

PETER M. RASMUSSEN LODGE 916 AF & AM TRESTLE BOARD

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 1 JAN/FEB 2018



From the East
MW Brother Eddie M. Guevara
(PGM/PM)
Master

Brethren, I start with the first item on my 2018 Trestle Board expressing my gratitude and to thank you (resident and non-residence) for your dedication and faithful service to our Lodge. I will continue to motivate and encourage the importance in practicing the precept and principles inculcated in the three degrees in your daily lives, its duties, responsibilities and teachings. My heartfelt gratitude to all that you do in your Community, Lodge, and to the Brotherhood.

During our Entered Apprentice Degree I lectured the second and third section of the Degree. During the "Covering of a Lodge" I mentioned that "The covering of a Lodge is no less than the clouded canopy, or starry decked Heaven, where all good Masons hope at last to arrive by the aid of that ladder which Jacob, in his vision, saw extended

from earth to Heaven. The principal rounds of which are denominated Faith, Hope, and Charity, which admonishes us to have Faith in God, Hope of Immortality, and Charity to all mankind. The greatest of these is Charity; for Faith may be lost in sight, and Hope ends in fruition, but Charity extends beyond the grave, through the boundless realms of eternity.



In this issue for your education and awareness I impart a further explanation to our Masonic principles on Faith, Hope and Charity.

Faith - In the theological ladder, the explanation of which forms a part of the instruction of the First Degree of Masonry, faith is said to typify the lowest round. Faith, here, is synonymous with confidence or trust, and hence we find merely a repetition of the lesson which had been previously taught that the first, the essential qualification of a candidate for initiation, is that he should trust in God. In the lecture of the same Degree, it is said that "Faith may be lost in sight; Hope ends in fruition; but Charity extends beyond the grave, through the boundless realms of eternity." And this is said, because as faith is "the evidence of things not seen," when we see we no longer believe by faith but through demonstration; and as hope lives only in the expectation of possession, it

ceases to exist when the object once hoped for is at length enjoyed, but charity, exercised on earth in acts of mutual kindness and forbearance, is still found in the world to come, in the sublime form of mercy from God to his erring creatures.

Hope - The second round in the theological and Masonic ladder, and symbolic of a *hope in immortality*. It is appropriately placed there, for, having attained the first, or *faith in God*, we are led by a belief in His wisdom and goodness to the *hope of immortality*. This is but a reasonable expectation; without it, virtue would lose its necessary stimulus and vice its salutary fear; life would be devoid of joy, and the grave but a scene of desolation. The ancients represented Hope by a Nymph or maiden holding in her hand a bouquet of opening flowers, indicative of the coming fruit; but in modern and Masonic iconology, the science of Craft illustrations and likenesses, it is represented by a virgin leaning on an anchor, the anchor itself being a symbol of hope.

Charity - "Though I speak with the tongues of men and angels, and have not *charity*, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not *charity*, I am nothing" (First Corinthians xiii, 1-2). Such was the language of an eminent apostle of the Christian church, and such is the sentiment that constitutes the cementing bond of Freemasonry. The apostle, in comparing it with faith and hope, calls it the greatest of the three, and hence in Freemasonry it is made the topmost round of its mystic

ladder. We must not fall into the too common error that *charity* is only that sentiment of commiseration which leads us to assist the poor with pecuniary donations. Its Masonic, as well as its Christian application, is nobler and more extensive. The word used by the apostle is, in the original translation, *love*, a word denoting that kindly state of mind which renders a person full of good-will and affectionate regard toward others. John Wesley expressed his regret that the Greek had not been correctly translated as *love* instead of *charity*, so that the apostolic triad of virtues would have been, not "faith, hope, and charity," but "faith, hope, and love." Then would we have understood the comparison made by Saint Paul, when he said, "Though I bestow all my goods to feed the *poor*, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not *love*, it profiteth me nothing." Guided by this sentiment, the true Freemason will "suffer long and be kind." He will be slow to anger and easy to forgive. He will stay his falling Brother by gentle admonition, and warn him with kindness of approaching danger. He will not open his ear to the slanderers, and will close his lips against all reproach. His faults and his follies will be locked in his breast, and the prayer for mercy will ascend to Jehovah for his Brother's sins. Nor will these sentiments of benevolence be confined to those who are bound to him by ties of kindred or worldly friendship alone; but, extending them throughout the globe, he will love and cherish all who sit beneath the broad canopy of our universal Lodge. For it is the boast of our Institution, that a Freemason, destitute and worthy, may find in every clime a Brother, and in every land a home.

In the same Section I lectured our newly initiated and introduced him to the six Jewels belonging to the Lodge, three immovable and **three movable**. The moveable Jewels are the Rough Ashlar, the Perfect Ashlar, and the Trestle-Board. The new Entered Apprentice Mason is told "the Rough Ashlar is a stone as taken from the quarry, in its rude and natural state. The Perfect Ashlar is a stone made ready by the hands of the workmen, to be adjusted by the tools of the Fellow-Craft. These three movable Jewels have a symbolic nature that is important to the Mason.

In its normal use, an ashlar is a stone taken from the quarry to be prepared for use in building construction. In Freemasonry, the ashlar has been adopted in its two states as a symbol in the first degree. The Rough Ashlar is the stone as cut and taken from the quarry in its unfinished state. As such, it reminds the Mason of his rude and imperfect state by nature. Through the development of his intellectual self by wholesome education, he strives to move from this imperfect state to a more perfect state. This state is represented by the Perfect Ashlar, which has been smoothed, squared, and fitted for the builder's use. It has been said the purpose of Freemasonry is to take good men and make them better. Perhaps it is more appropriate to say that the purpose of Freemasonry is to take good men who have the potential to be better and help them cultivate that moral and spiritual portion of themselves so they become better members of society. The rough ashlar is that stone taken from the quarry in an unfinished state, but the stone must be of good quality, without defects or

cracks, with the potential to be worked into a perfect, smooth ashlar. That is why Masonry accepts only those who come under the tongue of good report without scandalous or immoral backgrounds. As an Entered Apprentice, the new initiate is just beginning his Masonic journey. As such he represents that rough stone taken from the quarry, a person who desires to improve himself morally and intellectually. While rough in his rudimentary form, he possesses moral and personal qualities that recommend him to the Fraternity and he has expressed the desire to pursue personal growth through education and enlightenment.

As he proceeds through his Masonic initiation, he is exposed to many lessons and symbols to expand his intellect and encourage his personal development. These lessons and symbols represent a wholesome influence to assist him in strengthening his moral and spiritual self. As Masons we must constantly strive to perfect that which is good and noble in our lives so we become the Perfect Ashlar, which under the skillful hands of the workman has been smoothed and squared for the Builder's use.

In operative masonry, the trestle-board was important as an instrument upon which the ancient masters laid out the plans for building and worked out the problems of architecture. As a symbol it represents perfection. Masonic, the Trestle-Board may be applied to the individual Mason in his labors to construct his earthly moral and spiritual Temple following the designs laid out in the Book of Sacred Law. It is symbolically a spiritual board upon which the Mason pursues the development of his spiritual

relationship to the Supreme Creator of the Universe. The laws of God, the highest ethical standards of conduct, and love for his fellow man should guide his actions. The pursuit represents his efforts to transform himself from the Rough Ashlar to the Perfect Ashlar.

The lecture explanation of the moveable Jewels ends as follows:

“By the Rough Ashlar we are reminded of our rude and imperfect state by nature; by the Perfect Ashlar, of that state of perfection at which we hope to arrive by a virtuous education, our own endeavors, and the blessings of God; and by the Trestle-Board, we are reminded that, as the operative workman erects his temporal building agreeably to the rules and designs laid down by the Master on his Trestle-Board, so should we, as Speculative Masons, endeavor to erect our spiritual building agreeably to the rules and designs laid down by the Supreme Architect of the Universe, in the greatest books of nature and revelation, which are our spiritual, moral, and Masonic Trestle-Board.”

May we as Masons constantly strive to live our lives in such a way that we progress towards that state represented by the Perfect Ashlar, that our fellow Masons see the virtues in our lives and deem them worthy of emulation, and that society sees our works as an outward manifestation of our spiritual, moral and upright conduct before our Creator, the Supreme Grand Architect of the Universe.



We hear from our Members (*Communication - the brotherly connection - is the key to our Lodge success*).

Dear WM MW Brother Eddie and Brothers: I have received the Peter M. Rasmussen award. Once again, I am overwhelmed. I am gratified to know that the Lodge Brother Ed Martin and founders started has had so much success. Brother Ed asked for my support in the beginning and I agreed to support him. I only wish Brother Ed knew how successful he was. Thank you again for your kind consideration. Finally, a wish to all for a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. **Fraternally, Brother Jay Hochstaine**

Brother Bob: Thank you so much for sending me the newsletter. It is truly an enlightenment of brotherhood (the teaching and experiences of Freemasonry) and represent the glorious actions of our Supreme Architect. We have so much to be grateful for and the information shared gives us our strength. It is great to hear our lodge is strong due to outstanding leadership and devotion to the meaning of Freemasonry. With best regards. **Fraternally, Brother Anthony Crump (Kathleen, GA)**

From ACGL Webmaster: *Dear RW Brother Bob, I have updated the Website. I am happy to see that your lodge is promptly posting Newsletters which is very commendable. Newsletters are one of the best ways of keeping the Brothers informed. Most of the lodges are unfortunately not communicating adequately with their members. (Even if prodded) Keep up the good work. Yours fraternally, Patrick Rodrigues (ACGL Webmaster)*

Dear MW Brother Eddie, I thank you for the birthday greeting, and I know it was well intended. However, some years past I requested that my name on the register be changed to read JW Hall. The change occurred as requested on my membership card yet the name Jackie rears its ugly head again. I think that I am doing well for a 75 year old person. I have been retired since 1 Dec 89. I am Past Master of a local lodge in Kentucky. Temple Hill Lodge 276. I also extend **Fraternally and Brotherly Greetings. W Brother JW Hall (Murray, KY)**

MW Brother Eddie: Please pass on my sincerest thanks for the birthday wishes. I am doing well, and actually back in Germany working at the NATO School in Oberammergau. I also want to thank the Lodge for the 25 year pin. **Fraternally, Brother Darry C. Johnson** (Oberammergau)

MW Brother Eddie: Thank you for the support and the concern that you showing to me. The last month I'm studying a lot. I'm trying to understand all these excellent Masonic articles in our newsletter I'm reading, but in dept. The English language is not a problem. Definitely is not my mother language, but I'm okay. I will focus from now on, on the EA Obligation and the working tools, and hopefully I will be

100% ready on the next two or three weeks. Brother Stanley is always close to me. Also thank you for the newsletter that you send me. Really interesting!!! I've read it already several times. Especially the last part for the Masonic Education. Wishing you a lovely Monday evening, and thank you for everything! **Fraternally Brother Stefanos Tsachtidis**

Dear RW Brother Bob, I was pleasantly surprised to receive your warm letter, 50 year certificate and pin and the honor you bestowed upon me. I can't describe how touched I am. Please convey my thanks and best wishes to all the brothers of PMR. **Fraternally, Brother Jay Hoshstaine**

Dear Worshipful Master, Secretary, and all Brothers of PMR #916: I am happy GOD has now allowed me this access to maintain contact. From the Trestle Boards PMR is alive and well and I pray we will remain so for eternity. Brother WM and Secretary I hope my due are caught up, if not let me know so I can be whole in your sight! My Email has not changed and always happy for any correspondence. God Bless! **Fraternally, Brother Richard Marshall (Macon, GA)**

Brothers of PMR 916 Greetings: Below please find a Thank You email from newly made MM Brother Bryan Amsel of Chester Lodge 94 Chester VA. During his 2 week travel to Germany he visited Peter M Rasmussen Lodge 916 last night 6 Dec 2017. And he was so glad that he visited our Lodge that he wrote the WM an email thanking PMR 916 for the great evening. Our WM presented him with a Peter M Rasmussen Coin for his archives and a For-Get-Me-Not Pin and a

history document explaining the meaning of the For-Get-Me-Not Pin. Right after the business portion of our Stated Communication WM Eddie presented a Lodge of Instructions on "Motivating our Volunteers" followed by a Lodge of Instructions on the Tilers Oath and the desired method of checking visitors. Everyone in attendance was impressed and thanked our WM MW Brother Eddie Guevara for sharing his knowledge with us. **Sincerely and Fraternally, RW Brother Bob Young**

MW Brother Guevara: I wanted to thank you for your warm hospitality in my visits this week. You made me feel welcome and comfortable. As this was the first opportunity to visit other lodges since becoming a Master Mason, your demonstration of Masonic brotherly love validates my decision to join the fraternity.

Thank you also for the many gifts you gave me. Since I normally do not sleep on airplanes, the books you gave me will make the 10 hour flight much shorter. The Forget-Me-Not pin you presented to me is especially meaningful to me considering the history and the meaning of it among German Masons, and the fact that it was presented to me in Germany from a PGM, and now friend.

As my job affords me the opportunity to come to Germany on a regular basis, I will let you know when I am back here and perhaps we can sit in lodge together again. Also, should your travels ever take you to Central Virginia, please let me know as I would love to welcome you to our lodge. Please extend that invitation to the other brothers.

Thank you again for all that you have done for me and I look forward to seeing you again in the

future. Sincerely and Fraternally, Bryan Amsel (Virginia)

Worshipful Master, MW Brother Eddie and RW Brother Bob: thank you for my thirty Year pin also I have this new mailing address. **Fraternally, Lawrence C. Young (El Paso, TX)**

Worshipful Master, MW Brother Eddie and Brethren: Happy Holidays! **Fraternally, Brother Troy Barton**

Worshipful Master, MW Brother Eddie and Brethren: Received my 45 year Pin and Certificate. Thank You.

Also sent a check for 21 dollars from Lady Wolf. We PMR mail it to Eva Alex Supporting Love Chapter # 5. **Respectfully, Brother Wilbur D. Beasley**

Worshipful Master, MW Brother Eddie and Brethren: On a 3" by 3" white sticky Titled Never Forget with small for-get-me-not flowers in upper left corner also in lower right corner with American flag thereon. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all my Brothers. **Fraternally, Brother Larry J. Boyd and family. (Martinez, GA)**

Worshipful Master, MW Brother Eddie and Brethren: Thank You Brothers of PMR 916 for making a difference. **Fraternally, Brother Loyal Johnson (Washougal, WA)**

Worshipful Master, MW Brother Eddie and Brethren: PMR 916 Brothers & families May your family be blessed with the Love and Peace that is Christmas. Brother Stephen & I wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! **Fraternally, Brother Stephen & Lady Linda Slyfield (Williamsburg, VA)**



January Birthdays

- Brother Larry J. Boyd Jan 5, 1943
- Brother Frank Q. Cook Jan 16, 1939
- Brother Richard P. Marshall Jan 18, 1943
- Brother Bruce J. Hood Jan 19, 1942
- Brother John M. Reeve Jan 21, 1940
- RW Brother Robert "Bob" Young Jan 26, 1944

February Birthdays

- Brother Charles A. Hart Feb 2, 1983
- Brother Stanley Reams Feb 12, 1983
- W Brother Michael Osswald Feb 29, 1956



Lodge Calendar

January 3

- a. Stated Business meeting
- b. Fellow Craft degree
- c. WM New Year reception (What the New Year brings to you will depend a great deal on

- what you bring to the New Year!) Making a Difference!
- d. Lodge of Instruction
- e. 1 Jan: New Year's Day!
- f. 15 Jan: Martin Luther King Jr

February

- a. 9- Stated Meeting
- b. Lodge of Instruction
- c. 8- PGM Right Worshipful Brother Peter Marius Rasmussen remembered (Altar draped in Black)
- d. 14- Valentine Day
- e. 19- Presidents Day. PMR 916 Acknowledged Presidents of USA who are Masons



Our Community

As we all know our lodge members are spread throughout the world and that we are unique in that our community is also spread as to where you reside there being your local community and State. We have members in CA, GA, TN, OK, AZ, FL, VA, IL, MI, MO, PA, MA, AL, TX, CO, IN MD, DE, KY, Latvia and Germany. And some are serving in the Uniform Service and their community involvement comes with and service to their Nation. Your service and contribution to your community speaks volume to your character as Masons of this Lodge making a difference.

I know how much you have given voluntarily of your time toward your community service

and expecting nothing in return during 2017.

To thank you adequately is impossible. Some have spent long after hours rebuilding and assisting those in need after the devastation and aftermath of hurricanes, earth quake, tornado, fires and other disaster, sacrificing your personal time for the greater good of your community, citizenry and society.

I do hope you have gained some inner satisfaction in knowing through your efforts you have made your particular community a better place to live.

Thank you sincerely for all the wholehearted assistance and brotherly love and relief making a difference!



What is Freemasonry?

The first question that is usually asked by a non-Mason is "What is freemasonry?" There are many definitions of the word, but none are complete since the organization embraces a wide scope of activity. A very short definition provided is: "*Freemasonry is a fraternal organization, religious in character, based on the principle of the Fatherhood of God and the **Brotherhood of Man** which does **charitable** work in the community through its members. In addition, its teachings and ceremonies seek to*

make good men better and thereby make the world a better place in which to live."

Freemasonry is a "voluntary" society in that no one is invited to become a member. Unlike college fraternities and other organizations, Freemasonry never solicits anyone to become a member. As a matter of fact, it is a violation of Masonic law for a member to invite anyone to join. A prospective member must truly come of his own **free will and accord**.

Freemasonry is not a religion. Sometimes outsiders claim that Freemasonry is a religion. Most Freemasons do belong to an established Church. Freemasonry is religious in that one cannot become a Freemason unless he believes in God, but there is no religious test applied to the prospective member, nor is he required or asked to subscribe to any religious tenet or dogma. It is forbidden to discuss religion or politics in the Lodge.

Freemasonry is not a "secret society." A secret society is one that keeps its existence in secret, and whose members do not make known their affiliation with the group. Freemasonry is not a secret society because it does not hide its existence, and members do not hide their membership. On the contrary, the organization meets in buildings located in public, announces its meetings in newspapers and magazines, engraves the words "Masonic Temple" on many of its buildings, publishes periodicals, and has homes for orphans and the aged.

The degrees of Freemasonry consist of ceremonies of a strictly serious nature, which teach basic moral truths in an

impressive and solemn manner. When the degrees are completed, the new member is provided a ritual that contains a philosophy of rite that provides the new member with something on which to build a hope that is eternal.

Freemasons are proud to proclaim to the world that we are a serious organization of mature men. An organization that instills a love of God, teaches charity in its broadest sense, and shows each member how to live a better life.

Non-Masons sometimes wonder at the close bond that exists between Freemasons. There is a simple explanation: Masons are bound together by the deep and abiding knowledge that each of them, during the ceremonies of the degrees, has accepted certain high ethical standards of conduct. These standards ensure a bond of faith and confidence.

Thousands of books have been published on the subject of Freemasonry. The matters discussed in this newsletter are just a few of the things about the organization, but it contains enough information to show that Freemasonry is one of the great organizations of the world and a steady influence in a faltering civilization.



The Officers and Members join with me in extending Greetings on your Masonic Birthday (January and February).



January 2018

6 Years

Brother Thomas M. Sutton Jan 4, 2012

33 Years

Brother Richard A. Brown Jan 9, 1985
Brother Dewey W. Morse Jan 22, 1985

34 Years

Brother Nigel R. Fursdon Jan 24, 1984

41 Years

Brother John C. Cooper Jan 25, 1977

42 Years

Brother Thomas E. Tierney Jan 21, 1976

February 2018

16 Years

Brother Matthew J. Baker Feb 26, 2002

19 Years

Brother Frank P. Bajus Feb 16, 1999

28 Years

Brother Daniel M. Morrow Feb 5, 1990

41 Years

Brother Richard R. Emmart Feb 14, 1977

the first Grand Master American Canadian Grand Lodge.



Brother JW Hall Feb 20, 1968

52 Years

Brother Lowell J. Mills Jr. Feb 15, 1966

53 Years

Brother Bruce J. Hood Jan 28, 1965

Our Lodge is recognizing you for achievement and to acknowledge your years of service as a Master Mason. Thank you for your service to our Lodge and to the Brotherhood of Freemasonry.



The Peter M. Rasmussen Award

is a special award for Distinguish Service and Exceptionally Meritorious Achievement, it is the highest award a Mason can receive from the Master of the Peter M. Rasmussen Lodge 916. This prestigious recognition is named after Most Worshipful Brother Peter M. Rasmussen,



For exceptionally Meritorious and Distinguished Services

It is with great Masonic and personal pride that I announce the recipients 'of the Peter M. Rasmussen Award to the following

- Most Worshipful Brother Eddie M. Guevara
- Right Worshipful Brother Bob Young
- Very Worshipful Brother Ward Williamson II
- Worshipful Brother Peter Lohr
- Worshipful Brother Komla C. Ezo
- Brother Bruce J. Hood
- Brother Wilbur D. Beasley
- Brother Karl T. Ward
- Brother Billy C. Vaughn
- Brother Andrejs Bedelis
- Brother Lowell J. Mills Jr.
- Brother Loyal J. Johnson
- Brother Thomas R. Wright
- Brother Thomas F. Kiefer
- Brother Gerald R. Dodd
- Brother Jerry M. Burns
- Brother Leland E. Irvin
- Brother Arthur J. E. Beard
- Brother Oscar H. Currin
- Brother Alfred A. White
- Worshipful Brother Jay P. Hochstaine
- Worshipful Brother Matthew J. Baker
- Worshipful Brother Richard A. Brown
- Worshipful Brother JW Hill

- Right Worshipful Brother Thomas William Bell (Dilmun Lodge 1069)
- Brother Stuart Gregory (Dilmun Lodge 1069)



The Peter M. Rasmussen Lodge 916 Beehive award is presented for making a difference in contribution and commitment, industrious service to Lodge. It is with great Masonic and personal pride that I announce the recipients Beehive Award to the following

- Worshipful Brother Michael Osswald
- Brother Lee Ajaye
- Worshipful Brother Peter Lohr
- Brother Brady Caulder
- Brother Stanley Reams
- Worshipful Brother Komla C. Ezo
- Brother Luke Mason
- Right Worshipful Brother Robert E. Young

The Peter M. Rasmussen Lodge 916 Community Service Award is presented to all members of PMR Lodge 916 in Appreciation of your Dedicated Service to your Community throughout 2017 making a difference.



On the Lighter Side Masonic Humor

A small Lodge had had a string of bad luck. It was preparing to initiate a candidate on a steamy evening in June and it's air conditioner had stopped working.

After sweating their way through part of the work, the Master had asked the candidate what he most desired.

The candidate replied "a beer".

At this juncture, the W.M., being startled, whispered "light" to the candidate.

"OK," the candidate replied, "a lite beer."

(For non-Freemasons reading this, 'light' refers to knowledge.)



We labored, we traveled and we bought back brotherly fraternal greetings

Our annual Christmas social event was a successful event. Hosted by our sister TdB 135 Lodge. Thank you so much to our host, and our members and guest for attending Christmas party on Sunday (coupled by bad weather prevented Brethren outside geographic area from attending). It was lots of fun and such a great mix of people – we enjoyed catching up with familiar faces and meeting lots of new people too. Plus the food was absolutely delicious... we're still talking about the "white Lodge and award ceremony"!

Our Christmas party is always the highlight of our holiday season. Thank you for your (and family) participation going to so much effort for us all. *We remembered and acknowledged our fraternal non-residence brethren dispersed throughout the world.*



Moriah Two Bridges Nahe Lodge 823. Brother Enguerrand the son of Worshipful Master Erik was raised to Master Mason, it was a moving and memorable event.



We visited and attended Lodge meeting and 300 Years Freemasonry event at Meuse Argonne 46 Lodge 1057.



We visited and participated in a Fellow Craft Degree at our "sister lodge" Welderbauten Temple der Bruderliebe No. 135.



We visited and assisted in a Master Mason Degree at Mount



If you have an interest (weather you are in the USA or overseas) in joining the Freemasons and would like more information, please feel free to contact the Freemason who give you this newsletter; he will be delighted to arrange a meeting, answer your

questions and for someone to contact you for a no obligation, informal chat or email.

Or Eddie Guevara, Past Grand Master of Masons, ACGL, and the current Master of Peter M. Rasmussen Lodge 916. E-mail: eddiemguevara@gmail.com



Masonic Education

The ritual is, as has often been observed, fundamental to Freemasonry, and it gives form to our proceedings. We like to think of it as one of the landmarks, but it does change, though only slowly. Let me remind you of how far back in Masonry we can trace certain words and episodes.

We begin with the familiar phrase So mote it be, which sometimes baffles new Masons. That is because it is extremely old, and includes an obsolete form of the verb. Actually these very words are found in the earliest extant copy of the Old Charges of the operative masons, the Regius Poem, which was written in England about the year 1390. Almost as old, it turns out, is Masonic emphasis on the seven liberal sciences, and on the building of King Solomon's Temple; both are essential parts of the Cooke Manuscript, which goes back to about 1410. Indeed they continued to be a regular part of the standard

versions of the Old Charges that served to govern the Craft for the next three hundred years.

There is a marvelous collection of early ritual documents covering the years 1696-1730, called The Early Masonic Catechisms. In this work we find that the phrases "hele and conceal" and "Five points of fellowship" both occur in the Edinburgh Register House Manuscript of 1696. "The square, the compass, and the Bible" are mentioned together in the Dumfries Manuscript No. 4, of about 1710. A London newspaper of 1723 published what purported to be an exposure of the Masonic ceremonies, and there we find the five orders of architecture duly listed. The well-known trio "Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth," comes from another exposure, a pamphlet printed in London in 1724.

Anderson's Book of Constitutions of 1723 mentions the toast to "The King and the Craft." It also refers to God as the Great Architect of the Universe (a phrase first used by John Calvin), and alludes in passing to Hiram Abif (a name which comes from 2 Chronicles 4:16, in Coverdale's Bible of 1535).

The most popular of the early exposures was Samuel Prichard's *Masonry Dissected*, first published in 1730. And there we find such familiar phrases as "Neither naked nor cloathed, bare-foot nor shod," "Wisdom, Strength, and Beauty," "Square, Level, and Plumb-Rule," and "a Sprig of Cassia at the Head of his Grave."

The earliest version of the Charge to the Newly Initiated Candidate, the one with the words "Antient, as having subsisted from Times immemorial," that outlines our duty "to God,

our Neighbours, and Ourselves," appears in William Smith's Pocket Companion (Dublin, 1735).

The story of Ephraimites at the passage of the River Jordan turns up in a French exposure of 1747. Whether it had been borrowed from English sources is not clear; at any rate, it soon appears in printed English rituals.

The next great landmark in the evolution of our ceremonies is the advent of the three great exponents of the ritual, who were the first ones to provide more substantial lectures. Wellins Calcott lived from 1726 until after 1779; in his book *A Candid Disquisition* (1769), he speaks of Pythagoras and the Egyptian philosophers, who concealed their principles under the cover of hieroglyphics.

William Hutchinson (1732-1814), in his *Spirit of Masonry* (1775), offers a series of Moral Observations on the Instruments of Masonry. They interpret the significance of the working tools. "The Level should advise us that...we are all descended from the same common stock, partake of the like nature, have. ...the same hope. ...; and though distinctions necessarily make a subordination among mankind, yet eminence of station should not make us forget that we are men, nor cause us to treat our brethren, because placed on the lowest spoke of the wheel of fortune, with contempt; because a time will come, and the wisest of men know not how soon, when all distinctions, except in goodness, will cease, and when death--that grand leveler of all human greatness--will bring us to a level at the last." Once again, beyond any question our present wording is derived from this text.

And the great William Preston (1742-1818), in his *Illustrations of Masonry* (2nd edition, 1775), offers a familiar prayer: "Vouchsafe thine aid, Almighty Father and supreme Governor of the world, to this our present convention; and grant that this candidate for Masonry may dedicate and devote his life to thy service, and become a true and faithful brother among us. Endue him with a competence of thy divine wisdom, that, by the secrets of this Art, he may be better enabled to unfold the mysteries of godliness, to the honor of thy holy name. Amen." Virtually all of our present wording, we now see, is derived from Britain.

Even on the basis of the evidence presented here, we can see that the Masonic ritual is part of our precious heritage from the past. It has stood the test of time, no doubt because it expresses eternal verities. It is still meaningful to the brethren of today!

Don't forget 14 February is Valentine Day, what do you have plan for your Lady?

It is a festival of romantic love and many people give cards, letters, flowers or presents to their spouse or partner. They may also arrange a romantic meal in a restaurant or night in a hotel. Common symbols of Valentine's Day are hearts, red roses.



**Peter M. Rasmussen Lodge 916
acknowledged 19 February
2018 (President's Day) those
Presidents of the United States
Who Were Freemasons**

GEORGE WASHINGTON (1732-1799) First President (1789-1797)

JAMES MONROE (1758-1831)
Fifth President (1817-1825)
Lodge records lost)

ANDREW JACKSON (1767-1845)
Seventh President (1829-1837)

JAMES KNOX POLK (1795-1849)
Eleventh President (1845-1849)

JAMES BUCHANAN (1791-1868)
Fifteenth President (1857-1861)

ANDREW JOHNSON (1808-1875)
Seventeenth President (1865-1869)

JAMES ABRAM GARFIELD (1831-1881) Twentieth President (July 2 - September 19, 1881)

WILLIAM MCKINLEY (1843-1901)
Twenty-fifth President (1897-1901)

THEODORE ROOSEVELT (1858-1919) Twenty-sixth President (1901-1909)

WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT (1857-1930) Twenty-seventh President (1909-1913)

WARREN GAMALIEL HARDING

(1865-1923) Twenty-ninth President (1921-1923)

FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT (1882-1945) Thirty-second President (1933-1945)

HARRY S TRUMAN (1884-1972)
Thirty-third President (1945-1952)

GERALD RUDOLPH FORD (1913-2006) Thirty-eighth President (1974-1977)



**Brotherly greetings from
Worms,**

**Next month Issue will cover our
Lodge 46th Year Anniversary. If
you might have a picture during
your time at our Lodge and you
might want to contribute for
our March newsletter to please
mail to RW Brother Bob, our
lodge Secretary.**

**We hope you enjoy your News-
letter and we look forward to
hearing from you!**

**Your Elected and Appointed
Officers:**

**Worshipful Master
Most Worshipful Brother Eddie
M. Guevara (PGM)**

**Senior Warden
Worshipful Brother Michael
(PM)**

Junior Warden
Brother Jerome L. "Lee" Ajaye

Treasurer
Brother Ruediger G. Glaser

Secretary
Right Worshipful Brother Robert "Bob" Young (PM)

Chaplin
Worshipful Brother Komla C. Ezo (PM)
Senior Deacon
Worshipful Brother Peter Lohr (PM)

Junior Deacon
Brother Brady A. Caulder

Marshal
Brother Vivianos Adandougou

Senior Stewart
Brother Stanley Reams

Junior Stewart
Very Worshipful Brother Ward Williamson (PM)

Tyler
Brother Luke Mason

prevails
among brothers and friends.

It tells me that my loved ones, my home,
and my household are under the protection
of every member of this great Fraternity,
who have sworn to defend and protect mine
as I have sworn to defend and protect theirs.

It tells me that should I ever be overtaken
by adversity or misfortune
through no fault of my own,
the hands of every Mason on the face of the earth
will be stretched forth to assist me in my necessities.

And finally, it tells me
that when my final exit from the stage of life has
been made,
there will be gathered around my lifeless body,
friends and brothers who will recall to mind my virtues,
though they be but few,
and will forget my faults,
though they may be many.

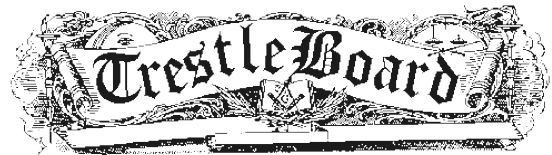
It tells me that, and a great deal more,
this little card,
and makes me proud yet humble,
that I can possess this passport
into a society of friends and brothers
that are numbered in the millions.

**You need 2018 Membership Card to enter into our
Lodge and any Regular Lodge worldwide**

I hold in my hand a little scrap of paper
2 1/2 x 3 1/2 inches in size.
It is of no intrinsic worth,
not a bond, not a check or receipt for valuables,
yet it is my most priceless possession.
It is my membership card in a Masonic Lodge.

It tells me that I have entered
into a spiritual kinship with my fellow Masons
to practice charity in word and deed;
to forgive and forget the faults of my brethren;
to hush the tongues of scandal and innuendo;
to care for the crippled, the hungry and the sick,
and to be fair and just to all mankind.

It tells me that no matter where
I may travel in the world,
I am welcome to visit a place where good fellowship



**Publication bimonthly are Jan,
Mar, May, Jul, Sep and November. The Trestle Board is the official bimonthly newsletter promoting the projects, events, and members of Peter M. Rasmussen Lodge 916 AF & AM. It is circulated to all members and ACGL.**