

In Memoriam

John Plummer Kirkpatrick Jr.

Born: 02/07/1929

Staunton, VA

Initiated: 03/08/1960

Passed: 03/22/1960

Raised: 04/12/1960

Died: 03/23/2012

A Brother who lived
respected and died
regretted.

Farewell until we meet again

From the Secretary's Desk

Brethren,

Among MW Grand Master Gresham's thoughts for 2012 is the concern about the number of Brothers being excluded annually for Non Payment of Dues. We currently have 86 Brothers who have not yet paid their 2012 dues (over 25% of our membership). While this might be somewhat understandable given the current state of the economy, it is certainly placing a strain on the Lodge's ability to meet its financial obligations. Brothers, please consider your obligation to make your dues payment. If you are experiencing some kind of hardship, please let us know by contacting either me or WM Harkey. CODE suggests that Lodges not exclude Brothers who find themselves in a difficult financial situation, but we must be aware of this in order to make this consideration.

Fraternally,
Mike Hamrick, PM

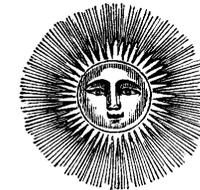
Phalanx Lodge, No. 31
A.F. & A.M.
P.O. Box 472746
Charlotte, NC 28241



**PHALANX LODGE #31
TRESTLEBOARD**

March, 2012

www.phalanx31.org



Stated: 2nd Tuesday
6:30pm Dinner, 7:30pm Stated

2012 OFFICERS

PHONE (704-)

Master	Ralph Harkey	614-6715
Sr. Warden	Kai Ferell	995-4676
Jr. Warden	Jim Lofton	488-1020
Treasurer	Angus Mercer, PM	542-1422
Secretary	Mike Hamrick, PM	724-8454
Sr. Deacon	Stephen Porter	361-7185
Jr. Deacon	Bill Clark	628-6652
Sr. Steward	Bill Stout	996-4110
Jr. Steward	Chris Crump	913-1568
Chaplain	Dave Morgan, PM	221-0167
Tyler	Mike Davis	957-6046



The Master's Station



Greetings from the East, brethren!

I hope that this Trestle Board is finding everyone doing well! Spring has definitely "sprung" and we are continuing our busy year in Phalanx Lodge #31. It would be a joy to see you if you haven't ventured out over the winter months. There are a lot of activities going on within the Charlotte area Masonic circles of which you may wish to take part. I will mention a few in the paragraphs below but stay tuned to future editions of the Trestle Board and other Phalanx communications for more information. Better yet, join us at our second Tuesday of the month Stated Communication or our Tuesday ritual practices. These ritual practices take place each Tuesday other than the Stated Tuesday. During that time we rehearse upcoming ritual that we will exemplify or need brushing up on. Additionally, we will take this time to schedule other events such as Service Award nights, home visitations for shut in brethren, etc. The important thing to know is that you should mark each Tuesday at 6:30pm on your calendar. Most likely, we will also go out for a bite to eat afterwards. We would love to have you join us for whatever we are doing!

We are fresh off of our Spring 2012 School of Instruction. Thanks to Mint Hill Lodge and James K. Polk Lodge for hosting this event. Wonderful meals were served by both lodges. Several aspects of the ritual were covered for our edification. The learning approach was tweaked a little this year from those in years past. Various lodges in the 32nd Masonic District of NC were given ritual to exemplify, as usual, but the critique of said ritual came from a team of more learned brethren. This team consisted of WB Bob Braswell, WB Ken Mullis

and WB Dennis Woolery. Each one of these brethren is more than qualified to make suggestions to improving our ritual work. The first night saw 93 brethren in attendance and the second night boasted 98 in attendance. There were at least 2 visitors from other home lodges outside of the district (and outside of the state) in attendance. The visitors were welcomed with open arms of brotherly love and friendship. It is hoped that they both will consider affiliation with Phalanx Lodge #31. Our exemplification of "Receiving the DDGM and GM" and "Calling from Labor to Refreshment" during the first night of the school was well received. I had numerous comments of our proficiency. Those comments make me proud to be a member of Phalanx Lodge #31 and serve as this year's Master. A unit is only as good as the sum of its individual parts. We have some terrific brethren who care about the ritual and put in a lot of time and effort honing the Craft. My "hat is off" to them.

Brethren, we have some fundraising efforts going on that you should know about. Firstly, until April 18, 2012, Phalanx Lodge is selling Auto Bell Car Wash coupons. The price is \$14.95 which is the price of a "Full Service" car wash at Auto Bell. The benefit to us is that we get to keep half of the amount of the coupon price, which we will divide between our charities-The Oxford Orphanage and Whitestone. Pollen season is here and there is no better time for this fundraiser. Secondly, looking down the road to June 16, 2012, Phalanx Lodge #31 will host a "Dinner and a Concert" fundraiser. The evening will feature a Spaghetti Dinner beginning around 5:30pm on that Saturday evening followed by a concert by Nashville musician and 33rd Degree Mason Joe Edwards. While you may not know him by name since he is a "side man musician", Joe is a multi-talented musician having played

on the Grand Ole Opry for more than 48 years. He has backed many of the legendary performers in the Country music industry. Joe is still active and traveling the country performing a multi-genre musical act along with his wife, Jan. We look forward to having them with us. The event is open to all Masons and family within and without the district and the public, as well. We need your support to make this event successful...help us spread the word! More information will be forthcoming.

We have two Entered Apprentices who have come home to reconnect with their travels through the degrees of Masonry. As they continue with their journeys, practice for a Second Degree will be on our agenda. Any brethren wishing to take part please join us on Tuesdays at the Lodge Hall at 500 N. Sharon Amity Road in Charlotte. If you do not wish an active part, your presence is requested as support.

Until our next communication, travel safely!

Sincerely & Fraternaly,
Bro. Ralph



Please note that we have received approval from the Grand Lodge of our new seal, which now honors both Meridian and Joppa Lodges with whom we have consolidated.

