

YORK LODGE #563 TRESTLEBOARD

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2007

TRESTLEBOARD NOVEMBER

Nov. 12	6:30 PM.....	Special Installation
Nov. 19	7:00 PM.....	Stated
Nov. 26	6:00 PM Dinner Awards	

DECEMBER

Dec. 3	7:00 PM.....	Stated
Dec. 9	Visit to Masonic Home 1:30 PM meet at Home
Dec. 10	6:30 PM.....	Special Work In
Dec. 17	7:00 PM.....	Stated
Dec. 24	Dark (Christmas Eve)	
Dec. 31	Dark (New Year's Eve)	

* Please note that Special Meetings are at the discretion of the Master and may be cancelled or changed as regards date, time, and format.

card. No exam, memorization, signs or anything else required. It will be a fun night to renew acquaintances and an opportunity to visit our new home at 634 High Street in the Grand Lodge building since moving from York Temple at 1276 N. High Street. Steve Moore is planning a fellowship night on Monday, January 21. That is a stated meeting date. We will meet in the dining room at 6:00 PM for pizza. A guest speaker will be Amy Stomieroski with the "I Care" program. Steve has personally assisted in this program to help a worthy, but distressed brother. We will then go upstairs for a short business meeting, and then adjourn to the Villa Nova for further fellowship. Should be a good time on a cold mid-winter evening. Our inspection will be in the EA degree on Monday, February 11.

John Sterba, PM, is masterminding a trip to Washington D.C. in mid May. This will be the 20th anniversary of his year as Master when there was a similar trip to raise a brother (Gary Parsons) and to have a short whirlwind vacation weekend for members and their spouses in the capital. Please e-mail your wishes to be included to John at johnsterba@earthlink.net. Pricing and specific details will be forthcoming. Your deposit at that time will confirm your reservation.

We have a full slate of officers. Take a look at the Trestleboard listing. Returning to the line is JW Frank Jacobs. New brothers to any office are David Ozvat, JD, Ken A. Harrington, SS, Scott Bair, JS, David Woods, Chaplain, and Mark Schreiber, LEO. Steve Moore has volunteered to assist Mark and is formulating plans for some short, but very interesting presentations and programs with Masonic themes, such as the above fellowship night. Masonry is more than minutes, petitions, balloting and degree work.

Finally, I want to thank all of the brothers and particularly all of the Past Master who have helped me and continue to help me (and whom I expect will give me a swift kick should I mess up). Come to Lodge on a Monday evening. We will look for you. Thanks. Doug Hoover, WM

From the East,

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Greetings to all. It is truly a privilege and honor to serve as Master of York Lodge. Having been a member since 1974, and having participated in Lodge activities over those years to some extent, I very much appreciate what all of the predecessors have done for York.

The timing was not planned, but my year coincides with the bicentennial of Masonry in Ohio. Two events of particular significance are the Saturday, January 5, 2008 14th District Dinner for Most Worshipful Bro. Ronald Winnett, Grand Master. This will take place at the Aladdin Temple Shrine, and promises to be a light and fun evening to conclude by 9:00 PM. Saturday, June 21, 2008 is the big bicentennial celebration day in downtown Columbus, that will include a parade and a rededication of the Statehouse cornerstone. More on that later.

As for York Lodge, we hope to confer the "Rusty Nail" degree some evening after the first of the year. The purpose is to encourage brothers who have not visited to come back. All anybody will need is a current dues

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

By Tim Bryce, PM, MPS

“Progress is arrested when we surrender to the status quo, that we no longer strive to exceed it.”

- Bryce's Law

As Masons we are admonished to seek further light; to continually learn and grow as Masons for the purpose of developing ourselves, thereby improving our communities, Lodges, and the world overall. Even the old expression, “Freemasonry takes good men and makes them better,” implies a learning experience.

Let me say from the outset that the burden of responsibility for continuous improvement in Freemasonry rests with YOU and nobody else. Your Lodge may offer supplemental education, but more than anything YOU are responsible for your development, not anyone else. YOU must take the initiative. In most cases, your Brothers will assist you in your development, but YOU must demonstrate your willingness to learn and improve. If you believe your Masonic Education was concluded upon completion of the Master Mason degree, and if you do not possess the intellectual curiosity to learn more about Freemasonry, then perhaps you have joined it for the wrong reasons. Continuous improvement is an inherent part of being a member of the Craft.

There are numerous sources available to you for ongoing Masonic development:

1. Personal Observations - there is probably no better instructor than your own power of observation as you will be able to watch others succeed and fail in their Masonic assignments, their work habits and ethics, as well as their Lodge politics. This requires an attention to detail, the ability to detect changes, and an inquisitive mind that constantly asks, “Why?”

When studying people, consider their strengths and weaknesses, what motivates them, their character, and their formulas for success or failure, e.g., what worked and what didn't? Never hesitate to ask questions, particularly as a new Mason.

2. Publications - the fraternity offers a wide variety of publications, everything from Lodge newsletters, to printed magazines, and eZines available over the Internet (such as this one). The Internet also provides news services to stay abreast of Masonic activities

(see Google and Yahoo!). There are also a considerable number of Masonic blogs, discussion groups, videos and podcasts available to you.

The point here is you should develop a habit of staying current in Freemasonry.

3. Participation in other Masonic groups - other Masonic bodies are available to you for participation, including Masonic Research institutions and libraries, Masters and Wardens Associations, the allied and appendant bodies, e.g., York Rite, Scottish Rite, High 12, Easter Star, Grotto, Shrine, etc.
4. Training - Masonic schools of instruction are quite common in just about every jurisdiction and are primarily concerned with ritual work. Sometimes there are other programs available aimed at developing the skills of Lodge officers.
5. Certification Programs - certification programs authenticate your level of knowledge in a subject area. Such programs typically require the person to take a test or examination, which can be rather extensive. In Freemasonry, you are often certified in terms of your level of expertise in ritual work, lectures, or knowledge of Lodge operations. If you have any interest in becoming a Lodge officer, you would be wise to pursue the certification programs of your jurisdiction.

It is one thing to earn certification, quite another to maintain it. Most certification programs require people to renew it periodically, such as every three years. A lot can happen in three years, which is why you should constantly stay abreast of developments in the fraternity.

6. Mentors - years ago there was a period where mentors were assigned to new employees to chaperone them on their journey through the corporate world. Mentors were basically a “Big Brother” program where senior employees would offer sage advice to neophytes on adapting to the corporate world. But this is a program that has slowly been phased out over the last few years. Interestingly, some Masonic jurisdictions offer a mentor program but very few people are aware of it. Nonetheless, if you find a Brother you respect who is willing to act as your mentor, by all means listen to them carefully. A mentor has three primary duties to perform:

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