LODGE NO. 388 F. & A. M.

September-October 2013 Website: www.forestcity388.com Lyndhurst, Ohio

MASTER'S MESSAGE



Greetings, Brethren - I hope that you had an enjoyable summer, and are ready to pick up again with Forest City Lodge #388 for our Fall 2013 activities. Approximately 35 of the Brethren got a head start by attending special meeting the called for August 28th to discuss certain potential changes to the Lodge By-Laws, mostly governing

financial issues. More information from that night is presented elsewhere in this bulletin.

Please take time to review the information presented here, especially if you were unable to attend the meeting. The issues that we have under discussion are vital to the present and future governance of our Lodge, and the thoughts and ideas from each and every one of you is equally vital to the decision-making process. OUR LODGE NEEDS YOU!! We need your caring about the Lodge, we need your thoughts about the Lodge and its processes, and we need your intelligence, your experience, and your various abilities to make the best decisions we can manage in order to keep our Lodge going for another 145 years.

As Worshipful Master, it was very gratifying to see the number of seats that were filled for a special meeting during what is usually our summer recess, for a discussion of Lodge business issues (which is the type of discussion that most of us – including me – avoid like the plague). However, those 35 or so members present represent only about 10% of our total membership, and still only about 20% of our local membership. My Brethren, we need more – and, we want more. The decisions that will be made in the coming months will have a major impact on the Lodge for many years, and it is not the goal of Lodge leadership to have those decisions made by only 10% of the members. We want – and need – as much input from as many of you as we can get. We are not hiding anything; we are making things as transparent as we can, for your

benefit. Now, it's your turn. We need your wisdom, your guidance, your caring, and your presence in Lodge if this process is to succeed.

It was also very gratifying to me to see the performance of our other officers in opening and closing Lodge that night. It was a 'step-up' night for all of them except myself, and they all did indeed 'step up to the plate' and hit home runs. All of them did a beautiful job of both working into new roles in the Ritual, and in contributing intelligently to the discussion that followed.

As we return from the refreshment of summer to our labors of the fall and into the winter, I have the music of the High Holy Day services much on my mind. Rosh Hashanah begins on the evening of Wednesday, September 4th, and one of the phrases that I will be repeating several times with the Temple Choir during the 'Days of Awe' is: 'May God, who created Peace, send Peace over ourselves, over our families, over our communities, over our cities, over Jerusalem, and the Whole World'.

The key phrase for me here is the 'whole' world – 'whole' as in 'complete; 'whole' as in 'total – all of it'; 'whole' as in 'healed – not broken, not damaged, but healed, reconciled'. Our world is certainly in need of some healing this week, as the sabers rattle again in the Middle East. Our Lodge also, needs to keep uppermost in mind - especially during this current decision-making process - that we are, all of us, giving our best to our Lodge to keep it whole - both financially and spiritually. We've had some fun this year, we've worked hard, we've won some awards, and we have yet more such things to come. Our Lodge will be made more complete, more whole, if more of you are with us, at our meetings, at our events, and the Saturday luncheons, wherever we gather together. The more of you that we have present with us, the more whole we will become.

Fraternally, Chester F. Willey, W.M.

P.S. Brethren, please note that my mailing address has changed. See the Officer List for my new address.

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MUSINGS FROM THE WEST

by S.W. Jackie F. Woldering, P.M.

I've been thinking recently about a certain type of un-Masonic behavior that is, unfortunately, very easy to engage in, and although it might appear harmless at first, over time it has some very negative implications. Often, those who fall into it are unaware of, or are unwilling to admit the harm that it does to both those involved in it and those who are its targets. I'm talking about gossiping, and the hurt that is caused to the subject of those words, and eventually to the character of the speakers and listeners.

It often starts as some innocent words, such as "Hey, you know that Joe has been acting strange lately; what do you think?", but it can easily devolve into a full-out assault and character assassination on the person in question. Excuses such as "we're just talking, what's the harm?" or that it is "character analysis" don't mask the fact that this is a type of bullying behavior that needs to be edited out of our lives, both among Masons and the populace at large.

Gossiping isn't one Mason asking another for a recommendation of a person for a particular job, or inquiring about the health and welfare of a Brother and his family, as long as this doesn't involve sharing personal details that a Brother has received in confidence, and we keep to the matter at hand. It isn't about discussing how an event went or plans for future affairs if those discussions are positive and creative and highlight the best points of the people involved in said events. It isn't about celebrating the victories or milestones in a Brother's life or those closest to him, especially when the news is fresh in our minds. It is not gossip when you and a Brother share a confidence, commiserating with him about his or your personal transgression, error, loss, grief or other private detail. But as soon as you spread those private words, through writing, speaking, email, whispering, hints, gestures or other actions, you are indeed engaging in un-Masonic behavior.

To illustrate this, I want to tell you about a "friend" I used to know during my days at Case Western Reserve University when I was working on my Doctoral degree. I'll call him "The Conduit", or "Connie" for short (no offense intended toward anyone with this name or nickname).

Connie was a master manipulator, and always full of gossip about other graduate students, professors, employees, and anyone else he could talk about. Words were his stock in trade, and he always came with a bagful. The problem was, that in exchange for listening to these stories, one was expected to give him some juicy tidbits about that person being discussed, or perhaps someone else. Connie would then press you for details about yourself, pretending to be a sympathetic ally and giving you more reason to divulge intimate information. He would tell you what negative things someone else had said about you in order to elicit a defensive response, all the while making you uncomfortable about ever talking to that "someone else". He would tell you how great he thought you were, and that these other people who said bad things were just rotten, thus strengthening the bond between you and him.

After talking and listening to Connie for a time, one became dependent on him for information, and averse to talking with others directly. Not only that, the dependence evolved into a subtle sense of fear; fear of breaking off the relationship with Connie, because then he would not be your friend, and talk about YOU!

How does one deal with these poisoners, these self-appointed handlers who want to control you through their words, emotions and sometimes even physical bullying behavior? With Connie, my revelation came when I recognized the negative effects that interacting with him was causing on my relationships with others in the department. I started talking with more people, and then explained to them some of the negative things that Connie had said. Some were incredulous that he could have divulged such intimate details, others behaved negatively toward me, perhaps from embarrassment, and an intelligent few joined with me in shunning Connie after recognizing his hurtful ways. In retrospect, the best method for defusing someone like Connie was never to play his game in the first place. Don't let his phony "arms race" pit you against another person, and make sure you talk directly with as many people as possible to engender mutual understanding between you and all those with whom you interact. Don't give power to a conduit by accepting his words as truth without taking the effort to verify for yourself. As the saying goes, sunlight is the best disinfectant, especially when it comes to sorry people like Connie and his manipulations, rumors, half-truths, and outright lies.

My apologies if this article was a bit hard-hitting, and if gossip is something in which you never engage, then I've just wasted a page, but for the rest of us, including myself, I hope this acts as a reminder to always act Masonically when talking about another person, whether that other is a Mason or not, and to realize the effect and power that our words can have.

TRESTLEBOARD

Brethren – please check our website at www.forestcity388.com

for further information and updates about future Lodge events – things do change over time...

Wednesday, September 18th Stated Meeting Birthdays (June-July-August-September) Mason of the Year Memorial Night

Saturday, September 28th.............. Leadership Meeting
North Star Lodge #638
15500 Triskett Road
Cleveland, Ohio 44111
Registration: 8:30 a.m.
Meeting begins: 9:00 a.m.
Everyone is welcome. Attendance is highly recommended for line officers.

Wednesday, October 2nd Stated Meeting Past Masters' Night / MM Conferral

Wednesday October 16th Stated Meeting Discussion/Votes on proposed By-Law changes

Wednesday, November 6th...... Stated Meeting Election of Officers

Saturday, November 16th Past Masters' Convocation 3615 Euclid Ave. Cleveland, OH 44115 8:00 a.m.- 12:00 noon *ALL Officers should plan to attend.*

Wednesday, November 20th...... Stated Meeting Installation of Officers

Open to Ladies and Non-Masonic Guests



M.W.B. James F. Easterling, Jr. (left) was in attendance for inspection, where Bro. Elliot Gross (right) sat in the East for his son, exemplar candidate Daniel Silverman (middle).

FROM THE SECRETARY'S QUILL

I am extremely pleased to report that it has been less than two weeks since our annual dues statements have been mailed and already we have received almost 25% of them back with payments. Our annual dues notices contained some verbiage about the need to consider giving to our Lodge Endowment Fund, and many of you have been extremely generous with your contributions to it. I thank you, your Lodge thanks you, and future generations of Masons, born and unborn, thank you.

The second dues notice will go out in the first week of October; perhaps this year we can produce better yields by mailing out fewer second and third dues notices. Please help me in this endeavor by sending in your annual dues NOW.

Also, if you are planning to move, please let your Secretary know your new address. So far this year, we have received 12 postcards back from the post office informing us of your change of address. My Brethren, we would rather receive this information from you, not the US Postal Service.

So far this year, we have raised 8 new Master Masons and I am quite pleased by the caliber of individuals that have been attracted to our beloved Fraternity. These fine young men, with an average age of 32 years, are polite, bright, articulate, and demonstrate the future of our Great Lodge. I urge you to come to a meeting and see for yourself. The future will be brilliant with outstanding young men like this leading the way.

So to all you new Masons WELCOME! And to all you older Masons that paved the way THANK YOU!

Fraternally, W.B. Alan H. Rothman, Secretary

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS

Brethren.

Forest City Lodge is pleased to announce that they are once again selling *Entertainment* and *Our Town and All Around Town* coupon books. The costs still remains the same: \$30 for the *Entertainment* book and \$28 for the *Our Town* book. If you had plans on buying either, please buy from the Lodge, as this is strictly a fund raiser for the Lodge.

Once the books become available, I will have them available at our Lodge meetings. Or you can make other arrangements by calling me either at home at 216-932-4094 or at my office at 216-662-5555. You can also contact W.B. Burt Task at 216-926-6990.

Fraternally, Barry Siegel, PM The Western Reserve Masonic Community is in Medina and is there to serve you. For more information about the facility and its services, please call 330-721-3264, or contact Bro. John Szucs.

Their next scheduled Sunday Brunch is scheduled for 1:00 PM on September 22, 2013.

If any of the Brethren are aware of Lodge members or their relations who are in the hospital or recuperating, please notify John Szucs, Sunshine Committee Chair, by calling 216-932-7118 or by email, jszucs1937@gmail.com, so that we can follow up with them.

Members Who Have Passed to the Celestial Lodge Above

- W.B. Alex Rosenberg Raised 1963
- Bro. Gerald Burko Raised 1999

Deceased Relations of Our Brethren and Their Family

- Sylvia Levin Mother-in-law of R.W.B. Henry Mankowski.
- Joyce B. Bernzweig Wife of Bro. Mel Bernzweig.
- Marie E. Stands Mother of R.W.B. Robert Stands.

Hospitalized or Recuperating Either at Home or in a Nursing Facility

- W.B. Myron Eichler is recovering from a stroke.
- R.W.B. Merlyn Meredith, Ill. 33rd is recovering well.
- R.W.B. Robert J. Draye, Ill. 33rd is recuperating from open-heart surgery at home.
- Bro. Howard Marx is recovering from an illness.

Congratulations

- Bro. Darryl Kertesz welcomed a new addition to their family.
- Bro. Terry Marks and his wife Sue celebrated the marriage of their daughter, Dr. Katie Marks to Michael Cogan on Sunday, July 21, 2013 in Los Angeles, CA.

- Bro. Isaac Lewin and his wife Beth celebrated the marriage of their daughter, Gayle Lewin to Anthony Vorell on Sunday, August 11, 2013.
- Bro. Albert Sedory II is pleased to announce the birth of his grandson Albert L. Sedory IV, son of Bro. Albert "Chip" Sedory III (member of Brandon #114 in Florida), and great-grandson of Forest City member Bro. Albert Sedory (dec.).

Contributions

A contribution to the Sunshine Fund was received from Bro. Paul Fine.

FOREST CITY LODGE SUNSHINE COMMITTEE 2013

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REPORT OF INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

This matter having been referred by the Worshipful Master with consent of the Lodge the following initial members of this committee met on Wednesday, May 29, 2013 to consider all aspects of the formation of the committee:

RWB Mitchell L. Alperin, Chairman WB Jerome S. Kustin, Treasurer and WB Alan H. Rothman, Secretary

The first order of business was to determine how to properly form such a committee. Since RWB Mitchell L. Alperin also serves as Chairman of the Legal Committee, his consultation was sought on this issue.

To form a new committee, Article XV of the Forest City By-laws are controlling and read as follows:

"No alteration or amendment of these By-laws shall be made unless the same be proposed in writing at a stated meeting, when it shall be entered upon the minutes and shall lie over until the next stated meeting, when it shall require the sanction of three-fourths of the members present...it shall further require the approval of the Grand Lodge or Grand Master for its adoption."

Having discussed a proposal to the By-laws by way of a resolution, the committee would suggest the general membership of the Lodge should be notified by the bulletin and email listing of this proposal and that no action be taken over the summer recess, such that the general membership can review and comment upon such resolution and that in the fall this legislation be properly submitted, lay-over and voted on at or before our next annual meeting.

The committee next discussed the scope of work to be accomplished by said committee. Historically, over the past many years our finances were guided and investments made by three members of our Lodge. Their wise counsel and prudent investments have made our Lodge financially stable and financially sound; both attributes we desire to continue.

So the first order of business is to thank our "founding fathers" and insure our stability into the indefinite future for the generations of brethren yet to join Forest City Lodge #388.

Together we are all so grateful and thankful for the wise counsel of:

WB Leroy J. Gelfand - who served as our Treasurer for many years.

WB Frank Orlove – who served as our Associate Treasurer for many years.

and certainly to

RWB Morton S. Negin – our Secretary Emeritus whose father WB Julius A. Negin was a founding member toward the purchase of our home on Warrensville and Van Aken which, sold a few years ago, created our Financial stability.

To these brethren we will be forever thankful and pledge our fidelity to safeguard the finances we have inherited.

Second order of business relates to the number of brethren to comprise this committee balanced against the timeliness of decision making. Because investment opportunities come and go quickly this committee must be able to respond to investment opportunities in a like manner. The committee should not be burdened or delayed by the need to meet face to face, send out notices of a meeting or other such formalities. They should be able to communicate by modern means, i.e.: email, cell phones or text; and decisions should be guided by the majority.

It is recommended that the current make-up of the committee is to remain, although clearly others should have input into the investment of Lodge funds.

Third order of business is to delineate the duties of this committee which are:

- 1. The committee shall oversee and execute the investments of the lodge.
- 2. An investment counselor or broker who is not a member of the Lodge may be utilized to provide guidance and execute buy and sell orders.
- 3. The current guidelines for the Lodge investments are as follows:
 - a) We do not invest in common stock.
 - b) We try to ladder maturity dates of investments to achieve a reasonable rate of return over the long term.
 - At this time we have invested in bonds, and preferred stock or CDs.
- 4. These guidelines may be changed by the committee as financial markets vary.
- 5. The interest earned in the general fund may be used if needed to balance the current Master's budget.
- 6. The endowment fund interest is currently to balance Master's budget in excess of the \$10,000.00 allowed by the endowment fund by-laws. This practice has been in effect for years. We also invest in US securities that are not guaranteed by government agencies. A new resolution for endowment fund should be created. The entire set of by-laws and resolutions should be reviewed for possible revisions.

Other matters will be reviewed and discussed at the next meeting to be scheduled over our summer recess.

Upon motion duly made and seconded this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted, Mitchell L. Alperin Chairman

Editor's Note: Some corrections were made to the received copy of the document, with the intent of correcting typographical errors, spelling, grammar for clarity, etc. No further edits were made. Any typographical error that was found, but where the correction was not unquestioningly clear, has been noted.

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R.W.B. Harvey S. Morrison (left) confers with W.B. Anthony J. Constantine (right), our D.E.O.





One of our newer members, Larry Lettofsky, poses with the assortment of plaques, boxes, apron cases, and Bible cases that he makes himself and offers for sale to the Brethren to benefit the Brotherhood Fund.

M.W.B. Bradford A. Goebel (left) greets R.W.B. Eric R. Schau, Grand Marshal (right)