



Flagstaff Lodge No. 7

TRESTLE BOARD

VOLUME XXI, ISSUE V

SEPTEMBER 2021

SENT TO SHAKE THE HANDS WE CANNOT REACH

We've not seen our Senior Warden lately. Here is his excuse. It's great to see our brothers pitching in to assist our fellow citizens in their time of need.—Ed.

From the West

by Tom Hover, Senior Warden

Last week I was called up to assist with the relief efforts of Hurricane Ida. These types of dynamic situations are catastrophic and generate a multitude of needs. The particular area I was able to serve falls under the logistics and materials branch of the Incident Command System.

I've been assigned to a logistics hub in Sanford North Carolina. I've learned this location was chosen due to its proximity to areas prone to major weather events. It consists of an extensive storage yard with almost one thousand pre-loaded pieces of equipment that are essentially small communities in themselves ready for deployment. Some are designed for immediate housing (literally a twelve-person bunk house, no storage or other facilities just beds), and full command posts that serve as the single point of action for the local communities' emergency responders to 175 kw generators to restore power and communications for citizens. These are all packed into a 300,000 square foot, 100-year-old terracotta factory. From there, I go to a smaller yard and workshop where I perform duties as assigned.

My current duties are fleet maintenance; I've been working 13–18-hour days on large diesel engines to send back out into the field. The first full day here we loaded five semis with generators bound for Mississippi and Louisiana. As the trucks arrived, they brought several damaged pieces of equipment back that I've been working to ready as quickly as possible. It may not be as glamorous as treading though the flood waters but it is just as important to say the least.

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The Trestle Board is a bi-monthly publication of the Free and Accepted Masons of Flagstaff Lodge #7. Articles are views of the author and not those of the F & AM or the Grand Lodge of Arizona. Articles may be edited for length and or content.

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From the South

By Bro. Tom Carpenter, Senior Warden

Another Brother Raised at an Outdoor Degree

On August 21, a beautiful Saturday in the forest near Slate Mountain, Brother Ahmed Ali Al Ajaj, of Central Arizona #14, was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason during our annual outdoor degree under a dispensation from the Grand Lodge of Arizona.

In addition to brethren from Flagstaff #7, Central Arizona #14, and Paradise Valley Silver Trowel Lodge #29, the ceremony was attended by four past grand masters: from the Grand Lodge of Arizona, Earl Wunder PGM and Jim Rowan PGM; from the Grand Lodge of California, Bill Bray PGM; and from the Grand Lodge of Maryland, Jerry Piepiora PGM.

The success of our outdoor degree was the result of the efforts of many of our Lodge brethren.

Well done, brothers. And congratulations to Brother Ahmed.



(From the South cont'd from page

Masonic Education Hour

Freemasonry offers a lifetime of study and action. Whether we're digging deep into the degree lectures or slogging through *Morals and Dogma*, Freemasonry offers us the opportunity to improve our ability to read actively and effectively.

This level of reading is a learned, or re-learned, skill. Rather than crack open *Morals and Dogma* and dive into those deep waters, I'm offering an alternative.

On Thursday, October 14, 2021, 7:00-8:00 p.m., I will host a discussion of a excerpt from Victor Hugo's novel, *Ninety-three*, entitled "The Battle with the Cannon." I think you'll find the story engaging and stimulating and presenting issues that test Masonic ideals.

I encourage you to give it a shot by invoking the Chicken Soup maxim: Can't hurt; might help.

If you're interested in giving this a try, email me at carpentertom85@gmail.com. I'll send you a pdf of the selection.

--Tom Carpenter, Junior Warden



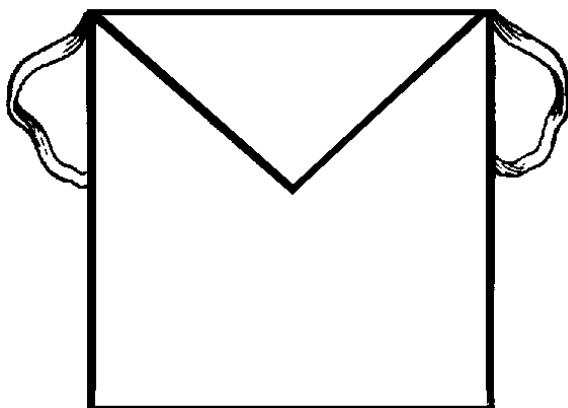
Shaleen Seward, Executive Director of Northland Family Help Center, receives a check for \$3000 from WB Reed Houge of Arizona Masonic Charities. She then presented him with an award of appreciation for the years of AMC support.

Upcoming Events

September 11	Lodge of Instruction	10:00—11:30 a.m.
September 16	Funeral Service Practice	6:00 p.m.
October 7	White Apron Night See below.	Dinner 6:30, Meeting 7:30 a.m.
November 4	Stated Meeting	Dinner 6:30, Meeting 7:30 a.m.
November 5-6	Scottish Rite Reunion	
November 6	Widows' Tea	2:00 p.m.
November 20	Clothe-a-Child	7:30 a.m.
December 2	Stated Meeting/Elections	Dinner 6:30, Meeting 7:30

Thursdays are typically reserved for either a Degree or a Degree Practice.

Note that the October stated meeting has been designated a **White Apron Night**. All brothers, regardless of office or past office, are asked to wear the white leathern apron in which they were raised all those years ago.



From the Senior Warden

By Brother Brad Ingram

Charity

As I studied the officer's guide to prepare for my time as Senior Deacon I came across a prayer which struck me as eloquently profound. It is here that I became sidetracked from my work and was drawn to delve into the deeper meanings of this profound and succinct prayer.

In reading the words of the prayer for the 4th time it became apparent that I had a deep misunderstanding of the word charity. In my perception, the word charity seemed out of place, as if it meant something entirely different. I ceased my studies and began to unravel my ignorance in the matter. I know I can't be the first mason to discover the immense significance of this prayer. It seems to embody some of that which we strive for in our masonic toils. Please read the prayer and allow me to elaborate on my thoughts.

Prayer: FC Circumambulation (prior to the 2015 revision)

"Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels and have not charity, I am become as a sounding brass or tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith so that I could remove mountains and have not charity, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing. Charity suffereth long and kind: charity envieth not: charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; rejoiceth not in iniquity but rejoiceth in the truth; beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three: but the greatest of these is charity."

Webster tells us the current definition of charity is, "to give to those in need or less fortunate than ourselves, unsolicited generosity and giving of our time". When you apply the modern definition of the word "charity" to the prayer it makes no sense. However, a little digging and it is discovered that "charity" originally meant, "to love unconditionally". Although the modern definition embodies the superficial essence of charity it does not include unconditional love. Charity as spoken by Greco Christians as "agape", and translates to, "the highest form of love, unconditional love and a love of mankind". If you read the FC cir-

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

cumambulation prayer (prior to the 2015 revision) again using the word “Love” or “Understanding” in place of the word “charity” the true message and deep significance of this prayer becomes hyper relevant to us as masons.

Charity is not just for the sake of giving to relieve a temporary condition but charity that addresses the root of the condition is most relevant. A synonym of Charity is Philanthropy and means: To understand a problem at its origin and root it out with a complete understanding of its cause without hope of gain or profit. This is the highest form of love an individual or organization can exhibit. To understand all facets of a societal problem takes a great love of mankind and the true effort of many dedicated masons. If your faith in mankind has waned, then you can think of it as love of what mankind could be. To understand a problem takes a great love of those who will continue to suffer if the remedy is not complete and whole in the assessment of all potential contributing factors of a problem.

Charity without love and understanding is at best a band aide on an open wound and at its worse an act of selfish indulgence. How can being charitable be selfish you might ask? Acts of charity like all good deeds are undone by selfish intent. If your intent is to charitably give to a cause but expect a personal gain or profit then your act is not charity, for it was done not with love and understanding for the recipient but with your own personal gain in mind.

Could the simple act of picking up a piece of litter be considered charity? Yes, if you do it with discretion and not make a big deal about it. Could giving up space in traffic to allow a fellow motorist in front of you be considered “Charity”? Yes, if you do it with the understanding and love that he is as humanly fallible as everyone else.

Charity aka, “to love unconditionally with understanding” itself is one of the seven Hellenistic virtues espoused by the philosophical teachings of Plato and later adopted by Christianity as well as the Free Masons. Masonic teachings of these seven virtues appear throughout our work in all three degrees. You may well recognize



(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

these virtues as Temperance, Fortitude (courage), Prudence, and Justice, followed by Faith, Hope and Charity. The latter three; Faith, Hope, and Charity, are directly cited in this prayer. The renowned philosopher and educator Plato believed, “Through these virtues one has the power to elevate oneself and attain union with the creator”.

As Free Masons we strive to practice both the charity of giving with understanding as well as the more noble philanthropic art of giving to encourage and promote a better mankind.

I have taken the liberty of amending the verse to read the word “Understanding” in place of the ancient word “Charity”, with the knowledge that the word “Understanding” encompasses “Love”. I believe this rendering is more relatable in a modern context without detracting from the essence of the verse. It is true that the word “Charity” need not be altered in such a way if the reader truly grasps the entirety of its deep and intricate meaning. So, yeah, I dumbed it down for modern context.

“Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels and have not understanding, I am become as a sounding brass or tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith so that I could remove mountains and have not love, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned and have not Understanding, it profiteth me nothing. Understanding suffereth long and kind: Understanding envieth not: Understanding vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; rejoiceth not in iniquity but rejoiceth in the truth; beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. And now abideth faith, hope, Understanding, these three: but the greatest of these is love with understanding.”

In closing, I can think of no better way for the individuals of the F&A Masons to serve our society than to embody the virtue of Charity. After all, in its proper context, the action of “Charity” embodies all 3 tenets of Freemasonry. Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth.

A History of Flagstaff Masonic Cemetery

The original resting place for Flagstaff residents was Greenwood Cemetery, located at the base of Observatory Hill. It was Flagstaff's "Boot Hill" dating from the wild, railroad construction times of 1891. Worshipful Brother Platt Cline, author of *Mountain Town: Flagstaff's First Century*, was raised into that celestial lodge above in 2001 and was the editor and publisher of the *Arizona Daily Sun* for many years. In his 1994 book, he states that there had been talk of moving the remains from the Greenwood Cemetery to Citizens Cemetery. Masons and Oddfellows joined forces to chip in \$200 to buy 40 acres of level railroad land south of town.

In 1914, the town council decided that it was time to make a permanent move. After the marked graves were removed, the ground was smoothed and turned into what is now Thorpe Park.

Seventy years later, two old-timers recalled watching a teamster dig up the graves and move the corpses. They never forgot seeing part of a little girl's dress turned up by the shovels.

Forty graves were moved from Greenwood although records indicate that there may have been 24 unmarked graves left at the site. Three cowboy outlaws, buried in unmarked graves, still reside under the tennis courts although it is not certain from which tree they were hanged.

Most of the headstones in the current Masonic cemetery face the east because it is the tradition for souls to rise facing the sun. However, Worshipful Brother Cline specifically left instructions for his stone to face the peaks as that is what drew him to the area.

In the 1970's, the Flagstaff city manager decided that city employees should no longer maintain Citizens Cemetery as the city had no vested interest in the property. The Masons and Oddfellows deeded the land to the city with the stipulation that the city would continue to maintain the entire parcel and that sections A, D and E are set aside for Masonic brothers and their families only.

We continue to enjoy a good relationship with the city and we work in tandem to ensure that the cemetery is maintained and even improved. All Masons and their immediate families are entitled to use the Masonic sections of the cemetery for interment of their remains or cremains. If you are interested in reserving a plot for you and yours, please see Brother Secretary John Kains.

Thanks to Worshipful Brother Jim Harvel for this article and for his many years of performing the Masonic funeral for our departed brothers. If you would like to give him some relief, please attend the funeral service practice on September 16 at 6:00 p.m.—Ed.



Masonic Anniversaries



Alan Adams	9/7/1996	David Saunders	9/22/1994
Jeremy Adams	9/9/2010	Nicholas Yates	9/24/2016
Matt Casado	9/10/1995	Stanley Carson	9/25/1971
Paul Sauerbrey III PM	9/11/2003	Richard McCall	9/25/2003
Malcom Gough PM	9/15/1983	Richard Scott PM	9/26/1970
Damon Krieg	9/16/2010	Keith Vogler	9/26/1982
Jason Morrett PM	9/18/2008	Arnold Barry	9/27/1984
John Watson	9/18/2003	Allen Jensen	9/28/2002
David Skillern	9/20/1969	Tom Kaufman	9/28/2002
Howard Davis	9/21/1979	Alan Kindsvater PM	9/28/1989
Robert Franklin	9/22/2001		



Birthdays



John Russell	9/2/1940
Stanley Carson	9/9/1942
Paul Sauerbrey III PM	9/10/1945
Richard Vihel PM	9/14/1946
David Moddrelle	9/15/1958
Ross Hochen	9/22/1968
Alan Kitchen	9/25/1934
Robert Munson	9/28/1945
Richard Ale	9/29/1943