



## TRESTLE BOARD

Boyleston Masonic Lodge #123 A.F. M.  
PO Box 502  
Ballentine, SC 29002  
October, 2015

Greetings Brothers,

I want to start off by saying that as I'm writing this, our area is experiencing an extraordinary period of torrential downpours and there is already wide range flooding. Let's hope and pray there is no loss of life and that damage is kept to a minimum.

We had another great meal at our stated meeting and it consisted of bbq diced chicken and sauce with the choice of rice or roll, beans, pickles with carrot cake and ice cream for dessert. Another delicious diet buster.

Another good crowd for our business meeting and we balloted on (3) for EA degree, (6) for FC degree, and (3) for MM degree. All were elected. As you can see we are going to have another busy month for degree work. Come on out and be a part of it.

We had the pleasure of having the SC Past Grand Master and current Grand Treasurer MW Jack Marler pop into our meeting. MW is very vocal about his love for our Lodge and it is an honor when he comes to visit. While he was here he presented a check to the lodge which is the return of investment from our perpetual life members. When our brothers join the Grand Lodge Perpetual Life program, it benefits our lodge in perpetuity. If it is something you might be interested in contact WM Jim Weih, PDDGM Bill Bouknight or even call the SC Grand Lodge and talk to the Grand Treasurer or Grand Secretary.

We had a guest speaker at our meeting. Bro. Ray Craig is the current Chaplain of Dentsville Lodge. He gave a short talk on his Journey to Masonry and his credo of "Practice the Craft" It was very interesting and only took 5 minutes.

Now on to the bbq report. The second bbq of the year is over and it was a big success. The lodge got great participation in each stage and it went very smoothly. JW Tom Reed

presented to Lodge with a check for \$5100.00 proceeds from the bbq. In presenting the check, Bro. Tom wanted to make sure to tell everyone who helped they did an outstanding job. Also a big thank you to the Eastern Star who always do a great job in helping us. When we have these bbqs it takes a lot of help and coordination. I want to make sure that we acknowledge to Bros. that come and help every bbq that rarely come to meetings. These Bros. are a big part of the success of the bbq and they are greatly appreciated. We may not see them in Lodge but they always show up to help. Thank You bros. and we would love it if you came to see us more often, then our newer brothers get the benefit of meeting you and you get the benefit of meeting them.

DDGM Ray Boland said that he will be visiting Lower Richland Lodge on Monday 10/5 and Pacific Lodge for an official visit on Tuesday 10/6. RW Ray would love you to become a BLT (Boyleston Lodge Traveler) and join him as he travels around the 10th Masonic District. All of these visits start at Boyleston Lodge to meet and caravan to the others lodges. Give RW Ray your email address or call him @ (803) 445-3945 or call Sec. Bill Bouknight to find out the departure time from the lodge. You don't have to caravan, some of us find it more convenient to go on our own.

There is a reason I bring up the visitations at this time. When we go out on these visitations we get to see the other lodges and meet their Bros. It is quite interesting to experience these other lodges doing their work and to realize there a lot of good Lodges out there. But on some of the visitations there is a lot less participation than ours. Some of these Lodges are in dire financial straits and have to raise their dues significantly. As the membership of a lodge grows older and you get more Life Members, the income lessens for the lodge. That's why it is crucial for lodges to keep bringing in new brothers. This is widespread throughout Masonry and is of growing concern. Even as active as our Lodge is (one of the most active in the state) if it weren't for the success of these bbqs, we would have to raise our dues between \$30 to \$60 a year! For you life members it may not affect you but it may affect some of our less active members from continuing their membership and maybe give pause to someone looking to join our Fraternity. So it is important for everyone to support these bbqs not only working but selling and buying tickets.

I have been asked several times recently some what I call philosophical questions about Masonry. I have always found that very difficult to answer because I'm not one to delve into that. In this day and age we as parents and grandparents are going through some scary times. I never realized until I became a parent and grandparent that you will never stop worrying about your family. Maybe someone takes a plane trip or goes on vacation or there is a wreck on I26 about the time a family member usually is traveling. It never goes away. As we see how social media is influencing people today they are bombarded from all directions at all times. We never experienced that. The point I'm trying to make is the best influence we can have on our family is by our actions not what we say. I want my family to see that I belong to an organization that is dedicated to making us better men. I want them to see the people I am proud to associate with. I want my son and grandsons to see my actions and want them to associate with like minded people. There

are hundreds and maybe thousands of books about the history and philosophy of Masonry and that's fine to research, but I choose to look around at the Bros. I associate with and think of the meaning of the degrees and what we're trying to pass on to the new and aspiring Bros. I want to live it and hope my family sees it and it influences them. Sorry, that's been on my mind for a long time.

Brothers, it is October which means the dues for 2016 are due. The dues for this year going to be sent out shortly so please get them back to the Secretary as soon as possible. That also means that Bros. who haven't paid their 2015 dues are NPD and in danger of being erased. Any questions contact the Secretary

### Work for the month

Thursday Oct. 8th Entered Apprentice Degree dine at 6:30pm meeting at 7:30pm  
Wed Oct. 7th EA Practice 7:00pm at the lodge  
Thursday Oct. 15th Fellowcraft Degree dine at 6:30pm meeting at 7:30pm  
Wed Oct. 14th FC Practice 7:00pm at the lodge  
Thursday Oct. 22nd Master Mason Degree dine at 6:30pm meeting at 7:30PM  
Wed Oct 21st MM Practice 7:00pm at the lodge  
Thursday Oct. 29th Square and Compass Meeting Boyleston Lodge dine at 6:30pm  
Meeting after. All Master Masons invited By-laws say meeting must be over by 9:00pm

Also:

Saturday Oct. 17th Preparing meal for the Grand Lodge Secretary's Meeting  
meet at Boyleston Lodge at 8:00am  
Monday Oct. 26th Help Eastern Star making candy for their fund raiser meet at the  
lodge at 1:00pm  
Thursday Oct. 15th Fish Fry at St. John's Lutheran Church Irmo \$5.00 all you can eat  
Eat at 6:30pm  
Saturday Nov. 7th Work day cutting wood and filling the bbq pits 7:00am

PM Frank Powers is requesting assistance working the Jamil Temple Motor Corps. booth at the SC State Fair 10/14 to 10/24 any help appreciated call Frank at (803) 466-7375

Last month's trivia question: Who was the first US Senator elected by a write-in vote?  
Answer: SC's own Strom Thurmond.

This month's trivia question: What is a Kepi?

**DON'T FORGET YOUR 2016 DUES**

Also don't forget November Stated Meeting is election of officers!!!!

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