favor of the throng.**

Message From the South

Brethren,

At this month's stated we are looking forward to having Jackie Trail, the daughter of our current DDGM John Trail; make a presentation for us between dinner and lodge regarding her work with the Salvation Army.

For those who are unfamiliar, the Salvation Army began with just one man, William Booth, preaching to the thieves, prostitutes, gamblers, and drunkards in the

rough part of east London during 1865.

He encouraged his converts to begin preaching to other as well, and by 1874 he had 1,000 volunteers, and 42 evangelists serving under the name "The Christian Mission".

While reading a proof in 1878 he came across the phrase "The Christian Mission is a volunteer army". He struck out the word volunteer and replaced it with Salvation. Thus was the

beginning of the Salvation Army.

Since that time the organization has grown significantly! The army now operates in 124 countries, with well over 1.5 million soldiers, cadets, and employees, as well as 4.5 million volunteers worldwide.

We look forward to welcoming Jackie Trail, who currently serves as the volunteer coordinator at the Center for Hope here in Charlotte. She has been with the

Salvation Army since November of 2011 and is very excited and appreciative of the opportunity to come and speak to us during our stated in March. We look forward to seeing as many of our brothers and their families as possible.

Fraternally,
Jim Lofton
Junior Warden
Phalanx Lodge #31

In Memoriam

Franklin Henry Smith

Born: 09/27/1913
Norwood, NC
Initiated: 10/08/1948
Passed: 11/26/1948
Raised: 12/10/1948
Died: 01/04/2012

A Brother who lived
respected and died
regretted.

Farewell until we meet
again

Carl Benjamin Dover

Born: 08/30/1933
Chattanooga, TN
Initiated: 11/14/1980
Passed: 01/16/1981
Raised: 02/27/1981
Died: 12/21/2011

A Brother who lived
respected and died
regretted.

Farewell until we meet
again

Jack Wriston Mock

Born: 04/17/1927
Charlotte, NC
Initiated: 05/18/1963
Passed: 06/08/1962
Raised: 06/22/1962
Died: 10/11/2011

A Brother who lived
respected and died
regretted.

Farewell until we meet
again

Charles Wayne Whitley

Born: 04/22/1921
Detroit, MI
Initiated: 01/19/1967
Passed: 02/16/1967
Raised: 03/16/1967
Died: 02/06/2011

A Brother who lived
respected and died
regretted.

Farewell until we meet
again

When I Can Find The Time

There are so many things I want to do
When I can find the time,

I'll visit my friends who are tried and true,
When I can find the time; And those whose life is full of care,
I'll raise them up from dark despair,
And with them all good things will share,
When I can find the time.

When you can find the time,
my friend,
It may be then too late,
For on this earth we've once to wend,
It may be then too late; They'll never know your kind intent,

Or what you planned and kindly meant,
To fill their hearts with sweet content,
It may be then too late.

Now is the time,
my friend,
don't wait,
Tomorrow is too late,
The present is all,
don't hesitate,
Tomorrow is too late; Now while you see and feel and hear,
Scatter your smiles and loving cheer,
To those you love and hold so dear,
Tomorrow is too late.

Birthdays

Join us in wishing Happy Birthday to:

March

01 - Alan T. Parker
01 - Martin D. Ball
01 - Michel R. Greene
02 - John C. Moyle
02 - Walter W. Grahling Jr.
02 - Joseph A. Clisson
02 - Larry G. Jacobs
02 - James E. Duncan
03 - Jack L. Rimmer
03 - Thurston D. Thompson
03 - Dennis A. Moody
06 - David A. Rose
07 - Donald A. Gilmore
08 - Fred A. Jenkins
08 - Matthew S. Jordan
09 - John S. Harder
09 - Robert L. Saye Sr.

09 - Charles A. Cutlip
10 - Bernard W. Manton
12 - Robert C. Richardson
12 - Vernon M. Goode
14 - John P. Kieronski
15 - David L. Burris
17 - Jeffrey J. Armentrout
19 - Ed J. Davis
19 - Anthony W. Yankowsky
19 - Eric F. Wainwright
20 - Randolph A. Kiser
20 - Robert K. Braswell
20 - Daryl W. Kelly
21 - George Dizes
24 - Fred P. Culbreth Jr.
26 - Gregory S. Morrison
27 - Neil F. Crossley
29 - Randall E. Baker

April

01 - Greg T. Hagler
03 - Alvin L. Bradley
03 - Blair J. Carpenter
03 - Willie C. Brumbalow
03 - Anthony T. Pressley
03 - William S. Magee
03 - Earl S. Stegall
04 - Arleigh G. Deyton
04 - Irwin Belk
04 - Charles A. Laymon
04 - Warley M. Araujo
05 - Ernest A. Morrison Jr
07 - Timothy E. Pope
08 - Edgar A. Miller Jr
08 - Glenn C. Harrelson
10 - Boyce M. Brown
10 - David W. Morrison

11 - John C. Donaldson
11 - William W. Sealey
13 - Larry J. Morgan
13 - Robert T. Dickson
14 - David A. Holmes
14 - Dale I. Gillis
14 - Richard A. Vinroot
14 - Kai T. Ferell
14 - Walter E. Dickson
15 - Thomas H. Hobbs
16 - Tony A. Woodward
20 - John L. Campbell
21 - Lewis D. Berryhill
22 - Dorsey H. Hardy
26 - James C. Kilcher
29 - Robert A. James
30 - Duane H. Bruch

Secretary's Corner

Brethren,

I had the privilege in 2009 to travel to Durham Lodge #352 to witness my uncle (in-law) being raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason. In preparing for the trip, I contacted the Master and asked if there was any assistance needed, particularly with the Bible presentation (many of you know that this is among the several roles in our ritual which I particularly enjoy). To my chagrin, there was a Brother who had already been designated to make that presentation, but he did tell me that I was welcome to present any other token when the time came.

With a Master Mason lapel pin in hand (one on

my jacket as well, MM ring on, and a S&C window decal on my car), I began the early-hours journey from Charlotte toward Durham for a Saturday morning degree, with thoughts of how to present the pin in a meaningful way.

For a Saturday morning, the interstate traffic was fairly light, though as usual, there were a few 'knuckleheads' along the way (and others who became 'impatient'), but I am generally not one to give the single finger wave or blow the horn.

Upon arrival, I was greeted with welcoming brotherly handshakes in the parking lot.

The breakfast and fellowship was wonderful (even included country

ham!).

The Durham Lodge Brothers did stellar degree work that morning, and the Bible presentation was impressive as well.

Time to present my uncle with his first Masonic lapel pin, and these were my comments:

Brother Uncle Carter... you are now a Master Mason. Inasmuch, I would like to present you your Master Mason lapel pin. Let this be a constant reminder to you of the teachings of freemasonry, and the challenges given to you and your conduct in the charges. Even the lessons of the working tools should always prompt kindnesses, tolerance, and understanding. Whether you

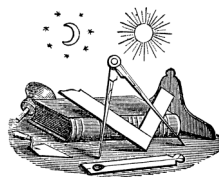
display this pin, a Masonic ring or Masonic window decals on your car, always remember that by this public declaration of your association with this great fraternity, it is your actions that others will judge this fraternity by. My Brother...take due notice thereof, and govern yourself accordingly.

Food for thought...

Fraternally,
Mike Hamrick, PM
Secretary

2012 LODGE OFFICERS

Worshipful Master	Ralph Harkey	704-614-6715
Senior Warden	Kai Ferell	704-995-4676
Junior Warden	James Lofton, Jr.	704-488-1020
Treasurer	Angus Mercer, PM	704-542-1422
Secretary	Mike Hamrick, PM	704-724-8454
Senior Deacon	Steven Porter	704-361-7185
Junior Deacon	Bill Clark	704-756-0343
Senior Steward	Bill Stout	704-996-4110
Junior Steward	Chris Crump	704-913-1568
Chaplain	David Morgan, PM	704-882-6179
Tyler	Michael Davis	704-957-6046



Upcoming Dates

Check the Website Calendar for the latest schedule!!

Tue., Mar 13 — Stated Communication 6:30pm Dinner, 7:30pm Lodge Opens
Tue., Mar 22 — Grand Master's 32nd Masonic District Meeting Mathews Lodge 6:30pm Dinner, 7:15pm Lodge Opens
Tue., Mar 27 — Spring School of Instruction Mint Hill Lodge 6:30pm Dinner, 7:15pm Lodge Opens
Wed., Mar 28 — Spring School of Instruction James K. Polk Lodge 6:30pm Dinner, 7:15pm Lodge Opens
Tue., Apr 10 — Stated Communication 6:30pm Dinner, 7:30pm Lodge Opens
Tue., May 8 — Stated Communication 6:30pm Dinner, 7:30pm Lodge Opens
Tue., Jun 12 — Stated Communication 6:30pm Dinner, 7:30pm Lodge Opens
Tue., Jul 10 — Stated Communication 6:30pm Dinner, 7:30pm Lodge Opens
Tue., Aug 14 — 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.