

Many of you are wondering, I'm sure, what happened to your February Trestleboard that you get in the mail. The reason we were not able to publish it in a timely manner and get it in the mail is due to another "unsung hero" of the Lodge, W. Bro. Bill Martin. W. Bro. Bill usually gets our newsletter printed, labeled and to the Post Office for us. I regret to inform you that W.

Many of you are wondering, I'mBro. Bill was involved in a verysure, what happened to yourserious automobile accident at theFebruary Trestleboard that youfirst of February and has beenget in the mail. The reason wehospitalized.

I was told today that Bill had to have a leg amputated due to poor circulation. I can only pray that this will be the only surgery necessary and that he will make a speedy recovery.

Having been in a life-or-death

situation, I can tell you first hand that the experience is not only freighting, but life changing (in more ways than one)...

FROM THE EAST

FROM THE WEST

IT'S A SIGN (OR

SETTING THE WORK

TWO)

3

3

8

8

I will try to keep everyone posted on his condition, but would urge everyone to keep W. Bro. Bill, as well as his brother, W. Bro. Paul and their families in your daily devotions. More information will follow.

## FAMOUS MASONS: BRO. JOHN JAY



Chief Justice John Jay Portrait by Gilbert Stuart John Jay (December 12, 1745 – May 17, 1829) was an American politician, statesman, revolutionary, diplomat, a Founding Father of the United States, President of the Continental Congress from 1778 to 1779 and, from 1789 to 1795, the first Chief Justice of the United States. During and after the American Revolution, he was a minister (ambassador) to Spain and France, helping to fashion United States foreign policy and to secure favorable peace terms from the British (the Jay Treaty) and French. He co-wrote the Federalist Pa-

pers with Alexander Hamilton and James Madison. As leader of the new Federalist Party, Jay was Governor of New York from 1795 to 1801 and became the state's leading opponent of slavery. His first two attempts to pass emancipation legislation failed in 1777 and 1785, but the third succeeded in 1799. The new law he signed into existence eventually saw the emancipation of all New York slaves before his death.

For more information, visit: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John\_Jay

# Masonic Education: Moving into the 21st Century (part I - cont.)



Light from M.S.A. of N.A.

### Moving Masonry into the 21st Century third of a series

#### <u> Part I – Introduction</u>

"Change is the one constant and Freemasons have done little to keep pace with change." - MIC Task Force

### <u>Part II - Facing the</u> <u>Facts and Accepting</u> <u>the Challenge</u>

"Freemasonry evolved from 18th century European enlightened thinking. Today, Masonry is shaped by the 19th century concept of social benevolence and the 20th century emphasis • People no longer join the way they used to.

Joining is no longer fashionable. Clearly true. In his book Bowling Alone, Robert Putnam conclusively shows that people simply do not join organizations as they did in the past. Since the World War II generation, volunteering (which is what we do when we join an organization) has become almost nonexistent. Every fraternal organization, many religious denominations, service clubs, and community organizations such as the PTA/ PTO have all suffered membership declines.

While these are valid reasons (yes, they did contribute to a decline in membership), we have failed to accept the fact that the world is a different place than it was in the 1940s and 1950s. If you live in a metropolitan area, your 15-minute commute time to work is now 50 minutes—if you are lucky. We spend more time going to and from work than ever before. Current lifestyles often require two spouse incomes. Family time is squeezed into the evenings and very often the children have their own activities. The technology explosion has provided a source for entertainment/ activity that competes with any organization requiring a time commitment. In short, change is the one constant. What have Freemasons done to keep pace with change? Very little!

Isn't it about time to be realistic about our membership statistics? Population figures in North America for the last 50 years have soared. At the same time membership figures for the Masonic population have dropped. This can only mean that Masons have simply not kept pace with our changing lifestyles. For example, communications technology has exploded-cell phone vs. landline; PC vs. typewriter; e-mail vs. regular mail. While these kinds of changes surround everyone living in a modern world, Freemasons still grouse about any increase in dues or per capita. It is time to readjust our thinking and come to realize

that both time and money are necessary factors in creating a quality organization.

Resisting and denying change

With few exceptions over the last several decades, we have been content to listen to excuses, avoiding examination of the complicated set of changes that has weakened Masonry's relevance to our contemporary lives. Even today, we want to think of "loss of membership" as our major problem. This report argues that membership loss is not the major problem. In fact, our study asks that we shift our thinking to consider our loss of membership as merely a symptom of the problem.

Based upon its study, the Task Force proposes that our core problem is twofold:

Loss of Masonic identity

Lack of energy invested in Masonry through everyday life.

Continued on pages 4-7

#### Page 3

# FROM THE SECRETARY - BOSIE MARTIN, P.M.

When the going gets tough... On the cover of this newsletter, I gave a brief report on W. Bro. Bill Martin. I am proud to say that a group of Brothers got together at his home on Saturday, Feb. 27.

Bro. Richard Prudence had made arrangements to get materials for the repair of his roof and we provided the labor to install a wheel-chair ramp for Bro. Bill.

It was a beautiful day made even more so by the coming together of the Brethren to assist our Brother. W. Bro. Bill is in great spirits and will make it through this difficult time, but right now, he just needed a little help.

How good and how pleasant it was for the members who gathered to help out. As usual, the "old timers" had the knowledge to lay the foundation and map out the plan to make sure the repairs were level and plumb. They kept mentioning a need for weak minds and strong backs, which they were able to find quite easily in the younger crowd (myself included)...

We were treated to a scrumptious meal of sandwiches, eggs, pickles and chips (more than you could eat), soft drinks and wonderful hospitality.

I was not able to stay for the completion of the project, but it was great having sufficient help to get the job done as well as the know-how to make it happen.

My thanks go to everyone who was able to assist, and especially to Bro. Richard for getting the materials at no cost to W. Bro. Bill or the Lodge. Get well soon, Brother Bill and again, thanks to all!

Fraternally,

Bro. Bosie



Bro. Bosie Martin P.M., Secretary





GOD BLESS AMERICA

# FROM THE WEST - BILL YANDLE, S.W.

#### Brethren,

I would like to thank all of you for voting me into the office of Senior Warden. I am looking forward to serving you as such. I am grateful that you have the confidence in me to fill the position. I will be looking to those who have served as Past Masters for the strength and knowledge to serve Pacific 325 in this time of learning. I will do my best to strengthen and support the Worshipful Master in his duties. I hear Brothers say, "you get out of Masonry what you put into it", I can tell you from

experience that you do. I have been very happy participating in the work of the Lodge that I travel to other Lodges to do the same. I encourage everyone to do the same. I get a sense of accomplishment out of helping other Brothers start their Masonic Journey. To the Brothers that have been absent from the Lodge, please take this as an invitation to come see your Brothers and enjoy a great meal and fellowship. We have two new Brothers who just started their journey, please come out and participate in passing and raising these guys.

The Master has put out a "charge" to the Brothers to learn small parts of the work, if anyone needs help, please call me or another officer to get the help to make Pacific 325 the Lodge it truly is. Take up your Working Tools of Life and make yourself a better man in the eyes of your maker. Good luck to all, and look forward to seeing you in the Lodge soon.

Bro. Bill Yandle:

Senior Warden



HUNGRY!

ON THE WEB WWW.PACIFIC325.ORG

E-MAIL: PACIFIC325@AOL.COM

### RIGHT WORSHIPFUL BROTHER JIM ALLEN OF TEXAS TO REPRESENT DELEGATION AT GRAND LODGE





I was informed that the father of one of our own members, Jim "LaRue" Allen, has been appointed as District Deputy in the Great State (er, Republic) of Texas and will be attending our Grand Lodge as their state's delegation representative. R.W. Bro. Jim has visited Pacific on a number of occasions and he presented his son with a Perpetual Life Membership several years ago. There has been much "gift exchanging" between Pacific Lodge and R.W. Bro. Jim's Lodges (2) our in Texas.

I am looking forward to seeing Right Worshipful Brother Jim as well as his son in the coming months. Bro. Jim has had duties which have kept him away from the Lodge, but he comes when he can, and is always present when his Dad is in town. R.W. Bro. Jim was Past Master and Secretary of Granbury Lodge # 392 A.F. & A.M. when we first met. He later affiliated with Bluffdale Lodge # 724 where he served yet again as Worshipful Master.

The Grand Lodge of Texas, noting his zeal and devotion to the Craft, honored him with an appointment as District Deputy Grand Master. R.W. Bro. Jim was also recently honored in the Texas Scottish Rite in receiving the highest honor that can be bestowed, the 33°, or SGIG, Honorary. I can think of no greater honor, nor one more deserving of this investiture than R.W. Brother Jim, who has devoted his life to Freemasonry.

If you haven't met R.W. Bro. Jim, or his son LaRue (Jim), I would encourage you to come meet them and welcome R.W. back to

# Masonic Education: Moving into the 21st Century (continued...)

This means our fraternity has suffered a loss of Masonic identity as an observable way of life, and our lack of energy invested in Masonry no longer makes the fraternity relevant to our busy contemporary lifestyles. As Masons we have taken our fraternity's identity for granted, and we have allowed the general public to forget how important we are to the fabric of society. We forgot that what we DO for each other, our lodges, and ourselves enriches the quality of life for our families and communities. Only recently has Masonry found a new place in popular culture with the introduction of Dan Brown's book, The DaVinci Code, and the movie, National Treasure. Now we see our public identity positioned in the context of historical fiction. We owe the public more than fiction; we owe them facts, and we owe them our best performance every day. Members ask the familiar questions such as:

Can't we just purchase the solution to our image and membership decline?

Can't we just fix lethargy with a new PR campaign, developed and implemented by outside PR agencies?

It would be convenient if traditional approaches alone would change the status of Freemasonry in the minds of the general public. However, it would be like trying to convince the public that Pepsi without "fizzy" is just as satisfying. We know that it might be a fine drink, but the truth is—it just wouldn't be Pepsi.

Claiming our Masonic identity The Masonic Information Center proposes that Masons must first take ownership of an identity that distinguishes Masonry from other men's organizations. That is a complex but exciting challenge. It is time to face it; Freemasonry is not an off-the-shelf product whose value can be assessed only in quantifiable terms. One Task Force member reminded the group that Masons are not marketing soap or ketchup. Masonry is a process of lifelong learning and discovery that delivers a way of living a principled life, observable in the simplest behaviors, whether at lodge, at home, or in the workplace.

The task facing Masonry is to define our Masonic identity in a rapidly changing world. The public wants to know: Who are the Masons? How do we know them in our lives today? When we can answer these questions, then we can move forward with traditional programs for public relations, marketing communications, membership, and more.

It is about time that we did something as a fraternity for our fraternity—brother by brother, lodge by lodge.

# Masonic Education: Moving into the 21st Century (continued...)

In order to evaluate present-day Freemasonry, we had to assess the Fraternity's strengths and weaknesses. The Task Force proceeded methodically to question Masonry's past, present and future. We asked a series of penetrating questions, listed our findings, and then completed each section with a summary formed by observations and conclusions. In order to properly determine a course of action for a Masonic Public Awareness Program, we believe it imperative that we understand, as a fraternity, where we have been, where we are today, and what happened in the intervening years.

Forthright answers to the questions we posed did not come easily and required an enormous amount of soul searching and critical evaluation.

Much of the data used in this report came from United States sources because those were the ones most readily available and accessible to our Task Force. We have pointed out where data was specifically from a United States source, but we have reason to believe that data from Canada would be almost identical.

For instance, there were no Canadian membership statistics available to us unless we laboriously went through, year by year, the figures from each Grand Lodge to determine if the same trends occurred as in the United States. Because we have had many discussions with Canadian Masons, there is no doubt in the minds of the Task Force that the data trends are the same.

So this report needs to be considered in the context of North America, including the United States and Canada, even though, on occasion, we list a United States source.

Exploring the patterns of Masonry

The deliberations of the Task Force were lengthy and lively. Below are the questions that guided the discussions and the summaries of our findings.

1. What has Freemasonry done in the past?

For a fraternity that is centuries old, this question is extremely significant. It asks how Freemasonry developed and what Masonic affiliation meant to Masons of an earlier time. The Freemasons of the 1700s set a very high standard. In the late 1700s, Freemasons helped build two new nations founded on Masonic principles. Patriots chose to help create the United States; Loyalists chose to help strengthen Canada. Both groups had many Masons in their midst. For detailed information, we turned to the historians on our Task Force who led a review of our Masonic past. The key points and summaries are listed below.

In the past, Freemasonry accomplished the following: 1) Provided camaraderie 2)Created elite status 3) Served as a stepping stone to military, arts, business and social contacts 4)Attracted leaders to its membership

Guilds of Masons (early labor unions) probably originated in Scotland in the 1600s. Early Masons concentrated on the following tasks: 1) Protecting workers' interests 2) Helping Masonic families 3) Operating lodges 4)Opening lodges to non-stonemasons 4) Formally ritualizing the method of creating new members

In colonial America, Freemasonry provided leadership during the American Revolution and throughout the nation's history. It also provided a moral philosophy relevant to the individual and to communities. In early America, Freemasonry: 1) Promoted a philanthropic focus supporting fraternal kinship. 2) Inspired authors to create a body of popular literature, offering satiric views, i.e. Benjamin Franklin and Mark Twain. 3) Stimulated thought consistent with Masonic values. Lodges became sites of Revolutionary debating, responding to contemporary thought.

We looked for historical trends that reshaped our Masonic identity. We found several pivotal events: 1) Freemasonry evolved from 18th century European enlightened thinking. 2) In the late 1800s, Victorian values influenced Masonic priorities both in Europe and North America by placing emphasis on heightening social awareness and stressing social idealism. 3) Twentieth-century Freemasonry sustained Victorian idealism and reinforced philanthropic emphasis of fraternity. 4) During World War II, President Truman said that men should join the Masonic fraternity before going to war, which reinforced a rise in Masonic membership. Masonic tradition became locked in ritual as an end, not as a process. Today Masonry is shaped by the 19th century concept of social benevolence and the 20th century emphasis on ritual as the completion of a Mason's education about the fraternity.

Summary:

Throughout history both European and North American Masonic values consistently influenced people's daily lives by encouraging the right to question existing dogma and by upholding our right to express one's own thoughts and ideas. These values promote toleration of all religious and philosophical views. The fraternity has been a constructive, stabilizing, and enlightening force throughout history.

# Masonic Education: Moving into the 21st Century (continued...)

2. What is currently happening within Freemasonry?

Obviously, this question has no right or wrong answers because—like public opin-ion—it asks for personal perceptions and observations. The Task Force members agreed that there were and are tensions inherent in our organization today, including but not limited to the following perceptions:

There is a slight movement toward wanting to educate the public about the fraternity.

There is recognition that traditional communications tools have failed to heighten public awareness.

The inclusion of family members at Masonic events has produced mixed results.

Masonry is no longer identified as an elite organization.

There are disagreements regarding priorities of financial commitments to Masonic buildings and charitable obligations versus starting new programs.

Current Masons do not understand the true meaning of our fraternity.

A reliance on historic heroes inhibits Masons from achieving contemporary significance.

3. How does the public perceive Freemasonry today?

In today's world of high-speed communications, the public's perception is often based on insufficient information. Research suggests that today more people are impressed by what they see and hear than by what they read. We believe that the public's perception and opinion of Freemasonry can be summarized briefly in the following ways:

Confused. Are the Masons a fraternity, a religious organization or an alternative religion?

Mistaken. Only grandfathers could be in such an old-fashioned organization as Freemasonry.

Oblivious. People are not even aware Masonry still exists.

Summary:

Masons are not visible in the daily life of their communities. Their identity is frequently misunderstood and misrepresented in the press and by religious critics. There is little reserve of positive memories of Masonic activity remaining in our communities. Within eye and ear range of the public, Masons have failed to perform what they profess; consequently, they have lost their significance within the context of community.

4. What is the desired image of Freemasonry?

From our difficult discussions of the current environment in which Freemasonry finds itself, we turned to consider Masonry's identity under ideal circumstances. The model Masonic fraternity would be one that defines itself in terms of thought, energy, and action. Under perfect circumstances, the public would know Masons according to the following observable accomplishments:

Building community based on shared Masonic values

Constructing a positive environment for personal growth

Encouraging education, idea sharing, and open discussion

Welcoming diversity across religious denominations, ethnicity and age

Growing leadership ability

Establishing the relevance of Masonic values to contemporary life

Advocating concern for the well being of other Masons and their families

Ideally, Masons would be defined as members of a fraternity, that fits the following descriptions:

Masonry is a serious men's organization, dedicated to self-improvement coupled with community involvement.

Masonry is a provider of camaraderie, trust in each other, instant fellowship, and brotherhood.

Masonry brings together a group of people who emphasize individual excellence.

Masonry is a provider of an atmosphere of inclusiveness. Masonry is an organization that makes good men better.

Summary:

The model Masonic fraternity member would be easy to identify in the community by his actions and words. Public awareness of Masonry begins at a grassroots level. Masons must be visible in the community to demonstrate Masonic values in many aspects of their lives.

5. What are the benefits of Freemasonry within the context of our 21st century world?

Masonry offers an opportunity for a principled way of life rooted in the following Masonic values:

Integrity Diversity Inquiry Community V	Vitality
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Summary:

Masons are men who build community through brotherhood that is based on a principled lifestyle. A Mason's life is deeply rooted in a system of values. Masonry cannot be kept inside the individual; it is a philosophy of fraternity that must be shared in action through numerous experiences, which are lodge-based, personal, and professional.

6. Who needs to be made aware of the message of Freemasonry?

Freemasonry's significance to our culture is timeless and offers a major stabilizing influence within our communities. The Masonic identity needs to be understood and observed by the following:

The general public, specifically the individuals who seek knowledge about themselves and their humanity

Our existing members

Potential members who need information about the fraternity's benefits

Members of the media community

Religious leaders who need to understand the distinction between Masonry and religion

Civic leaders

7. Whom do we want to attract as potential members?

Masonry is a fraternity not limited by age, ethnicity, race or religious denomination. Masons are individuals who respect a quality of life, which is uniquely fulfilling. Among their many and diverse qualities, Masons are men who:

Seek fulfillment through multiple levels of experience, including body, mind, and spirit

Enjoy brotherhood

Desire a community enriched by participation, dialogue, and inquiry

Are principled, disciplined, and compassionate

Summary: Freemasonry wants to attract fellow journeymen who are seeking enrichment in body, mind, and spirit through participation in a brotherhood committed to good works and personal growth.

8. What is at the core of our fraternity's identity?

Masonry offers opportunity for expressing individuality, but at this critical time in our history, the Task Force strongly recommends that Masonic programs focus their efforts on constructing a fraternal identity that is true to the following themes:

Freemasonry must be lodge-centered, giving members opportunities to express themselves through activities that improve the experience of the lodge and benefit the life of the community.

Freemasonry sustains its viability as a fraternal organization through its performance of Masonic rituals and values. Masonic values guide Masons both in the lodge and through everyday life. As trustees of Masonry's rich and valuable heritage, members must continually invigorate their approach to Masonic participation, making it an experience that is rewarding, enriching, and relevant to its members, their families and the greater community.

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COMING NEXT MONTH: Part III - Taking the next steps and Part IV - Time to energize Masonry



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### WE'RE ON THE WEB

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BOSIE MARTIN, P.M., SECRETARY & WEBMASTER

MASONS IN ACTION

MAKING GOOD MEN BETTER

## IT'S A SIGN (OR TWO)...

While visiting Myrtle Beach Lodge # 353 for a Grand Lodge cornerstone dedication, I was stationed outside the door of the Lodge. Just before you enter the lodge, there is a sign which reads:

### STOP, BROTHER, JUST A MOMENT

"Before you enter this Holy of Holies, ask yourself in your innermost heart, am I duly and truly prepared?" If you will listen you may hear a voice within saying, "It is a Brother desiring admission."

Can you enter this sanctuary this night as indeed, a Brother? Have you divested yourself of garments of hate, envy, jealousy, deceit, hypocrisy and put on the robe of brotherly love ? Can you stand before the Holy Altar, which recalls to your mind memories of by-gone days and looking into the eyes of your Worshipful Master extend a greeting to those about you, "Behold a Brother." SETTING THE WORK

March 2 - Regular Communication - 7:30

March 16 - Fellow Craft Degree - 7:30

April 6 - Regular Communication - 7:30

**GRAND LODGE - APRIL 22-23** 

#### JOIN US FOR FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP!

Any questions, please call

W. Bro. Bosie Martin, Secretary at 803-960-9136

or

Bro. Vardie Corley, W.M. at 803-361-3586

(\*) Denotes tentative Special Communication

ALL SPECIAL COMMUNICATIONS DEPEND ON THE BALLOT BOX AND THE CANDIDATES...

We eat at 6:45 and Meet at 7:30

Can you enter the Lodge tonight with a desire not only to receive but to give?

Should you entertain a spirit of enmity in the slightest degree for a Brother in this Lodge, go in, take the hand of that Brother of yours, talk it over with him in the fraternal spirit you should, and watch the mists disappear and the sunlight of Masonic Brotherhood illuminate your heart and his. Just try Brother. You will not be disappointed. The noblest work of God is man, and the ancient Landmarks of Freemasonry are His handiwork of man's highest nobility. Unless, then you can claim to be a Mason, Good and True. I beseech you to turn back, and do not enter. But, if your aims and ambitions are the highest calling of the Brotherhood of man as taught throughout the ages by the Fraternity of Freemasonry, and sanctified in nature and revelation by

the approval of the Great Architect of the Universe. Enter here, for within you will find that which you seek."

I can't think of a more fitting sign to see before entering a Lodge. This is very thought-provoking. One other sign was posted above a mirror in the entrance to Harmony Lodge # 22 in Beaufort. This sign asks the Brother to examine his appearance before entering the Lodge, reminding him that to someone, HE is the example of what a Mason should be and how a Mason should appear.

While we are taught that the internal qualifications are what make us members of our fraternity, we are reminded that we are all representatives of the greatest organization in the world. Are you ready, Brother? Let's make a good impression on those not yet enlightened. - Bro. Bosie Official Publication of PACIFIC MASONIC LODGE # 325 A.F.M. A Non Profit Corporation c/o DuBose R. Martin, P.M.,Secretary 4528 Ivy Hall Drive Columbia, SC 29206-1229



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