

J. F. Swartsel lodge No. 251 F. & A.M. Trestleboard



Published monthly Volume LXXX Issue No. 8 - August 2015AD, 6015AL

Stated Communications: 1st and 3rd Thursday - - Supper 6:30 – Meeting 7:30

The 5th Thursday night of the month is reserved for Family night

IN THIS ISSUE YOU WILL FIND....

Masonic Education: Chair Chatter; Lodge News & Events; Calendar of Important Events; Lodge Officers; Sponsors; Website Information
(www.jfswartsel251org.)

Masonic Education

Submitted by W:. Stuart Graff



Interpreting our symbols

This month I will write about the interpretation of Freemasonry's symbols, and I am going to use a story as an aid in illustrating the points I want to make.

A guide for a hunting party had gone on a day ahead to prepare the camp. When the hunters arrived, while the guide was absent, they found the stove set four feet above the ground on posts and the hunters discussed the possible reason for such an arrangement.

One suggested "The guide is a smart fellow and has figured this out. He put the stove in the air so the heat hits the ceiling and starts circulating. That way it heats the room much more quickly than if the stove were on the floor. Saves wood, too." That was a complete explanation for this one.

"Nonsense," said a second, "that guide couldn't have figured that out. He put the stove up high so it would be above the window and let in more fresh air at night." That was the complete explanation for this one.

The two appealed to the third. "You are both wrong," WAS HIS VERDICT. "He put the stove on stilts so he could pile green wood under it to dry." That was the complete explanation for this one.

About this time the guide came in with an armload of dry wood, which he stacked in a corner. The hunters pointed to the stove questioningly. The guide said bluntly, "You fellows didn't send half enough stove pipe and that was the only way I could make what pipe I had reach the roof."

So far as the guide was concerned, the others didn't have the solution, but hadn't each done some thinking that resulted in just as acceptable an answer for putting a stove on stilts as that of the guide? And hadn't each learned not to be dogmatic in his thinking?

We, as Freemasons, may apply that story to ourselves. It applies to any one of us who dogmatically states that the interpretation of a symbol is so-and-so and, like those explaining why the stove was on stilts, is certain there is but one interpretation and he has given it.

Our symbols urge us to study, urge us too think. If we give group study and group thought to a symbol the results may astonish us. To be continued in the next Trestleboard issue.



From the Editors desk - - I want to thank all of my Brothers (as well as our non-masonic neighbors) for their understanding and co-operation with our fund raising efforts. The monthly fish fry is going exceptionally well and we need to keep up this good work. We have several more fund raising projects that we will be initiating this year and your continued participation will be necessary for their (read: your lodge) success. Yes ~ we are making and raising more Masons now than we have for many years now, we need to work on keeping them as working Masons in our lodge. We have several ideas on how; but we are open to any suggestions that you may have. Please forward your ideas to your Secretary.



There will be a special Lodge Officers Training class at your lodge on Saturday, August 15th, 2015 AD, 6015 AL from 9 AM to noon. Master Mason I II and III will be presented by W.: Tony DeAngelo. Coffee and donuts will be available at 8:30 If you have a desire to be a lodge officer or learn more about Masonry in general please try to attend this very important class.



Chair Chatter

From the Secretary's desk R.:W.: Don Bell

What a good outing you missed on July 18th (if you did not go Bowling with the Worshipful Master and our Families). Approximately 18 people showed up, from the VERY Young to the NOT so Young. We all had a good time and enjoyed the Fellowship.

We "PASSED" three Brothers on July 9th to the Degree of Fellowcraft. Congratulations Brothers Joshua Bruzel, Kevin Duhaime and John Scherer. We are now looking to confer the Master Mason Degree to you on September 19th during our Annual Fall **FARMERS DEGREE**. That will be "our" day of FUN.

Those Brothers who are not getting involved in THEIR Lodge, we miss you. We are having many "Practice sessions", "Fun" events and other activities that everyone could enjoy, if you would come out. Won't you "Come on out" and join us. Watch our Web Page and Facebook to be "Informed".

AUGUST DATES TO REMEMBER:

- 5th District School of Instruction at John Darling Lodge No. 251 7:00 pm
- 6th Stated Communication of Swartsel Lodge - Dinner at 6:30pm - Lodge opens at 7:30 pm
- 14th Masonic Park BOD monthly meeting at Tampa Lodge No. 240 7:00 pm
- 16th Masonic Home BOT monthly meeting at the Home 11:00 am
- 20th Stated Communication of Swartsel Lodge - Dinner at 6:30pm - Lodge opens at 7:30 pm
- 21st Third Friday Fish Fry at Swartsel Lodge - Serving from 5:00 pm until 8:00 pm
- 28th Masters & Wardens monthly meeting at John Darling Lodge No. 154 6:30 pm
- Memorial Lodge monthly meeting (after M&W meeting) at John Darling Lodge No. 154

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 st Gene Murray | 16 th Thomas Sacher-Brown | 25 th Jeffrey Clay |
| John Hunt | 17 th Louis Tienken | Robert Parrish, Jr. |
| 3 rd Samuel Freeman | Larry Philips | 27 th Robert Mogyorosy |
| Martin Greif | 20 th Danilo Valdez | 28 th Raymond Ciunci |
| Brian Johnson, Sr. | 22 nd Carlos Adams | 29 th Earnest Sidlo |
| 8 th Ronald Speaks | 23 rd Marlin Mullins | 31 st Clark Barlow |
| 11 th Stuart Graff | | |

AUGUST MASONIC ANNIVERSARYS:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 4 th Charles McBride, IV | 19 th Clifford Tucker | 23 rd John Lofley, Jr. |
| 19 th Clayton Eller | Joseph Newman | |

From the East Brother Chuck Osborne, Worshipful Master

August is upon us and a new school year will begin in a few weeks. We will once again be collecting school supplies for the students at McKitrick Elementary School. The donation bin is located on the right of the entrance to our dining room and unfortunately it is currently almost empty. Please remember to pick up crayons, glue, pencils, backpacks, paper, notebooks, etc. for the kids. We will make our delivery to McKitrick Elementary around the first week in September so you still have plenty of time to make your donations. I cannot begin to explain how important these donations are each year to the teachers and students.

We have had a great time so far this summer, thanks to the participation of so many of you in our activities (Lodge visits, Degrees, degree practices, MLT, bowling, fish fry's, etc.) and this month we hope to have more of the same. I expect we will be balloting on petitions during both Stated Communications this month and our Lodge Instructors are telling me that several of our Brothers will be ready to give back their EA and possibly FC catechisms. Therefore, I have tentatively scheduled an EA Degree for Thursday, August 27th and MM Farmer's Degree for Saturday, Sept. 19th, and we will probably need to schedule a FC Degree and another EA Degree sometime before the end of September. We have our first "Bermuda Shorts" night during our Aug. 20th Stated Communication and I expect to see a lot of ugly knees and hairy legs that night. W.: David Lambert II has been working on the Cake Walk fund raiser for October and R.:W.: Don Bell and I are working on a Glock Raffle for November. Stay tuned for further details.

My Brothers, I hope you are having as much this year as I am. Remember, this is YOUR Fraternity. If you have any ideas or suggestions on how to make our Lodge better, please don't be bashful. Get involved!

From the West Brother Danny Valdez, Senior Warden

My Brothers, school starts again this month and the kids will probably be as confused as they are excited. This should cause us to be more diligent for their safety. It has been my experience that the school buses, with those red lights flashing, are picking up and unloading these children and some cars are failing to stop. Most people are using their cell phones as they speed by. Please don't be one of them.

The MLT class at Fellowship Lodge was well conducted by our Brother; Worshipful Sklet and was not only very interesting but informative as well.

Thank you all for the showing up at the last Fish Fry. We had a great day of sales and the fellowship was awesome. Our Family Night went well and we had a delicious Italian dinner provided by Lydia Tremble, thank you Chris & Lydia.

Brothers, Bermuda shorts night is coming up soon and it promises to be a fun night; "come on Down" and show them legs.

As always in our quest for further light don't forget the District and Zone schools are available to you at no extra charge.

From the South ... R.:W.: Sam Pesola, J. W.

Another busy month has come and gone. Thank you, my brethren for giving me the peace, harmony and satisfaction of knowing that you are appreciative of my work to satisfy your more base needs (read: HUNGER). Admittedly, I could not do this alone. My kitchen help is andauntable (as well as good dedicated Masons). Without their assistance most of your meals would not have been nearly as well received as they have been.



Please remember your lodge boosters and thank them.

R.: W.: Ronald E. Stanley

R.: W.: Donald R. Bell Mark L. Lager

Daniel Allen

Brad Sollberger

James F. Allison

Ernest P. Sidlow

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Graff

Hedayat

Clayton

Blitzkrieg

Zemetres

Adams

Passed to the degree of Fellowcraft



Our JW R.:W.: Pesola enjoying the preparation of your steak dinner

