

November, 2014

TRESTLEBOARD



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From the East

Brethren...

November is upon us...it is time for you to come to the aid of your Lodge and take an active role in the operation thereof.

It is election time! Our November stated will be on the 13th of the month, and as it is election night, we will be doing a Tate and Tate-like catered dinner at 6:00, with a Stated Meeting to follow at 7:00.

This year has moved very quickly for me; being out-of-state for a quarter of the year does speed things up. Is there ever a year in the East where a Worshipful Master looks back and thinks, "*Well, that was fun! Did I accomplish everything we set out to do?*" Of course not! I would, however, have liked to have gone further with one specific goal, that of increasing the attendance of our Lodge.

We did have Bethel 11 back in Bend Lodge this month. I hear it was a busy night, which gives me hope that this branch of our family is growing, and perhaps thriving to a point of there being a Bend presence again. The

"The world as we have created it is a process of our thinking. It cannot be changed without changing our thinking."

— Albert Einstein



success of this year's Shriner Fun Run, and the obvious level of participation in the Central Oregon Shrine Club gives me hope that the efforts to reconnect Blue Lodge and the Central Oregon Shrine Club may lead to greater Blue Lodge attendance in the coming year. For those of you who have drifted away from our Lodge that I have reached out to individually, be warned, I am apt not to stop!

The efforts of the Senior Warden in my absence, and the tireless efforts by the Junior Warden are shining examples of Masons who appreciate their lodge, and will forever do what is needed for it's continued success.

Everyone who has taken an active role in our Lodge this year has my heartfelt thanks! You exemplify to me what it truly means to be a Mason.

I hope to see you at the November meeting...I look forward to catching up with all of you!

Derek Stevens
Worshipful Master
Bend Lodge #139

From the West

HARMONY DISRUPTED

It has become very clear that harmony has been disrupted here at Bend Lodge. A number of factors have led to this, including unclear lodge focus and brothers' expectations of our Lodge not being satisfied. This has led to a number of brothers not returning to Lodge and being left with unresolved issues.

We must remember this is OUR Lodge; it does not belong to any single person or group within the Lodge. Our fraternity is based on brotherhood and coming together on the level.

It is time to strengthen our foundation at Bend Lodge. We need to get back to basics... Masonic education standards for all new brothers, a variety of events and activities that reflect the interests of all brothers in the Lodge, not the few. Visiting, interacting with, and supporting our local Masonic family will be critical in the work to strengthen the foundation here at Bend Lodge.

In preparation to begin to strengthen OUR Lodge, I will be requesting input from all brothers to form a calendar for the upcoming year, and expressing interest for the direction of Bend Lodge. In addition, brothers will be asked to give examples of areas of satisfaction and dissatisfaction in the Lodge. Participation by all brothers in this process is vital if we are going to get Bend Lodge back on track.

One of the first events that may be helpful would be a Lodge dinner and informal workshop for brothers to come together for a good meal and a chance brush up on some of the skills like signs and other items needed to open the Lodge. It is my hope this might ease any apprehensions brothers may feel if their ritual work is a bit rusty or we have not seen them in a while.

The process of strengthening our foundation and getting back to the basics of the Masonic institution will require the input and efforts of all of the brothers of Bend Lodge and will be a multiple year process. We are obligated to care for OUR Lodge... it was here long before any of us and, if cared for properly, Bend Lodge will be here long after we are each gone.

Zach Richards
Senior Warden
Bend Lodge #139

Brethren, it is with a heavy heart that I report to you of the passing of

Brother Brandon Cole

Many of you have seen the note from WB Chipman regarding this, but as a reminder, Bend Lodge #139 will be holding a ceremony for Brother Cole on Sunday, November 9th... I encourage all to attend.

Derek Stevens
Worshipful Master
Bend Lodge #139

From the South

As we haven't had a Trestleboard for a while, I thought I would provide a few updates on changes in and around the Lodge. I am personally very excited to have running water in the kitchen again!

With the assistance of Brother Dan Johnson of Einstein Plumbing, we are continuing to make progress in addressing many of the plumbing challenges in the building. Most notably, we now have two new faucets and a functioning dishwasher in the kitchen – say goodbye (for the most part) to paper plates! Work continues to proceed on repairs to, or replacement of, old bathroom fixtures that have caused some recent flooding issues with the hope those can be resolved soon.

On the outside, entering and exiting the lodge is a bit cleaner and safer with repairs to the portico (which had become a giant birdhouse) and the installation of a center post and two additional speed bumps just to the west of the main entrance. While not completely eliminating the cut-through traffic that is rampant on our property, these steps have definitely slowed trespassers who frequently use this passage with ruthless abandon.

Upstairs, significant work has been done over the past several months to repair and update the Prep Room/Masonic Museum

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Reactive

• Past

Proactive

• Present

Predictive

• Future

which will be officially re-opened for our November 13th Stated Meeting. In addition, the office has been enhanced with the installation of a working computer with internet connectivity so that more of the work of the Lodge can be done in the Lodge - and stay in the Lodge.

Downstairs, after much research and deliberation, we have arrived at decisions that we hope will lead to a long-term fix for the floor tile problem. Completion of the floor project will allow us to make other updates that, taken together, will greatly improve the look and functionality of the space - making it a much more compelling environment for potential renters. We hope to have floor repairs done before the end of the year.

On an all-together different note, I wanted to share a more personal thought I have been ruminating on after a recent conversation with a younger brother. In this conversation, our brother related how he truly looked forward to the fraternity of our meetings, that the fellowship was very meaningful and important to him on a variety of levels, and that when he told another brother how nice it was to see him - that he really meant it. As I thought about the conversation, it brought focus to the very basic yet complex idea that our personal interactions invariably leave largely unrecognized, yet indelible impressions. That these impressions that we make on each others' lives, as brothers following separate but parallel Masonic paths, may likely often be subtle, like a fingerprint we don't consciously think about leaving when we touch something, but that given the values, training and tenets of our fraternity should be impressions of friendship, support and other positive influences. All of us have the ability to make such individually important impressions in our interactions with our brothers, whether we know we are doing so or not.

After due consideration, for me at least, the bottom line came down to the singular importance of personal interaction between brothers - the absence of which no doubt leaves a very different, yet still indelible impression.

I look forward to seeing you all on November 13th.

Brian Canady
Junior Warden
Bend Lodge #139

be the
change
you wish
to see in the
world...
-gandhi

KINDS OF MASONS

(From "Old Tyler Talks")

"I am almost through!" The New Brother displayed a sheaf of cards to the Old Tiler. "Soon I will have joined them all and become every kind of Mason there is."

"What do you know about the kinds of Masons there are?" asked the Old Tiler, interested. "You have not been a Master Mason long enough to gain all that knowledge!"

"That's not hard to gain, with all the brethren poking petitions at you. There are Scottish Rite Masons and York Rite Masons and Templar Masons and Chapter Masons and council Masons and..."

"Oh!" the syllable said much. The Old Tiler added, "I didn't understand. I thought you couldn't have learned yet."

"Learned what? Are there some more kinds of Masons?"

"Indeed, yes!" answered the Old Tiler. "A great many kinds. But seven you haven't mentioned stand out more prominently than others."

"Do tell me! I thought I had joined most of them..."

"You don't join these. You become one, or are made one, or grow into one of them. For instance, there is the King Solomon Mason. He thinks that everything that Solomon did as a Mason is right and everything he didn't do is wrong. To him Masonry was conceived, born and grew up in the shadow of King Solomon, and every word of the legend is literally true, much like the man who refuses to believe the earth is round,

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because a verse in the Bible refers to the 'four corners of the earth!' The King Solomon Mason lives his Masonry according to his light; perhaps it's not his fault it is so dim”.

"To the **Ritual Mason**, the importance of Masonry is the form of its words. A good Mason in his belief is one who can repeat a lecture from end to end without a slip. A man may do battle, murder, or cause sudden death, commit arson or run away with a neighbor's wife; if he knows his ritual letter perfect, it 'was all a mistake!' The man who doesn't know his ritual letter perfect is not, in this man's eyes, a good Mason; not though he give to charity with both hands and carry love for his fellowman in both head and heart”.

"The **Practical Mason** looks at life from a utilitarian standpoint. He prefers electricity to candles for Lesser Lights because they are simpler and prefers candles to electricity because they are cheaper. He thinks a choir impractical because it produces nothing permanent, and would rather spend the money for printed matter or a new carpet. He is at his best when raising money for a new temple and at his worst when asked to express himself upon the spirit of Masonry. His hand is in his pocket for charity, but never for entertainment. He is usually on the finance committee, and recommends a budget in which rent and heat and light are bigger than relief”.

"The **Heart Mason** is the opposite. He is full of impractical schemes. He wants to start a new temple which will never be built. He talks much of the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man, but is absent when the hat is passed and the committee on funds needs a few workers to go out and gather in. The heart Mason is the lodge sob-sister; he usually seconds any motion to spend any amount of money for flowers or to send a brother away for his health, and always makes a little tear-filled speech about the fatherless loved ones, even if the dear departed died a bachelor”.

"The **Business Mason** belongs because he thinks it helps his job. He usually sits next to the solid businessman in lodge and likes to tell people what he does. If he is a Past Master, he never comes to lodge on time, so that he can get a special welcome at the Altar. His favorite speech is about the man who tried to advertise his business in lodge and how evil this was; in the speech he always mentions his own business. He wears an extra large sized pin and prints squares and compasses on his letterheads”.

"We dominate another kind by the expressive term of **Belly Mason**. He is most faithful in attendance at lodges where there may be a feed. He will cheerfully spend twenty cents carfare and a long evening to get a fifteen-cent sandwich. If there is to be a sit-down meal he will sit up all night to be on time. If the affair is in another lodge and needs tickets he will take time off from his job to hunt a brother who has a ticket and doesn't want it. He usually manages to cross the lodge room while the cigars are passed so he can dig into the box twice. If the crowd is small, he is the last man to get a smoke, so he can take all that are left. If the crowd is large, he is among the first, to make sure he doesn't get left”.

"And then there is the **Regular Mason** – the fellow who does his best with the time and brains he has. He is the great bulk of the fraternity. He pays the dues and fills the chairs and does the work. He is seldom a fine ritualist, but he is usually an earnest one. He is not very practical, and would spend more than we have if it wasn't that he is too sentimental to permit the charity fund to be robbed. He passes the sandwiches and coffee, and if there is any left he gets his; but he doesn't care so long as the evening is a success. He isn't a student, but something in the heart of Masonry has reached deep into his heart, and so he comes to lodge and does his best. He is not learned, but he is not stupid. He is not hidebound, and yet he is conservative. He loves his lodge, but not so much he cannot see her faults. He is most of us."

"And what class of Mason am I?" asked the New Brother, uneasily looking at his sheaf of cards.

"You have cards enough to be considered a Mason for almost any reason", answered the Old Tiler. "But I'll take your word for it. What kind of Mason are you?"

"I don't know for sure...but I know what kind I am never going to be!" answered the New Brother, putting his many cards away.



