

TRESTLEBOARD

PHALANX LODGE NO. 31

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May 2013



Kai Ferell
Master

Brethren,

We recently hosted the Spring School of Instruction, and everything ran very smoothly! I personally want to thank all involved for such a great evening! As always, it proved to be informative and fun. Not only that, but it's good to have a place to go where you feel safe and everyone calls each other "Brother!"

To that extent, I came across an article titled "I am Freemasonry" that I'd like to share.



I am Freemasonry

I was born in antiquity, in the ancient days when man first dreamed of God.

I have been tried through the ages, and found true.

The crossroads of the world bear the imprint of my feet, and the cathedrals of all nations
mark the skill of my hands.

I strive for beauty and for symmetry.

In my heart is wisdom and strength and courage for those who ask.

Upon my altar is the Book of Holy Writ and my prayers are to the One Omnipotent God,
my sons work and pray together, without rank or discord, in the public mart
and in the inner chamber.

By signs and symbols I teach the lessons of life and of death and the relationship of man with God
and of man with man.

My arms are widespread to receive those of lawful age and good report
who seek me of their own free will.

I will accept them and teach them to use my tools in the building of men, and thereafter,
find direction in their own quest for perfection so much desired and so difficult to attain.

I lift up the fallen and shelter the sick. I hark to the orphan's cry,
the widow's tears, the pain of the old and destitute.

I am not church, nor party, nor school, yet my sons bear a full share of responsibility to God,
to country, to neighbor and themselves.

They are freemen, tenacious of their liberties, and alert to lurking danger.

At the end I commit them as each one undertakes the journey beyond the vale
into the glory of everlasting life.

I ponder the sand within the glass and think how small is a single life in the eternal universe.

Always have I taught immortality,
and even as I raise men from darkness into light, I am a way of life.

I am Freemasonry.

Looking forward to seeing everyone in lodge!

Fraternally,

Kai Ferell - Master



Mike Hamrick, PM
Secretary

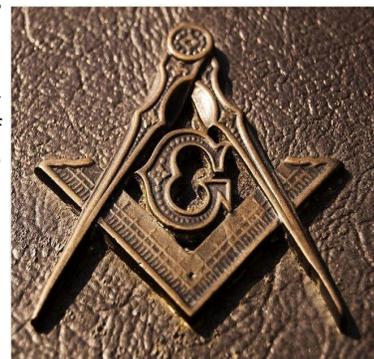
Brothers,

I enjoyed the April Scottish Rite Reunion here in the Charlotte Valley, and while all of the degrees, 4th through 32nd, are quite impressive and thought provoking, the 31st was the one that most impacted me at this particular Reunion. The description of this degree reads partially as follows, “...every Mason should ponder prayerfully and soberly on his thoughts and acts of the day. The wrongs of today must not be repeated on the tomorrow, for each day should add some light and truth for our guidance for the next, and then as time goes by our characters should be so far above reproach that the world would instinctively say: “There is a good man for he is a Mason.”

Is this not our calling Brothers, born of the rules and maxims of the degree lectures and instructions of the charges? I have accepted this challenge, of introspection and daily inquiry of thoughts and actions; for many know me to be a Mason, and do I not form their opinions of the fraternity by my interactions with them? Will you accept this challenge alongside me?

Brothers, I urge you to take due notice thereof, and govern yourself accordingly...

Mike Hamrick, PM



Jim Lofton
Senior Warden

Brothers,

This year has definitely been flying by for me, and it is hard to believe that we are almost halfway through our year. As we begin to look at next year I would like you to ask yourself...what more can I do to help the lodge? Moving through the officers chairs over the past four years has been for me an extremely rewarding and enjoyable experience. Not only do I feel like I have learned so much more about the degree work and the proceedings of the lodge, I have also spent many wonderful hours hanging out with my brothers and enjoying that fellowship time. While I understand that being an officer is not for everyone, I do think that it is important for members to continue their educational studies after being raised by completing their third degree catechism. While all positions both appointed and elected require proficiency on the third degree catechism, one is not required to continue his journey up the ladder. A brother who would like to be “stand-

in” for a steward or deacon or tyler, without going any further is perfectly acceptable. I would challenge all brothers (Past Masters included) if you want to participate please reach out to the current officers and let us know. We would love to see some new faces, as well as familiar ones become more active outside of only attending stated communications. I look forward to seeing everyone on the 14th of May.

Fraternally,
Jim Lofton

2013 OFFICERS

Worshipful Master	Kai Ferell	704-995-4676	Senior Deacon	Bill Clark	704-756-0343
Senior Warden	James Lofton, Jr.	704-488-1020	Junior Deacon	Bill Stout	704-996-4110
Junior Warden	Steven Porter	704-361-7185	Senior Steward	Chris Crump	704-913-1568
Treasurer	Neil Crossley, PM	704-365-9431	Chaplain	David Morgan, PM	704-882-6179
Secretary	Mike Hamrick, PM	704-724-8454	Tyler	Brad Hufeld, PM	407-335-0887

BIRTHDAYS

May	19 - Bill Mooney	05 - John Dwelle
02 - Robert Kirkley	20 - John Caudle	07 - Stanley Lathrop
02 - Christopher Baxas	23 - Harry Rice	07 - David Neal
03 - Garland Coursey	23 - Richard Armstrong	11 - Edward Keller
04 - Billy Garriss	23 - Anthony Crosby	11 - Robert Golibart
05—Richard Gardner II	24 - Phillip Kinmon	12 - Russell Kruse
05 - Douglas Mann	24 - William Deaton	14 - Scott Shelton
07 - Wayne Anderson	25 - Greg Strother	15 - William Snow
11 - Ben Honeycutt	28 - William Hodges	15 - Larry Martin
12 - James Mixson		18 - Jerry Cohen
12 - Chris Crump	June	18 - Roger Huse
13 - Jones Thompson	03 - Dirk Baxter	21 - Paul Whitfield
14 - Robert Goodson	03 - Brent Simpson	29 - Jerry McCorkle
16 - Edward Norris	04 - Billy Smith	29 - William Ross
	04 - Neal Saunders	30 - James Shore

Upcoming Masonic Happenings

- Sat, May 11** - Masonic Unity Pancake & Sausage Breakfast - 9am - Mecklenburg Shrine Club
- Sat, May 11** - 11am - Whitestone Family Day
- Sat, May 11** - James K Polk Lodge Fish Fry
- Tue, May 14** - Stated Communication
6:30pm Dinner, 7:30pm Lodge Opens
- Sat, May 18** - Steele Creek Lodge Annual Fish Fry/Car Show, 11am - 7pm (Car Show till 3pm)
- Mon, May 20** - Lecture Service - 6:30pm - 9:00pm
- Tue, May 21** - Lecture Service - 6:30pm - 9:00pm
- Tue, June 4** - Spring Service Awards Presentation
6:30pm Dinner, 7:30pm Presentation
- Tue, June 11** - Stated Communication
6:30pm Dinner, 7:30pm Lodge Opens



FROM THE CRAFT

Brethren,

I bring you greetings from Worshipful Brothers John Trail and Warren Dover, the District Deputy Grand Master and District Deputy Grand Lecturer of the 32nd Masonic District of North Carolina, A.F. & A.M.

The Spring 2013 School of Instruction for the 32nd Masonic District is now in the books. This session was hosted by Phalanx Lodge #31 and Charles M. Setzer Lodge #693 on Tuesday, April 23rd and Wednesday, April 24th, respectively. Phalanx brothers provided a traditional Southern style meal complete with fried chicken, mashed potatoes, corn, green beans and dessert. Setzer spread the table with an Italian fare consisting of lasagna (a choice of meat or vegetable), salad, rolls with butter and dessert. No brother walked away hungry. One thing that we, as Masons, know how to do is prepare a great meal when we get together for our fellowship time. The fellowship is, probably, the highlight of the School of Instruction gathering bi-annually.

The first night of the event saw a wonderfully informative presentation of lodge etiquette presented by WB Bill Robertson, at the request of DDGL WB Warren Dover. WB Robertson covered such items as looking sharp on giving our due guards and signs when required to do so and the proper ritual verbiage for a tardy brother to enter the lodge room once proceedings are underway. His words were put into practice by all of the brethren throughout the course of the two night instruction. It is the hope of the district officers that these practices will become the normal actions and continue to expand among the brethren. WBs John Hall and Jack Thrower (Past 32nd DDGM) along with WB John Trail (Current 32nd DDGM) provided some frivolity through some humorous stories and jokes. These light moments are always appreciated and add to our fellowship time together. Of course, the bulk of the evening's work focused on our practice of the fraternal ritual, including work on the Entered Apprentice and Fellowcraft Degrees.

The second, and final, night of the work provided more ritual instruction, focusing mainly on the Master Mason's Degree. While our proficiency is important, WB John Trail pointed out that "humor is one of the best teachers" citing the fact that the 32nd Masonic District, overall, does a wonderful re-enactment of the verbiage and floor work but also in conveying these in a wonderfully interactive manner with each other. Additionally on this evening, a presentation was made by WB Tim Counts III regarding the re-ignited Demolay chapter within our district. According to WB Counts, there are 10 members of the body who are dedicated and committed to the work. He encouraged us all, through our Demolay committees, to get involved with shaping the fraternal lives of these young men, many of which are from single parent homes. August 2013 will see the Demolay Conclave come about. WB Counts asked for financial support through our lodges to make it possible for all of the young men to attend, if desired. He noted that 4 of possible 7 proposed attendees are financially ready to attend. Subsidized funds were being sought for the remaining 3 members. Before WB Counts finished his presentation, 3 brethren from the district committed to sponsor the remaining young men. This action, my brothers, are what we are all about-giving to others in all manner of ways to accomplish the moral and social virtues that our society so desperately needs at this time. My hats off to the brethren. Even though sponsorship for the Conclave is taken care of, we can get involved in many other ways to help this growing Chapter. If you would like to help out, get with your Demolay Committee and find out how you can do so.

Other items of interest to the district were also brought to the attention of those gathered. A new method of administration for the district's "Traveling Gavel" was introduced. WB John Trail proposed that the gavel be one of presentation instead of capture. History tells us that the "Traveling Gavel" floats between 2-3 lodges in the district but, doesn't do so very often. The concept of the gavel was to encourage visitation at Stated Communications by 6 or more brethren. If this number was achieved, the lodge who met those requirements was able to "capture" the gavel from the lodge holding the gavel at the time. The proposal to change would see the lodge holding the gavel with 60 days from the time of taking possession to take it to another lodge on either Stated or Emergent Communications. The same number of 6 or more brethren apply to make the presentation. The lodge taking possession of the gavel then has 60 days to present it to another lodge or be fined \$50, the amount of which would go to a Masonic Charity. The lodge that to which the gavel is taken cannot be the same lodge from which it was presented. This action is to encourage greater variety in participation. A formal communication is forthcoming from WB John Trail on the specifics of this change in procedure.

If you were not able to make it to the Spring 2013 School of Instruction, please make plans on attending the Fall event. The dates will be announced in the near future. Brethren, I cannot emphasize enough that the old saying "knowledge is power" is very true. Masonry is a way of life. Our duties and responsibilities are not confined or limited to our once monthly Stated Communication. There are numerous activities in which we engage during the month and year. As with any other activity, more fun is achieved if preparedness is in place. Are you prepared? "Lay up not for yourself treasures on earth but, treasures in Heaven". Think about that statement, brethren, and share with others.

Sincerely & Fraternaly, WB Ralph Harkey, PM 2012