

FEBRUARY 2008

Brethren,

Last year while serving with the Air Force, I ran into a man who called himself a Mason. But by all accounts, he did not live up to our beliefs. He was not known to be a hard working, trust-worthy, or reliable. He did not take his profession seriously and when he finally got caught at something, he chose to retire rather than stand like a man and face his punishment.

Later, when he found out that I too, was a Mason, he attempted to treat me Masonically with handshakes and signs; touting Masonic lines; and so forth. Then, he asked me to help him return to service with the military. Obviously, with his history, this put me in a bit of a bind.

Had it not been for our "Masonic connection", I would have never even considered helping this individual. So, I felt torn. Masonry teaches us to help others - especially our brothers. And this thought went through my mind for quite a while. But then a motto came to mind... one the Air Force used several years ago; one that actually made sense; one that stuck with me over time.

"Do the Right Thing for the Right Reasons."

I knew the right thing to do and after a little more reflection, I made my choice. After all, this person had proved himself unworthy as both a Mason AND a service member. The loyalty I felt because he was a brother was, for all intents and purposes, mis-placed. Nowhere in our obligations does it say that we should break the law or bend the rules to help a brother. Instead, we're taught obey the laws of our country and help a brother only if our cable-tow allows. To me, the above Air Force motto should be a Masonic one. If "helping a brother" causes you to conceal something, break the rules, or even disobey the law - you're probably not doing the right thing. Or, as my father used to say, "if you can't tell me about it or have to do it behind my back - you're doing something wrong." Hmpf... guess my old man was right. Just do me a favor and don't let him know that... 'cause I'll never hear the end of it.

In looking back at the above situation, I started to wonder why such a seemingly easy decision became so difficult for me. At least in my case (and maybe in your own experience too), I believe it comes from one of the qualities that most Masons share - the desire to help others. I knew nothing of Masonry when I joined the lodge. But during my informative years, it was my father's teachings that helped raise me to be who I am. That guidance taught me to care for others, help those in need, do the right thing, and stand up for what's right. The U.S. Air Force honed those qualities. When I became a Mason, I was pleasantly surprised to find that those same qualities were the basis of our brotherhood. Without the caring, compassion, and empathy we are no different than any other man. It's what sets us apart. And for that, I am thankful.

So, long story short, I did not help this person re-join my service and to this day, I feel like I made the right choice. Please remember that if you ever find yourself questioning your conduct while trying to help a brother - think it through carefully. Or seek out another brother and bounce your thoughts off them. But whatever decisions you make, be sure to do the right thing for the right reasons.

"Rocky" Moroz,
Worshipful Master

Your appearance at our regular meetings is earnestly solicited, yet it is not meant that Masonry should interfere with your necessary vocation, for these are on no account to be neglected.

MOST WORSHIPFUL JOHN S. RYAN

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RIGHT WORSHIPFUL CRAIG M. APPLEBAUM

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Grand Lodge Web Site: njfreemasonry.org
District Web Site: www.22nddistrictnjmasons.org
Lodge Web Site: www.mastermason.com/shekinah58

My Brother,

You are cordially invited to attend the following communications:

REGULAR COMMUNICATIONS:

Friday, February 1, 2008 - 7:30 PM *DINNER - 6:30pm*****

- Refreshments, Business Meeting

EMERGENT COMMUNICATIONS:

8 February, 2008 - 7:30pm (refreshments at 6:30pm) - The Entered Apprentice Degree will be conferred on: Mr. Ronald J. Charlesworth, Mr. Mathew L. Stabile, and Mr. Michael A. Scherbekow.

29 February, 2008 - 7:30pm (dinner at 6:30pm): The Master Mason Degree will be conferred on: Brother Fellow Craft Joel D. Watson.

OFFICERS REHEARSAL:

All Officers are required to attend

Dates: February 5, 7, 12, 19, 21, 26, 28

Time: 7pm sharp! In by 7pm - finished by 8pm!

DATES TO REMEMBER:

13 February, 2008 - 7:30pm: District Lodge of Instruction; Vineland #69.

14 February, 2008 - All Day: Valentine's Day. *Nothing going on Masonically - but if you forget, you'll never hear the end of it! So, I added this as a public service reminder.*

20 February, 2008 - 6:30pm: Master Mason Night. Shekinah Chapter #82, OES will host their annual Master Mason Night. Dinner at 6:30 PM; Meeting at 7:30 PM. All Master Masons welcome.

7 March, 2008 - 7:30pm: Official visit of the DDGM; Shekinah. Dinner 6:30pm.

8 March, 2008 - 11am to 1pm: Shekinah Sub Sale. See officers for tickets. Work party Friday after regular meeting and again Saturday morning. Volunteers needed both days!

5 April, 2008 - 4pm: Annual Phoenixville Trip. Contact Bro. Bill Johnson for tickets (856) 825-1042.

17 & 18 April, 2008 - All Day: Annual Communication of Grand Lodge, Atlantic City, NJ.

2 May, 2008 - 7:30pm: The Delaware Colonials will exemplify the Fellow Craft Degree at Shekinah Lodge.

Attest: Ronald N. Spiels, PGC, Sec'y



SHEKINAH LODGE WEBSITE:

<http://www.mastermason.com/shekinah58>

"Where you can find past trestleboards, photos, and events."

THE MASONIC SERVICE ASSOCIATION EVENTS

New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home, Vineland, NJ

Please contact Richard Reynolds if you can assist at any of these events - 696-5038.

CHAPEL ESCORT - EVERY SUNDAY AT 9:30am

BINGO - (5:30 to 8:30pm) - Contact Rich Reynolds for dates.