

## *Lodge Officers*

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## ***Masters Message***

Brethren, as we see spring starting to creep into our lives it is time for us to reflect on what this means in our lives. Spring is a time of rebirth of all things. As the seasons pass from spring to winter, where all things die or go into hibernation, so do we in all of our undertakings. As pertaining to our Masonic lives, Spring reminds me of the Entered Apprentice degree. Spring being, the beginning of all things so as the Entered Apprentice is the beginning of our Masonic Journey. It is during our time as an Entered Apprentice that we learn all the basics and foundations of Freemasonry. We learn that we are the rough ashlar that needs to be polished, we learn how the lodge is situated and what the symbols in the lodge mean. We learn the principles of Faith, Hope and Charity. We learn the tenets of Freemasonry during this time. As Master Masons, we sometimes lose track of these foundations of Freemasonry and need to reflect on our time as Entered Apprentices to center us in our daily and masonic lives. Without the beginnings of being Entered Apprentices, much as with the beginnings of spring, we would be nothing as Masons. Take time to reflect on your beginnings and apply them to your daily lives as these beginnings shape the very beings that we are.

Bob Busalacchi  
Worshipful Master



### ***News of the Lodge***

Brethren, there has been a lot of interesting things that have been going on in lodge so far this year. At our February meeting we passed Br. Karl Naujock to the degree of Fellowcraft. During March, the District 12 meeting was held and the information was passed on to those in attendance. The information that was passed was pertaining to the goals of the Grand Master in regards to his expectations for degree work and what the Fraternity is all about. The petitions for joining a lodge have changed and therefore, all old petitions should be thrown away and not used. If anyone needs a petition for a prospective member, you can either contact one of the lodge officers to get a new petition or they can be downloaded from the Grand Lodge website. March also saw us raise Brother Brad Serdan to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason. Congratulations to Brother Serdan on this important accomplishment. Several members attended the Grand Lodge/Prince Hall table lodge and great fellowship was had between us and our Prince Hall brethren. In the upcoming month of April, we will be Raising Br. Karl Naujock to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on 16 April 2009. If you can make it out to support our brother, your attendance will be appreciated.

We as a lodge have seen a rise in the numbers of younger men that want to join the lodge and this is a good thing for the lodge. We do have several brethren in the degree process on their way to being raised. There are several things that have been brought before the lodge, however, since they are still in the information gathering stage, it would be premature to bring them up until that information is brought before the lodge in open lodge. As information becomes available, it will be passed on to the lodge through the Trestleboard.

## ***Calendar of Events***

### ***April***

- 2 – Stated Meeting
- 16 – MM Degree for Karl Naujock

### ***May***

- 7 – Stated Meeting and Lodge of Sorrow
- 14 – Ladies of the Table Lodge
- 21 – Second meeting/degree work

### ***June***

- 4 – Stated Meeting – Outdoor Lodge at George Wolwark Jr PM's house
- 5-6 – Grand Lodge Annual Communication in Madison
- 18 – Second Meeting/Degree work (only if necessary)

### ***July***

- 25 – Lodge Picnic at Veterans Park Muskego

### ***August***

- 28-29 – Brewer Game (dates are tentative)

### ***September***

- 3 – Stated Meeting
- 17 – Second Meeting/ Degree work
- Theatre night/Comedy Night (information pending)

### ***October***

- 1 – Stated Meeting
- 15 – Second Meeting/Degree work
- Men's Table lodge (information forthcoming)

### ***November***

- 5 – Stated Meeting and Elections
- 19 – Second Meeting/Degree work
- Food Baskets (information pending)
- Pizza Fundraiser (information pending)

### ***December***

- 3 – Stated Meeting
- 17 – Second Meeting/Degree work
- Christmas Carol (information pending)
- Lodge Installation (information pending)

## ***Masonic Education***

This month's Masonic Education comes to us from a Brother in Washington DC. This paper was presented by Br. Kenneth Carter as his posting for the EA Degree. I had the pleasure of meeting Br. Carter on a recent trip to Washington DC and he was honored that I used his paper as Masonic Education for the Lodge.

### **Self-Government and Freemasonry**

Entered Apprentice paper by Kenneth Carter

Presented in Benjamin B. French Lodge No. 15 F.A.A.M in 2002

We cannot allow ourselves to be carried to and fro the earth by the wills of other men or by our environment. The job of man is to be a causative agent of his own destiny and to help with others who may not have the consciousness to control their own.

There are unnumbered things in a man's environment that will cause him to react or not to react. Some are good and others are bad, but as long as he allows himself to be dragged by external forces, he will only be a pawn in the game of life.

One of the most important lessons a man must learn while here on earth is the self-governing of his own affairs. He must realize that he is the lord of his own fate the ruler of his universe. However, he cannot accept this title until he has total freedom to rule. But in order for him to have total sovereignty of his life, he must break the chains that have him in bondage.

These chains cannot be seen with the human eyes because they are not physical but mental. They are kept intact by the lower mind or lower nature of man. This lower nature is expressed in the form of passions, desires, appetite, and hate. We allow these things to persuade our decisions and ultimately dictate our destiny.

As I look at the world today, I see world leaders who are more avaricious than noble. They will kill a thousand just to obtain one. They will enslave millions in order to perpetuate their dogmas, creeds, and beliefs. They will infringe on the rights liberties and justice of all. They use the Wills of the people for their own self-aggrandizement. The talents of the people are wasted on sensual pleasures instead of cultivating the arts and sciences that would catapult the world into a spiritual renaissance. These despotic rulers are a cancer on the body of humanity who need to be isolated and treated.

However, I cannot point a finger because these rulers are a reflection of the mental state of the people they govern. I have heard it said many times that God puts a ruler over a nation that they deserve. You can look at this phrase from many different angles and it still will be true. And if this statement is true, then we must change ourselves if we want to change our rulers. The government is an expression of the people in that nation. The power is and will always be invested in the people. And with this power comes responsibility. For to whom much is given, much will be required (Luke 12:48). It is up to each individual whether his government is a David or Goliath.

There is an old spiritual maxim that states "Truth shall make you free". This truth was enunciated thousands of years ago by master sages and I believe that it is the panacea for the subjugated sons of men. A citizen of a nation is the macrocosm of that nation and before you can govern a nation, you first must have self-government. You must be able to preside over your own passions and desires and not be ruled by them.

Freemasonry is not just an institution it is a state of mind. The tenets of Freemasonry will help you to become free, enabling you to build your spiritual temple of truth. A hero is not a man who has defeated another man's enemy but is the one who has defeated his own. I have learned from the first degree that I have a certain obligation to my God and my Nation. I have to use the physical to reach the

spiritual.

Freemasonry gives men ancient truths that will be the tools they need to commence their work. The compass, square, plumb, hammer, etc. are the tools that an entered apprentice must use in the great workshop of the mind to prepare his rough ashlar to be shaped. We must control our beast at all times. With the compass, we must draw a circle around our passion and desires to keep them in bounds of righteousness. Use the square to straighten out the lines of our conduct.

With these tools, the entered apprentice is able to adorn his temple, purifying his body to allow Wisdom, Strength, and Beauty to flow through his very being. He must go out and bring beauty to the world and give his life in sacrificial service to the all of life.

Masonry gives you that light of truth that will slay the darkness of ignorance. With the use of the three lesser lights you will become a beacon light for the rest of humanity to follow. Whenever an architect's design works the way he planned, it brings fame to his name. Therefore, by using the bodies the Great Architect designed for their intended purpose of expressing Wisdom, Strength, and Beauty, we will bring glory to Him thereby giving Him the highest honor and praise by being His vicegerents here on earth.

First, we must get back control of our own devils. Man has a higher self and a lower self in his nature so he has the ability to do great good or great evil. This dual nature is always present in man, but as light cannot exist, where there is darkness good cannot subsist where there is evil. However, both are needed to complete the oneness or make it whole or Holy. You cannot have light without dark, up without down and left without right the one substantiate the other. The evil nature that is inside of you will not manifest until you give it expression. It remains dormant until you Will it to action. The job of an entered apprentice is to get the tools together that will be used to shape the perfect ashlar. Later, as the entered apprentice is given more information on the functions of the different tools, he will use them to transmute the lower nature into the higher. The man who can govern himself can control his own destiny chart his own course. The sky is NOT the limit for him. No longer will he be tossed and turned by outside forces - driven to and fro by the thoughts of other men. He will become the lord he was ordained to be! He then can be called a true Freemason, because he will be free from the oppression of his lower attributes, so he can build those magnificent sacred temples his spirit needs to express it self fully in the physical world and fulfill his fate by using his reason and intellect to control his animal nature.

The ancient Egyptians prophesized about this day by using the symbolism of the sphinx, which has the upper body of a man with the lower body of a lion. The posture of the lower part represented by the lion half shows the ability of man to control his animal nature (lower self) with his human nature (higher self). Then he will become the true king of the beast of self.