



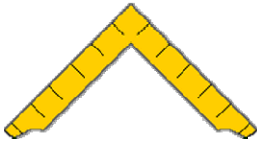
# The Trestle Board

Sinclair Masonic Lodge #154 AFM



September 2009

## From the East:



### *Notes from the 2009 Worshipful Master*

Worshipful Master Steve Powers

### Our Masonic Responsibilities (Continued)

Brethren,

As promised we will continue with "Our Masonic Responsibilities:

We have a Responsibility to the Lodge  
 Every member of an organization has a duty and responsibility to the organization to which he belongs. So many receive the three degrees and then for what ever reason forget all about the lodge. They seldom, if ever return to the Lodge. They seem to feel that it is somebody else's responsibility to keep the Lodge going. For a brother to forget the Lodge that gave him his Masonic birth is like a son who would forget his mother that gave him physical birth. Suppose no one attended Lodge meetings any more than you do, nor showed any more interest than you do, what would have happened to your Lodge? Would it still be in existence? During the first degree a charge is given to you and I quote " Although your frequent appearance at our regular meetings is earnestly solicited, yet it is not meant that Masonry should interfere with your necessary vocations, for these are on no account to be neglected." It seems that some interpret this to mean that it is all right for anything and everything to interfere with their Masonry. Often times it is the dedication and devotion of a few in a lodge of two or three hundred that keep the lodge alive and active. You may feel that you have little or nothing to contribute, this

could not be farther from the truth.

Your attendance, means something to the candidates or brothers that are receiving their degrees, as well as it should to you. An old timer whose income was ferrying passengers across a river was asked, "How many times a day do you cross the river?" He replied, " I go as often as I can. The more I go the more I get. If I don't go, I don't get." So it is with attending Lodge meetings. The more we go, the more we get out of our Lodge membership. If we don't go, we don't get. Masonic Responsibility Goes Beyond The Lodge. A Mason's obligation to practice Masonry goes farther than with just Masons. They are to practice within the bounds of the Lodge, What are the real bounds of the Lodge? "A Lodge is said, symbolically, to extend in length from the east to the west; in breadth, from north to south; in height, from the earth to the highest heavens; in depth, from the surface to the center. A Lodge is said to be of these vast dimensions to denote the universality of Masonry, and to teach us that a Mason's charity should be equally as extensive. Basically, the Lodge is a symbol of the world. Our responsibility goes beyond the Lodge.

Steve Powers W.M.  
Sinclair Masonic Lodge #154



## Cave Degree

Tennessee 2009

Recently Brothers WB John "Spanky" Bearden, Dean Strickland, Luther Baker, JW Stanley and Acy Flora went to the 2009 Cave Degree in Kingston Tennessee at Eblems cave. We received wonderful hospitality from Union Lodge #38 F & AM in Kingston, Tennessee, which organized this event.

On August 14<sup>th</sup>, (Friday night) we saw an EA Degree conferred on Michael Lee Clardy by Bailey Lodge #146, Greenville, SC. The brothers of this lodge did a wonderful job and represented our State and all Ancient Free Masons in this state very well. The Grand Master MW Barry A. Rickman and several other Grand Lodge Officers were in attendance. At the EA degree there were 256 brethren in a lodge room not much bigger than our very own. There were 127 lodges represented, 18 states, and 4 countries (USA, Canada, Germany, and the Philippines).

Brother Luther Baker received the Yellow Dog degree. Which is a degree used as a fundraiser for the windows and organs fund of the Tennessee Grand Lodge and is conferred by one of their Past Grand Masters.

On August 15<sup>th</sup>, (Saturday morning) there was a called meeting of the Tall Cedars of Lebanon which some of the traveling brothers attended and were fortunate enough to meet Supreme Tall Cedar James W. Reed and his party.

The traveling brothers received the Yellow Dog Degree and then it was off to the cave.

At the cave a MM degree was conferred on Sahad Nabivi by a degree team from Florida comprised of brethren from the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Masonic districts. There were 336 brethren representing 170 lodge, 21 states and 4 countries (USA, Canada, Germany, and the Philippines). The Florida work is a little different than ours but still very beautiful and the degree team did a wonderful job.

We have already started to talk about next year and plans are already being made. Please come and travel with us next year. We had plenty of fun and fellowship. The details for 2010 are as follows:

**August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2010 – EA Degree**  
**by Palmer Lodge #372, Fort Erie, Ontario**  
**August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2010 – Tennessee MM Degree**  
**by Hiram Lodge #7**  
**Civil War Reinactors Degree Team**

## Pictures from the Cave Degree



## From the West:



### *Notes from the 2009 Senior Warden*

Brother Richard Gates

A Fraternity is defined as, a group of persons associated by or as if by ties of brotherhood, unity and goodwill. Besides the Masonic work that is performed, we must accomplish many other tasks. Thank you to all those Brothers that participated in the August 27 Lodge Maintenance degree. The burning tapers received much needed attention. The Lodge received a much needed cleaning. Thanks to the Rainbow girls, they had taken care of cleaning the upstairs. "Thank you" to Worshipful Steve Powers for pointing me in the direction of the jungle that was growing on the South side of our Lodge. Much care was taken in the removal of the poison ivy and I did not experience the allergic reaction that I had expected. I did expect to find a vast arrangement of dangerous, teeth baring, poisonous wildlife living there. None of which presented themselves. I was not disappointed.

At times, I wonder how my mind works with all the daily stress of job related functions that I am involved. There is change that has taken place over the years regarding a man's reliability and personal dedication to a job well done. The self-motivation is simply not there. In every man, there must be a firm foundation to rest upon regardless of the physical and emotional storms we must face. His convictions must be straightforward and true. It has been said that Masonry makes good men better. We have heard and read many stories of how Masonry has positively affected and even changed the lives of both the Mason and non-mason alike. Our belief in God is well founded. God, my Family, and Masonry are my foundation. I have defiantly concluded that by aligning myself with Masons I can have faith in their ethics and judgment in the work place and thus establish a firm foundation as an employer.

I watched a movie recently that has been out for quite some time. "Pay it forward", about an eleven-year-old boy that as a class project attempts to do good to three persons with the promise that they must pay the deed forward to at least three others. In the movie, this project turns into a movement of which spreads all over the world. In my mind's eye, I thought; that is Masonry. Regardless of a man's social status or personal wealth, we must and are bound by an oath to deliver relief to a worthy distressed Brother.

God has directed us to love each man as our Brother. Therefore, by our charity and willing to offer a helping hand to one another, we spread the meaning of what is to be a Mason. If you are on the receiving end of this charity, Please pay it forward.

Richard Gates  
Senior Warden

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Business Meeting

Place: Sinclair Masonic Lodge

Date: September 3rd, 2009

Time: 6:45 PM

Eat at 6:45. Gavel Drops at 7:30. Hope to see you there!

### Entered Apprentice Degree

Place: Sinclair Masonic Lodge

Date: September 10th, 2009

Time: 6:30 PM

EA Degree (Note: Tentative Pending Ballot)

### 8<sup>th</sup> District Inspirational

Place: Cayce Masonic Lodge

Date: September 11th, 2009

Time: 6:30 PM

Meal and Guest Speaker MW Barry A. Rickman

### Fellow Craft Degree

Place: Sinclair Masonic Lodge

Date: September 17, 2009

Time: 6:30 PM

FC Degree (Note: Tentative Pending Ballot)

### Master Mason Degree

Place: Sinclair Masonic Lodge

Date: September 24th, 2009

Time: 6:30 PM

MM Degree (Note: Tentative Pending Ballot)

### Business Meeting and Grand Master Official Visit

Place: Sinclair Masonic Lodge

Date: September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2009

Time: 6:45 PM

Eat at 6:45. Gavel Drops at 7:30. Hope to see you there!

### Business Meeting and DDGM Official Visit

Place: Sinclair Masonic Lodge

Date: October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009

Time: 6:45 PM

Eat at 6:45. Gavel Drops at 7:30. Hope to see you there!

### Ladies Night

Place: Sinclair Masonic Lodge

Date: November 7<sup>th</sup> 2009

Time: TBD

Bring your lady and come enjoy in the fellowship and a great meal.

## From the South:



*Notes from the 2009 Junior Warden*

Brother Bill Rentiers

Brothers,

September is a special month. Not only have our children started back to school, but we also have less than 120 days left in the year. 2009 is flying by. There are still many important things ahead.

Sinclair lodge will have our Grand Master visit on September 3<sup>rd</sup>. (Some Sinclair Brothers met the evening of October 27<sup>th</sup> to clean up the lodge in preparation for the visit.) Our Ladies Night is planned for November 7<sup>th</sup> (We plan to serve steak, baked potatoes, salad and a dessert). And, there's still some fundraising to do this year.

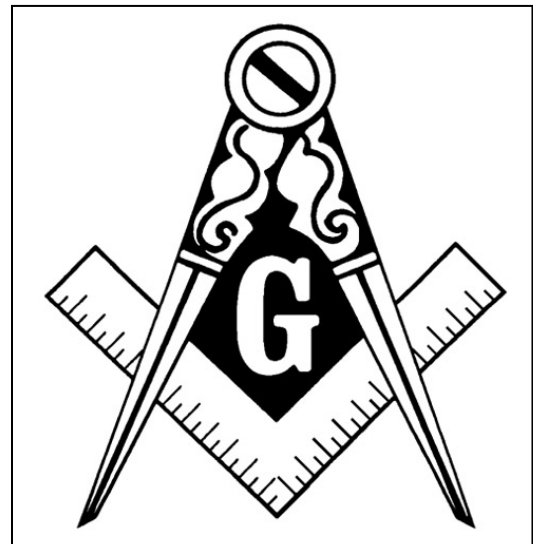
As Jr. Warden, my Stewards and I have done our utmost to work as a team to prepare good meals and run the kitchen efficiently. I have the greatest appreciation for the hard work and teamwork of Brothers Will and JW, as well as the thoughtful assistance from W. Brothers Ed Lown and John Bearden, in making Sinclair meals some of the best found in our district. Truly, there is a wealth of learning and brotherly love found in Sinclair's kitchen.

If any brother has suggestions for meals they would like to see served during the remaining months of this year, please feel free to pull me or one of the Stewards aside and share your suggestion with us. If we can prepare your suggestion in a delicious and cost effective manner, we would certainly like to give it a try.

Bill Rentiers  
Junior Warden

## Cookbooks:

Don't forget we have plenty of cook books for sale. They are \$15 each and make a great gift for every occasion.



## Website:

For the most up to date information please visit our website:  
<http://www.mastermason.com/sinclairmasoniclodge/>

To be included on the Sinclair email list please email the secretary your email address. [sparky154@gmail.com](mailto:sparky154@gmail.com)

## Newsletter:

If you would like to see something added to the newsletter or would like to contribute anything. Please contact Acy Flora or email [acflora@bellsouth.net](mailto:acflora@bellsouth.net).

PRAYER LIST:

- Mr Bill Price - father of Marcia Watford.
- Miss Payton Owens - a 3 year old battling some health problems.
- Linda Willams - wife of Brother Frank Williams.
- Bro Frank Sivik is in the Augusta VA hospital with heart problems. We are told that he has 2 major blockages.
- Mary Skelton, wife of late Bro. Sam Skelton and mother of Bro. Bennie Skelton. She is 81 years old, a diabetic with failing eye sight, living alone. Masonic visits are appreciated.
- Please keep the wife of Bro. Curtis W. Wright in your prayers.
- Mary Janette Elliott, mother of Shelton Elliott, is in Lexington Hospital Room 520 with fluid around her lungs.
- Please keep David Easley and his family in your prayers.
- Brother Frank Sivik is facing the possibility of a second heart surgery.
- Elizabeth Reese Wallington, niece of WM Steve Powers.
- Please keep the family of our departed brother EJ Self in your prayers.
- Bro. Riley Thomas is having health problems. Please keep him in your prayers.
- Please keep Beth Powers, wife of WM Steve Powers in your prayers. She is having health problems.
- Please keep Mrs. Bennie Jackson in your prayers. She is now living in Spartanburg with her son, still having some health problems but doing ok.
- Please pray for Candy Powers, sister in law of WM Steve Powers, who is having health problems.

If you would like to add someone to the prayer list please send an email to: [rentiers@yahoo.com](mailto:rentiers@yahoo.com).



September Birthdays!  
Happy Birthday!



James Winston Davis, Sr.	1st
Christopher Lance Still	2nd
Steven Forest Putnam	2nd
Wade Griffin Jones, Sr.	3rd
William Jerry Southerlin	4th
Dewey Edwin Crawford	5th
Julius Heyward Brown	5th
Jimmy Oxford Still	7th
Walter B Sloan	7th
John Albert Bearden	10th
Lewis Hagen Dooley, Jr.	10th
Thomas Edward Satterfield	12th
Fred Eugene Ott	13th
Harold McLean Bryant	14th
Stancel Edward Kirkland	14th
Mabry Cann Williams	15th
Jack LaVerne Harmon, Jr.	16th
Steven Mark Hammond	16th
Robert Elford Livingston	18th
Darrell Nelson Newsome, Jr.	20th
James Bennie Skelton	20th
Carroll Martin Hutchinson	21st
Frank Lindler Strickland	21st
Julian Lemuel Sox	21st
Shelton Marshall Elliot, Jr.	22nd
Abram Cline Flora	25th
Millard Bessenger	27th
Johnny Kyle Starnes	28th
Robert Garrison Monts	28th
Robert Wayne Caughman	28th