

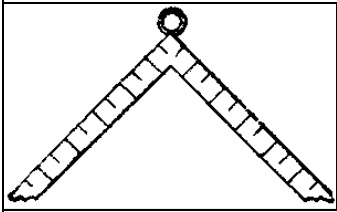


TRESTLE BOARD

VOLUME XVIII, ISSUE II

JULY 2018

SENT TO SHAKE THE HANDS WE CANNOT REACH



From the East

By Ralph Doudna, Worshipful Master

The Fourth of July, also referred to as Independence Day, is almost upon us and provides all Americans an opportunity to unite as family and friends to reflect upon the blessings we enjoy and share.

This year, we celebrate the 242nd anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence which eventually forced the American Revolution. After a brutal, lengthy and costly war with England, our founding fathers proved victorious. Thus began the American experiment in self government of the people, by the people and for the people. It has become a welcoming beacon to all peoples of the world willing to legally enter this country, become citizens and accept the privileges and responsibilities of self government.

A brief history of the Declaration Independence follows: In 1776 the Second Continental Congress initially appointed a committee of five people to draw up a Declaration of Independence. The committee included Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, Roger Sherman, Robert Livingston and Thomas Jefferson. Thomas Jefferson wrote the majority of it, however.

The Declaration of Independence has five sections. They are the Preamble, the Statement of Human Rights, Charges Against Human Rights, Charges Against the King and Parliament, and the Statement of Separation and Signatures.

A total of 56 individuals, from all of the 13 British colonies, signed the document in which they regarded themselves as members of a new nation "The United States of America" and as such no longer a part of the British Empire and declared so by sending representatives to the Continental Convention for the signing.

The signers were men of means and prestige: 18 merchants or businessmen, 12 armers, four Doctors and 22 lawyers. Of the 56 signers, 13 were members of a Masonic Lodge. Time does not permit going into great detail about these original far sighted, inspired and united individuals but suffice it to say that they agreed to the following Pledge. "We mutually pledge to each other our lives, our Fortunes and Our sacred Honor."

This year, while celebrating the two hundred and forty second anniversary of the beginning of our freedoms and form of government, let us reflect on those who preceded us and made the United States of America a reality and a beacon to the rest of the world.

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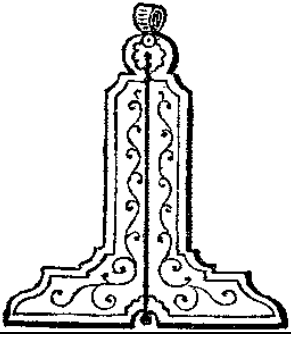
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The Trestle Board is a bi-monthly publication of the Free and Accepted Masons of Flagstaff Lodge #7. Articles are views of the author and not those of the F & AM or the Grand Lodge of Arizona. Articles may be edited for length and or content.



From the West

By Reed Houge, Senior Warden

The calendar is quite full and it looks to be another busy Masonic year for 2018. Recently we addressed cemetery cleanup, one of the first major events of the year. We had good support from the lodge and attribute much of this to the advanced planning from the lodge and the excellent help we received from the “Venture Group”. The Venture Group is made up of the more advanced boy scouts and aspiring young women that want to help out the community and advance their skills needed for the next steps of life.

I was happy and intrigued to witness this support and wanted to learn how we could invigorate the lodge and get more “Active Members” so I looked into the description of an “Active Member”.

According to the “Masonic Trowel, www.themasonictrowel.com, “An active member is one who maintains his membership in a Masonic Lodge by the payment of his regular dues and who takes part in the work and responsibilities of the Craft. One who fails to do these things may remain a Mason in heart, but deprives himself of the benefits of membership.” This description was very helpful for me since many times I’ve been asked to help with an event or task and think what many of us think: “I’m really busy and I’m sure there will be plenty of other brothers to help out”. This mentality does not align with the description listed above and I find that I am depriving myself of the benefits of membership. I joined Masonry to be a part of something good and to make myself better. Many times I fail at this task but need to remember that the brothers need me as I need them.

I asked myself: what will things look like in 10, 20, or 50 years? So, I decided to look at the membership for Flagstaff to better understand this question. Before I could process this I thought it necessary to see how many members we have available so I pulled up our membership list and conducted some simple sorting using MS Excel.

Currently we have about 190 members but many of them live out of state so I removed everyone that doesn’t live in Arizona. Well, that really doesn’t tell me anything since some live outside the Flagstaff area so I removed everyone that didn’t live in Flagstaff. After some thought, I decided that many of those could be elderly and unable to assist with events so I broke it into sections by age and these are the results:

In State	In Flagstaff	Under 70	Under 60	Under 50	Under 40	Under 30	Under 25
151	82	51	36	27	15	4	0

In looking at those numbers we can see that the people below a retirement age of 60 is a total of 36 people or 18.65% of our total membership and only 15 under the age of 40, or 7.77% of the membership.

This put it into perspective for me and knew I have to do more to help out the lodge and ask others to do the same!

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Recently I attended Grand Lodge in Minnesota where I was raised and discussed many of the same topics we discuss here, membership, activities, etc. A good friend of mine told me about a poem he read recently and found it to be appropriate for all Masons. I hope that you enjoy it as much as I do.

TEN MASTER MASONS

Ten Master Masons, happy, doing fine; One listened to a rumor, then there were nine.

Nine Master Masons, faithful, never late; One didn't like the "Master," then there were eight.

Eight Master Masons, on their way to heaven; One joined too many clubs, then there were seven.

Seven Master Masons, life dealt some hard licks; One grew discouraged, then there were six.

Six Master Masons, all very much alive; One lost his interest, then there were five.

Five Master Masons, wishing there were more; Got into a great dispute, then there were four.

Four Master Masons, busy as could be; One didn't like the programs, then there were three.

Three Master Masons, was one of them you? One grew tired of all the work, then there were two.

Two Master Masons with so much to be done; One said "What's the use," then there was one.

One Master Mason, found a brother -- true! Brought him to the Lodge, then there were two.

Two Master Masons didn't find work a bore; Each brought another, then there were four.

Four Master Masons saved their Lodges fate; By showing others kindness, then there were eight.

Eight Master Masons, loving their Lodges bright sheen; Talked so much about it, they soon counted sixteen.

Sixteen Master Masons, to their obligations true; Were pleased when their number went to thirty-two. So we can't put our troubles at the Lodges door; It's our fault for harming the Lodge we adore. Don't fuss about the programs or the "Master" in the East; Keep your obligation by serving even the very least.

- Author Unknown

A Closer Look at Jeph'tha, Judge of Israel

By Tom Carpenter, Senior Steward

I'm a new Master Mason. I was raised on August 19, 2017 and am just beginning my deeper exploration of freemasonry. Here's something I found interesting that I'd like to share with my brethren.

The story of Jeph'tha, Judge of Israel, and his quarrel with the Ephraimites is a component of the Fellow Craft degree. It is found in the Book of Judges, Chapter 12.

Chapter 11 of the Book of Judges tells the inquisitive Mason about the life of Jeph'tha and how it came to pass that the bastard son of Gilead and a whore would one day be a judge of Israel and a revered character in Masonic ritual.

Biblical scholars place this story around 1089 BCE. In addition to Jeph'tha, Gilead, his father, had other, legitimate, sons. When the boys were grown, the legitimate sons ran Jeph'tha off and deprived him of any claim to an inheritance.

So, Jeph'tha settled in "the land of Tob," which is east of Gilead. There he gained a reputation as a mighty warrior. A band of adventurers joined him.

Meanwhile, the Ammonites made war against Israel. The elders of Gilead went to Tob and asked Jeph'tha to be their commander and fight the Ammonites.

Jeph'tha points out to the elders that they have driven him away from his father's house. *Why me? Why now?*

The elders avoided answering those questions and instead promised him, if he joined the fight against the Ammonites, that they would make him the head over all of Gilead.

Yeah, right. And I have some beachfront property for sale on the Dead Sea.

The elders persisted and vowed, as the Lord was their witness, that they would make Jeph'tha their leader.

Finally, Jeph'tha agreed.

The first thing he did was to send a message to the Ammonite king asking him why he wanted to wage war with Israel.

The Ammonite King responded by accusing the Israelites of taking his land when they came out of Egypt. He wanted it all back.

Jeph'tha and the Ammonite King went back and forth on this point. Jeph'tha concluded his argument with two points. One, the Israelites had been living in this

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land for three hundred years, why was the king complaining now? And two, The Lord our God gave the land to Israel. Who were we to question that? If your god gave you land, would you question the gift? The Ammonite King ignored Jeph'tha.

War was inevitable, but for Jeph'tha, the outcome was not.

He made a vow to the Lord: "If you give the Ammonites into my hands, whatever comes out of the door of my house to meet me when I return in triumph from the Ammonites will be the Lord's, and I will sacrifice it as a burnt offering." (Judges 11:30-31).

And thus, the Ammonites were vanquished.

When Jeph'tha returned home, it was his daughter, his only child, who came out to meet him, "dancing to the sound of tambourines." (Judges 11:34). Brokenhearted at this turn of events, he told his daughter of his vow. She asked only that he give her "two months to roam the hills and weep with my friends, because I never will marry." (Judges 11:37)

Let us pause for a moment and let that sink in.

Two months later, "she returned to her father and he did to her as he had vowed." (Judges 11:39).

So, I can imagine the look in Jeph'tha's eyes when he was first apprised of the movements of the Ephraimite army crossing the River Jordan toward Gilead. This time, He wasn't going to need a vow to the Lord to insure victory.

From the Secretary

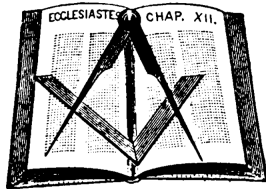
By John Kains

This year, Flagstaff #7 will honor our Past Masters, Widows and Longevity Award recipients at a banquet to be held on Saturday, July 28th at 11:00 am. We have selected the High Country Conference Center at 201 W. Butler Ave. in Flagstaff as our venue. Invitations were sent out last month to all lodge members and, to date, we've received reservations for nearly 40 participants.

All members are welcome. If you are interested, please contact me ASAP as seating is limited and will be reserved on a first come first served basis.

Flagstaff Lodge #7 congratulates our brothers on their Masonic accomplishments.

Master Mason



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 Raised June 21, 2018

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Masonic Anniversaries



Charles Vierthaler PM	7/6/1987
Milton Evans	7/9/1953
Victor Hawley PM	7/9/1981
Donald Galyon PM	7/13/1989
Reed Houge	7/13/2013
Christopher Franklin	7/14/2005
Walter Greer	7/16/1992
Eric McElwain	7/16/1998
Carl Sechrist	7/16/1953
Calvin Magness PM	7/20/1989
Arthur Crozier	7/21/1966
Donald Hack, Jr.	7/21/2011
Ryun Mann	7/21/2005
Warren Smith	7/21/1977
Jerry Lively	7/24/1976
John Brooks	7/25/1957
Aaron Burr	7/25/2013
John Russell	7/26/1962
Jeffery Browne	7/27/1989
Dalfrey Herring	7/29/1963



Birthdays



Phil Cobbin	7/2/1954
Thomas Johnson, Jr. PM	7/3/1929
Scott Welsch	7/5/1986
Lawrence Morton, Jr.	7/6/1925
Lance Brown PM	7/9/1969
Todd Barrett	7/16/1987
Ray Teague	7/22/1940
James Wilson	7/24/1963
Charles Vierthaler PM	7/26/1941
Eddie Cash, Sr.	7/29/1934
Christopher Franklin	7/29/1982
D. Brook Cunningham PGM	7/30/1945

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 5 (Thursday)	Stated Mtg. 7:30 pm
July 20, 21 (Sat. and Sun.)	Celtic Festival
July 28 (Saturday)	PM/Widows, Longevity Banquet 11:00 am.

2018 Calendar

Aug. 18 Outdoor Degree

Sep. 15 Widow's Sons Annual Gathering

Oct. 20 Masquerade Ball

Nov. 17 Clothe-a-Child 7:00 am

Stated meetings are held at 7:30 on the first Thursday of the month with dinner at 6:30. Degree conferrals are held at 7:00 on Thursdays with dinner at 6:00.

In Memoriam

Brother Steven James Kulcher passed away on February 20 at the age of 88 in Pennsylvania. Masonic and Military Services were held at the Camp Navajo Cemetery on June 4.

Brother David Herron Smith passed on May 2. He lived in Munds Park and was 71 years old.