



TRESTLE BOARD

Boyleston Masonic Lodge #123 A.F. M.

PO Box 502

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December 2017

Greatings Brothers,

It's that time of the year that's for family and friends to get together and enjoy our blessings. We often talk and hear about the good old days but we are generally blessed with a better standard of living than our parents, grandparents, and ancestors. It's mostly up to us to find contentment and happiness. May everyone have a Merry Christmas and a great New Year ahead.

We had another well-attended meeting and were treated to our traditional December meal of eggs, country ham, grits, biscuits, and donuts. That's a great meal anytime. Thanks guys it was great.

On Dec. 3rd the Eastern Star had a Christmas dinner and everyone I talked to said they had a great meal and a very enjoyable evening. They wish there would have been more Boyleston Brothers there.

Now to the meeting, after the traditional opening and reading of the minutes the proposed changes to the By-laws were read for the third and last time. There were three changes and each one was motioned on and seconded and discussion was held. After all discussion, there was a vote on each change and they all passed unanimously. Brothers, everyone is entitled to a copy of the by-laws each year and you just need to make it known you want one and it will be provided.

One of the topics of the meeting was reflecting on what has happened in the last year. We have made contributions to some well deserving causes, we have instituted an Adopt-a-Highway litter pickup program, we've had (2) very successful chicken bbq's, and we have provided meals to the Grand Lodge for their functions several times to generate income for the Lodge

One of the most significant things that happened to our Lodge is that Dutch Fork Lodge merged with us. This has been a very positive and beneficial merge for both our Lodges. Dutch Fork Brothers are a very welcome addition to our Lodge and, by the way, made us the largest Lodge in South Carolina.

We've had a custom of visiting other Lodges for the past many years and have exchanged "Kitchen Flags". If a Lodge visits another with 5 or more Brothers, that Lodge can take the "Kitchen Flag" and put it on display in their home Lodge. This promotes comradery in Masonry and between the Lodges. When RW Bill Bouknight became our District Deputy the visitations seemed to increase, then RW Ray Boland created the term "BLT'S (Boyleston Lodge Travelers)". Some Brothers have expressed an interest in going on these visits and in an effort to better communicate when these visitations occur (which can happen with advanced notice or on the spur of the moment). Here is a list of names and numbers of Brothers who do a lot of the traveling. RW Ray Boland 803-445-3945, RW Bill Bouknight 803-556-5670, Tom Reed 803-315-8269, WB Ron Lockaby 803-269-4934, Jud Close 803-479-3090. This is not all of the Brothers who travel but you are encouraged to join them especially the newly raised brothers. We usually meet at our Lodge and caravan together. It is to your benefit to see the other Lodges and the degree work that they do. Let any one of these Brothers know you wish to travel and we will try to contact you when these visitations occur.

We've had a good year in our Lodge and it's due in part to a lot of Brothers in the background doing a lot of work. First is the kitchen crew who take time to plan the meals, buy the food and prepare it for our meetings. SW Tom Reed has done a fine job doing this but he had a lot of help from Oneal Bickley, RW Bill Bouknight, Albert Wayne Stoudemire, and others who help prepare and serve the meals for Grand Lodge functions. Our Lodge is known to have good meals and these Brothers are to be commended.

There is also the crew who cut the grass and keep the Lodge grounds looking good. They get together every other Tuesday and do this work. RW Bill Bouknight, Marion Smith, Albert Wayne Stoudemire, and WB Bob Stump. Also WB Matt Derrick for trimming the shrubs and power washing the outside of the building.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention all the Brothers who come together and help with the chicken bbq's. We may not see some of these Brothers at the meetings often, but they are a huge help at bbq time.

We also have the benefit of having some dedicated Brothers who have taken on the task of learning and giving the degree lectures. Primarily WB Bob Stump and WB Robert Shull have done the majority of the lectures. Thank you so much. They would be thrilled if some of the younger Brothers would learn the lectures and help out. Bob and Robert would be glad to help Brothers learn the lectures.

After the Stated Meeting in December the Lodge is dark except for the Installation of Officers which will occur on Saturday December 16th at 7:00pm. There is a fine meal planned and the Installing Officer will Past Grand Master MW Barry Rickman and the Marshall will be WB Bob Stump. Please plan on attending and bring your spouse or significant other. RW Ron Lockaby requests that the officers come to the Lodge on Thursday Dec. 14th at 7:00pm for a short practice for the installation.

Brothers in this Christmas season let's think about the families of the Brothers we lost this year who won't be here for Christmas but ultimately are in a better place. We knew some better than others but all will be missed.

Finally, those who haven't paid their 2017 dues will be erased on 12/31/2017 you still have time to pay them. Those who haven't paid their 2018 dues please do so.

Brothers, coming to Lodge is a habit please get in the habit of coming to Lodge. We welcome you with open arms.

Let's all a safe and happy Christmas and New Year!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

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