

PETER M. RASMUSSEN LODGE 916 AF & AM TRESTLE BOARD

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 1 NOVEMBER 2017



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

To preserve the purity of our Lodge and to maintain unimpaired our ancient rites and ceremonies instruction is necessary. The mysteries of Freemasonry are to be unfolded and its moral duties impressed. The minds of our brethren are to be enlarged and informed.

But Masonic principles cannot be the exclusive property of Freemasons. They are universal. They must be shared. The ethics and tenants of Freemasonry should be the common possession of all right thinking men and women. They will be if we as dedicated Master Mason will share them.

There can be no dedication without education in making a difference and should be constantly borne in mind in our daily duties, responsibilities and teaching. Throughout the centuries we have left Masonic Education out of our lodges. We have placed our full concentration on the ritual of the Craft. We have neglected to teach the meaning behind the ritual.

We need to learn the A B C's of Freemasonry. We must start with the interesting, the simple, the obvious and what is well known. Then we must graduate to the spiritual values found in the Craft. We must go about learning and teaching the history, tradition, symbolism, philosophy, benevolence and meaning of Masonic principles as we did the ritual a piece at a time.

The ritual is the thread that unites us into one sacred band of friends and brothers. Symbolism is the soul of the Fraternity. Masonic history is the wisdom through which we witness human struggle and achievement and see Masonic principles at work. Courage, strength, and confidence in the teachings and philosophy of the Craft are built from seeing the evidence of what other Freemasons have done.

We can start this campaign to turn members into Freemasons by reading good Masonic books. Through books we can learn; without them we can acquire but little knowledge.

As we learn about Freemasonry we learn more about human beings; we discover what we came here to do. We find that all religious men, regardless of their sectarian persuasion, have faith in the Great Architect of the Universe. They may call him Jehovah, Allah, or by one of the multitude of names, but He is still God.

Through studies that have been made by industry during the past half century we have learned many things about human nature. What these studies reveal are important to Freemasonry. One important discovery pointed out that man's creativity is being wasted. Less than twenty per cent of the creative ability of man is being used. This leaves over eighty per cent going to waste. What a golden opportunity this is for Freemasonry! What an opportunity this is for each of us to accomplish what we came here to do!

Freemasonry, that advocated an eight hour day when a sixteen hour day was the rule, should take the lead in fulfilling man's needs. Freemasonry should create an atmosphere wherein men will be anxious to achieve the goals of our lodge.

Why? Why should we turn over creativity loose within the framework of

Freemasonry? Because there is no other organization that can do so much for the world. Freemasonry incorporates only that which is good. It has no dogmas, no theology, and no political motives that divide. It has only the good that unites.

An organization that teaches the Brotherhood of man under the Fatherhood of God cannot be wrong. It is only those who haven't learned what they came here to do who can harm the Fraternity. (End)

Let us start by first understanding the position of the Master (the symbol Square, teaches morality and virtue) and why.

The master of a Masonic lodge is a unique leader. Once elected he inherits significant powers to rule and govern the members of the lodge. He is invested with time honored responsibilities that are unlike those of the president of any other society, and he is given unusual authority in the discharge of his duties. Once installed, he cannot be removed by vote of his brethren who elected him. Only a Masonic trial for malfeasance in office, or action by the grand master can take him out of office.

Many organizations have the office of past president, but only serving as the master of a masonic lodge confers unique status of a past master, and then only after having fully discharged the duties laid upon him at this installation. The master of a lodge who resigns, or does not complete his term as master (unless he dies in office) does not become a past master. How did all this come about?

The origin of the office of master of a Masonic lodge is lost in the mists of history, along with the origin of Freemasonry itself. But as far back as we have any record, the office of master existed. In 1717, when the first grand lodge was formed in London, England, the four lodges that formed it placed the oldest Master Mason then present who was also the master of one of the lodges in the chair as grand master pro tem, and then proceeded to elect a grand master.

The Ancients a rival grand lodge of the original grand lodge of 1717 claimed to preserve the oldest traditions of Freemasonry. With the Ancients, the office of past master

was specially esteemed. Among both the Moderns (as the premier grand lodge was called) and the Ancients, the Master Mason degree was originally a qualifying degree for those who wished to become a master of the lodge. In fact, the third degree was originally called the master's part because it was designed to instruct the future master in the significant duties of his office. ACGL as an example follows the tradition of Moderns by allowing a warden to preside over the lodge if the master is not present. However, a warden does not exercise all the rights and powers of the installed master, even in this jurisdiction. Some prerogatives are reserved only to the man who has been elected and installed as master.

What does this say about the master as the leader of the lodge? He is the leader because he was elected and installed as such by his brethren. Once elected and installed, he becomes the master teacher as well as the head of the lodge. He becomes the master workman, the master designer, who sets the lodge at work, and gives them the necessary instructions to do what they are supposed to do as Masons. He has been especially set apart for this work, and having been set apart, he cannot every truly return to the body as the workmen in the same status as before his election and installation as master.

That is why the rank of past master is considered to be the highest rank within the power of the lodge to grant to one of its members.

Leadership in Freemasonry is thus much more than simply being elected as the presiding officer of a lodge; it is the conferring of a dignity which the order that is unrivaled by any other, except for that of grand master. Indeed, when he becomes master of his lodge he occupies "the dignified and honorable position to which the suffrage" or his brethren has called him. (End)

Peter M. Rasmussen Lodge 916 pay tributes and honors all U.S. military veterans on Veterans Day

In a few days we will observe Veteran's Day. Too often it seems as if this is just another

“holiday” meant to be exploited by retailers offering big sales. Therefore it is certainly appropriate that we as Masons stop and pause and reflect on the true intent of this important national holiday. Veteran’s Day, what used to be called Armistice Day, marked the cessation of hostilities at the end of WW One on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month; this year observed on Tuesday, November 11th.

While this holiday was originally intended to pay reverent respect for the men who died in that war intended to end all wars, today Veterans Day celebrates the service of all U.S. military veterans. We should again pause and reflect on this solemn occasion and give thanks to the Great Architect for the many, many rich blessings he has given us and the sacrifice of so many.

Certainly we have written and spoken so often about our Masonic tradition of care and support for our military and our veterans at every opportunity ... without prompting it has become our practice to render a special prayer for our veterans, military and first responders each time we offer an invocation to open and the benediction to close any Masonic function.

We owe so much to these men and women, past and present, for all that they gave of themselves and their dedication to preserve our liberties and our opportunities to work and to grow and to prosper and to be able to practice our gentle craft without fear.

Join me in a prayer to ask for God’s very special blessings for our Veterans and the protection of the men and women serving our nation today; that they may be successful in their pursuit of peace, that they may be protected from harm, and that they may return to their families and their loved ones whole and in good health.



We hear from our Members!

MW Brother Eddie, Thank you Brother for devoting yourself to our great Brotherhood. I hope one day I can also use my 24 inch Gage to teach and move forward the Brothers of our fraternity as you do.

Saturday's ceremony was spectacular. It always feels my heart when I see more and more of the teachings and rituals of Free Masonry. Thank you again Brother Eddie and all the Brothers who attended and participated. We cannot do what we do without each other! Fraternally,
Brother Brady Caulder

WM, Wardens, Stewarts, and Secretary, and Treasurer and Brothers all: I apologize for the delay. Received Life Membership refund from ACGI 4 September 2017 and saw an old Trestle Board. It reminded me that I had some "Back Dues" now and want to be paid up so if this (\$350.00) is not enough, please send me a bill for the full amount owed. God has blessed me in many ways: If all my bills are paid and there is more donate in the Lodge name and Glorify GOD! Then I would like to be in closer contact. Fraternally **Brother Richard Marshall**

Dear Brother Eddie, thank you and we miss our Lodge and fellowship. Fraternally **Brother Stephen with Dixie and Lady Linda**



Brother Eddie: Thank you and remember it is not only the 4th July we celebrate, but also it is our "Independence Day". Fraternally, **Brother Andrew Ralston**

Brother Eddie: Well...as a matter of fact I do....I'm coming over to Austria (near Kitzbuhl)

for a week in Mid-September to shoot a new portfolio....I'm trying to pack the appropriate gear before passing on to Turkey, and I just don't have a clue...waterproof housings, heavy coat (cold?), wet weather gear etc! Afterwards it's into the lands of the 80 degrees! Help! (1 suitcase n 1 carry on doesn't go far)(+ rule #1 of traveling: what you pack and bring...you have to carry!). Thanks again! Fraternally, **Brother Wayne Toberman**

Brother Eddie and all my Texas brothers, if it would be within your cable tow to communicate with each other as to our individual needs and statuses, I believe that establishing a network between us could help brothers and their families in need. What say you? Fraternally yours: **Brother Dan Moreno**

Dear Brother Eddie and my Brothers at Peter M. Rasmussen Lodge 916: My Family and I are very safe and happy here in Fort Worth Texas. Thank you so much for the prayers and concern. People from all over the world are responding with help and prayers to the Hurricane in Houston and other areas affected. It is a wonderful thing to watch and offer what help we can to the cause. We miss you guys and all the activities our lodge put on. We plan to visit family again next year and will attempt to visit you in Worms. Take care. Fraternally, Brother **Jim Hix**, Linde and Kids.

Dear Bro Eddie: Please be informed I was raised in Triangle Lodge at Taylor Barracks in Mannheim Germany on Aug 15, 1967. Later when Triangle Lodge went dark I was transitioned to Peter Rasmussen Lodge 916. I would like to request a 50 year pin from the Lodge. Maybe you can include this event as an item n the next Trestle Board. Please let me know of any cost incurred in acquiring the pin and i will be glad to reimburse the lodge. My mailing address is as follows. Fraternally, **Thomas F. Kiefer** (*Weeks later I received my 50 Year Pin and Certificate from our Lodge, Thank you*).

Dear Brother Young, You all have outdone yourselves. I love this Newsletter and all the subjects covered. It give me great pleasure

and satisfaction to meet our brethren which I have never met before, but now I get to meet in pictures. Thank you all and God Bless. Fraternally, **Brother Pete Barrios**

Brothers: What A "Wonderful Relief". It has been years since receiving such a great & informative "Trestle Board" Please continue publication. The only change in my status ETC, ECT. is my age. It is showing effects daily. I am still computer "illiterate" & at this point see no desire to change. Keep the sprit & continue spreading the word. Fraternally, **Brother Karl Ward**

MW Brother Eddie: Picture is of my son, Devin, and my cousin Peter this morning as we set off to lay the crab traps. They're all set now, so we'll pull them up on a few hours. My cousin and his wife live on their boat in a Marina is north of Seattle proper. Pretty cool life. Pretty jealous with seeing all of the sea lions and Orcas and such. Not too easy to duplicate in Germany. See you soon. Fraternally, **Brother Lee Ajaye**



Dear Eddie: I apologize for my tardy response. You are all so kind to do a memorial for John this month. I've been overwhelmed with issues and tasks and did not take the time to reply as I should have.

The basic thing I can say is that, in addition to his family, John loved three parts of his life: his Masonic affiliations, the Army, and his Sigma Chi fraternity. Being a Founding Member of the Peter M. Rasmussen Lodge was one of his proudest achievements. Thank you for your formal remembrance. May the lodge enjoy a long and successful fellowship. My best regards, **Karen Justice**

Brethren: Yesterday 12 Sep 2017 I revisited MW Brother Billy C Hayes. Got there about 10:45 left about 11:15. We chatted about old times for 30 minutes. He seems to be in good spirits. Has good eye contact does not slur his speech, got good memory. He was sitting in a wheel chair and has a private room. Then he said VWBro Nat Johnson was here 2 days ago and said he needed to get back to Florida because our children and grandchildren live in Florida. And the wife is ready to return. I presented him some flowers to brighten up his room. I looked around and saw that these were the only flowers in his room. MW Brother Billy C Hayes requested I bring fraternal greeting to the WM and Brothers of PMR 916. **Fraternally, RW Brother Bob Young** (Honorary Member, PGM Billy C. Hayes (GM ACGL 1980-1981)



Our Brother Secretary was reviewing information in our November 2016 Minutes, and said this kind of Brotherly Love should be shared with all our members. On the occasion of 28 October 1981 VW Brother Ward Williamson sent **Brother John Reever** a Masonic birthday note telling him 35 years ago you took your third step in Masonry and became a Master Mason. Brother John replied 35 years has flown by so swiftly it seems like yesterday I was raised to become a member of a fantastic and wonderful fraternity. And said he always looks forward to hearing what is happening in PMR and you are in our thoughts daily. May the Great Architect of the Universe continue to watch over PMR 916.



Celebrating 300 years of Freemasonry (1717 – 2017)

One of the many lodges throughout the world celebrating 300 Years Freemasonry making a difference is our Lodge.

For 45th years our lodge held in veneration the original rulers and patron of freemasonry in its 300 years history (1717-2017). Peter M. Rasmussen Lodge Number 916 is proud in celebrating Freemasonry 300 years, and at the same time also honored our Founding and Charter members; and our Past Master whom have been cloth with authority to preside over and direct the affairs of our Lodge. We all owe a debt of gratitude to them for their leadership and vision in shaping our Masonic virtues that still continues today. We extend a heartfelt “thank you” to our members past and present for their continue support along the way. God Bless our beloved Fraternity for the next 300 years.

***Limited Edition Masonic
Tricentennial Coin to commemorate
Freemasonry 300 Years only***

happens once!



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In Memory of our Departed Brother's

Think of **Brother Lane Lee Weible and Brother German Jose Martinez Oronoz** who, but a few days since, were among us in all the pride and power of life; bring to your minds the remembrance of their wisdom, their strength, and their beauty. Let our fidelity to Brotherhood be to us the symbol of remembrance of all the virtues of our Brothers who have preceded us to the Silent Land, and serve as a token of that fraternal alliance which binds us while on earth, which we hope will finally unit us in heaven.

It is with great sadness that the family of **Brother Lane Lee Weible of Plano, TX** announces his passing after a brief battle with cancer on Wednesday, June 28, 2017, at the age of 62. Lane will be lovingly remembered by his wife of 15 years, Terry and his children, Jon and wife, Amber Weible of Lavon, TX; Juliann and Husband, Kody Kee of Newport News, VA; and Daniel Huff of Magnolia, MS. Lane will also be fondly remembered by his 4 grandchildren, Liliana and Elise Weible, Diana and Daniel Huff; Sisters, Terri and Husband, Jay Bulfer of Pheonix, AZ, Cheryl Harris of Torrence, CA and Father Fred Doherty of New Hampshire. Lane was predeceased by his first wife Patricia Weible, his Mother, Lorena Weible and Adopted Father, Kenneth Weible. Lane will also be forever remembered by his numerous nieces, nephews, and extended family and dear friends.

Lane is native of San Angelo, TX and Glendale, AZ. He also faithfully served his country for 22 years in the United States Army and also served the City of Dallas as a Police Officer for



November Birthdays

Brother Arthur J. E. Beard Nov 6, 1927
Brother Oscar H. Currin Nov 6, 1947
Brother Nigel R. Fursdon Nov 10, 1959
Brother Stephen S. Slyfield Nv 15, 1953
Brother Jackie W. Hall Nov 15, 1942
Brother John C. Cooper Nov 17, 1948
Brother Darry C. Johnson Nov 17, 1963
Brother Jerome L. Ajaye Nov 21, 1962

December Birthdays

W Brother Viviano Adandogous Dec 2, 1966
M W Brother Eddie M. Guevara Dec 8, 1952
Brother Alfred A. White Dec 10, 1939
Brother Richard R. Emmart Dec 27, 1940
Brother Jay P. Hoshstaine Dec 27, 1940
Brother Angel L. Robles Dec 31, 1930

27 years. He joined Freemasonry and made MM 27 Jan 1981 in Triangle Lodge 834 Mannheim, Germany and reinstated his Masonic membership with Peter M Rasmussen Lodge 916 Worms Germany 6 April 2016 and affiliated with Plano Lodge 768 Plano TX 2 June 2016.

Lane will also be buried at the Dallas Fort Worth National Cemetery.

In Memory of **Brother German Jose Martinez Oronoz** of San Juan Puerto Rico . Born 10 May 1950 in Santurce Puerto Rico. Passed away 10 October 2016. Jose as he liked to be called entered the US Army in October 1968. And served our nation until he retired. Brother Jose was in the Infantry and is a veteran for serving in Vietnam from Aug 1970 to August 1971. Thereafter established his email handle as hueydoorgunner70@hotmail.com Brother Jose Martinez Petitioned Triangle Lodge 834 Mannheim 28 January 1975. He was Initiated 1 April 1975, Passed to the degree of Fellowcraft on 10 June 1975, and Raised to the Degree of Master Mason on 19 Jul 1975. Was dropped from the rolls some years later by Triangle Lodge, and was reinstated with PMR 20 May 2013.



Lodge of Sorrow 4 October 2017 to celebrate the memory and mourns the loss of our departed **Brother German Jose Martinez**

Oronoz, Brother Lane Lee Weible of Plano, Brother John Justice, Brother William "Buck" Buford and Brother Lee L. Guice and MWB Donald L. SAINT, Past Grand Master, of the American Canadian Grand Lodge who have laid down the working tools of this life and moved on to the celestial lodge above.

Most Worshipful Brother Eddie Guevara paid homage by visiting the grave site to honor the memory of **Most Worshipful Brother Peter M. Rasmussen**, the first Grand Master of ACGL.



WM MW Brother Eddie M. Guevara delivered eloquently from memory a somber and beautiful Lodge of Sorrow ritual. An emotional experience for those in attendance. Team consisted of Brother Stanley Ream in the West, Brother Lee Ajaye in the South and RW Brother Bob Young as Chaplain delivered eulogy on our Brethren.



Lodge Calendar

November 1

- a. Stated Business meeting
- b. Entered Apprentice Degree
- c. Lodge of Instruction
- d. 10-11 Nov Veterans Day
- e. 23 Nov Thanksgiving

December 6

- a. Stated Business meeting/Lodge of instruction
- b. 10 Dec Lodge Social Christmas Party
- c. 27 Dec St John the Evangelist
- d. Visit PMR grave site
- e. 25 Dec Christmas Day



Our Community

Our Lodge deepest concern and sympathy for those affected by the landfall of Hurricane Harvey, Irma and Maria and the earthquake in Mexico. We express our appreciation for the strength, compassion, and preparedness of our members in their thoughts and prayers and for providing relief help, aid and assistance in many ways. God Bless!

It has been reported that Brethren from our Lodge participated in their State and even

Brethren in Germany making a difference in providing much needed "Disaster Relief" to our Masonic Family in Texas, Florida, Louisiana and even Puerto Rico. And also domestically in Germany and in Europe. It is who we represent and what we do for 300 Years it is "Freemasonry...A Brotherhood making a difference to Society!"

Sickness and Distress

Report in a timely fashion if you and anyone in your family is/are under sickness and distress, by email to either WM at eddiemguevara@gmail.com or RW Brother Bob Young at youngroberte@aol.com.



What is Freemasonry?

1. "Growing old is no more than a bad habit which a busy man has no time to form." – *Ande Maurois*
2. "God hides some ideal in every human soul. At some time in our life we feel a trembling, fearful longing to do some good thing. Life finds its noblest spring of excellence in this hidden impulse to do our best." – *Robert Collyer*
3. "The Society or Fraternity of Freemasons is more in the nature of a system of Philosophy or of moral and social virtues taught by symbols, allegories, and lectures based upon fundamental truths, the observance of which tends to promote stability of

character, conservatism, morality and good citizenship.” – *H. W. Coil*

4. “Freemasonry is ‘veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols’ because these are the surest way by which moral and ethical truths may be taught. It is not only with the brain and with the mind that the initiate must take Freemasonry but also with the heart.” – *C. H. Claudy*

5. “It has not been my fortune to know very much of Freemasonry, but I have had the great fortune to know many Freemasons and have been able in that way to judge the tree by its fruit. I know of your high ideals. I have seen that you hold your meetings in the presence of the open Bible, and I know that men who observe that formality have high sentiments of citizenship, of worth, and character. That is the strength of our Commonwealth and nation.” – *Calvin Coolidge*

Masonic Anniversary Anniversary 50 Years Mason or more



Leland E. Irvin Nov 28, 1960
Brother Bruce J. Hood Jan 28, 1965
Brother Loyal J. Johnson Oct 19, 1965
Brother Lowell J. Mills Jr. Feb 15, 1966
Brother Billy C. Vaughn Apr 19, 1966
W Brother Gerald R. Dodd Dec 12, 1966
Brother Thomas F. Kiefer Aug 15, 1967
Brother Thomas R. Wright Nov 2, 1967
Brother Jay P. Hoschstaine Nov 25, 1967

45 to 49 Years Mason



Brother Jackie W. Hall Feb 20, 1968
Brother Frak Q. Cook Jr. Jul 16, 1968
Brother Karl T. Ward Jun 16, 1969
Brother Wilbur D. Beasley Apr 7, 1970



"You know, the new line of officers isn't half bad."
"Nope, they're ALL bad!"

On the Lighter Side Masonic Humor

Bob and Bill were brother masons and great friends for most of their lives.

Each had agreed that when one of them passed on to that Grand Lodge above, he would attempt to make contact with the other and tell him all about what heaven was like.

As so happened, Bill went to heaven, first.

One night Bob was just drifting off to sleep when he heard Bill's voice calling to him.

"Is that you, Bill?"

"Yes, Bob. I am honoring our agreement."

"Oh, MY,... what's it like?" Bob asked with some anticipation.

"It's like nothing you could ever imagine. The lodge here is fantastic,... better than any lodge we ever saw on Earth."

The meetings are always well attended, the ritual is letter perfect, the friendship nights always have tons of new people just itching to join, and the spirit of fellowship blankets the entire place."

Bob's eyes teared up.

"Oh, my, it's just like we'd hoped. I'm so happy for you. But I have to ask, ... that sounds really great, but you didn't really seem all that excited. What's wrong?"

"Well, I have some good news and some bad. The good news is that we're raising a fellow to the third degree next Wednesday."

"That's fantastic. What's the bad news?"

"Your name is on the list to be the Senior Deacon."



***We Labored
and
We Traveled to Mount Moriah Two
Bridges Nahe Lodge 828 to assist in
Lodge Officer Installation and
Entered Apprentice Degree***





2B1  ASK1

If you have an interest in joining the Freemasons and would like more information, please contact Robert Young

below and we will be delighted to arrange for someone to contact you for a no obligation, informal chat or email.

Kontakt/Contact:

Robert Young

Lodge address: Gasttstatte Zur Mullerei,
Durer Strasse 10-12, 67549 Worms

Telephone: (049) 6241-591516 (Lodge
Secretary RW Brother Bob)

E-Mail WM: eddiemguevara@gmail.com

E-Mail Lodge

Secretary: youngroberte@aol.com



Masonic Education

BROTHERLY LOVE, RELIEF and TRUTH.

Brotherly Love means the development of that confidence whereby we may regard a fellow-man in the highest valuation as a companion and friend -- not from any materialistic viewpoint, but because of the virtuous character he is found to possess and of the sincere friendship he is observed to practice.

Masonic Relief does not mean, primarily, monetary relief; and, notwithstanding that large sums of money are disbursed annually in that respect, a member has no claim on Masonry for financial relief. Its meaning is found in the broader interpretation: that of advice, encouragement and moral assistance. At the same time, charity is not relegated to a subsidiary place; for, charity is the great distinctive feature of the Masonic heart and is bounded only by due discretion respecting one's family.

Truth needs no elaboration. Its meaning is obvious; for Truth is the supreme virtue without which nothing can be certain or secure, and all else must inevitably crumble in helpless ruin and decay. "The eternal years of God are hers".

The principles of Masonry are clear and distinct. While they do involve social and moral obligations, our organization is not a religious fraternity within the restricted interpretation that would mean it to be exclusively identified with any one particular creed or sect or denomination. Masonry admonishes its members steadfastly to practice the Golden Rule; and it teaches and maintains a high sense of respect for and toleration towards all religions. To all Masons it recommends serious study and consideration of the scriptures as contained in the Volume of the Sacred Law that lies upon the altars of its lodges. It believes that therein is provided safe and sane guidance concerning man's duty to God, to his neighbor, to his family and to himself. Indeed, our symbolism places God as the center of all things. Masonry ever strives to bring its members into closer harmony with the Divine Being and counsels them to observe reverence and humility which ought always to exist between the creature and his Creator.

Neither is Masonry a political party nor an ally of any political party. It leaves its members free to form for themselves their individual political affiliations. Yet Masonry does inculcate a commonsense conception of good citizenship. Moral obligations bind its members to respect and uphold, not to subvert, established authority and order; and, while remembering with filial affection the land of birth, to remain loyal to the law of the land, which, at least for the time being, extends the courtesy and the privileges of residence and citizenship.

Concerning the duties of a Mason: of first importance are the exercise of strictest caution in guarding the mysteries and secrets of the Craft; fidelity to its principles; loyalty to the officers of his lodge; and unqualified obedience to its laws and regulations. Regular attendance at meetings is, of course, an implied duty, for there the member takes his proper place in the consideration and direction of the affairs of his lodge and of

Masonry generally. So, also, regular payment of dues is essential; for only thereby is a lodge enabled to discharge its obligations and to function to the fullest extent in all branches of the work.

There are many other matters, all of them interesting, that might be mentioned -- for instance, the organization and conduct of a lodge. But there is not occasion here to enter into details of these unless desired. If there be any questions, we shall be pleased to give what information we may and can impart.

The Third Degree

No, not like in an old Bogart picture where some sniveling squealer gets worked over with a 200-watt light bulb in his eyes and a rubber hose. The *third degree* is the highest degree or level of ceremony conferred in a Masonic lodge. It's known as the Master Mason degree; the two that come before it are the Entered Apprentice and the Fellow Craft degrees. You may encounter other Masonic degrees that have higher numbers, bestowed by some other branches within Freemasonry, but they are not more important or of any higher rank than the Master Mason.

On the Level

To a Freemason, *on the level* means just that — all Freemasons are Brothers who meet on the same level, regardless of their social or economic status outside the lodge. Princes, presidents, and captains of business are no better or more important than bus drivers, plumbers, and paper boys when they sit in the lodge together. Masonry does not detract from a man's accomplishments, nor does it exalt him above his Brothers because of his position outside the lodge.

On the Square

When a stonemason cuts a block to use in the construction of a building, it must be perfectly shaped so that it will support the other blocks that surround it. The block's sides must all be perfectly straight with no faults, so that it will do its part as just one small piece of a much larger building. To check the reliability of his workmanship, the stonemason uses a tool called a *square*, shaped like a right angle, to determine whether the sides and angles of the stone are perfect. Freemasons use the

term *on the square* to describe their trust in each other. A man who is on the square is honest and reliable, and is a strong part of the whole community around him. The term *on the square* is also used to mean "just between you and me." When one Mason tells another Mason something he'd like to be kept private, he'll often say "This is on the square."

Worshipful Master

The primary officer of the local Masonic lodge is called the *Worshipful Master*. This does not mean that Freemasons "worship" him. The position is like that of a president in other organizations. The term comes from Old English and is used to mean "greatly honored." Mayors of English and Canadian cities are still referred to as "Your Worship." Because Masonry has its origins in England during the Middle Ages, the term has been passed down through the centuries and has been retained. I'd like to go on record as saying that if it *does* mean "worship," my lodges didn't do nearly enough of it when I held the position.

Cowan

The Tyler's job is to keep off all "cowans and eavesdroppers". The term *cowan* is unusual and its origin is probably from a very old Anglo-Saxon word meaning "dog." *Cowan* came to be a Scottish word used as a putdown to describe stonemasons who did not join the Freemasons guild, while the English used it to describe Masons who built rough stone walls without mortar and did not know the true secrets of Freemasonry.

Hoodwink

Today, the term *hoodwink* has come to mean "to trick" or "to deceive." But in a Masonic lodge, it's a very old term used to describe a blindfold. *Hood* means "cover," and *wink* means "closed eye." While being led through portions of the three degrees of the Masonic lodge, the candidate is *hoodwinked*, to prevent him from seeing certain features of the room until the proper time in the ceremony, to focus his attention on the words he is hearing, and to symbolize the search for *light*, or knowledge. It does *not* mean he is being tricked or lied to.

Token

A *token* is a grip or handshake that is used by Freemasons to identify each other. Each of the degrees of Masonry has its own handshake that identifies the level of proficiency attained by a member. It enables one Mason to silently know another one without either calling attention to himself.

Blackballed

When Masons vote on a new member, they use a ballot box that contains white balls (for “yes”) and black balls (for “no”). The opening of the box is hidden from the view of the other members, and each Mason votes in secret. Voting against the election of a new member in a Masonic election has come to be called *blackballing*, and its use has spread to the outside world as well. These days, to prevent confusion while groping around in a little wooden box, the black pieces are now often cube-shaped, to avoid voting incorrectly by mistake. *Black-cubing* just doesn’t sound right, so the term *blackballing* remains.

So Mote It Be

The phrase “*So mote it be*” is used by Masons as a response at the end of a prayer. It comes from an Old English phrase that simply means “so may it be,” and has been used in Masonic documents since its earliest beginnings. Masons use it as an affirmation of a prayer as a response to *amen*, a word of similar meaning.

Are You a Traveling Man?

One of the many phrases used when two Masons meet and are unsure of each other’s membership status, this question refers to a line in the Master Mason degree, “Whence come you and whither are you traveling?” Other greetings can be, “I see you’ve traveled some,” “Hello, Hiram,” or “Are you a Widow’s Son?” More obscure is “How old is your Mother?” a question that refers to the number of your home lodge. These exchanges between strangers on a sidewalk often result in baffled looks from your spouse or non-Masonic friends.



As we prepare to celebrate Thanksgiving 2017 we have so much for which to be grateful. Now, as the holiday season is upon us and we look forward to enjoying another great family occasion, I want to extend our warmest personal greeting to each of you and those you love. We hope that all of your prayers will be fulfilled and we give humble thanks for God’s many blessings.

I hope you too will take time this week, together with those at your Thanksgiving table, to pause and reflect on the many, many things for which we can all be truly thankful – for the many blessings we enjoy with our families and with our friends, and with our extended Masonic family.

On behalf of Christa and myself, your Elected W Brother Michael Osswald, Brother Lee Ajaye, RW Brother Bob Young, Brother Ruediger Glaser, and Appointed W Brother Peter Lohr, Brother Brady Caulder, Brother Stanley Reams, VW Brother Ward Williamson, W Brother Komla Ezo, W Brother Vivianos Adandogous and Brother Luke Mason, we hope that you and those you hold dear enjoy Thanksgiving, and the days and weeks ahead. May God continue to bless you and your family and our great Fraternity. May God continue to bless our Lodge and great fraternity!



Junior Deacon
Brother Brady A. Caulder

Marshal
Worshipful Brother Vivianos Adandogou
(PM)

Senior Stewart
Brother Stanley Reams

Junior Stewart
Very Worshipful Brother Ward Williamson
(PM)

Tyler
Brother Luke Mason

Brotherly Greetings from Worms!

We will have Volume 2 **Issue 2** a special Holiday in December to report our Entered Apprentice Degree and welcome our newest member, and with our Christmas Holiday Wishes!

We hope you enjoy your Newsletter and we look forward to hearing from you!

Your Elected and Appointed Officers

Worshipful Master
MW Brother Eddie M. Guevara (PGM)

Senior Warden
Worshipful Brother Michael (PM)

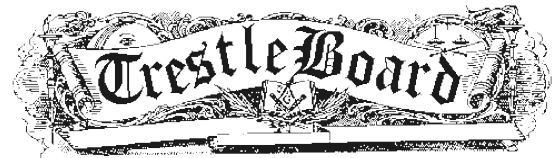
Junior Warden
Brother Jerome L. Ajaye

Treasurer
Brother Ruediger G. Glaser

Secretary
RW Brother Robert "Bob" Young (PM)

Chaplin
Worshipful Brother Komla C. Ezo (PM)

Senior Deacon
Worshipful Brother Peter Lohr (PM)



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. Publication bimonthly are Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep and November.