



# TRESTLE BOARD

*Table Rock Masonic Lodge #680, A.F. & A.M. Kimberling City, MO, U.S.A.*

**Volume 15 Issue 8 April 2011**

## **FROM THE EAST:**

April greetings to all! We are happy to announce that we will be meeting every night this month. April Fool! Ha! Sometimes it seems that this is actually true, doesn't it? We have been holding degrees on our "off" Tuesdays for so long now that it is hard to get used to the idea that we might actually have an open Tuesday night just for practice or maybe even catching up on home or family activities. Believe it or not, there is nothing scheduled on April 5. The rest of the month is pretty full, however, as you can see from the calendar.

Last month we were blessed by having initiated two new brothers, Ron Hall and Doug DuShane, into our mysteries. We passed Bro. Charlie Avery to the 2nd Degree and then passed Bros. Hall and DuShane. We then raised Bros. Avery and Terry Harris to the Sublime degree of Master Mason. Congratulations to all of you!

We traveled to Branson to assist with 3rd Degrees, Forsyth for a 1st degree, and Central Crossing for two 3rd degrees. The Worshipful Master and Senior and Junior Wardens attended a School of Instruction in

Monett which was conducted by RWB Randy Jones. We actually do a very good job in our degree work, but it is indeed wonderfully smooth and beautiful when it is done exactly right as we were taught. There will be a school in Sparta Lodge on Saturday, April 2, at 9:00 am which will be conducted by RWB Tim Couch. This would be a great opportunity for all brothers new and old to learn and polish up your work.

April 19 is our Family Night at the Lodge. We are planning on a burger and hot dog cook-out with side dishes and desserts brought by the members, so bring your dishes with a picnic theme in mind (even though we will eat indoors). Remember that for this meal the men are to do all the cooking and cleaning. Many of you are quite accomplished cooks and we look forward to the culinary delights which you will bring. The burgers and hotdogs will be furnished by the Lodge. Bring all the family and any friends who might be interested in learning more about our fraternity and what we do.

Upcoming at our first Stated meeting on May 10 is the election of officers for next year. This is, of

course, one of the most important meetings of the year. Be sure to be there and help select your officers.

⇒ *If you are receiving this issue of Trestle Board by snail mail and would like to get it by email, please respond to:*

**[ringoa@mchsi.com](mailto:ringoa@mchsi.com)**

## **FROM THE SOUTH:**

**BEST WISHES FOR THIS SEASON OF RETROSPECTION AND RENEWAL!** Did you miss the fish fry? Right Worshipful Brother Tony Root and Brother Glenn Rosenberg really "put on the ritz" with their fish fry March 22. You cannot find anything better for \$4, brotherhood, shared friendship, laughs, and great food! April brings a month of retrospection and new growth. You can find inspiration for the coming year in your renewal and refreshment of brothers, deeper knowledge and good food. If anybody wants to cultivate their culinary talents or expertise, let me know. See you at the lodge

Bro. Rob Fuqua, JW

## **MASONIC CALENDAR:**

April 2	9:00 am	School of Instruction, Sparta Lodge
April 5	6:30 pm	Practice
April 7	9:00 am	Quarterly Joint Executive Board meeting with Eastern Star
April 12	7:00 pm	Stated communication; no meal
April 19	6:00 pm	Family Night cookout
April 26	7:00 pm	Stated communication; meal at 6:00 pm

*Table Rock Masonic Lodge #680,  
A.F. & A.M. Kimberling City, MO*

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Freemasonry, which is often call "the craft," is founded upon architectural metaphors. Complex symbols and tenets reveal a confluence of many sources. From its perceived origins in medieval Europe, (and by some learned scholars, all the way back to Seth), up to the present day, Freemasonry's history reflects the continual use of new techniques and tools to illustrate its tenets. Since the founding of the first grand lodge in London in 1717, Freemasonry has spread from England throughout the world and now includes people of all faiths, (that believe in God) races, talents and classes. Judeo-Christian teachings, stonemasons' regulations, and the Enlightenment philosophy have had a profound effect on the creation and development of Freemasonry. The Masonic fraternity borrows the concept of wisdom and the tenet of brotherly love from Judeo-Christian teachings. The concept of strength and the tenet of relief come from the stonemasons' guilds. Freemasonry owes its beauty and the tenet of truth to the Enlightenment.

A product of Western civilization, Freemasonry is grounded on Judeo-Christian foundations. When four London Masonic lodges formally organized in 1717, English society was beginning to recover from religious, sectarian and political strife. Some two centuries had passed since Henry VII's fateful decision to break with the Church of Rome, and the intervening years had witnesses warfare and bloodshed. Seeking a means to reestablish unity, Freemasons sought to avoid theological and political differences by subscribing to a viewpoint that supported a universal affirmation of man's dependence on God, the existence of an afterlife, and the wisdom conveyed through Holy Scripture and evident in the designs of nature. To join a Masonic lodge, a man was obliged to respect "that religion in which all men agree, leaving their particular opinions to themselves." (Freemasonry believes that each mans eternal salvation is his own responsibility, but everyone must express a belief in God before he can be made a Freemason.) The first generation of European Freemasons established an important precedent by allowing Jews and Christians of many denominations to enter the lodge and become fraternal brothers. From the fraternity's founding in Protestant England, its principle of universal religious toleration expanded as the organization grew. Because of its spirituality, Freemasonry is frequently described as "a brotherhood of man, under the Fatherhood of God." This spiritual aspect allowed men "to meet on the level" of equality", "act on the plumb" of character and "part on the square" of virtue.

During the medieval age, stone masons or "operative masons" were the primary builders of cathedrals, churches, palaces, and castles thus earning the trust and protection of nobility. They organized into guilds and in the 1300s, drew up rules or "charges" that required them to be faithful Christians and loyal subjects of the king. They developed grips, hand shakes and signs with which to identify themselves and prevent unworthy men of invading their groups. During the late 1500s, the building trade declined and Masons, particularly in Scotland, sought the protection and patronage of the aristocracy. The acceptance of influential gentlemen into the lodge generated broader public interest in Masonry, which led more non-stonemasons to seek membership. With the passage of time, these "accepted" members came to dominate. By 1717, a systematic and rational Masonic organizational movement was underway, the Grand Lodge of England was formed, and Freemasonry flourished throughout the world.

Submitted by Chuck Pittman, Lodge Education Director