



TRESTLEBOARD

PHALANX LODGE NO. 31

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<http://www.phalanx31.org>

August 2012

Message From the East

Greetings from the East!

Summer is drawing to a close and we are preparing for the wonderful Fall season that we, historically, have here in the Charlotte Metro. I encourage you to put a visit to the lodge on your calendar.

I, like you, have been busy with all of the Summer-time activities. One thing I have noticed is that the temperature has a definite effect on people's attitudes. You have often heard, when things go awry (in a weird sort of way) "Is there a full moon?" This may be an old adage but, it is steeped in truth. One thing we should glean from Masonry is the correlation with nature and the elements that the Craft has. I am a great fan of the Fellowcraft Degree. During my Masonic walk it was during this degree that things started to make sense. It was this exposure to the precepts of this degree that encouraged me to seek more light by doing things like learning the Staircase Lecture. When I say "learning", I mean dissecting the verbiage and all of the components which make up this degree of our growth, being and very existence. I have epiphany moments on a regular basis, just as Worshipful Brother John Caudle said I would. I was fortunate enough to have this brother teach me during my come-uppance. I have reflected on his words many times over the past 7 years.

I think I noticed more often this Summer than in those past the shortness people, in general, have had with each other. I choose to think it was because of the unbearable temperatures we have had this season. Arguments, crime rate, and agitation all seem to be elevated in the Summer months just as depression and gloom are frequent visitors during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. Suicides increase, depression from job loss spikes, etc. These are unfortunate side effects from the elements and the environment. We are charged in our Closing Charge that "every human being" should be benefactors of "our kind offices". We are to "do good unto all". Remember these words, brethren?

To help us, all, take a step back and assess the situation for what it really is, I have attached a thought from one of the most profound human beings of our time, Mother Teresa. It is our responsibility to understand that it takes at least two individuals to have an argument. The choice is ours to be the accelerant or the extinguisher. Which will you choose?

*"People are often unreasonable and self-centered.
Forgive them anyway.
If you are kind, people may accuse you of ulterior motives.
Be kind anyway.
If you are honest, people may cheat you.
Be honest anyway.
If you find happiness, people may be jealous.
Be happy anyway.
The good you do today may be forgotten tomorrow.
Do good anyway.
Give the world the best you have and it may never be enough.
Give your best anyway.
For you see, in the end, it is between you
and God. It was never between you
and them anyway."*

~Mother Teresa

www.spirituallythinking.blogspot.com

Fraternally,
Bro. Ralph Harkey, Master 2012
Phalanx Lodge #31

Message From the West

The ABC's of Masonry

Acacia - The timber of the Shittim tree, widely used in making the sacred furniture of the Temple. In speculative Masonry, the term is used as a symbol of the immortality of the soul.

Boaz – Denotes strength. The name of the left-hand pillar that stood on the porch of King Solomon's Temple, and adopted into speculative Masonry because of its symbolic meaning.

Cable Tow - A cable tow is a rope or line for drawing or leading. Symbolically, it represents the covenant by which all Masons are bound.

The immortality of the soul, strength and the covenants by which we all strive to live by, are basic tenants of Masonry. Every one of us found our way to Masonry for different reasons, but at the same time, seeking the same thing. A brotherhood, the feeling of belonging to something greater than ourselves, and guidance in life. These are all things that unite us and make us whole and strong. These symbols, while simple in nature, have a meaning far greater for each of us. It's these lessons that we must never forget. As a brotherhood, we are strong. As a divided house, we are not.

Just remember, The Babylonians broke apart the left hand pillar (Boaz) and carried the pieces to the city of Babylon as a symbol that they have taken our strength. As a brotherhood, we have a stronger bond than that.

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

Secretary's Corner

Brethren,

As usual, my number one topic is dues.

As this issue of the Trestle Board goes to press, about 34 of our members have not yet paid their dues, and final delinquency notices have been mailed. That leaves nearly \$3,200 outstanding. It is my hope that in the coming weeks, this number will drop considerably.

During the coming weeks, members of the Member Retention Committee will be contacting the past due members. If you find yourself in a position that makes it difficult to pay your dues, please contact me or the Worshipful Master. We may be able to help, but only if we know.

Remember my Brothers, you were once told "this was not embarrass your feelings" but to let you know your Lodge is here to help, aid and assist.

Fraternally,
Mike Hamrick, PM
Secretary

Message From the South

Brethren,

As I look at the calendar and realize that we are already 3/4's of the way through this year, I am reminded of how fast time flies, especially when you are having fun!

It also astonishes me to think that this month 6 years ago I became a Master Mason, and began my journey. The

last six years have been wonderful, and I feel so inspired by many of our other brothers who remain active.

I think to myself that I could easily do this for at least another 50 years! In this life filled with constant change, and new experiences there are so few things that remain constant. It is refreshing to know that the traditions we

have in Masonry can be counted on to remain consistent.

One of the primary constants in the lodge is our degree work, some of which we have coming up with a potential 1st degree on August 21st, and a 3rd degree on September 8th.

I have been practicing for my first time in the East for a degree, and

my level of respect for all past masters has grown immensely over the past few weeks. I look forward to seeing as many brothers as possible on the 21st to help make another young man's entry into Masonry something he will remember and cherish for many years to come.

Fraternally,
Jim Lofton
Junior Warden

THE LEVEL AND THE SQUARE

by Brother Rob Morris *Poet Laureate of Freemasonry*

(This poem, written in August, 1854, is the most popular Masonic Poem of all time.)

We meet upon the Level and we part upon the Square.
What words of precious meaning, those words Masonic are!
Come, let us contemplate them! They are worthy of a thought;
In the very walls of Masonry the sentiment is wrought.

We meet upon the Level, though from every station come,
The rich man from his palace and the poor man from his home;
For the rich must leave his wealth and state outside the Mason's door,
And the poor man finds his best respect upon the Checkered Floor.

We act upon the Plumb - 'tis the orders of our Guide.
We walk upright in virtue's way and lean to neither side;
The All-Seeing Eye that reads our hearts doth bear us witness true
That we still try to honor God and give each man his due.

We part upon the Square, for the world must have its due;
We mingle with the multitude, a faithful band and true.
But the influence of our gatherings in memory is green,
And we long upon the Level to renew the happy scene.

There's a world where all are equal - we are hurrying toward it fast,
We shall meet upon the Level there when the gates of Death are past;
We shall stand before the Orient, and our Master will be there
To try the blocks we offer with His own unerring Square.

We shall meet upon the Level there, but never thence depart.
There's a Mansion - 'tis all ready for each trusting, faithful heart.
There's a Mansion, and a welcome, and a multitude is there
Who have met upon the Level and been tried upon the Square.

Let us meet upon the Level, then while laboring patient here;
Let us meet and let us labor, though the labor be severe;
Already in the Western sky the signs bid us prepare
To gather up our Working Tools and part upon the Square.

Hands round, ye faithful Brotherhood, the bright fraternal Chain.
We part upon the Square below to meet in Heaven again!
What words of precious meaning, those words Masonic are --
We meet upon the Level and we part upon the square

Birthdays

Join us in wishing Happy Birthday to:

August

01 - Robert D. Elf
 01 - Billy Howard
 01 - Eugene L. Poore
 03 - Albert T. St. Clair
 03 - George A. Ginn
 04 - David M. Wilson
 05 - James L. Gibson III
 08 - Mihran K. Hamamgian
 10 - Charles W. Whitmire
 10 - Ronnie H. Long
 11 - Warren M. Miller
 12 - David A. Austin
 14 - Josie L. Smith
 15 - Robert E. Welch
 15 - James J. Faulk
 15 - James S. Corne
 16 - Charles E. Boggs
 18 - Larry E. Glasson
 19 - Boyce H. Roberts
 19 - Harry B. Hood
 20 - Albert J. Morton
 20 - Jeffrey W. Stegall
 21 - Walter Moody
 21 - Richard K. Wagoner Jr.
 24 - Craig Dougherty
 24 - Jeffrey M. Britt Sr.
 28 - Kevin M. Stegall
 28 - David J. Potts
 29 - John C. Knox
 30 - Thomas J. Mann
 30 - Kenneth M. Mullis
 31 - Anthony A. Reis

September

01 - James T. Brandenburg
 01 - James C. Brown
 01 - Matthew T. Sawtelle Jr.
 07 - William F. Nunn
 09 - Carlton W. Mason
 09 - Jeffrey A. Katz
 11 - James B. Morrow Jr.
 11 - Bennie R. Crosby
 13 - George K. Middleton
 13 - William L. Mccall
 17 - Triston G. Stegall Jr.
 19 - Frank W. Neal
 21 - Ernest C. Hunt Jr.
 23 - Earl F. Biles
 23 - William A. King
 24 - Joseph R. Linn
 27 - Francis E. Price
 27 - Ralph O. Lee
 28 - Gordon P. Reed
 28 - Cleatus W. Crump
 28 - James Z. Pittard
 29 - Dennis A. Wilson
 30 - Michael S. Hamrick

In Memoriam

Carl Brown Moore Jr.

Born: 06/17/1925
 Charlotte, NC
 Initiated: 03/18/1953
 Passed: 04/11/1953
 Raised: 04/25/1953
 Died: 07/09/2012

A Brother who lived
 respected and died
 regretted.

Farewell until we meet again

John Paul Kieronski

Born: 03/14/1927
 Tarnow, Poland
 Initiated: 04/08/1985
 Passed: 06/17/1985
 Raised: 07/22/1985
 Died: 07/16/2012

A Brother who lived
 respected and died
 regretted.

Farewell until we meet again

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	Neil Crossley, PM	704-365-9431
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., Aug 14** — Stated Communication
6:30pm Dinner, 7:30pm Lodge Opens
- Tue., Aug 21** — Entered Apprentice Degree
6:30pm Dinner, 7:30pm Lodge Opens
- Tue., Sept 8** — Master Mason Degree
6:30pm Dinner, 7:30pm Lodge Opens
- Tue., Sept 11** — Stated Communication
6:30pm Dinner, 7:30pm Lodge Opens
- Tue., Oct 9** — Stated Communication
6:30pm Dinner, 7:30pm Lodge Opens
- Tue., Nov 13** — Stated Communication
6:30pm Dinner, 7:30pm Lodge Opens
- Tue., Dec 11** — 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.