



CARY LODGE #198, A.F. & A.M.

TRESTLE BOARD



January, 2009

From The East

Greetings Brethren,



As we begin 2009 I'd like to extend to you the warmest wishes of good health, prosperity and happiness for the coming year. I hope that each of you were able to enjoy time with family and friends

during the holidays and are ready to take on this New Year. We are entering it with high levels of uncertainty and concerns, but it is up to each of us as Masons to strive to be 'Good Men Made Better', even during the most trying of times. May you take comfort in your family and friends and in your Lodge, we are a fraternity and we need to and we will look out for each other. Do not be afraid to call if there are needs that we can help address.

Being that I am a relatively new Mason, please be patient with me as we make this journey. I'll mess-up, but hopefully will not make the same mistakes over and over. As my kids have said, 'he is trainable, but it will take time.'

As I had stated during my first Stated Communication as Master, I wanted to focus on the Charity aspect of the Lodge for 2009. As it would be, our new Grand Master, Most

Worshipful Brother Dan C. Rice has declared 2009 to be the year of "Celebrating Masonic Charity", so I think we are off to a good start.

MWB Rice is a resident of Burlington and was raised in the Masonic Home for Children in Oxford. MWB Rice also wishes to emphasize the following:

- Every Mason should do at least one charitable deed every day. Some days it's darn hard to do, but we should strive for that goal.
- Every Mason in the Lodge should participate in every charitable event in the lodge. If within the length of his cable-tow. However, your participation is solicited and appreciated and each of us can provide something to make these events successful.
- Every Lodge should have at least one fundraiser for the homes. We do and continually strive to find new means and ways to do even more.
- Every Lodge should have at least one community project. We do, but will still search out additional opportunities to raise our stature in the community.

MWB Rice also had the following two comments:

- The Grand Lodge has received requests and granted permission for some of our brethren to visit Prince Hall Lodges. Thus far no such reciprocal requests have been made by Prince Hall to visit

our lodges. MWB Rice requests that there be no objections or problems should such a request are made of our Lodge. I as Master accept and agree with this position. *And, if such a request is made of Cary Lodge No. 198, we will extend our fullest welcome to any qualified brother that requests to visit break-bread and sit in Lodge with us.*

- There are many rumors and speculation circulating about the status of our Masonic Homes in Oxford and Greensboro. The Grand Master requests that unsubstantiated rumors circulated not be permitted. We must and will ascertain the all the facts about any allegations prior to any actions or even discussions.

My calendar for this coming year is far from complete and will probably undergo many changes, but I'd like to lay out some dates for you to at least plan for:

- January 19th – 1st degree with two candidates
- February 16th – DDGM visit
- March 30th – 5th Monday
- April 1st – District Meeting with the Grand Master, Garner 701
- April 17th – Spring Barbecue
- June 29th – 5th Monday
- August 31st – 5th Monday
- October 3rd – Awards and Ladies Night
- November 16th – Past Masters Night
- November 30th – 5th Monday
- December 7th - Elections

Of course Cary Band Day falls in there, at least one School of Instruction, and hopefully we can fill in other events. I will communicate those dates as soon as I know them.

Within the Lodge I'm going to continue Past Master Jim Hetherington's emphasis on

Masonic Education. We cannot be 'Good Men Made Better', if we do not grow in knowledge of our Fraternity. I have asked Past Master Brother Walter Highsmith to lead this effort. If you have ideas please pass them on.

I have also asked Past Mast Woodley Kennedy to lead out new Orientation Committee. This effort is aimed at new Brothers going through the degrees. This provides them with information on just what Masons are about and allows them to ask questions and learn more as they proceed. This was well received by the DDGM and the other district Masters, so there is interest in how this will work out in the coming year. If you would like to participate and do one of the lectures, please contact Woodley. Or, just attend the sessions to learn and participate is whole-heartedly encouraged.



One last item, please thank our cooks for the wonderful meals that they prepare for us. We at Cary Lodge No. 198 have a wonderful group of men that do something that most of the other lodges have to work very hard at to accomplish. Their time and efforts are greatly appreciated.

Once more, please be nice to our secretary. Don't trash his desk, mumble when making motions, fail to stand when seconding motions or drop off paperwork three minutes before the Lodge opens. He has my permission to 'doink' you with the setting maul if such events should happen.

Again I thank you for your patience and participation; this will be a great year.

WM Mike Sibley

REMEMBER: Pay your dues!

Upcoming Degree Work

Brethren, please mark your calendars that this upcoming Monday, January 19th, we will be holding a First Degree for two new candidates. Your attendance is greatly appreciated, and a full house helps make a great first impression on our new entrants.

Dress for the occasion will be coat and tie.



Proposed Changes to the By-Laws

Several changes to the by-laws have been proposed and will be brought up for discussion and vote in the next couple of meetings. These items will affect matters such as dues, life membership, and other particulars. As this affects each member of the lodge, your attendance will be strongly encouraged.

January 2009



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2 York Rite	3
4	5 Stated Communication Dinner- 6:30pm	6	7	8 Scottish Rite	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19 Stated Communication Dinner- 6:30pm FIRST DEGREE	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31