
THE TRESTLE-BOARD

VOL 10 - NO 1

BOYLESTON LODGE #123 A.F.M.

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WELCOME TO 2010, BROTHERS!

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Well, brothers, another year has passed! We hope that you had a wonderful holiday season. As Masonry includes members of many different faiths, we trust that your specific holiday turned out beautifully. The meaning of the season should never be forgotten, though, and the spirit of it should live in you each and every day. Here's hoping that 2010 brings you a wealth of happiness and prosperity. Why not celebrate it by going to visit your lodge in person this month?!

JANUARY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

District Deputy Grand Master Bill Bouknight announced Past Master Buster Platt had passed and the family requested a Masonic funeral. Visitation was Sunday, January 10, 2010 between 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at Dunbar Funeral Home. The funeral service was held Monday, January 11, 2010 at Dunbar Funeral Home in Irmo, with the burial at Greenlawn Cemetery following the services. Worshipful John Meetze announced the lodge would open for the funeral at 12:00 noon on Monday, January 11, 2010. *For the record, over 30 brothers were present for Buster's service. Thanks to the members of the craft who made it a priority to attend. It was quite a showing, and it made me proud of my lodge.*



Brother Ray Boland said everyone enjoyed the Christmas Dinner held by the Eastern Star. Brother Jud Close suggested a thank-you letter be sent. Worshipful John Meetze agreed and asked Brother Secretary Jud Close to send a thank you letter to the Eastern Star.

Brother Gene Hutto said we spend \$2,400 annually on the newsletter. He made the motion to discontinue the newsletter. Brother Hal Curtis 2nd the motion. There was a lot of discussion both pro and con. Brother Jud Close made an amendment to put the Trestle-Board on the web site. Brother Gene Hutto amended his motion to put the newsletter on the web site.

Worshipful John Meetze said Brother Dave Easley put a lot of time and effort into preparing the newsletter for printing and sending it to the printer. He then tabled the motion for 1 month to give the craft time to get a plan on how to lower the cost of the newsletter.

Brother Junior Warden Bobby Lockaby announced the first bar-b-que of 2010 would be held on Saturday, March 13th. District Deputy Grand Master Bill Bouknight addressed the craft and announced the Grand Master requested use of our altar, stations and columns for April 21-23. Brother Ray Boland made the motion. Brother Marion Smith 2nd the motion. The motion passed.

Brother John O'Neil – said the new building will need some furniture. He offered to donate \$100.00 towards the new furniture. He also suggested we place a plaque displaying the name of every member that donated to the furniture fund. John also agreed to head up the furniture committee. Brother Ronnie Faircloth offered to look into getting church pews donated as furniture to the lodge. Brother John O'Neil said chairs would probably be more comfortable over the long run. Worshipful John Meetze asked Brother O'Neil to research the cost of the chairs and report back to the new building committee Tuesday, January 12, 2010. He also invited the craft to attend.

Brother Senior Warden Ken Burgess announced he had received half the money in sales from the candy and now had enough money to purchase more candy. He asked that any brother with candy money please turn it in.

MASTER	SENIOR WARDEN	JUNIOR WARDEN	TREASURER	SECRETARY	LODGE PHONE
John Meetze 513.2102	Ken Burgess 917.7276	Bobby Lockaby 798.3589	Dennis Gobble 750.2180	Jud Close 732.5604	NUMBER 732.3408
SENIOR DEACON	JUNIOR DEACON	STEWARD	STEWARD	TILER	CHAPLAIN
Jamie Faircloth 600-0429	Jim Dry 781-9569	Ron Watson 210.6407	James Berry 528.9944	Ted Hayne IV 798.2242	Ronnie Faircloth 345.2297

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CORRECTION

Last month's Trestle-Board incorrectly stated the award presented to W.B. Jim Masters at the December business meeting. In congratulating him on receiving his 40-year Life Membership pin and certificate, we should have upped it 10 years as he is a 50-year life member. W.B. Bill Bouknight presented it to him on behalf of the Grand Lodge of Florida. We sincerely regret the error, and are looking forward to the day you receive your 60-year pin, Bro. Jim!

HEALTH AND HAPPINESS

Sympathies go out to all the Platt family on the passing of W.B. James 'Buster' Platt on January 6th, and to the family of Bro. Paul Eargle who passed December 27th; Please pray for: Bro. O'Neill Bickley; Rush Houghton; Bro. Bob Martin; W.B. Rufus Shealy; Bro. Lewis East; Bro. Jim Dry's wife Judy wishes for continued prayers; W.B. Pappy Wren, and his son Jimmy, who is helping take care of Pappy; Bro. Piney Bickley and his mother-in-law Dorothy Harrell; 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; Bro. Billy Sox; Bro. Emmett Pruett, Sr., member of Lee Lodge #253 in Taylorsville NC. He is the brother of Bro. Mack Pruett, and is in need of prayers as he is battling cancer.



MASONIC EDUCATION

The Importance of and Qualifications Needed
for an Investigation – Part II

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

Some of us ignore this point and either through the lack of evaluation, or possibly the softer side of our nature, think, "Why deprive someone of membership? After all, it is just a fraternity." But is it "just a fraternity?" We are all members of the Craft, we know its aims, its purposes, and its members. There is the key word, its "members." Just who are and who were its members?

Recall for a moment the town you came from and the numerous ones you have visited, each with its own Masonic Temple and its members everywhere participating to a very large extent as leaders in business, civic affairs, and governmental matters local, state, and federal.

It now becomes obvious, as you evaluate your investigative assignment, that it is important – important that only the right type of man is accepted, for the Mason of today is an integral part of our nation and our way of life. In his hands and those of his associates, lies the future of the America of tomorrow.

Here and there, and now and then, we learn of a Mason who has not lived up to what has been expected of him – soft of a square peg in a round hole. It does not have to be this way. A little extra effort on the part of every investigator can remedy this situation considerably. A petitioner should be, in every instance, a person whom the investigator personally would want to know and with whom he would want to associate. By all means he should be a man whom the investigator has no doubt would be an active and interested Mason, not just a pin wearer, or a joiner.

Many Lodges have personnel committees, which collectively interview an applicant, and thereafter he is contacted at his home by the individual members of the investigating committee. Masters of many Lodges, when selecting the individual members of the investigating committee, endeavor to select, for the convenience of the investigator, those living in close proximity to the applicant. This may be to the advantage of the investigator but not necessarily to the Fraternity.

A suggested and simple solution to such a problem would be to select investigators in a comparable professional, business or vocational capacity to that of the petitioners and within a relatively similar age span. There the younger member, interviewing the petitioner within his own age level, may accomplish

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much. First, the petitioner feels there are young men in the Lodge he petitioned. They both have young families, children in school, local business associates, and probably mutual friends or acquaintances. If they are both employees or both businessmen, they will have a foundation for getting acquainted without the feeling of inquisition. In short, from a common non-Masonic interest, the investigator can learn much about the applicant, his wife, his family, and associates. He can obtain considerable knowledge of the applicant before he reports to the Master of the Lodge.

The same holds true with the older man. With the same professional, businessman's or tradesman's background and a comparable number of years chalked off against both of them, they will understand each other's thinking.

Every investigator should realize and understand, before he accepts an investigating assignment from the Master of the Lodge, that the investigation is not a ten-minute deal.

Whether you have to make one call or a dozen, it is, at its conservative best, an hour's interview. If the petitioner is the type of man you hope he will be, your call may stretch into two or more hours, but when you leave you will find yourself feeling you have spent a mighty pleasant and enjoyable evening, and the petitioner's opinion of Freemasonry will have jumped 100 percent.

Every Masonic investigator should know and appreciate the trust and faith placed in him by the Master of the Lodge in giving him this assignment. In a sense, the Master has appointed him as the eyes and ears of the Lodge and Freemasonry as a whole, for invariably the Master and the members of the Lodge will be guided by the investigator's report to accept or reject the applicant's petition. If the petitioner is elected to receive the degrees, the investigator should endeavor, if possible, to attend some of the candidate's degree work. A firm and friendly handshake or the sight of a familiar face is always a most welcome occasion when a man is in new or strange surroundings.

This suggested program of selecting investigators, even if applied to only one or two of the investigators, will bring forth many new sources of information, all available for an investigator's further consideration if necessary. Thus a comprehensive knowledge of the applicant may be had for the Master's consideration and submission to his Lodge.

(Thanks to W.B. Jim Masters for supplying this resource regarding Lodge investigating committees – there was a wealth of information to be found!)

SETTING THE WORK

F.C. Degree.....Jan. 21st, 7:30 p.m.
supper at 6:45 p.m.

February Business Mtg.Feb. 4th, 7:30 p.m.
supper at 6:45 p.m.

OTHER UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

10th District Instructional Mtg.. Jan. 16th, 6:00 p.m.
(Square and Compass Club meets at 5:00 p.m.)
Scottish Rite Temple

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

NEWSLETTER CHANGES POSSIBLY IN THE WORKS

A discussion at the last business meeting set in motion the possibility that this month's newsletter may be the last to come for a while. A number of brothers stepped up and volunteered their efforts to continue providing the service, though. The cost of the current process is roughly \$200 per month. This, plus postage, comes out to about \$2880 per year – that's about \$6.40 per member for the year.

Included in the discussion were some questions regarding the timeliness of its delivery as well, and comparisons to other Lodge productions which come out more quickly. Currently, the turnaround time from when it is emailed to Pine Press Printing and when we receive word that it is ready is from 3 to 5 business days depending on their work load. We then drive over to pick it up, carry it to the Post Office at Dixiana, and drop it off.

Every newsletter since January 2005 has been posted on our lodge website at <http://www.boylestonlodge.com>. Any brother who has the time and would like to take over the reins of the Boyleston Lodge Newsletter, please contact W.B. Trey Meetze. I hope you have enjoyed it, brothers!

Bro. Dave

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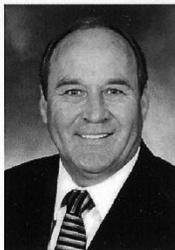
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