



# Union Masonic Lodge #618, A.F.&A.M.

Volume 2, Issue 8

August 13, 2013

## Happenings at the August stated

34 of us fellowshipped at this stated.

Veterans are reminded to get the requested military service details to the Secretary. Thanks to those that have.

Introduced Whitestone's "buy-a-brick" fund raising campaign. Purchase forms are available. The Lodge approved the purchase of one 8"x8" brick.

Elected Joshua Alexander Peacock to receive the degrees in Masonry.

Received an Application for Affiliation.

Secretary announced that Final Notices of 2013 Dues Delinquency would be mailed in the next few weeks.

Donated \$100 to the Annual Dave Harmon Memorial Ride.

Masonic Education item by Brother Robert Little about The Code and its contents in general.

## Upcoming events of interest

**August 17th & September 7th—Lodge property work days**—assemble at 8:00am with tools.

**August 18th and 25th—Officers Practice** for the EA Degree. 5:00pm

**August 26th—EA Degree.** 6:30 supper, 7:30 work.

**September 9th—Stated Communication.** Supper at 6:30, meeting at 7:30. There will be a Valley of Charlotte Scottish Rite Masonic Education presentation.

**September 27th—Golf Tournament,** 8:30am, Green Oaks Golf Course. Sign-up

information will be published. Looking for donations of prizes and refreshments. Also volunteers to help out the day of the tournament.

**September 28th—Ladies Night Banquet** with entertainment by the Rowan Big Band All-Stars. Tickets available. \$12 per person. **Family and friends invited. Get your tickets! Mark your calendars!**

Second and Fourth Sundays at 5:00pm each month will be Lodge Schools of Instruction.

## August Birthdays (by age)

### AGE / BIRTH DATE REPORT (sorted by age on birth date) Age Birth Date Name

88 08/24/1925 PHILAS J.  
HARTSELL  
78 08/26/1935 J. B. SMITH  
77 08/21/1936 LEWIS M. FLOYD  
76 08/12/1937 HAROLD D.  
TUCKER, SR

74 08/29/1939 CHARLES K. DIXON  
70 08/27/1943 BARNIE F. WHIT-  
LEY JR  
65 08/06/1948 TOMMY D. MULLIS  
63 08/05/1950 WILLIAM H. MOSS  
JR  
62 08/05/1951 THOMAS O. EVANS  
61 08/03/1952 RUSSELL W.  
HELMS  
59 08/19/1954 RODNEY D. PHIL-  
LIPS

56 08/30/1957 ALEXANDER W.  
BORGEMEISTER  
55 08/01/1958 TERRY G. RIDDLE  
54 08/18/1959 STEVEN L.  
BROOKS  
47 08/18/1966 JEFFREY D. JONES  
43 08/07/1970 DUANE D. BURRY

## September Birthdays (by age)

### AGE / BIRTH DATE REPORT (sorted by age on birth date)

91 09/22/1922 ARTHUR R. MOR-  
GAN  
87 09/04/1926 JAMES H.  
WEATHERS SR  
85 09/29/1928 JACOB V. NANCE

82 09/25/1931 MCCAMIE D. HILL  
74 09/01/1939 DAVID O. MONTA-  
GUE SR  
71 09/14/1942 JULIAN W. PAGE  
57 09/21/1956 JOHN B. BROOKS  
JR  
53 09/11/1960 RONALD G. THOM-  
AS

47 09/21/1966 DARREN R.  
HARTSELL  
44 09/01/1969 RYAN B. KNIGHT  
41 09/05/1972 RODNEY B. SEH-  
EN  
35 09/26/1978 JASON R. RUSH-  
ING  
23 09/28/1990 JEFFREY B. JONES

## Masonic Education. "The Black Cube" Source unknown.

Unfortunately, no hard and fast rule can be laid down on the use of a Black Cube when balloting. There is no way to explain "this is a good reason, but that is not a good reason" for casting a black cube. Each Mason has to judge the reason for himself. Yet some suggestions may be given.

We know a man we dislike. He has different ideas from ours. He belongs to a different "set." He is not the type that we admire. Our dislike does not amount to hatred, nor is it predicated upon any evil in the man's character. He and we are antipathetic; we rub each other the wrong way. When he applies to our lodge we must decide this question: will the unpleasantness to us, in having him as a member, be greater than the good to him which may come from his reception of the Masonic teachings? Are we sure that we cannot accept him as a brother merely because we "have never liked him?"

We all know cases like this; the president of the bank turns down Johnson's application for a second mortgage. Johnson makes the matter personal. He "has it in" for the president. The president applies for the degrees. Someone casts a black cube. It may or may not be Johnson. No one knows. But later perhaps we hear Johnson's boast "I got even with that son-of-a-gun who turned down my loan!" He doesn't say how he "got even," of course. But we are pretty sure we know. Such a use of the black cube is, of course, utterly un-Masonic.

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It is a misuse of a great power. We might as well turn down the minister of the Baptist church because he doesn't agree with our minister, who is a Methodist! Or turn down the automobile dealer because he refused to give us a larger allowance on our old car! To turn the Masonic black cube into a secret dagger for personal revenge is un-Masonic and indefensible.

Freemasonry works some curious miracles. A self-made man applied five times for the degrees in a certain lodge. The man was rather uneducated, yet a commercial success. He had, literally, raised himself by his bootstraps from the poverty of the streets to a business position of some prominence. Yet he was rather raw, rough and ready, even uncouth. No shadow of personal unworthiness rested upon him; he was honest, upright, a good citizen. In this lodge a certain Past Master (as was discovered in after years) voted four times against this applicant. The Past Master left the city. On the fifth application the petitioner was elected. Something in Masonry took hold of his heart. Through Masonry he was led to acquire some of the education that he lacked; through Masonry he was led into the church. In time he made such a reputation for himself as a Mason that he was put in the officers line, and finally achieved the solemn distinction of being made Master of his lodge. He is still regarded as one of the best, most constructive and ablest Masters that lodge has ever had.

In the course of ten or twelve years the absent Past Master returned. In the light of history, he confessed (which strictly speaking he should not have done!) that it was he who had kept this man out for what he really believed were good reasons. He thought the "rough neck" would detract from the dignity and honor of the Fraternity. Yet this same "rough neck," through Masonry, became educated, a good churchman, a fine Mason and an excellent officer.

Had the Past Master, whose black cubes were cast with honest intention to benefit the Fraternity, not left town the blessings of Masonry might forever have been denied to a heart ready to receive them and society, the lodge and the church been prevented from having the services of a man who gave largely of himself to all three.

The black cube is the great protection of the Fraternity; it permits the brother who does not desire to make public his secret knowledge, to use that knowledge for the benefit of the Craft. It gives to all members the right to say who shall not become members of their lodge family. But at the same time it puts to the test the Masonic heart, and the personal honesty of every brother who deliberates on its use.

The black cube is a thorough test of our understanding of the Masonic teaching of the cardinal virtue, justice, which "enables us to render to every man his just due without distinction." We are taught of justice that "it should be the invariable practice of every Mason, never to deviate from the minutest principle thereof."

Justice to the lodge requires us to cast the black cube on an applicant we believe to be unfit. Justice to ourselves requires that we cast the black cube on the application of the man we believe would destroy the reputation of our lodge.

Through justice to the applicant we are taught to render justice to every man, not merely to Masons. To symbolically cast no black cube for little reasons, small reasons, mean reasons. And justice to justice requires that we think carefully, deliberate slowly, and act cautiously.

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No man will know what we do; no eye will see, save that All Seeing Eye that pervades the innermost recesses of our hearts, and will, so we are taught, reward us according to our merits.

Shakespeare said, "O, it is excellent to have a giant's strength, but it is tyrannous to use it like a giant!"

The black cube is a giant's strength to protect Freemasonry. Used thoughtlessly, carelessly, without Masonic reason, it crushes not only him at whom it is aimed but also him who casts it.

A well-used black cube goes into the ballot box.  
Ill-used, it drops into the heart and blackens it.

Remember: Always vote for the good of the Fraternity.

Source: Unknown

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A.F.&A.M.**

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*MAKING GOOD MEN BETTER.*

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comments to**

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***Don't forget to pass the word around that our Fellowship Hall is available to rent. Provide any interested party the mobile phone number for WB Darrell Cline, who manages all of the reservations. (704) 791-9470***

