

THE TRESTLE-BOARD

VOL 09 - NO 11

BOYLESTON LODGE #123 A.F.M.

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DUES NOTICES MAILED – DUE DECEMBER 31

Brothers, the lodge regrets sending out dues notices late this year. The notice letters were sent out early this past week but are typically out by 31 October. Also note that a number of letters were inadvertently sent to brothers who do NOT pay dues, while a number of brothers who are supposed to pay dues may not have received a notice. Unless you are a brother who has been given a Life Membership, who has paid for a Life Membership, is an active or retired clergyman, or has received your 40-Year Life Membership, you are responsible for dues. They are to be paid by 31 December of each year for the ensuing year's membership. Dues this year for the 2010 Masonic year are \$55. If you are in doubt, please send in your dues payment (with a memo line note 'Dues') to:

Boyleston Lodge #123
PO Box 502
Ballentine, SC 29002-0502
Attn: Secretary

If you weren't supposed to pay dues, they will be refunded. Please don't risk going NPD, brothers, and get your dues in by the end of December. Thanks!

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2009

Elections and appointments for the ensuing masonic year were taken care of at the December business meeting. All elections were by unanimous ballot. Here's your slate of officers for 2010:

John Meetze III, WM
Ken Burgess, SW
Bobby Lockaby, JW
Jud Close, Sect.
Dennis Gobble, Treas.
Jamie Faircloth, SD
Jim Dry, JD

MASTER	SENIOR WARDEN	JUNIOR WARDEN	TREASURER	SECRETARY	LODGE PHONE
Ken Peterson 749.3052	John Meetze 513.2102	Ken Burgess 917.7276	Todd Bedenbaugh 345.0623	John Daraban 732-4227	NUMBER 732.3408
SENIOR DEACON	JUNIOR DEACON	STEWARD	STEWARD	TILER	CHAPLAIN
Wil Hutchins 781-2456	Steve Spreeuwers 730.9545	Hal Boland 518-1796	Jamie Faircloth 600-0429	Jim Dry 781-9569	Ronnie Faircloth 345.2297

Ron Watson, St.
James Berry, St.
Ronnie Faircloth, Chap.
Ted Hayne IV, Tiler

Our new master, WB Trey Meetze, set his committees for the upcoming year. He will need all the help he can get so make sure to offer whatever you can to assist him in his new duties.



DECEMBER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Our December regular business meeting was held on Thursday, December 3rd. The meeting was preceded by a tasty 'breakfast for dinner' meal of country ham, scrambled eggs, grits, biscuits, and various drinks. Prior to business getting under way, W.B. Ken thanked everyone for their assistance in making the year a successful one.

There was a good bit of correspondence read by Bro. Secretary. Included were: a thank you note from W.B. Bill Shealy for use of the lodge; a request from the Masonic Service Association for donations (which we do annually in conjunction with our Grand Lodge); an email regarding the Grand Master's request to extend the questions and answers past the current requirement up to the obligation; a request for a head count on who will

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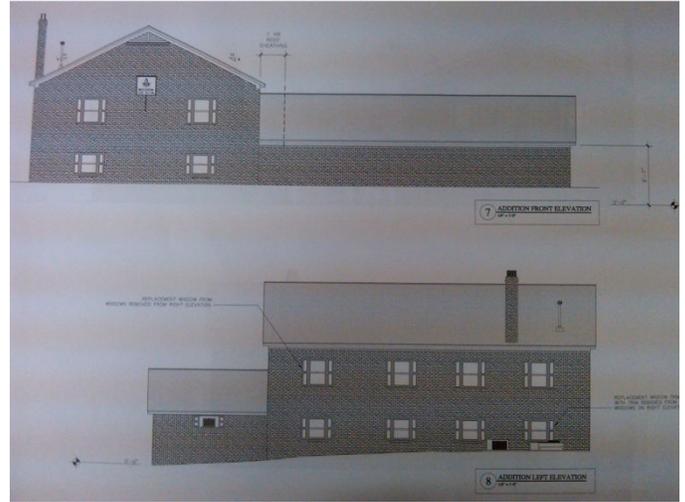
be in attendance for the officers' meeting for District 10 on 16 January, due by 11 Jan.; and a letter regarding the Masters' workshop on 30 January.

Bro. Junior Warden announced that candy bars had arrived and were downstairs for those who would be willing to sell them. They are \$1.00 each, and 50 cents of each sale is profit which will benefit our building fund. We have fifty cases of fifty bars each to sell, so catch Bro. Ken and take a box with you!

Some more old business was dealt with when W.B. David Easley gave a report on the proposed use of the former Richland Lodge sign as a permanent sign in front of Boyleston Lodge. The total cost of retrofitting and installing the sign was under \$2000. Based on some conversation, the brethren thought it would be best to get a couple more quotes to make sure we were getting a good deal. In addition, a couple locations were suggested. The brothers thought it would be best to wait until the shell of the new addition to the lodge hall before setting the sign anyway, which gives everyone time to get the work done in such a way to compliment the new structure.



Speaking of the new building, Bro. Ronnie Faircloth went over the drawings of the new lodge hall with the brethren. He also mentioned that we need to go ahead and line up contractors for the work required on the new building. Anyone who can provide that service themselves, or knows of someone who will do a good job, please let Bro. Ronnie or Bro. Trey know. The plans really look great.



LODGE BROTHER NAMED U.S. TEACHER OF THE YEAR

The I-CAR Education Foundation has named Brother Phil Tanner, a collision repair instructor from Irmo High School in Columbia, SC, as their 2009 Instructor of the Year.

Tanner received an expense-paid trip to NACE 2009 where he was recognized for this achievement and honored with an award during the first annual I-CAR Education Foundation Donor Recognition Reception.

Tanner has worked in the collision industry for 44 years and has been an instructor for 27 years. He was very involved in SkillsUSA where he has served as an advisor for 26 years. Although he is a teacher, Tanner still highly values education for himself personally and continues to take I-CAR and other training programs to maintain his own skills and expand his knowledge.

In addition to his school achievements, Tanner has done numerous activities to help his community. He is very involved in "Operation Santa" which is sponsored by his county's sheriff's department to provide food and clothing for needy families during the holiday season. Tanner and his SkillsUSA team have provided over \$35,000 to this project in the past nine years. On an international level, Tanner and his students collected and purchased over 300 soccer balls which were sent to Iraq for the Iraqi children. Tanner and his collision class also restored an old bus that was donated to the Life Ministry Zimbabwe in Africa to assist in meeting medical needs in rural areas.

Tanner was nominated by Detective Steve Baumgardner, a former colleague at Irmo High

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School, and Ellen Baumgardner, a School District 5 Trustee. Ms. Baumgardner stated in her recommendation, “Mr. Tanner is truly an asset for the Lexington/Richland School District 5 and Irmo High School. We are truly blessed for having a man with such compassion and being a role model for teachers and students.”

“The I-CAR Education Foundation is proud to honor Phil Tanner for his achievement and dedication in the classroom and for his generosity and philanthropy around the world,” said Scott Kruger, I-CAR Education Foundation Executive Director. “His students are learning by example not only what it means to be successful in the collision industry but also what it means to make our world a better place.”

VERY SUCCESSFUL O.E.S. OFFICIAL VISIT

There was a great turnout of brothers for the recent official visit to our OES sisters on Tuesday, 8 December. The work done by all who were able to come made a big impact on the ladies and they went on and on about how meaningful it was to them. It also helped everything run smoothly. Bro. Gene, Bro. Judd, and Bro. David even stayed til the very end so the ladies wouldn't have to clean up anything. Nice job, brethren – that's what it's all about!

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations go out to W.B. Jim Masters on receiving his 40-year Life Membership pin and certificate. W.B. Bill Bouknight presented it to him on behalf of the Grand Lodge of Florida. Way to go, Bro. Jim!



HEALTH AND HAPPINESS

Let's keep these folks in your prayers: Bro. Lewis East; W.B. and Mrs. Buster Platt – Bro. Buster is in need of your prayers as he has spots on his liver and has been diagnosed with cancer. He'll soon be starting treatments, so give Buster a call and let him know you are there for he and Mrs. Betty.; Bro. O'Neill Bickley; Rush Houghton; Bro. Bob Martin; Bro. Pookie Turner's father; W.B. Rufus Shealy; W.B. Gene Hutto recently had an epidural in his back which has taken care of some 50-60% of the pain and discomfort he had previously. He will get a second injection the week of December 14th.



Bro. Bobby Turbeville is a father again! His wife had a 7 lb. 11 oz. Baby boy born 2 December. Congratulations, Bro. Bobby! Bro. Jim Dry's wife Judy is undergoing treatment for lymphedema due to the number of lymph nodes she had removed during her breast cancer procedures. 19 lymph nodes were removed, and 16 tested positive for cancer. She is very positive given the circumstances, and remains optimistic. Continued prayers are appreciated. W.B. Gene Hutto recently had an epidural in his back which has taken care of some 50-60% of the pain and discomfort he had previously. He will get a second injection the week of December 14th.

Keep praying for W.B. Pappy Wren, who is beginning to suffer more with Alzheimer's in East Tennessee; Bro. Bryce Wren's son Jimmy, helping take care of Pappy; Bro. Piney Bickley, who has been in and out of the hospital –he's now on 8 medicines; Piney's mother-in-law Dorothea Harrell, who is at Health South; Bro. Ron Kuhn; Robbie Robinson; Bro. Billy Sox; Bro. Gene Sweat; Bro. Bobby Pittman; Bro. Jim Hamel from Fort Jackson Lodge; Harold Wessinger; Bro. Hisham Shamkhani, who is working in the middle east; Bro. Gene Lever and his wife, Ruth; Bro. Ralph Oldstrum from Dutch Fork Lodge, who will soon undergo surgery; Bro. Billy Sox, who is having difficulty with a dialysis port;

MASONIC EDUCATION

The Importance of and Qualifications
Needed for an Investigation

(Reprinted from the Short Talk Bulletin, MSA Publication Vol 87, No. 11, November 2009)

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The investigation of an applicant is a most important matter. The qualifications of the investigator are equally important, perhaps more so.

When the Master of a Lodge hands or sends one of its members a petition to be investigated, he is saying in substance to that member, "You know the type of man the Masonic Fraternity accepts. The sponsors on this petition say the applicant qualifies. Now I want **your** opinion." From there on it becomes a matter for that member, acting not only as a member of that Lodge, but as a representative of the entire Masonic Fraternity to investigate the petitioner as sincerely and as honestly as he is capable of doing.

The investigation of a petition is a serious matter. It should not be considered as routine. Let us stop a moment and evaluate your assignment.

First, think of Masonry. It is an organization composed of men who believe in the Deity; who believe in righteousness and justice; who live by and adhere to a moral code of ethics, and who practice a philosophy of life that is second to none. Here are men from every walk of life who compose a fraternity of moral, social, and intelligent persons creditably recorded in every community, men who believe in each other, their fellow members. Here is a petition – from a stranger – who wishes to become a member of that group! WHO IS this stranger?

Experience has taught us this old world of ours has plenty of good men in it, men who are God loving; men who know, understand, and practice the moral code of life. Some may be active church members and others may not, but either way they are fine people to know.

In the business world you often hear them referred to as "a man whose word is as good as his bond" or "a man who does business on the square." This then is the type of man the investigator hopes the applicant will prove to be. When this type of man approaches Masonry with a petition, Masonry is interested!

In its simplest definition, Masonry is the binding together of this type of men and cementing them into an everlasting fraternal association. Masonry, which asks no man to join its ranks, will accept no less. It never was intended to be an organization to reform or remodel a man. That is a matter for the man and his clergyman, not Freemasonry.

Remember, it is **your** fraternity, and you are now employed by your Lodge and the entire Masonic

family, world-wide, to investigate the petition of an applicant who wishes an intimate knowledge of Masonry and association with its members.

Some of us are inclined to feel we are just considering an application for membership in our own Lodge, that we know the two sponsors, and that they would not recommend anyone who was not qualified. This is only partially true.

You are actually considering him for world-wide Masonic membership. This, in turn, will give him the opportunity to visit and associate with Masons everywhere. Each visitation he subsequently may make, in any Lodge in the world, will be as a member and representative of your Lodge. He should, therefore, be the type of man of whom you can be proud and honored to have represent you and your Lodge. *(to be continued next month)*

SETTING THE WORK

E.A. Degree.	Dec. 10 th , 7:30 p.m. supper at 6:45 p.m.
F.C. Degree	Dec. 17 th , 7:30 p.m. supper at 6:45 p.m.
January Business Mtg.	Jan. 7 th , 7:30 p.m. supper at 6:45 p.m.

OTHER UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

December O.E.S. Official Visit. ...Dec. 8th, 7:30 p.m.
Note: We start cooking supper at 1:30 p.m.

Eastern Star Covered Dish..... Dec. 12th, 7:00 p.m.
All Master Masons, families, and friends welcome

Officers Instructional Mtg.Jan. 16th, 9:00 a.m.
Scottish Rite Temple

Ladies' Night.....Jan. 22rd, 7:00 p.m.

HOLIDAY GREETINGS

Here's wishing a Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas, and Eid Mubarak to all our brethren under the Supreme Architect of the Universe!

May you all be blessed this holiday season.

Bro. Dave

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