

TRESTLEBOARD

PHALANX LODGE NO. 31



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<http://www.phalanx31.org>

September 2014



Jim Lofton
Master

Greetings Brothers!

Well Brothers it is hard to believe that we are moving into the fall already and looking forward to Grand Lodge, our annual BBQ fundraiser and possibly two more candidates to go through the degrees. I hope that everyone had a great summer, but now it is time for us to really buckle down and start planning our fall events. We want to go ahead and start getting some volunteers to commit time to our annual BBQ fundraiser and signup sheets will be available at the Sept stated. Please plan on committing some time Saturday Oct 25th. We will be asking for folks to sign up for 2 hour blocks, but feel free to sign up for more. This is a great opportunity for fun and fellowship in the service of our charities. As a reminder, your three principle officers will be attending Grand Lodge the last weekend of this month and we ask that if you have an opinion about an amendment, you make sure to tell us at the Sept stated. We vote the will of the lodge and want to make sure that everyone is represented. I look forward to seeing everyone at this month's stated, and if possible, try to reach out to a fellow brother you haven't seen in a while and ask them to join us as well.

Fraternally,
Jim Lofton - Master



Mike Hamrick, PM
Secretary

Brothers,

This fall is setting up to be a very busy one for our Lodge. Starting with our Stated Communications which are on the second Tuesdays, we also have the NC Grand Lodge Annual Communication in Winston-Salem in late September, we anticipate an Entered Apprentice Degree in late September or early October, and then our Barbeque fundraiser in late October. There are many ways that you can be involved, and we would welcome your participation.

You all should have seen the proposed CODE amendments in the latest NC Mason publication. Your principal officers will be voting on these at the Sep 26 & 27 Annual Communication. Should you have a strong opinion on any of these, please make this known to the Master or Wardens. Should you wish to review these, the NC Mason can be accessed through the Grand Lodge website: www.grandlodge-nc.org.

Finally, we are nearing the time when I must send 2014 dues delinquency final notices. These will ask that payment of dues be made prior to our October 14 Stated Communication, and if not paid, a vote will be conducted during the November Stated regarding either cancelling dues or excluding members. Our Member Retention Committee has been diligently attempting to contact each delinquent member, however for some we do not have phone numbers or email addresses. Should you not have a current dues card and wish to discuss your circumstances, please do not hesitate to contact the Master or Secretary.

Fraternally,
Mike Hamrick, PM





Chris Crump
Junior Warden

Hello Brethren, Brother AJ Morton distributed a copy of two very interesting Masonic articles at our last Stated. I thought that I would include one of those here for those who were not present.

CHARLOTTE HOSPITAL HAD MASONIC START

The following are excerpts from a paper researched by WB John H. Rosser, DDGM, 41st Masonic District.

Presbyterian Hospital in Charlotte was originally a private institution owned by three doctors. In 1903, it was purchased by a group of ten doctors for about \$2,000; they added another \$1,000 for supplies and equipment. Then they presented it to the Presbyterian Churches of Charlotte, from which it gets its name.

Dr. (and Brother) James R. Alexander, Past Master of Phalanx Lodge #31, in 1905 was elected to the hospital's Board. He was alarmed to find a deficit of \$4,000. Everything was in good order, but the hospital was dying on the vine. So he invited Phalanx Lodge to furnish a room.

The members of the Lodge accepted the challenge, and built the finest hospital room in the area, with no strings attached. Soon after, Excelsior and Joppa Lodges also made magnificent contributions. At the end of June, 1905., the hospital showed a net gain in assets.

When Elizabeth College at the present location was to be sold for \$400,000, Bro. W.S. Lee, founder of Duke Power, publicly endorsed the purchase, and the big new hospital was underway. It was dedicated by the Grand Lodge of AF & AM in North Carolina on December 5, 1918.

Fraternally,
Chris Crump



Upcoming Masonic Happenings

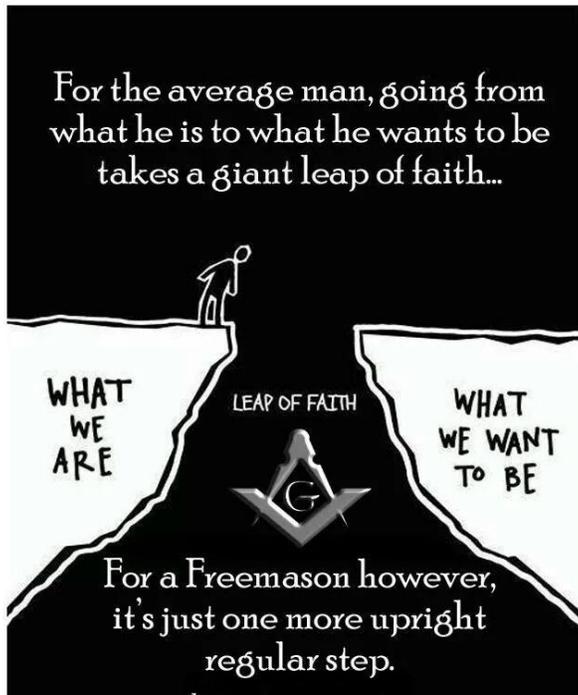
Tue, September 9 - Stated Communication
6:30pm Dinner, 7:30pm Lodge Opens

Fri/Sat, September 26 & 27 - NC Grand Lodge Annual Communication - Winston-Salem, NC

Tue, October 14 - Stated Communication
6:30pm Dinner, 7:30pm Lodge Opens

Fri/Sat, October 24,25 - Charlotte Scottish Rite Fall Reunion

Sat, October 25 - 23rd Annual Cletus O. Fulp Barbeque



BIRTHDAYS

SEPTEMBER

- 01 - James Brandenburg
- 01 - James Brown
- 01 - Matthew Sawtelle
- 07 - William Nunn
- 09 - Carlton Mason
- 09 - Jeff Katz
- 11 - James Morrow

- 11 - Bennie Crosby
- 13 - George Middleton
- 17 - Triston Stegall
- 19 - Frank Neal
- 23 - Earl Biles
- 23 - Will King
- 24 - Ralph Linn
- 27 - Francis E. Price
- 27 - Ralph Lee

- 28 - Gordon Reed
- 28 - Wayne Crump
- 28 - Zeke Pittard
- 29 - Dennis Wilson
- 30 - Mike Hamrick

OCTOBER

- 01 - Robert Wright

- 06 - William Wilson
- 09 - James Hobbs
- 09 - Zeb Parrish Jr.
- 09 - Bennie Neely
- 09 - James Simons
- 12 - Harold Uttley
- 13 - Wayne Barentine
- 16 - Herman Noles
- 16 - Henry Lee

- 16 - Leo Long
- 19 - John Stephens III
- 22 - Boyce Mauney Jr.
- 23 - Franklin Folger
- 23 - Gary Taylor
- 30 - Norman Manning
- 30 - Leon Rippy



THE RECOMMENDER

Bt MWB Lowell C. Jensen, PGM (Idaho)

What is in a name? It is the means, by which, we as individuals are identified. If it is used with concern and care, it will be respected. If it is overused and abused, it will be questioned and often there will be debate as to its value. For example, who respects a person who has the reputation of passing bad checks? He develops the reputation of a person who cannot be depended on...so it is, my Brothers, in Masonry.

The name of a Master Mason can bring pleasure to himself, and profit to the Fraternity, if wisely used. It is an instrument to loose, as well as to make fast, the gates of the Fraternity.

When we recommend a person for the degrees of Masonry, do we realize the importance of this act? Does the prospective member possess the qualities and character necessary to become a good Mason? This is the first and most important safeguard of the Fraternity. Like the checks we give out, there must be sufficient funds to make the transaction good, or it will bounce and the reputation of the recommender and the petitioner will be jeopardized.

When we sign a petition, are we just practicing our penmanship and leaving our responsibility behind? In recent years, possibly this has been the situation with too many of our petitions.

The Persons admitted Members of a Lodge must be good and true Men, free-born, and of mature and discreet Age, no Bondsman, no Women, no immoral or scandalous Men, but of good Report. (Andersons Constitutions of 1723).

The first responsibility, in regard to a petitioner, is to determine if he possesses the desire to become a Mason, and if so, has he been given some idea of what Freemasonry is and what it is not? Has he been informed that he will have to meet certain moral and financial obligations?

In some jurisdictions and in some of the lodges, the recommender is expected to stand up in open lodge and make a brief statement about the person he is recommending for membership.

The persons who sign a petition should always be in lodge when the petition is read, and by all means they should be present when it is balloted on. Failure to do so leaves a question among the Craft that the recommenders may not be completely sold on the individual. If they are convinced, they would display their conviction by being present. If you would - a credit reference for a good man. Isn't this practicing the teachings of our Fraternity, that of concern for our fellowman?

If the persons who have given this credit reference are concerned Masons, they can make a very important impression by being present at lodge every night when the candidate receives his degrees. Better yet, they should take him to lodge and introduce him to the membership. By so doing, they will be available to answer all the questions that he may have. This act will establish the first tie of Brotherhood; therefore causing the candidate to think, Say, these fellows are serious. They are concerned with Masonry and with me.

We say that when the candidate has completed the necessary requirements of the three degrees of Masonry, he is a Master Mason and is thereby commended to the kind care and protection of Master Masons withersoever dispersed. My Brethren, he is just starting to become a Master Mason at this point. To this new Brother of the Craft, the recommenders should assume a greater responsibility than ever before. They are the two Masons who can whisper good counsel to the new Brother, take him to a neighboring lodge and let him be examined, assist him with the formalities of balloting in lodge, inform him on what honors are to be given at the proper time, what books are good for his further enlightenment, and can offer assistance to those questions that most members hesitate to ask when they are so new. By so doing, they are thereby developing a deep and lasting impression of Masonry. Therefore they would be enabling him to become a better Mason.

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By their demonstration of interest and concern in the new Brother, they are demonstrating that there are sufficient funds to make the transaction good to the petitioner they are demonstrating that he is important, and that they are willing to help him to a better way of life.

Let another do it is somewhat the way of our lives...passing the buck. Too much responsibility has been placed on the coach, and letting the brothers who recommended him go somewhat free of responsibility in laying this important foundation. If the coach does not do a good job, the candidate does not receive the start to which he is entitled. Whose responsibility is it to see that the new brother received good coaching, and that he understands the teachings of the Masonic Degrees? The recommenders, in signing the petition, have in effect, stated that the candidate is potentially a good Mason, and if they are serious about it, they will see that he receives the proper start in Masonry.

Possibly we should return to the practice of standing up in lodge and demonstrate our pride in the use of our names. This would require the recommender to express a deep belief in the character and reputation of the person proposed for membership and attest to his good character, as well as the recommenders willingness to follow through.

If there is a loss of Brothers interest and involvement in Masonry and the discharging of his financial obligation begins to decrease to the point where he must be dropped from the rolls, then the recommenders and the other Brothers must assume their responsibility once more. Here again there has been too much of letting another do it. The Lodge Secretary should never have to do any of the soliciting of dues (other than in open lodge). It is the membership's responsibility, particularly the recommender, to demonstrate their concern in their fellowman and Brethren.

So, what is in a name? Has it some meaning? Is it as good as the individual it represents? In the roll of the recommender, we are the most important person in Masonry. What kind of a reference are we giving when we sign our names, and in the role we play after that?

Think back to the times you have used your name on petitions in the past. Is the Brother still a Mason, and how good a Mason is he? What did you do in this important act - in safeguarding and opening the gates to a better way of life?

There is an instrument, the Trowel, which spreads the cement of Masonry, and I quote in part that cement which unites us into one sacred band, or society of friends and brothers, among whom no contention should ever exist, but that noble contention, or rather emulation, of who best can work and best agree. My Brothers, there is another working tool of Freemasonry, the pen. When it is used to sign a petition, it is writing the future of Freemasonry.



2014 OFFICERS

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"Freemasonry is "veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols" because these are the surest way by which moral and ethical truths may be taught. It is not only with the brain and with the mind that the initiate must take Freemasonry but also with the heart." C.H. Claudy