

## **MORE LIGHT**

**From**

**Manteo Lodge #521**

**A. F. & A. M.**

Chartered April 18, 1962

Sept-December 2009

### **TRESTLE BOARD**

September 14th

6:30 Pot Luck Dinner

7:30 Meeting

Second Stated: September 28th

7:30 Meeting

September 18th & 19th

SASA-Va. Beach

September 25th & 26th

GRAND LODGE-Winston Salem

**Past Masters Night-Dinner & Awards**

**October 3rd 6:00 PM**

First Stated-October 12th

6:30 Pot Luck Dinner

7:30 Meeting

Second Stated-October 26th

7:30 Meeting

First Stated-November 9th

6:30 Pot Luck Dinner

7:30 Meeting

Shrine Ceremonial-November 20th & 21st

Wilson, N.C.

Second Stated-November 23rd

7:30 Meeting

Turkey Shoot Fund Raiser-Dec. 12th

First Stated-December 14th

6:30 Pot Luck Dinner

7:30 Meeting-Election of Officers

Second Stated-December 28th

7:30 Meeting

**HAPPY NEW YEAR !!!**

## **FROM THE EAST**

**My Brothers, another Summer is leaving us with good memories of Brotherhood and good times all around. We were busy again this summer with Bro. Dennis Mabe (Affiliation) and Bro. Michael Hoert being initiated an Entered Apprentice in July. August was just as exciting with three new Brothers receiving their Entered Apprentice Degree; Brothers Jeremy Christensen, Robert Korb, and Bruce Copeland. All are working with their coaches and looking forward to More Light. The Bylaws committee has met and will be reporting to the Brethren at our First Stated in September. Please plan to attend this important meeting. There will be copies of the current Bylaws along with recommendations from the committee available for all. As required in our Bylaws we will wait one lunar month (the First Stated in October) before any vote. Looking ahead, hang on to the Trestle Board for all the important dates on the calendar for this year. I know we are all looking forward to a Fall that includes Shrine Ceremonials, Grand Lodge in Winston Salem, Past Masters Night with dinner and awards, our first Turkey Shoot Charity Fund Raiser, Degree Work, and the wonderful expression of Brotherhood that we have been blessed with this year. Don't forget save the TRESTLE BOARD ! See you in Lodge.**

**Doug Langford, Master**

## **PAST MASTERS NIGHT**

**As the Trestle Board is quite long this issue, W.M. Doug Langford wanted me to remind you in a separate article that Past Masters Night is scheduled for October 3rd (a Saturday) at 6PM. All Past Masters are invited and encouraged to attend so we can honor your service to our Lodge and Fraternity. As is customary, wives and family are also invited. Most importantly, this is one of two nights each year the Lodge presents Service Awards from Grand Lodge to our Brothers who have labored in the craft for 25, 50, or 60 years. If you are eligible, the Worshipful Master should be contacting you soon for a personal invitation.**

**As a housekeeping note, this is not a regular lodge meeting night, so all of the festivities will occur downstairs. Dinner will be served, and we can easily accommodate members with disabilities and special needs. Another housekeeping note; officers and active Brethren in the Lodge are encouraged to wear a coat and tie to this event in order show respect for our Past Masters, Service Award recipients, widows and their families.**

**Last, but not least....it is traditional that widows of Manteo 521 members are invited to this event. If you know of any, please contact them, invite them, and if required, bring them along to share in the family of Masonry.**

## **WHERE IS MY "MORE LIGHT"?**

**....you might be wondering. And with good reason. This summer has been a challenge for Ye Editor. After being laid off from banking last winter, I have, in order of occurrence: a) taken courses and a passed licensing tests/ requirements to become a mortgage broker in two states, b) taken online Graduate School courses in Economics all summer at ECU, became Treasurer of the Dare County Shrine Club and the Nags Head Fireman's Relief Fund, joined the Board of the Dare County Seafood Branding Committee, the Board of Wings Over Water, and am now teaching a night class in Political Science at COA in Elizabeth City!**

**Your editor is old, cranky, and tired, as well as busy! I KNOW there is some young lodge member out there, skilled in the use of Microsoft Office applications (we use Publisher for this project), and smart enough to find some resources for filler material such that the newsletter can return to the monthly production schedule it deserves. I know former editor John Schleter is chewing me out from that Celestial Temple, as we all remember he didn't pull any punches when it came to sticking to a schedule. Anyone interested, PLEASE contact me. I will help in transition, training, or even co-editing. THANKS!**

## SECRECY—THE OLD WAY

Ever the teacher, Bro. Ralph Herbold gives insight to the cause of Freemasonry's troubles created by the concept of Masonic 'secrecy'. To wit:

"In explaining to a young lady why her grandfather told her he 'couldn't tell me anything' about Masonry, I said 'Your grandfather went through certain ceremonies to become a Mason. To cement those lessons in his mind he learned a catechism. In the process he was told *never* to reveal any of the secrets of Freemasonry. But in most instances, he was *never* told what the secrets were, so he assumed *everything* he learned was a secret. He was told about his duties to God, his country, his neighbor, and himself. He was told about the Four Cardinal Virtues: temperance, fortitude, prudence and justice, first enumerated by Plato, so how could THAT be a secret??? Your grandfather was done an injustice by not getting a proper explanation [of the true secrets], which, sad to say, is rarely given even today". — From the monthly publication *Good of the Order*, January 1, 2009, Issue #1012, published by the Southern California Research Lodge F&AM and edited by W.B. Norman Leper.

Many of our fathers felt the same way about Masonry and as a result, many of their sons passed on joining the Craft, or like myself, waiting so long to join we never got to share sitting in a Lodge with our fathers, grandfathers and uncles.

And, I agree today that we still do a poor job in explaining what is and what is not a "secret". We know for sure that the grips and words and passes and signs of Mason's are supposed to be secret. But many times, traveling along the road, an out of state Mason sees my decals on the car and as he passes, gives me a "sign" in full view of his wife and other passengers. In many Masonic publications, I see full quotes lifted out of the rituals of any of our three degree ceremonies, including verbatim quotes from the oaths we take at the altar and the "blue book" portions of the degree work and lectures.

We also know, without a doubt, that we keep the secrets of a Brother, when asked to, between ourselves and within the confines of the Lodge. Likewise, some things offered by a Brother of a personal nature should remain among the membership, just as you would keep the same discretion if told in the confines of your church. If a Brother asks for help because his business is failing, we don't publicize that fact outside the Lodge. We work quietly among ourselves to help him.

The definition of "secret" seems to vary from state to state and Grand Lodge to Grand Lodge. It would be nice if we all could get on the same page on this issue. "Secrecy" is our critics greatest target.

## 2008 OFFICERS

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