



Trestle Board Stony Creek Lodge #5 F. & A. M.

The Master's Message

Greetings Brethren,

It is my hope that with the first day of spring behind us that all is well and that we once again begin to unravel from the confines of winter and embrace in the wonder of the workings of the Supreme Architect as the world around us is reborn. It is a time for those philosophical reflections on where we are and where we are going and it is one of my favorite times of the year.

In terms of my personal thoughts in regards to the Lodge, I came across a quote from the MWB Charles H. Johnson that echoes mine: *"Never should the Master lose sight of the fact that the chief purpose of the organization is not merely to get more men into Masonry, but rather to get more Masonry into Men."*

My view of this is simple, it is the person sitting in the East and those that have been there before him to not only lead by example, but to inspire those around him to achieve more than they thought was possible and to allow those that have the desire to progress and "succeed" in Masonry access to the necessary tools to get there: *Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth.*

Remember, as with many things in life, Truth is often the hardest: you must ask if you have a question, you must express your desire to progress, you must communicate your concerns, you must have the openness to accept criticism, and you must have the willingness to sacrifice. I am the first to acknowledge that I have shortfalls in these areas, but shortfalls are also a steppingstone when seeking out the truth.

"Life is not about waiting for the storms to pass....

It's about learning how to dance in the rain."

New Mater Mason

On March 16th we had the honor of raising our first Master Mason for the 2010 calendar year - Brother David Hilber. I want to express my personal thanks to all the Brethren who attended this Degree and to welcome Brother Hilber to the

distinguished rank of a Master Mason.

Upcoming Events

Check the calendar on our website for updates:

- 4/2 The South Eastern Master Masons Association will be having their monthly meeting at Utica-Macomb starting at 7:30 P.M.
- 4/6 Stony Creek's scheduled business meeting starting at 7:30 P.M. (this is also Tartan Day, if you have a kilt and want to wear it, feel free).
- 4/7 Elections for our Districts DDI and BGP Officers are at our Lodge starting at 7:00 P.M. All Past Masters and Wardens of the Lodge are entitled to vote.
- 4/14 Temple Board will be meeting at the Lodge at 7:00 P.M.
- 4/14 MM Lodge of Instruction to be held at Cedar 60 at 7:00 P.M. All Officers are summons to attend.

Thoughts from the East

One of the ideas that were discussed during the last business meeting was to have one Brother per month present a short presentation / discussion on one of the aspects of Masonry which could include one of the symbols, theories, aspects, or ideas surrounding the Craft. With this in mind, I have been researching the relation between the trestleboard and speculative Masonry. One of the best examples of this was expressed by Dr. Bob Northcutt:

As often taught, the trestleboard is the board upon which the Master traces the designs by which the Craft are to pursue their labors and its design may be found upon the pavement or floor of many lodges. It has always been considered one of the jewels of the lodge and its importance, both to the operative Mason and the speculative Mason, is unquestioned, but can we see deeper meaning within its design? To the ancient operative Mason the trestle-board was source of the planning necessary to construct a

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great building and the place where the many problems could be solved before that construction.

Upon simple slate or wooden boards, the placements and foundations, walls, and ceilings could be traced in chalk, erased, and traced, again and again, in moving toward a finished edifice. The ideas of the mind could be visualized by the Master and used as a rule and guide in directing the workers toward actual creation and completion. These pictures were the plans through which the Master made thought become reality.

To the speculative Mason the trestle-board teaches many lessons, such as the need to have a plan for

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Best Wishes to you all from New Zealand



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It's Fall in New Zealand!

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his spiritual Temple, to know his direction in conduct and moral choices, and to work toward an understanding of the plan of the Great Architect. It is not an idle characterization to consider each of us as a living stone, molding ourselves through our choices, actions, and deeds. Without careful attention to planning, no goal may be reached.

And so it is that, when reflecting upon the trestle-board, we should reflect carefully of our plans and designs, and what Temple we are building. Often we are reminded that the sands of the hour glass move grain by grain, and time, minute by minute, day by day. What plans do we have and how does our Temple grow? To the Master in the East and his officers, the trestle-board should be a constant reminder of the responsibility of leadership and the need to plan the work of the Lodge. The Master of a Lodge is faced with two aspects of leadership, operative, in the sense of running the Lodge business, and speculative, in the sense of meeting the morale and Masonic needs of the Craft. The light of a lodge must come from the East. Each Brother in a lodge has goals

and expectations, but without due attention to his trestle-board, these become idle dreams and are gone.

The Master of the Lodge must have goals for his Lodge and himself. He should be a Master of planning and execution. Seeing the Trestle-board with Light over the East is a reminder of what is expected and what can be done through his leadership and guidance. Each meeting is a planning stage for labor and work, and should be used accordingly. In the degrees, each step moves us toward becoming a Master, and our progress is traced upon a Trestle-board beyond our comprehension, but each step we take in becoming a better person is within our power. Thus we can draw our designs and map out a path toward being a better person and achieving happiness. These are laudable goals and worthy of our best design. May we mark our board well and build a noble life of service and Brotherly love.

“Be careful how you live... You may be the only Mason some people will ever meet.”

Fraternally,
 Jeffrey A. Geske W.M.



April 2010

Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
					SEMMA Meeting 7:30 P.M. @ Utica-Macomb Lodge	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	6:30 P.M. Corinthian Lodge #241 Regular	7:30 P.M. Stony Creek Lodge #5 Regular	7:00 P.M. DDI & BGP Elections @ Rochester Masonic Temple			
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
			7:00 P.M. Rochester Masonic Temple Board Meeting 7:00 P.M. MM Lodge of Instruction @ Cedar 60			
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	1