

TRESTLEBOARD

PHALANX LODGE NO. 31



Volume 217, Issue 11

<http://www.phalanx31.org>

November 2014



Jim Lofton
Master

Greetings Brothers!

Thank you! I want to give a big thank you to all of the Brothers that came out and helped with our BBQ!! We had a great turn out on Saturday the 25th and all of the brothers had a great time chopping and serving BBQ together. I also want to give a big thanks to WB Neil Crossley and his team of BBQ cooks that were there all night Friday preparing the meat. We had a lot of folks come in from the community as well for dine in and to-go BBQ. It is always nice to meet some of the folks from the neighborhood and let them know about the charities we support. We have lots of events coming up in the next few months and it would be terrific to have as many brothers as possible attend. We have our annual elections, as well as our officer installation and service awards night in December. We have had a great fall with lots of degree work including two more newly initiated Entered Apprentices on Tuesday November the 4th. I look forward to seeing everyone at the November stated for elections.

Fraternally,
Jim Lofton - Master



Mike Hamrick, PM
Secretary

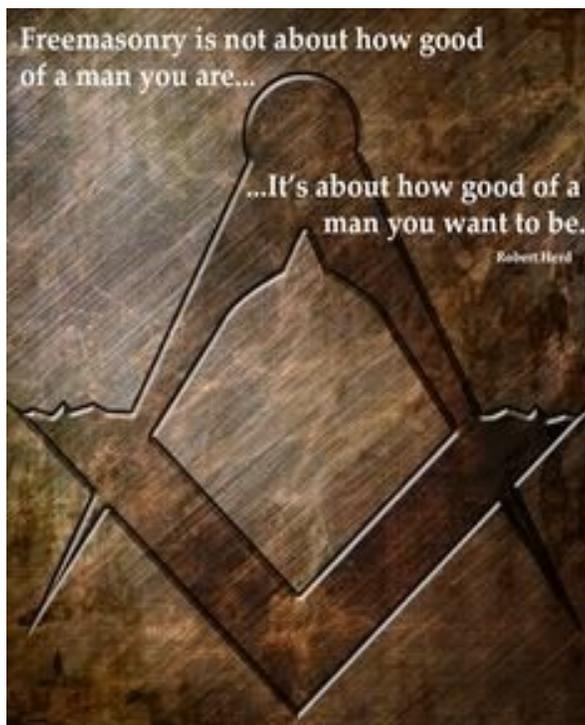
Brothers,

It seems, at least to me, that the Lodge almost never sleeps, and that is particularly true in the final quarter of this year for ours, where we will experience a unique mix of the "old" and the "new". We have just finished our annual fall fundraiser, the 23rd Annual Cletus O. Fulp Barbeque, and seen the Masonic journey begin for three young men with their Entered Apprentice Degrees. The November Stated Communication will see the election of our 2015 Officers (Master, Sr. Warden, Jr. Warden, Treasurer, Secretary and Trustee), and December will hold our final Stated of 2014 as well as the Service Awards where we will recognize those who have reached the milestone years of 25, 50 and 60 years in good standing in our fraternity, and the Installation of the 2015 elected and appointed officers.

Whether part of the new, or part of the old, or both, we are all still here, walking along our life's path. Our Brother Walt Disney once said, "We keep moving forward, opening new doors, and doing new things, because we're curious and curiosity keeps leading us down new paths." Will your curiosity lead you to join us at the Lodge in the coming year?

I do, so truly hope so.

Fraternally,
Mike Hamrick, PM





Chris Crump
Junior Warden

Hello Brethren,

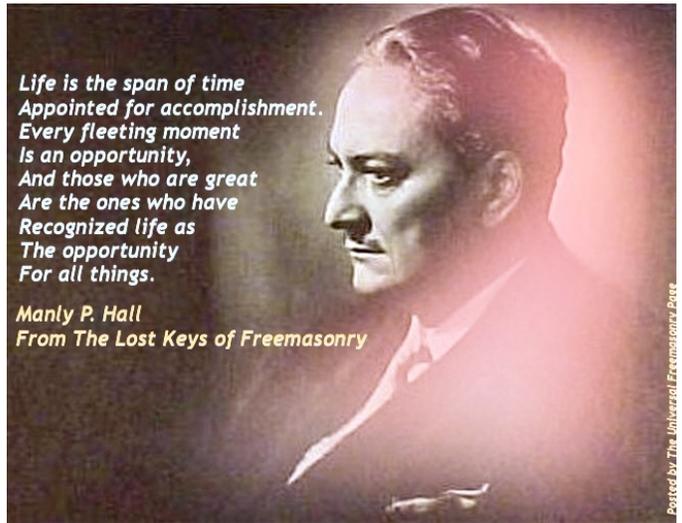
Charlotte DeMolay and the Western District of North Carolina DeMolay needs your help in collecting items for underserved children and youth in the area, and is working with A Child's Place to distribute these in December.

The following items are needed:

tooth brushes, tooth paste, dental floss, deoderant, body wash, hair conditioner, small personal washcloths, uni-sex socks, band-aids, basic feminine products, small combs, small coloring books (no crayons or pencils), small reading books, financial donations are accepted.

Charlotte DeMolay has provided every lodge in the area with a decorated box to place these items in. Ours is in the entry lobby of our building. Please consider helping Charlotte DeMolay in their assistance of those in our community who are unable to provide for themselves.

Fraternally,
Chris Crump



Upcoming Masonic Happenings

Tue, November 11 - Stated Communication
(including election of 2015 officers)
6:30pm Dinner, 7:30pm Lodge Opens

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

Tue, December 16 - Service Awards and Officer's Installation
6:30pm Dinner, 7:30pm Service Awards,
immediately followed by Installation

BIRTHDAYS

NOVEMBER				
02 - Roy York	13 - Bob Kirkpatrick	23 - Robert Thomson III	03 - Michel Badawi	20 - Ben Asseff
07 - John Gallimore Jr.	15 - Howard Braverman	24 - Chad Andrews	05 - John Lamb Jr	21 - Bill Cowan
07 - J. Peter Schuetz	15 - Willie Freeman	25 - Henry Graham	05 - Charles R. Massey	24 - Paul Poley
07 - Winston Way	15 - Bill Stout	25 - Glenn Sigmon	06 - Mark Rosen	24 - James Lofton Jr
08 - Rai Desai	16 - Charles Jessup	27 - Reid Brown	11 - Jim Martin	28 - Kent Schevlin
09 - Arnold Wilson	16 - Frank Williams	29 - William Spruiell	11 - Mark Magyar	28 - Brandon Lacy
09 - Jerry Church	16 - Cam Caudle		12 - James A. Pollock Jr	29 - James D. Cain
10 - Ian McIntyre	17 - Lou Bledsoe		13 - Gary P. Kleiber	29 - Robert Tosti
10 - Bill Blalock	18 - Charles Spivey		13 - Warren S. Bennick	31 - Ralston Pound Jr
11 - Scott King	19 - Claude Cochran		13 - Scott McCorkle	31 - Horace Horne
12 - Harvey Bailey	20 - Richard Horne		15 - John A. Martin	31 - William E. Graham Jr
	20 - Bill Gallimore		17 - Gene C. Pitman	31 - Bill Robertson
DECEMBER				
	01 - Roy Atkins			
	01 - John Litschert II			
	02 - Jack Goode			
	02 - Stephen Taylor			



"The Potential Candidate"

By: R.W. Brother Cliff Farber - Royal Edward 585, February 22, 2002 Part One.

This young man, whom we shall call Jim, related that a few years back one of his friends told him that he was a Mason and he thought that perhaps Jim would enjoy becoming a member of the Fraternity. So naturally enough Jim asked for some details as to what we represented, what we did and what our goals were. The Mason apparently stammered, became flustered, looked at the ground and said things about "making good men better", "stonemason's guilds" and "learning the work". Jim then asked if Freemasonry was a service club like the Kiwanis or the Lions and he was told "no", that it was a Fraternal organization, not a service club so Freemasonry wasn't front and center in the community as were the service clubs. No further information was forthcoming so needless to say the matter was not pursued.

Sometime later Jim was walking with another friend and noticed the Square and Compasses logo on his ring so once again he asked for an explanation of what Freemasonry was all about. And, once again, the Mason looked at the ground and said that it was a "worldwide Fraternal Organization that studied history". When asked what went on at Masonic meetings Jim was told that Masons performed "work" and "rituals". At this point young Jim thought that we actually carved or sculpted blocks of stone. When further questioned about the work the Mason said that it involved history and allegory. Although this Mason obviously meant well Jim realized that the man could not comfortably articulate what Freemasonry was so again Jim was left with too little information and the matter was dropped. Fortunately Jim held both of these men in very high regard and he knew that he would trust both of them with his life so he found it unusually curious that they were both members of the Masonic Fraternity.

Some time later Jim ran into another well-regarded friend and in the course of conversation he learned that this fellow too was a Mason and as it turns out he didn't know either of the other 2 Masons that Jim had already discussed Freemasonry with. When asked for an explanation of Freemasonry, this fellow also looked at the ground and after thinking about it for a bit, said that it was hard to explain but he was certain that Jim would enjoy the Masonic experience. He also mentioned King Solomon's Temple and the Knight's Templar but didn't provide any details.

Fortunately Jim was a persistent young man. His curiosity being aroused, he finally called the local Masonic Temple and asked for information on how to become a member of the Fraternity. The Mason that answered the phone did not get into an explanation of Freemasonry but he assured Jim that someone would call him back for a lengthier discussion.

To Jim's complete surprise he received a call the very next evening from someone that he thought had referred to himself, as the mascot of the Lodge, which Jim would learn later, was the Master of the Lodge. The Worshipful Brother did explain the philosophy of Freemasonry to Jim and arranged for a meeting to take place at Jim's home with 2 members of the local Lodge. Thankfully, it turns out that the 2 Masons that went to visit Jim were friendly, thorough and very knowledgeable about the craft. Jim was very impressed that these 2 Masons, previously unknown to him, would actually spend a considerable amount of time and effort trying to answer all of his questions and openly encouraging him to ask more. This is when Jim found out that "the work" did not involve making coffee and "moving through the chairs" was not just another party game. It was a very enjoyable and enlightening evening for our young man and shortly afterward Jim filled in his Application for Initiation, with these 2 latter Masons acting as his sponsors.

While this particular scenario seems to have worked out well in the end, it could easily have gone the other way. Jim could have, quite understandably, decided that Masons did not encourage new members, had no real drive to explain themselves or their goals and he could have just dropped the whole thing as a bad idea. The question of course, that begs to be answered, is why should anyone have to go to this much trouble to find out what our Fraternity represents? Why would the young man start to think that looking at the ground was part of our ritual?

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Certainly one of those 3 Masons that Jim encountered could have referred him to someone else or at least ensure that some printed matter was given to him. How does this type of situation arise? Are some of us embarrassed when questioned? Are we unsure of what we can say and what we cannot say? Are we not proud enough of our Fraternity to be able to tell people honestly what our Masonic philosophy is and that we stand for the greatest of man's ideals? We cannot and must not be ashamed of what we are. There is not another Fraternity in the world that its members should be more proud of. The good works, charitable efforts and worldwide community support and involvement are not to be kept a secret. Furthermore, we can and should explain that not everyone will be accepted into our membership. That we are interested only in men that have a belief in a Supreme Being and that they must believe in helping their fellow man - in actions as well as in words...that we do not want (nor will we accept); racists, bigots, abusers or criminals...that we are looking for men of good morals and good intentions. That our Fraternity strives to support and encourage good conduct and good citizenship and that all men have an obligation to their families, their jobs and their churches. That we encourage our members to support their fellow man and to support their particular religions, whatever their religion may be.

We can also say that Freemasonry does not restrict membership based on race, religious persuasion, physical limitations or handicaps. We should state that once inside our Lodge rooms, all distinctions among men cease - that we are all Brothers - no one is more valuable or of a higher status than anyone else, regardless of their particular stations in life. We can mention that all issues that divide men are left outside the Lodge door, things like politics, religion and wealth. No one cares who you are, how you address God or whom you vote for. We should accentuate our values of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth and let people know that we promote charity and benevolence to all.

Brethren, this is a great and wonderful Fraternity that we hold membership in. It is an organization that we can and must be proud of. It is one that we hope like-minded men will continue to enjoy becoming a part of. We have nothing to hide - nothing to be ashamed of and certainly nothing to look at the ground for when questioned. At this point in our history our Fraternity is still experiencing a decline in membership - a slide that we all hope will soon end - a slide that we hope will level off leaving us with a stable and sustainable membership. We will not prevent this decline by ignoring questions and leaving people to wonder what we stand for.

So my Brethren, it is now time to stand up for our Fraternity, to proudly show your Masonic ring or lapel pin and to face all of these questions straight on - with answers that are truthful, honest and sincere - answers that our Fraternity needs and expects from you, answers that will go a long way to ensure the continued survival of our Order, with all of our beliefs and principles firmly intact, answers that might mean that the next "Jim" becomes part of the future of your Lodge.



2014 OFFICERS

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"History is more or less bunk. It's tradition. We don't want tradition. We want to live in the present and the only history that is worth a tinker's damn is the history we made today."

- Bro. Henry Ford - Palestine Lodge No. 357 F.& A.M., Michigan, USA