

TRESTLEBOARD

PHALANX LODGE NO. 31



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March 2014



Jim Lofton
Master

Hello all my Brothers!

I hope that this article finds you all doing well and enjoying the wonderful weather we have been having since the system that forced us to cancel our February stated communication. Our March stated is sure to be a busy one with much to catch up on from February, as well as the annual visit from our DDGM, WB John Trail. I would really like for us to really make an impression on brother Trail with a really great turnout. Our cooks have really stepped it up this year and we have had some terrific meals so far so I am sure that March will not disappoint. We are also looking forward to a second degree

that we expect will occur during late March for our newly initiated entered apprentices. I am told they are progressing well through their catechism and should be ready for examination in the next few weeks.

As the spring heats up I have been thinking more and more about a spring fundraiser. I know that typically in the past we have done a fall BBQ (and will continue to do so), but our primary function is to raise money for our charities. I feel like we should take every opportunity possible to make that happen! I would really like to hear any ideas or suggestions for a late April or May fundraiser i.e. Fish Fry, Raffle, Carnival for the neighborhood. Please let me know if you have an ideas or opinions about this topic. I look forward to seeing all of you at our next stated on March 11th.

Fraternally,
Jim Lofton - Master



Mike Hamrick, PM
Secretary

Brothers,

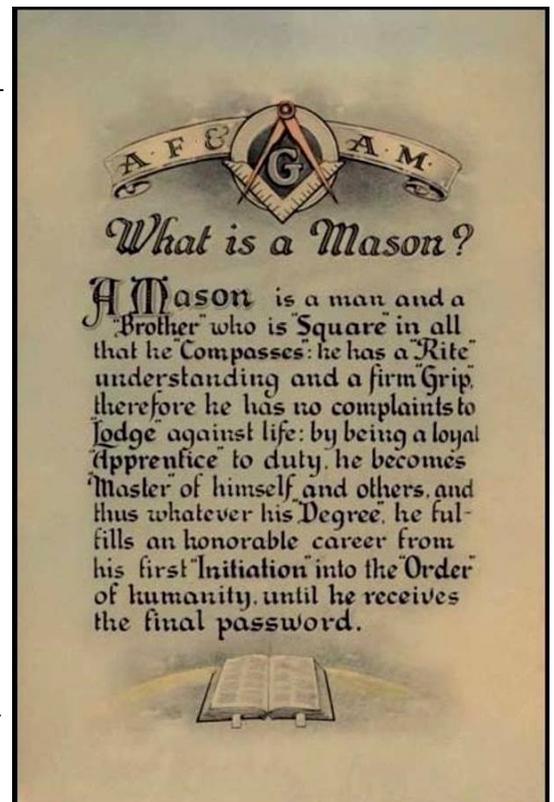
In last month's Trestleboard, I shared a small portion of the Lodge System of Masonic Education, which is to provide introduction, guidance and explanations as a candidate progresses through the degrees. As this is a series of five sessions, I thought that I might share a small portion of the second session, presented following being Initiated an Entered Apprentice: *In the lodge during*

your initiation you were taught a certain lesson about a cornerstone. The meaning of that lesson should now make sense to you. You are a cornerstone of the Craft. Today you are an Entered Apprentice; in a short time you may be a Fellow Craft; after that you may become a Master Mason. The day may come when into your hands will fall the responsibilities of the lodge. What Masonry is to be in the future depends on what you are now, as an Entered Apprentice. You are the cornerstone on which the Fraternity is now building for the future. It is our hope that you will prove a solid foundation, true and tried, set foursquare, on which our great Fraternity may safely build for work in many years to come.

Do you recall your journey through the degrees? Do you continue to be that solid foundation upon which the Fraternity, even today, builds its future? Have the lessons and charges of the degrees directed your path...your behavior...your character? Could you use a refresher?

We would love to see you in the Lodge...

Mike Hamrick, PM

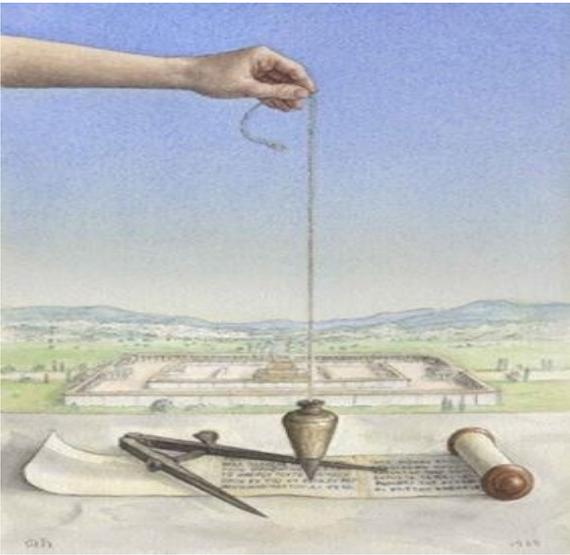


THE REAL WORTH OF A MASON

The real worth of a Mason can never be measured in the opinion of his fellows or in the Masonic honors he has attained. The standard by which a Mason must be judged is by his own evaluation of his conduct and by the principles which he knows to be the unerring and unchanging ones.

Freemasonry and the wages of Masons are endless, so long as a man is willing to strive for them. If he measures himself by the plumb, and sets his standards accordingly, he will benefit from Masonic education, Masonic philosophy and from association with the finest men in his community.

The standard by which a man judges himself as a Mason is the same unerring principle by which he judges himself as a family man, as a churchman, as a business-man, and as a citizen. He will learn to walk uprightly in all his endeavors, learning from the plumb the lesson of rectitude of conduct. Each man must stand by the plumb line which is set in the midst of God's people.



Upcoming Masonic Happenings

Tue, March 11 - Stated Communication
{DDGM Official Visit}
6:30pm Dinner, 7:30pm Lodge Opens

Tue, April 8 - Stated Communication
6:30pm Dinner, 7:30pm Lodge Opens

Thu, April 24 - Grand Master Dalton W. Mayo District Meeting
6:00pm Dinner, 7:15pm Meeting
Temple Lodge - 3900 Litchfield Rd.

2014 OFFICERS

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BIRTHDAYS

MARCH	08 - Matthew S. Jordan	20 - Robert K. Braswell	04 - Allan Laymon	14 - Dale I. Gillis
01 - Alan T. Parker	09 - John S. Harder	20 - Daryl W. Kelly	04 - Warley M. Araujo	14 - Richard A. Vinroot
02 - Walter W. Grahling Jr.	09 - Robert L. Saye Sr.	21 - George Dizes	05 - Ernest A. Morrison Jr	14 - Kai T. Ferell
02 - Larry G. Jacobs	09 - Charles A. Cutlip	27 - Neil F. Crossley	07 - Timothy E. Pope	14 - Walter E. Dickson
02 - Eugene A. Corey	10 - Bernard W. Manton	29 - Randall E. Baker	08 - Edgar A. Miller Jr	16 - Tony Woodward
03 - Jack L. Rimmer	12 - Robert C. Richardson	APRIL	08 - Glenn C. Harrelson	20 - John L. Campbell
03 - Thurston D. Thompson	12 - Vernon M. Goode	03 - Blair Carpenter	10 - Boyce M. Brown	21 - Lewis Berryhill Jr
03 - Dennis A. Moody	15 - David L. Burris	03 - Willie Brumbalow	10 - David W. Morrison	22 - Dorsey Hardy
06 - David A. Rose	19 - Ed J. Davis	03 - Anthony T. Pressley	11 - John C. Donaldson	29 - Robert A. James
07 - Donald A. Gilmore	19 - Anthony Yankowski	03 - William S. McGee	11 - William W. Sealey	30 - Duane H. Burch
08 - Fred A. Jenkins	19 - Eric Wainwright	03 - Earl S. Stegall	13 - Larry J. Morgan	
	20 - Randolph Kiser	04 - Irwin Belk	14 - David A. Holmes	

FROM THE CRAFT

Greetings from Music City USA, brethren!

As I have gone about my busy life since arriving in Nashville, TN, not a day has passed that I have not thought about my beloved Phalanx Lodge #31 in Charlotte NC. I think about my brethren. "What are they up to both personally and fraternally?" "What is the next event on the lodge calendar?" "What is the next Stated Communication meal going to consist of?" "What fundraiser is on the horizon?" You know, all of the things that carried me from one week to the next in Masonic circles.

Since being in Nashville, my work schedule has not afforded me the opportunity to become involved with a local Blue Lodge, any of the Rites or the Shrine. I am, however, blessed to encounter a few brethren in the form of locals and tourists from time to time. We meet and talk as if we have known each other forever. Isn't that the way it is supposed to be? I must admit, I miss the camaraderie that we shared at Phalanx.

That feeling started me to thinking about our Closing Charge. That few moments that we stand in a circle, hand in hand, is one of my favorite times during our gatherings. It is the one time of a meeting that we are all able to stand together, look each other in the eye, have an individual thought about each other and share the energy and emotions of what make us the greatest fraternity in the world.

I implore each one of you to look upon this time at the end of each meeting with a view that you may never have before. It has been said many times that we should take an opportunity to look around the "circle" at every brother present because it is not known if they will populate the circle again. That could be for a number of reasons. In many religious services I have attended, there is a time of prayer that the participants are asked, if they feel so lead, to utter the name of someone in need of prayer. While we are not a religious order, maybe that is something that should be done during the Closing Charge. Not in a prayer sense; nothing would have to be described, it doesn't even have to be a person for whom there is a known need-just a simple mention of the persons name, living or not, to make it known the person is not forgotten. So many times I have stood in the Closing Charge circle and looked around only to find the next time that a brother is missing. What a flood of emotion consumes you when you realize that absence.

In closing, I leave you with this thought..."If you love someone, put their name in a circle; because hearts can be broken but circles never end"-Author Unknown

Until we meet again, brethren!

WB Ralph



The Dash

I read of a man who stood to speak at the funeral of a friend.
He referred to the dates on his tombstone, from the beginning to the end.
He noted that first came the date of his birth, and spoke of the following date with tears,
but he said what mattered most of all was the dash between those years.
For the dash represented all the time that he spent alive on Earth,
and now only those who love him know what that little line is worth.
For it matters not how much we own, the cars, the house, the cash.
What matters is how we live and love, and how we spend our dash.
So think about this long and hard, are there things you'd like to change?
For you never know how much time is left, that can still be rearranged...
If we treat each other with respect and more often wear a smile,
remembering that this special dash might only last a little while.
So when your eulogy is read, with your life's actions to rehash.
Would you be proud of the things they say, about how you spent your dash?"

- Linda Ellis