



TRESTLEBOARD

PHALANX LODGE NO. 31

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<http://www.phalanx31.org>

February 2012

Message From the East

Brethren,

I can't begin to describe the feeling I had upon arriving at our January Stated Communication! **Exhilarated, Excited, Emotional** and...**Amazed** (quite frankly) are just a few words that came to mind. As I parked and began my journey into the building I was met with brotherly grips, pats on the back, greetings of the new year and well wishes. There was definitely an air of anxiousness, on the part of the brethren therein assembled and myself. It was not only the first meeting of a newly elected Master, the first Stated meeting of the year but also the first meeting for many Phalanx members in a new location and the first combined meeting since the merger of Joppa and Phalanx Lodges! I'm sure all of these factors combined to produce a turn out of more than 40 brothers but, I will take it!

The Stewards, Bros. Bill Stout and Chris Crump set a marvelous table with pork tenderloin, green pea salad and roasted red skin potatoes. Oh, and don't forget the homemade banana pudding that Bro. Crump's mother made for our dessert! Funny, but there didn't seem to be any left over of that particular dish...From what I understand, this is the first in what will be a bountiful year of Stated Communication meals. The Stewards have taken the attitude for 2012 of "If you feed them, they will come". It is the goal this year to provide adequate notice of Stated Communication meals in order to assist brethren in properly preparing to attend. Sometimes dietary restrictions or just plain "likes" and "dislikes" play a factor in breaking bread with the brethren. I shutter to think that a brother would not attend due to what was on the menu but, it happens. I understand that a special night is planned for our February Stated Communication since it will fall on Valentine's Day, February 14th. Stay tuned for more information embedded in this newsletter. Another thought on the meeting meals is if you have comments, compliments, criticisms or suggestions please direct them to your officers. We will attempt to be sensitive to these comments.

We are off to a great start for our 2012 lodge year. There are many items that have been undertaken such as the creation of a Past Master's recognition board for the Past Masters of Joppa Lodge, the creation of a new lodge seal recognizing the combined information from Meridian, Phalanx and Joppa Lodges and a clean up day for the facility to be scheduled in conjunction with East Gate Lodge. We are also looking to continue our community involvement with projects with the Community Blood Center, The Special Olympics and The Ronald McDonald House. Worshipful Brother Brad Hufeld, the immediate Past Master of Phalanx Lodge, has agreed to continue his work with these organizations and be the conduit for our lodge. Brother Neil Crosley has graciously offered to continue his involvement with the annual BBQ, as well. Brethren, this is where we can make a difference in the lives of folks in our own community. Let's not lose sight of our own charities such as the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford or Whitestone but let's begin extending our circle of influence right here in our own neighborhoods. After all, our family, friends, neighbors and acquaintances are the ones with whom we have the greatest opportunities for portraying the tenets of Masonry-Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth. As I stated about our lodge meals, please let your officers know if there is anything that you are passionate about supporting from a lodge perspective. Engagement by our members, excitement about our work and leading by example will continue to make 2012 a great year!

Yours sincerely & fraternally,
Bro. Ralph Harkey, Master 2012
Phalanx Lodge #31

Message From the West

Brethren,

While I sit here wondering what to put down on paper, I started looking for inspiration and information of what I could write about. And of course, most of us turn to the Internet for those very things. While I read, thought, read some more, and still came up blank, I eventually came across a short story that I found inspiration from. But instead of giving you the Cliff Notes version of it, I wanted to share it with everyone in its entirety.

THE TEST:

SEVERAL YEARS AGO, the story is told of a Mason who always wore his Masonic ring and lapel pin when in public. On some

occasions, he rode the bus from his home to the downtown area. On one such trip and when he sat down, he discovered the driver had accidentally given him a quarter too much change.

As he considered what to do, he thought to himself, "You'd better give the quarter back. It would be wrong to keep it." Then he thought, "Oh, forget it, it's only a quarter; who would worry about this little amount."

Anyway, the transit company gets too much fare; they will never miss it. Accept it as a 'gift from God' and keep quiet.

When his stop came, he paused momentarily at the door, and then he handed

the quarter to the driver and said, "Here, you gave me too much change."

The driver with a smile replied, "I noticed your Masonic ring and lapel pin. I have been thinking lately about asking a Mason how to join. I just wanted to see what you would do if I gave you too much change. You passed the test. Can you tell me how to become a Mason?"

When the Mason stepped off the bus, he said a silent prayer, "Oh God, Grand Architect of the Universe, I almost sold you and my beloved Masons out for a mere quarter."

Our actions are the only Masonic creed some will ever see. This is a really almost scary example of

how people watch us as Masons and may put us to the test even without us realizing it! Always be diligent, whether it is at the theater, restaurant, grocery, service station or just driving in traffic.

Remember, whether it is a lapel pin, a ring, or an emblem on the car, you carry the name of our great fraternity on your shoulders whenever you call yourself a Mason. You never can tell who might be watching!

Author Unknown

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

Message From the South

Brethren,

Wearing your Masonic Ring:

There has always been a lot of discussion about the correct way to wear a Masonic ring. I found a very interesting article from a periodical called the Montana Mason. The issue this article was printed in was distributed in May of 1936. It gives some interesting insight into how a ring can be worn. The reason that I say "can be worn", as opposed to "should be worn", is because there is no lodge law governing how a ring should be worn. In my opinion, the most important reason for us all to continue wearing our rings in public, is to provide a constant reminder to the

public that we are here in the community, doing good works and helping others.

"What is the proper way to wear a Masonic ring?"

Should the points of the compass be toward or away from the body?

"If you were hanging the American flag, would you put the stars down? The same holds true of the ring. Usually it is a gift, and has sentimental value for the wearer. It should look right side up to him. Rings are therefore worn with the points of the compass toward the wearer."

This subject is one on which Grand Lodges have made no regulation and popular opinion is divided. We must therefore reason

from analogy. When the emblem of the square and compasses is displayed on a building, pennant, button, watch charm etc., universal custom requires the points of the compass point downward. When displayed on the Altar they point away from the Master. As the Master from his station views the compass from the Altar of his lodge, the points are from, not towards him. As the wearer of a compass watch charm views it, the points are down and away from his eyes. In a similar way as he views the emblem on his ring the points should be down or away from his eyes.

The square is the symbol of earthly, the compass of heavenly perfection. As a combined emblem the

ends of the square point up as a symbol of man's aspirations toward God; the points of the compass are down to represent heavenly qualities coming down from God to earth. Therefore it would seem that the proper way to wear a ring would be that is which its symbolism is best expressed; namely, that in which, when the hand is held in its usual position the points of the compass are towards the earth and away from the wearer's eyes.

(Copied from THE MONTANA MASON, May 1936, page 15)

*Fraternally,
Jim Lofton
Junior Warden
Phalanx Lodge #31*



You Are Invited to a Special Valentine's Dinner

Bring your Family!!

Bring a Guest!!

Special Pricing!!

Brethren,

As you may be aware, our February Stated Communication is on Valentine's Day. We are taking this opportunity to extend a special invitation to you to invite your family and/or guest to the lodge for dinner prior to the Stated Communication and a social time following lodge.

We have activities planned for your guests so that they have a chance to interact and get to know each other. Your family and guests will not go away feeling that they have been abandoned while you are in Lodge!!

We will be showing a movie for the kids.

After the Stated Communication, we will return to the dining room and our guests for refreshment and additional social time.

Menu

Orange Chicken
Rice
Mixed Vegetables
Fresh Garden Salad
Roll
Dessert

Price

Single: \$7
Couple: \$12
Child: \$3

RSVP would be appreciated to SeniorSteward@Phalanx31.org

Birthdays

Join us in wishing Happy Birthday to:

February

02 - John S. Miller Jr.
02 - Kenneth R. Morris
02 - James H. Beard
04 - Charles E. Henderson
04 - Earl J. Campbell
05 - Martin J. Travis
05 - Anthony L. Garagiola
06 - Mark W. Davis
07 - John P. Kirkpatrick
07 - Gene R. Melvin
08 - George G. Bacogeorge
08 - Nathan T. Matney
10 - David L. Morgan
10 - Hasan Y. Latif
11 - Lewis E. Hunt
12 - Vance L. Morris
12 - Charles M. Mangum

13 - Philip F. Searcey
15 - George F. Jones Jr.
16 - Jesse A. Campbell
19 - William O. Manley
19 - William S. McCall
20 - James E. Beckham
20 - Teddy H. Brooks
22 - James D. Monteith
24 - Robert M. Lloyd
24 - Douglas R. Whitaker
24 - Gennaro Lorusso
24 - Alan T. Ames
24 - Jon S. Porter Jr.
27 - James E. Stephens
28 - Linwood E. Wade

March

01 - Alan T. Parker
01 - Martin D. Ball
01 - Michel R. Greene
02 - John C. Moyle
02 - Walter W. Grahling Jr.
02 - Joseph A. Clisson
02 - Larry G. Jacobs
02 - James E. Duncan
03 - Jack L. Rimmer
03 - Thurston D. Thompson
03 - Dennis A. Moody
06 - David A. Rose
07 - Donald A. Gilmore
08 - Fred A. Jenkins
08 - Matthew S. Jordan
09 - John S. Harder
09 - Robert L. Saye Sr.

09 - Charles A. Cutlip
10 - Bernard W. Manton
12 - Robert C. Richardson
12 - Vernon M. Goode
14 - John P. Kieronski
15 - David L. Burris
17 - Jeffrey J. Armentrout
19 - Ed J. Davis
19 - Anthony W. Yankowsky
19 - Eric F. Wainwright
20 - Randolph A. Kiser
20 - Robert K. Braswell
20 - Daryl W. Kelly
21 - George Dizes
24 - Fred P. Culbreth Jr.
26 - Gregory S. Morrison
27 - Neil F. Crossley
29 - Randall E. Baker

Stories From The South

As the point is a dimensionless figure,
an indivisible part of space.....

"Can you help me my brother" was off the question he asked.

The profanes answer...

"I'm sorry....I just don't recognize your face."

The lapse of time, the ruthless hand of ignorance and the devastations of war,
all scarred and brought him despair.
"Isn't this ring on my finger enough. . . .
the brother once asked.
Is it not enough to know that I care?"

Pledges and Oaths, Crusades and Charity, Constitutions and Laws....

his history and his bridge to light and power.
All of which brought about by one man's Masonic death....
low 12 was indeed sir, the hour.

And as the cedars of Lebanon fell and floated...
for buildings that were to last throughout time,
the brother as well looked for relief from hell and all its hounds.

And in a Great Lodge he found a quantum of solace from brothers traveling...
traveling always East.....
and stayed within due bounds.

By Bro. Jeff Britt Sr.

Secretary's Corner

Brethren,

There are several important dates coming up.

First, WB John Trail, DDGM, has scheduled his official visit to Phalanx on our next Stated scheduled for Tuesday, February 14.

Please note a Tuesday, February 21 Master Mason Degree for Brothers Narciso and Blalock with Dinner at 6pm and the Degree at 7pm.

The Grand Master's 32nd masonic district meeting will be held on March 22, 2012, at Matthews Lodge. Dinner is served at 6:30 p.m. and the lodge opens at 7:15.

Finally, please mark your calendars for the Spring School of Instruction scheduled for Tuesday, March 27 (Mint Hill Lodge) and Wednesday, March 28 (James K. Polk Lodge) with

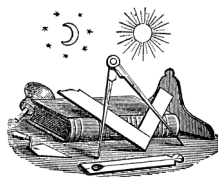
Dinner at 6:30pm and Lodge opening at 7:15pm.

Brethren, please take a moment to send in your 2012 lodge dues if you have not done so. While these were actually due January 1st, CODE prescribes that **"any member failing to pay his dues on or before March first each year shall be deemed delinquent"**. Please help us avoid the expense of sending out delinquency notices at the end of February by dropping this payment in the mail as soon as possible.

Fraternally,
Mike Hamrick, PM
Secretary

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	Angus Mercer, PM	704-542-1422
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., Feb 14** — Stated Communication
DDGM Official Visit
Valentine's Dinner and Social
6:30pm Dinner, 7:30pm Lodge Opens
- Tue., Feb 21** — Master Mason Degree
6:00pm Dinner, 7:00pm Lodge Opens
- Tue., Mar 22** — Stated Communication
6:30pm Dinner, 7:30pm Lodge Opens
- Tue., Mar 22** — Grand Master's 32nd Masonic District Meeting
Matthews Lodge
6:30pm Dinner, 7:15pm Lodge Opens
- Tue., Mar 27** — Spring School of Instruction
Mint Hill Lodge
6:30pm Dinner, 7:15pm Lodge Opens
- Wed., Mar 28** — Spring School of Instruction
James K. Polk Lodge
6:30pm Dinner, 7:15pm Lodge Opens
- Tue., Apr 10** — Stated Communication
6:30pm Dinner, 7:30pm Lodge Opens
- Tue., May 8** — Stated Communication

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.