

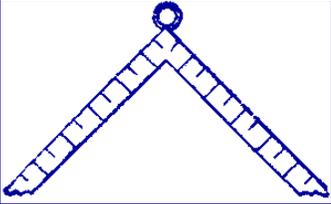


TRESTLE BOARD

VOLUME XIX, ISSUE III

MAY 2019

SENT TO SHAKE THE HANDS WE CANNOT REACH



From the East

by Reed Houge, Worshipful Master

Brothers of Flagstaff Lodge, like everyone I peruse the web to see what I can learn about Masonry and to see how it fits with our lodge. I recently came upon this article from "The Valley of Shadows" written by Bro. Jeremiah Swartzell and thought it worthy of the Trestle Board.

O Brother Where Art Thou?

I left the Lodge on a chilly Saturday in April 2018, a new Master Mason; blue ritual book in tow, with a brand new ring given to me by my father-in-law and now Brother, who flew in from Georgia to see me raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason. It felt great to have my wife and family so proud of me upon returning home; an extra bonus to the occasion.

After the initial excitement wore off I was left to figure it all out. What was different in my life? I still had the same busy work schedule; I had to maintain a marriage to my wife of 11 years, and a home to upkeep. I had walked out of the Lodge a Master Mason; upright as a plumb but still dealing with those pesky vices nagging at me on a daily basis. Masonry makes good men better. Or so I was told. But how, was the question on my mind.

Through the degrees we all learn about the working tools of a Mason and how they apply to moral principles. During the ritual, in my own experience, I can safely say that I retained about 10% of what was being said to me by the instructive voices. It was a whirlwind of sorts but even in the midst the chaos it impressed upon me some important lessons. One was that every man there was my Brother and even ones a worlds away were also my Brother. Another was that I should be eager to understand what had just happened in that Lodge on a Saturday morning.

I began to read the ritual of the degrees; trying to picture in my mind the event and how it related to the words on the page. Admittedly it did not fully make sense to me.

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Not until I saw the degrees for myself and took part in bringing other good men into our fraternity. But surely the act of taking three degrees of obligations to a fraternity isn't what makes the man a better version of himself? That's not it, is it? No. It is the practice of Masonry that makes men better.

A year in, joining the officer line as a Steward I began to see a trend of low participation as I eagerly volunteered for as many things as I was capable with participation generally limited to the officers. I visited a few lodges during the year and even chatted with Brothers in Florida over the summer at a somber Masonic Funeral for my grandfather, where they gave me the honor of standing in as Chaplain. "I need me there" as he finds causes away from Lodge to fulfill his desire to give back. Charity should begin on the level and part upon the square.

A Mason who stays home may also do so because there is not enough fellowship or opportunities to connect. We see our Brothers show up to the hot events each year; which could be the only time we have the pleasure to connect with them. Maybe if we chose to have more purely fellowship events at Lodge and even outside of Lodge we would see a rise in attendance and participation? There are lodges out there that do this and have great success getting it. As you can imagine, a small town on the Panhandle might have a surplus of older gentlemen and few younger men to choose from. Their average member age was 67 years.

The consensus was all the same. Not enough men are showing up to Lodge and the ones that are initiated are rarely ever heard from again after they take their third degree. To be fair, family always comes first and work follows this closely, but why is it that our Brothers are not able to find one evening a month to attend Lodge with their Brothers? Maybe it's not entirely their fault. Maybe some of the fault lies within the dynamic of the Lodge?

We've all heard the saying "What you get from Masonry is a result of what you put into it", which every new Brother who is still blinded by the light and seeing green spots everywhere, nods in affirmation to the chorus of others voicing their agreement at the dinner table. This is a promise, of sorts, that if you put in the effort to learn the ritual and apply its lessons to your life you will be made a better man for it and the opportunities to explore the mysteries is infinite and unique to each individual traveler. This is how I interpreted it at least. But it is tinged with another meaning that voices itself as a complaint once you've attended a year of business meetings: "I don't understand why nobody shows up to meetings. Nobody helps with planning and doing the work. Masonry is what you put into it!"

This isn't a phenomenon belonging to my lodge alone; where my fellow Brothers and I scratch our heads trying to figure out how to get more Brothers to show up.

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In listening to and reading Masonic commentary from around the country I can confidently say it's a huge problem everywhere. Maybe it has ALWAYS been a problem; not just in the era of 'Netflix and Chill' binge watching a favorite show.

I firmly believe that no Mason attends lodge to hear the minutes read at the end of the two hour business meeting; though the recording of proceedings is indeed a vital part to the Lodge. Neither does he show-up to raise his hand to vote for another \$100 payment to the latest charity to send a request. Granted, many of these charities are worthy and do good work. And there is certainly a place for this type of Charity. I'm not even close to saying this shouldn't be a part of our charity outreach; but is it possible that the Brother who chooses, month after month, to stay away on Lodge night is unfulfilled when it comes to serving his community or his own distressed Brothers? Did he expect something else to be in place in that Lodge when he joined; but instead found out that the Lodge only sends sums of money out instead of Brothers to do the work of building up the community or aid a Brother with the most valuable asset we have? That thing we all hold dear and have so little to spare; that finite thing called Time. He might say to himself, "They don't heir members engaged.

Here's another thought: maybe a cause of poor attendance is low wages. Please don't misunderstand me. Not monetary or material wages. The wage I'm speaking of is Education; the discussion and instruction that enriches him and even challenges him to continue his work on that rough ashlar that becomes a part of that heavenly Temple. This very attribute of Masonry is what sets it apart from other dues paying fraternities and dinner clubs around the world. So why has it been left to the appendant bodies to educate a Mason?

Education does not have to be an esoteric discussion of a Manly P Hall book; nor does it have to involve symbols or mysteries. Certainly, I believe this needs its place in the Lodge room; but couldn't educational material include a discussion about things in the community that need our help or support? Could we gain a perspective from someone of a totally different background or belief that could spark a change in us for the better? Is it possible to talk about current issues without slipping into political or religious division? Maybe this is an area where, during the discussion, the Worshipful Master stands ready with mortar and trowel to make sure the living stones in the midst of growth and improvement are cemented together with Brotherly Love. I believe wholeheartedly that this is necessary to making Masonry relevant in the lives of our Brothers as well as our respective communities. A culture of growth through education is paramount. Some will say that the Blue Lodge exists to make more Masons. This is true, but it is doubly true that the Blue Lodge exists to make those Masons into better men.

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Scottish Rite

By Worshipful Brother Lou Campas

Scottish Rite Bodies of Tucson completed another fantastic Spring Reunion. Two Brothers from Flagstaff Lodge #7, Derald Hogeland and Roger Perkins were the latest to receive the 29 degrees of Scottish Rite Masonry. In addition, two Brothers from Yuma and five from the Tucson area came together as candidates.

The Northern Arizona Scottish Rite Degree Team, consisting of Brothers from Central Arizona #14 and Flagstaff #7 F.& A.M., came together to exemplify five of the degrees in great form. Northern Arizona Scottish Rite Degree Team received high praise from several of the staff from Tucson Scottish Rite Bodies. The credit goes to all the members who came together and worked as a team, from our prompters to those in the speaking and non-speaking roles. A sincere 'Thank You' from all of the degree directors for your tremendous assistance.



The 11th Degree cast consisting of (l-r): Earl Wunder PGM, Lou Campas PM, Don Hack, Trevor Gillespie PM, John Kains, Greg Howe, Ralph Doudna PM and Anthony 'Jac' Jacovino.

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(cont'd from page 5 Scottish Rite)

Worshipful Brothers Lou Campas and Richard McNeill escort new 32° brothers Derald Hogeland and Roger Perkins.



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We need to ask questions in Lodge like: What type of Lodge do we belong to? The Holy Bible states that without vision, the people perish. If we don't agree on the direction the Lodge is heading then how can a long lost brother find a way to fit in? The things that caused him to stay home on Lodge night must be identified and changed. And a vision for the Lodge must be formed and then implemented.

As you may have guessed by this point that this is not a blatant out-cry to the missing Brother, as the title may have suggested. It is a call for action toward the Lodges in our own jurisdictions. Even still, it is fitting that I should close with a word to that long lost Brother.

Brother, you are badly needed at Lodge. Not for giving of your time or your dues. It is YOU that we need and if you read this and nodded in agreement to the cause of your absence or even found them all to miss the mark, I would like to challenge you here and now: Go to Lodge and at the very next stated meeting stand up and make known what kind of Lodge experience you want. Some may resist the change but change is inevitable. It is up to everyone with an interest to work toward making the Lodge into what they desire it to be.

O' Brother; Where Art Thou'? I hope On the Level is where I can find you. See you there.

From the website: <https://thevalleyofshadows.wordpress.com>

Written By: Bro. Jeremiah Swartzell – Memorial Lodge #648 N. Syracuse NY

In Memoriam

Brother Julian (Doug) Burian passed away on April 29, at the age of 86, in Glendale. He served in the United States Marine Corp in Korea and was raised in Flagstaff #7 in 1970. Remains were interred at the National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona in Phoenix.

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

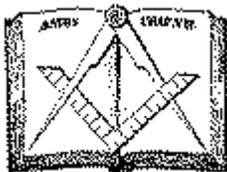
Entered Apprentice Masons



John Clinton Graves, Sr.
Initiated January 17, 2019

Allen Todd Ginsberg
Initiated May 9, 2019

Fellowcraft Masons



John Clinton Graves, Sr.
Passed April 20, 2019

Jordan Jost
Operations Manager - Flagstaff

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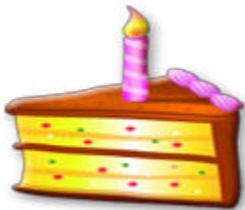
526-0578
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Masonic Anniversaries



Clinton Russell	5/6/2000	Pat Jordan	5/22/1969
Brian Yarbrough	5/6/2000	Robert Munson	5/25/1984
Lloyd Smith PM	5/8/1984	Stephen Sedillo	5/26/2016
Ross Wetmore	5/9/2017	Morgan Hagaman PM	5/27/2004
Gregory Howe	5/11/2000	Randall Peters	5/27/2006
Paul Ingram	5/12/2007	Terry McCormack	5/30/2013
John Lindsey	5/12/2016	James Rexroad, Jr.	6/8/1968
Brian Collup	5/13/2008	Steven Lucero	6/9/2005
Brian Kolb	5/13/2004	Daniel Stoops	6/12/1965
Otis Ratlief	5/13/1969	Michael Reinecke	6/13/1979
William East PM	5/15/1969	Ricky Duffield	6/16/2011
Jesse Mills	5/15/1980	Jonathan Annis	6/20/2008
D. Brook Cunningham PGM	5/16/1974	Carlos Villanueva	6/21/2018
Marvin Ratcliff	5/16/1957	James Harvel PM	6/23/1966
George Anttila	5/17/2003	Earl Slipher, Jr.	6/27/1957
Paul Pertuit III	5/17/1973	Michael Purcell, Jr.	6/28/1980
Kristofer Newtonson	5/20/2010	Walter Hochstrasser	6/29/1972

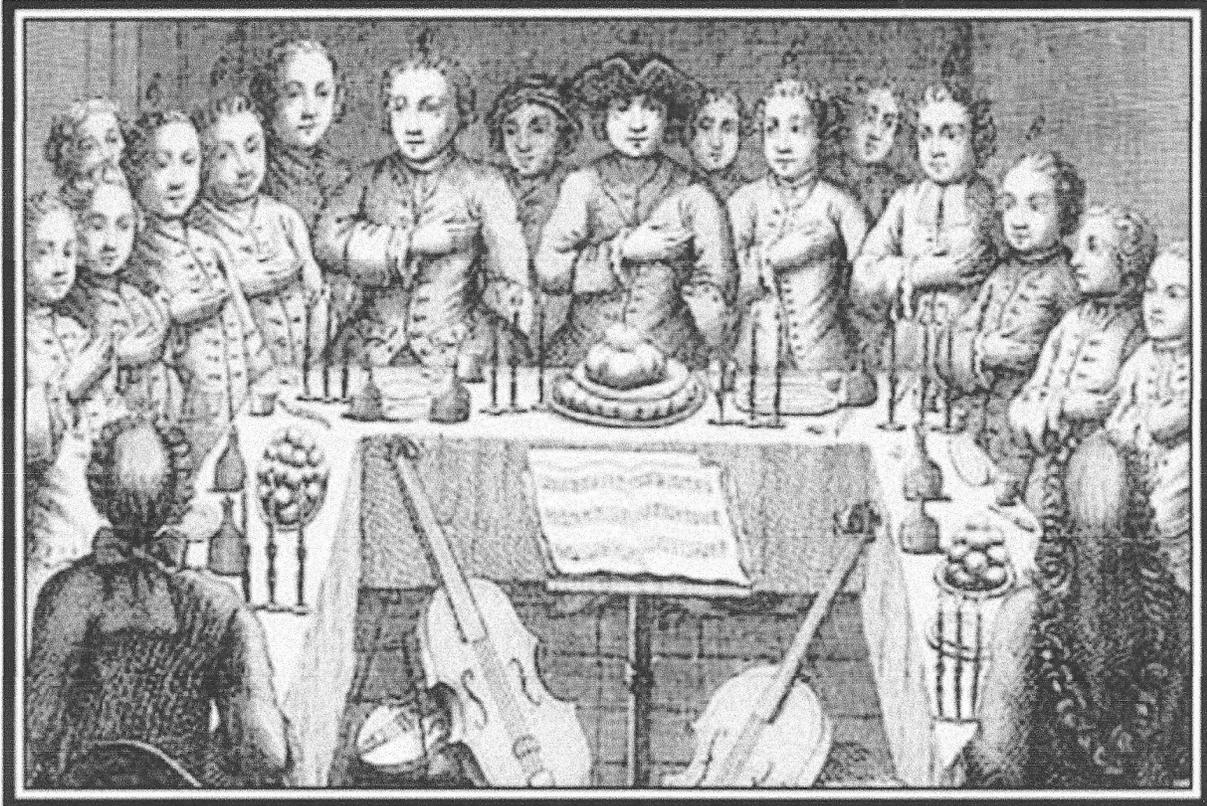


Birthdays



Nicholas Yates	5/2/1987	Morgan Hagaman PM	6/2/1974
John Kains	5/4/1956	Rodney Kenly	6/4/1954
Richard McCall	5/4/1976	James Vandevier	6/4/1929
Carl Smith PM	5/5/1944	Jeremy Adams	6/6/1982
Nicholas Bilyk	5/11/1982	Paul Ingram	6/6/1968
Richard Rhea	5/11/1943	Milton Evans	6/9/1929
Donald Hartwell	5/12/1987	Zachary Goodman	6/9/1986
James Duval	5/15/1926	Jonathan Annis	6/10/1989
Arthur Crozier	5/18/1932	Ross Wetmore	6/13/1984
Manuel Ramirez	5/19/1974	Damon Krieg	6/15/1980
Brad Biglow	5/21/1970	Charles Carson III	6/20/1951
Earl Slipher, Jr.	5/24/1929	Raymond Lindsey	6/20/1970
Kirby Thoma	5/24/1951	Carlos Villanueva	6/20/1982
Daniel Stoops	5/27/1934	Wendell DeCross	6/22/1941
Julian Burian	5/30/1932	John Graham	6/22/1971
Marvin Ratcliff	5/30/1931	Thomas Hover	6/23/1977
Leon Berger	6/1/1935	Nicholas Barnard	6/27/1984

FLAGSTAFF #7 FESTIVE BOARD



This event is open to all Masons and non-Masons alike and will consist of the famous seven toasts and a fabulous seven-course meal.

Saturday, June 29, 2019
5 pm Social Hour
6-9 pm Program
Formal Attire Requested

Event will be held at the beautiful High Country Conference Center
201 W Butler Ave, Flagstaff, AZ 86001

Tickets are only \$50 per person or \$100 per couple

Contact Spring Hill Suites Flagstaff for a \$169/night Masonic rate
928-774-8042 Reference "Masonic Festive Board"

WM Reed Houge: 720-256-0963 or reed.houge@gmail.com
WB Cal Magness: 928-607-9374 or river_cal@hotmail.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 6 - 8	Grand Lodge Annual Communication
June 13	Stated Meeting
June 15, 11:00 am	Service for Fred E. Phillips at Masonic Cemetery
June 29, 5:00	Festive Board
July 11, 6:30	Stated Meeting
July 19-21	Celtic Festival at Fort Tuthill
July 27, 11:00	Widows/Awards Banquet
Aug. 1, 6:30	Stated Meeting
August 10, 10:00	Service for MWB Nelson at Masonic Cemetery
Aug. 17, 8:00	Flagstaff #7 Outdoor Degree
Sept. 5, 6:30	Stated Meeting
Sept. 21 - 22	Wayfarers Annual Get-Together
Nov. 1 – 2	Tucson Scottish Rite Fall Reunion
Nov. 16, 7:30	Clothe-a-Child
Dec. 5	Stated Meeting/Election of Officers
* Dec. 8, 12:00 pm	Officer Installation
* Subject	to change.



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