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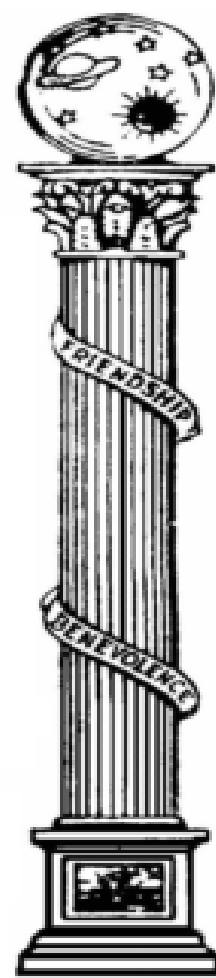
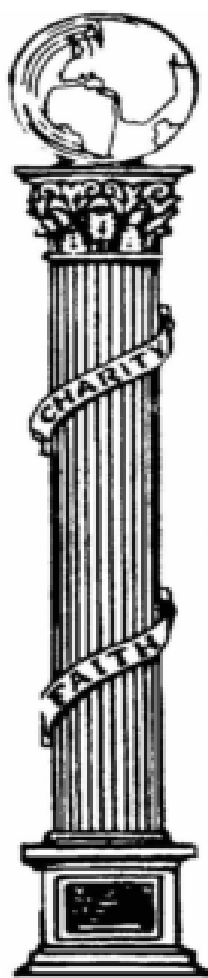
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*The Trestle Board of
Noah Lodge 357*



From the East

Good Men,

If you ask a lot of women about them they'll probably look back at you with a sigh of exhaustion and a glimmer of skepticism in their eye, kind of like a child who's long since tired of seeking out the myths and magical creatures of their childhood imagination here in real life.

Men of courage, valor, chivalry, character. Men who don't apologize for being real men because they are wise enough to know that they have enough "marryin" things to apologize for. Leaders of the home, the community, the nation. Good fathers, faithful husbands, the cornerstone of the family and thus the foundation of a nation. I mean, that's really what we're talking about when we talk about the "quality of men." So then, what's gone wrong? Who or what is to blame for their extinction?

When we talk about societal ills - from crime rates to failing schools, from violence to poverty, aren't we really dancing around the elephant in the room? Good men, gone the way of the buffalo and we're living with the consequences. Here's what they don't tell you today - the Father is paramount, the husband crucial! We're talking about the complete and total meltdown and devastation of the family unit. I happen to think in many ways that's the cancer. Everything else is just a symptom of that cancer - men not being there, not being faithful, not raising their children, not finding that pivotal point of purpose in our society is the cancer.

Fatherless rates in some facets of our society have reached 70% and the rest of the country is hard on its heels. Husbands now trade-in wives like used cars with alarming regularity and let's be honest, too many men who are around them choose a flat screen, an armchair and a remote over playing catch with their sons and hugs with their daughters.

Of course, there are many men who elude this generalization with shining colors. I know that. There are some wonderful guys, There are some really, really wonderful men, the "Pillars" of our society.

The point of this is that they're quickly becoming the rarity. I think to deny this means we're really just not paying attention. That missing masculine presence in our society is devastating, we've become a self centered, irrational nation, not surprisingly the very things that the male nature is meant to push back on and counterbalance. Only Fathers can turn sons into men. There are single mothers who, like heroes, are trying to put their fingers in inevitable dams that are breaking all around them. These single Mothers were never meant to play that dual role. Children need their fathers just as badly as they need their Mothers, even though they don't tell you that on television, even though your college professor forgets to mention it.

We're hemorrhaging, cracking, crumbling as a culture and i contend, the missing mortar in our ruinous Rome is good men. To stem this tide I think the first thing we need to do is admit that we've been wrong. We need to admit that these regressive ideas about our own irrelevance are wrong, and they're poisonous despite the fact that they perfume our "P.C." sensibilities.

We need to re-establish that timeless truth that our mangled modern minds want to avoid. We need to humble ourselves enough in order to get enough wisdom to relearn these staples. Young men need to step up and much, much more should be expected of them. When they shirk or irresponsibly avoid their responsibilities they shouldn't receive shelter, they should receive shame. Fathers need to first seek out what God expects from them and then discipline their lives toward that implementation. Listen, the stakes are too high and consequences of not doing this are way too great.

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From the West

"On the Level"

Greetings from the West

Brothers, are you aware dues have increased? I am.

Brothers, have you met our newest master masons? I have.

Brothers, have you been to any of the family night suppers? I have.

Brothers, do you have a short cable tow? I do.

Brothers - Are you short on Masonic fellowship and long on excuses?

Come meet me and your lodge on the level. We desire your friendship and brotherly love.

Sincerely,
Rhett Tillman
Senior Warden

1966	Earl C. Lewis *	1991	Norris W. Clark, Jr.
1967	Robert Thompson *	1992	Stephen G. Sibbald
1968	Gordon Mason	1993	Alex Sibbald
1969	Louis Foss *	1994	Dr. Mark C. Means
1970	David R. Grant *	1995	Floyd D. Waddell
1971	Charles Nelson	1996	Dr. Rick A. Means
1972	Walter Stilwell	1997	Larry G. Hayes
1973	John R. Lee	1998	John A. Dean
1974	James T. Linton *	1999	Dana P. McGrath
1975	Bruce Cowart *	2000	Thomas Reedy
1976	Horace Welch	2001	Lawrence Tomlinson
1977	Gerald Keeton *	2002	Brian Harkins
1978	Alex Sibbald	2003	Mike Morrow *
1979	Robert Morrow	2004	Jerry Timberlake
1980	Fred Henniger *	2005	Robert Gilliland
1981	Upton S. Higginbotham	2006	David Dellinger
1982	Charles J. Christman	2007	Christopher Kelly
1983	Milton A. Bayliss, Jr.	2008	Lawrence Tomlinson
1984	Howard L. Ekiss	2009	Thomas Reedy
1985	O. Jay Hilderbrandt	2010	Dr. Rick A. Means
1986	Charles R. Lawson	2011	Larry Newton
1987	John A. Dean	2012	Lawrence Tomlinson
1988	John R. Grabowski *		
1989	O. Jay Hilderbrandt		
1990	Richard Bashaw *		

* Indicates Deceased

From The South
"Observing the time"

Brothers,

We have been having training on the first and third Mondays. If you have been missing it you have been missing a lot of good info thanks to Bro Ed Ciofani and Bro Rich Bayly. We are never too old to relearn what we thought we knew.

Also, Tue night I went with Bro Rice and Bro Sabo to meet two new candidates. I look forward to getting to know these two better and encourage each of you to do the same. More info will be shared at our regular meeting this month if you wish to meet them and hear more about them, be there. We have others to interview. This is looking to be a good year with most of the Officers able and willing to stretch that cable tow.

I need to apologize to all the Brothers for not calling Monday to let anyone know I would not be there. I will work harder on communication in the future, as I hope we all will.

Look forward to seeing all of you on the first and third Mondays for another round of what I am sure will be GREAT training.

Michael W. Gardner
Junior Warden

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From the East
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I throw myself right into the crowd before the firing squad shoots. We have failed our children, we've failed our wives and we've failed our God and there's really just no good way of getting around that. Women need good men and children need good fathers. Good men of godliness, work ethic, discipline and leadership. There isn't a plan B, there isn't an alternative option.

We need to choose to raise good men of character and righteousness, or we rot from within.

This is the time of choosing.

Bro. James Hamilton W.M

IN MEMORY OF
DOTTIE RITTNER
1915-1995

IN MEMORY OF
MARY TROOK
7/22/1920 - 7/15/2003

From the Secretaries desk

(Thanks go to RW John McKinney for bringing this one to light)

This is an often-repeated poem, most frequently by Grand Secretaries.
WILL A LODGE SECRETARY GO TO HEAVEN?

If a secretary writes a letter, it is too long.
If he sends a postcard, it's too short.
If he doesn't send a notice, he is lazy.
If he attends a committee meeting, he is butting in.
If he stays away, he is a shirker.
If he duns the members for dues, he is insulting.
If he fails to collect dues, he is slipping.
If he asks for advice, he is incompetent.
If he does not, he is bullheaded.
If he writes reports complete, they are too long.
If he condenses them, they are incomplete.
If he talks on a subject, he is trying to run things.
If he remains quiet, he has lost interest in meetings.
If he goes on an errand and someone comes to the office, he is taking time
off from work and never does his job.
If the phone rings and he doesn't pick it up, he is never there.
If he picks it up on the first ring, he has nothing to do but listen for the phone to ring.
If it rings a few times, he's trying to look important.
Ashes to ashes, dust to dust; if the others won't do it, the Secretary must

On a more serious note, Brothers; It is an honor to serve with ALL of you at Noah Lodge. I see the brightest future on the near horizon and YOU will be the main reasons why any of what can happen ever does!

Keep up the good work, I'll see you in Lodge and am available at your convenience should you need any assistance from the Secretary's place in YOUR Lodge .

Fraternally,

Dana P. McGrath
Secretary

From the Chaplain

My Brothers.

Time has a way of passing swiftly. It will soon be half way through the year. Have we used our time wisely?

Have we achieved the goals we set for this year?

Have our new year's resolutions been forgotten?

We still have time to loose weight, stop smoking, attend lodge, do a good deed every day, tell our loved that we do love them, and perhaps the hardest of all, forgive those who we feel have wronged us. My brothers the time to start is now. Will we see you in lodge the next meeting?

May God bless you every day in every way.

John McKinney

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i> <i>Veterans</i> <i>Breakfast</i> <i>7:30 to 10:30</i>
<i>7</i>	<i>8</i> <i>Lodge at</i> <i>7:30</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>14</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>21</i>	<i>22</i> <i>Pot Luck</i> <i>Dinner at</i> <i>6:30</i> <i>Lodge at</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>28</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i>			

The Veterans Breakfast

Brothers,

The first Saturday of each month we have a Veterans Appreciation Breakfast. You do not have to be a Veteran to participate. All are welcome to honor Americas Veterans. We also pick up and feed approximate 10 to 16 homeless veterans. These homeless veterans are in the Ruth Coopers transition shelter. It is basically their home cooked meal for the month.

While the intent and execution of this event is to honor Americas Veterans, an ancillary effect is that we also bring many members of the general public to our lodge. The breakfast is free, but we do accept donations. The donations to this point have exceeded the expenses of the event. The food is prepared and cooked by a GREAT GREAT Grandmother. She is assisted by her daughter who is a grandmother herself. As we all know, most of the good cooking in the world emanates from a grandmother of one degree or another.

Our menu includes Eggs Benedict, eggs and Omelets made to order. We also feature Chipped Beef (SOS), homemade biscuit gravy and grits. You will also be able to enjoy some freshly cooked bacon and sausage. We also have middle and high school children volunteering to help the event move along.

Brothers, we hope to have some fellowship with you at the next Veterans Breakfast. Our most recent breakfast had over 70 people attend. If you are a brother in need of transportation please call me directly at 239 671 8248. We will happily come get you and bring you to lodge. If you know a veteran or a veterans group please let them know about this great event.

Fraternally Yours,
Jeff Tumbarello, Senior Steward