



Trestleboard



Nelson C. Bledsoe Lodge #74, F&AM
4830 South Sixth Avenue
Tucson, Arizona 85714

February 2016

Welcome to Nelson C. Bledsoe Lodge

The Friendliest Lodge in Arizona!

Our Stated Meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month starting at 7 p.m. There is dinner preceding the meeting, starting at 6 p.m. There is someone at the lodge every Tuesday night. Different activities take place on these Tuesdays, such as Masonic education & training, informative presentations, ritual practice, or just good ol' fashioned fellowship.



Up Coming Events

02/02/2016	Who are Masons and What do they do?
02/09/2016	Dinner and Stated Meeting
02/16/2016	3rd Degree Practice
02/23/2016	Master Mason Degree
02/24/2016	Start of Rodeo week, see note page 2
03/01/2016	Giving and Getting, be it not a Rusty Nail
03/08/2016	Dinner and Stated Meeting
03/15/2016	
03/22/2016	
03/29/2016	Pot Luck Dinner
04/05/2016	
04/12/2016	Dinner and Stated Meeting
04/19/2016	
04/26/2016	

FROM THE EAST

WB Martin Jones, PM

Worshipful Master

It's February again and you know what that means: it's Rodeo Time. We will be parking cars again this year. Wednesday, February 24, the lot will be prepared. We will meet at the lodge at 8 am. We still need some help directing cars in the parking lot during the Rodeo. On Thursday, February 25, the parking lot will open at around 4:30 am. Thursday is an early day because of the Rodeo Parade. Friday, Saturday and Sunday the parking lot will open at 6:00 am. and will remain open until the last car leaves (well, maybe). Six to eight people are needed to work the parking lot each day. Come out and spend some time with your Brothers, and if you're going to the Rodeo or parade, please consider parking at the lot.

Please recommend that your friends and neighbors park in our lot, too.

February 23rd we will be putting on a 3rd degree and need some able-bodied men to assist in doing the work.

We are also taking on some projects to improve the Lodge building and grounds and can use some help with labor and materials.

Please remember to bring in your aluminum cans; they do make a difference. The purchase of the new aprons was accomplished with funds earned through the recycling of cans.

FROM THE SOUTH

WB Ron Allen, PM

Junior Warden

FRIENDSHIP

I never considered a difference of opinion in politics, in religion, in philosophy, as cause for withdrawing from a friend.
- Thomas Jefferson

One of the people I most admire is Thomas Jefferson. Yes, I'm talking about the member of our lodge. But I'm also talking about the third President of the United States, author of the Declaration of Independence, founder of the University of Virginia, and the man who left his personal library to start the Library of Congress. Although there is no proof that this Jefferson was ever initiated into the masonic fraternity, his words remain thought provoking, especially in dealing with everyday life.

As masons, we pledge ourselves to the ideals of friendship, brotherly love and affection. When we utter those words in lodge, I often think about this quote. I have many friends in the masonic fraternity with whom I share common opinions. I enjoy the opportunities to spend time with them. But I also have many friends in the masonic fraternity with whom it would appear - on the surface - that I share no common views. So why are they still friends?

I think the reason is precisely what Jefferson was getting at with his quote. While I may disagree with a brother's opinion on an issue, his favorite in an election, or even in his idea of just who the Supreme Being really is, I KNOW that, because he is a brother, that the deeper values of honesty, good faith, compassion, grace and mercy all exist in him. This is the reason why we investigate applicants and why we go through a multi-level initiation process. I know that I can depend on a brother - because his is a brother - should he ever need me, and I hope that I measure up to the ideal that I will be there when a brother needs me. I know that because he is a mason, my brother's opinions, while different from mine, are held in good faith, and therefore deserving of my respect, just as much he respects mine. My brother is my friend.

So as we go through life and election cycles, will I have opinions different from my brothers? Yes. Will I continue to argue with them over the issues of the day? Definitely. But will I ever say that my brother is not worthy of my friendship because of differently-held opinions? Absolutely not. (Besides, to quote a past Grand Master, I CAN be wrong). In sum, if you have the chance, please come to lodge. Not just for the important business of extending the ideals of Freemasonry, but also so we can share the friendship and the ideals that our fraternity is all about, even if we disagree on other issues. Because, as Thomas Jefferson also said:

But friendship is precious, not only in the shade, but in the sunshine of life; and thanks to a benevolent arrangement, the greater part of life is sunshine.

LODGE NEWS

- A by-law change is on the table. At the February stated meeting we will be voting to change the number of stated meetings we are required to hold from 10 to 12, reinstating stated meetings in July and August. Please make yourself available to vote on this measure.

- Over \$10,000 was raised from yard sales from 2011-2016. A special thanks to Brother Bob Jenkins for all his hard work organizing and running the sales. We will continue to have yard sales throughout this year. Please contact WM Martin Jones or Brother Bob Jenkins (520-991-0905) to arrange for pick-up of donations.

- At January's Stated Meeting monies were allocated by the voting members to replace the tables and chairs in the dining room. The new furniture looks very nice - a special thanks to for WB Wes Stokes and Brother Bob Jenkins for getting them delivered. In addition, ground work for the remodeling of the bathrooms at the lodge has been laid. Donations are being accepted specifically for the improvement of those facilities. Thanks to Anahuac Lodge #84 for their assistance in these projects, and a special thanks to WBs Richard Morales, PM and Bill Grimes, PM for heading up these projects.

- Anahuac #81 information can be obtained from WM Carlos Tolsa, PM at 520-940-1504

UPON THE SQUARE

Knocking thrice upon the door
Entering in but stopped once more
Through two pillars I was sent
Across a checkered floor I went

Up a staircase I did rise
In this chamber there were no lies
Towards three ruffians I did go
But at the last was met with woe

In a shallow grave I would lay
A sprig of Acacia to show the way
'Round and 'Round the marchers sing
Then risen by an Earthly King

By the compass and the square
If brother in need I'll be there

Mark A Trivett PM

By Permission

Contribution by
WB Bill Grimes
Past Master NCR #74

FROM THE FESTIVE TABLE

WB Ron Allen, PM

Junior Warden

Brethren, Scheduled meals for February are:

February 2: Meatball subs

February 9: Chicken cordon bleu

February 16: Chinese chicken salad

February 23: Another group is preparing

Rodeo: Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday we will provide lunch, Thursday and Saturday we will do breakfast as well

To date, there have been no complaints about the food, God rest their souls.

Come on down and trv it out!

FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

WB Wes Stokes, PM

Secretary

Brethren,

Just a quick note: If you have not signed up for our Trestleboard and other notices concerning the Lodge, and have the ability to receive email, PLEASE send your email address to me at jwstokes@cox.net. You will be saving the lodge money in postage and will receive any newsletter and other notices quicker and more efficiently. My thanks to all who have already provided this information. Also, look for the 2016 dues notices, which have already been mailed out. You will notice that the dues are \$5.00 higher than last year. At our last Grand Lodge Communication in June, it was voted to allow a \$5.00 hike in Grand Lodge per capita. The new dues amount, which includes all per capita, is \$105.00. One last thing: the lodge must pay per capita on all members, whether they pay annual dues or are perpetual members. Half of our members are perpetual, so if you are a perpetual member, it would really help out the lodge if you could pay the per capita on your membership, which is \$33.00. If you are having difficulties paying your dues because of the current economic situation or other form of hardship, contact me - we can always work out something. Thank you and I hope to see you all in lodge soon. Things are happening!

MASONIC BIRTHDAYS FOR JANUARY

Sorry, Brothers, for not getting your names in the January Trestleboard. I am working hard on getting with the program.

Lewis Mitchell 01/19/1999 17 Years

Paul Diaz 01/26/2005 11 Years

A special recognition for George Ouzts, whose Masonic Birthday was 15 January 1956. He passed 28 December 2015, two weeks shy of this special day, during his 59th year as a Mason.

MASONIC BIRTHDAYS FOR FEBRUARY

James Clarida 02/11/1985 31 Years

Larry Parton, Jr 02/16/1993 23 Years

Donald Schauer 02/16/1976 40 Years

George Parker 02/19/2014 2 Years

Rick Schmidt 02/27/1990 26 Years

Ronald Bielak 02/29/1983 33 Years

SCRIPTURAL READINGS

Over the centuries the scripture readings during masonic rituals have been written and enunciated depending on the country of origin or the cultural aspects that influenced its interpretations of that period.

For example - "*Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding.*" But always with reverence, and an obligation of the brother charged to perform this duty, to the best of his abilities impart to the candidate a moral code to which he must endeavor to the best of his abilities to ever act and walk.

So in conclusion my brothers, may I say that we all endeavor to act and walk by the same moral code and obligations we first took in beginning our journey into one oldest fraternities of the world: Freemasonry.

*Example taken from *The Bible and the Square*, Bro. William Akerman, Montreal, 1875

Contribution by
Brother Robert Ribbeck
Chaplin NBC #74

2016 LODGE OFFICERS

Worshipful Master –Martin T. Jones, PM....360-7740
Senior Warden – Andrew Klos
Junior Warden – Ronald Allen, PM.....204-1902
Secretary – Wes Stokes, PM.....207-0131
Treasurer – Bobbie Creech, PM.....298-7175
Chaplain – Robert Ribbeck
Senior Deacon – Terry Godoy
Junior Deacon – George Parker
Senior Steward – Eduardo Medina
Junior Steward – Jacob Payne
Marshal – Bill Grimes, PM
Tyler – Bob Jenkins

TRUSTEES

1-year Trustee – Rick Schmidt, PM
2-year Trustee – Bill Grimes, PM
3-year Trustee – Robert Eck, PM

LODGE CONTACT

Wes Stokes, PM, Secretary
Nelson C. Bledsoe Lodge #74
4830 South Sixth Avenue
Tucson, AZ 85714
520-207-0131

MILITARY DEGREE TEAM

UPCOMING DEGREES

You may have seen some dates for the AMDT. Some dates have been changed or canceled due to scheduling conflicts.

Perfect Ashlar #12, Bisbee, to be done at Mt Moriah # 19 in Douglas, has been postponed.

Arizona #2, Phoenix has been postponed

Scottsdale #43 on Thursday March 10, 2016

Saturday April 9, 2016 the town of Gilbert, AZ is dedicating a replica of the Viet Nam wall.

WB Wes Stokes, PM
Director of the AMDT
4830 South Sixth Avenue
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520-207-0131

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

AFFIX POSTAGE
HERE

WOULD YOU PREFER TO RECEIVE YOUR TRESTLEBOARD ELECTRONICALLY? IF SO, CONTACT WM MARTIN JONES