

Trestleboard

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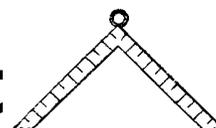
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Please remember our website location
<http://planomasoniclodge.org>



From the East



Brethren:

I would like to apologize for the lack of content in this article. But the circumstances of my motorcycle wreck have made things difficult the past couple of weeks. So, this will be short and to the point.

First, I would like to thank everyone who stepped forward to help with the blood drive by either donating their blood or time or both. Your efforts were greatly appreciated by me and by the children this worthy cause benefits.

Secondly, I would like to thank my officers for picking up the slack at the meetings and activities I have been unable to attend. I appreciate your efforts.

And thirdly, I wish to express my most profound gratitude to all of you who have supported Mary Jo

and me during this time. With your phone calls, visits, running errands, bring food and offering to do anything we needed done. This has meant a lot to us. To those of you who have helped us, remember, that cable tow has two ends. All you have to do is gently tug, and I will come running. Thanks again for all your help.

In the light,
 Mike Heidenreich

The Square and Compasses

During his initiation, the Entered Apprentice Mason is told that the Holy Bible, Square and Compasses are the Three Great Lights of Masonry while they are presented as the Furniture of the Lodge in the Entered Apprentice Lecture. During the lecture, he is told the Holy Bible is dedicated to God because He presents His divine will to us through His sacred writings, the Square to the Master since it is the proper emblem of his office, and the Compasses to the Craft.

While the square and compasses are not unique to Freemasonry, the interlaced Square and Compasses are almost universally recognized as emblems of Freemasonry. However, the Square and Compasses have not always appeared together in Masonic ritual. In fact, it appears the symbolism of the Square and Compasses developed separately. In 1830, while excavating for rebuilding a bridge in Limerick, Ireland, an old brass square dated 1517 was uncovered with the inscription, "I will strive to live with Love and Care, on the level and by the square." Above the entrance to the Salisbury Abbey in

England is an inscription from the same 1500's period that reads: "As the compass goes round without deviation from the circumference, so doubtless, truth and loyalty never deviate." (Note the quotations have been modernized.) It appears from early times the square stood for right and honesty while the compasses represented undeviating truth and loyalty.

In early 18th century Masonic charts, the Square and Compasses are often depicted without the other, and when they are both presented, they are rarely shown together and never are they interlaced as we see them presented today. The Arms of the Masons Company of London, later adopted by the Grand Lodge of England, showed the compasses opened at an angle upon a chevron. There was no square in the emblem. None of the early Masonic publications appear to have contained representations of either the square or the compasses. It appears, based on early Masonic disclosures, that the Square and Compasses were considered simply Furniture of the Lodge until later in the 1700's when they

were elevated to Great Lights in the Masonic Ritual. Furthermore, it was into the 19th century before the interlaced Square and Compasses were being depicted in Masonic charts and publications.

With this background, it is appropriate to consider the Masonic symbolism of the Compasses. It is one of the first symbols presented to the new Freemason, where he is told it is dedicated to the Craft as an emblem of the self-restraint that enables him to act according to right on all occasions. The Compasses, as such, teaches the Freemason the obligation he owes to himself. That obligation needs to be made plain. It is the primary and imperative duty of circumscribing his desires and keeping his passions within due bounds. As Solomon says in Proverbs 16:32, "Better is he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city."

In short, the Compasses represent self-knowledge, self-reverence, and self-control. Without these three characteristics, one's life may lead toward confusion and chaos. All three are required for the proper balance in our relationships to God, our fellow man, and ourselves. To know ourselves, our strengths and weaknesses and our limitations, is the first key to wisdom and



From the South

Brethren,

It seems that some time ago, a few masons who had motorcycles got together and went for a motorcycle ride. Well it seems that these masons, being good friends and all, liked to ride their motorcycles all over the place. Well, one of these guys got the idea to start collecting teddy bears from all over and decides to give them to needy children. So the story goes, that after a period of time they decided to form a group of masons who had motorcycles and would travel all over collecting teddy bears for kids. It seemed to catch on all up and down the east coast. Being

the good masons and true to the Masonic believe of faith, hope and charity, they organized this body and called themselves the "Widows Sons". This group is recognized all over the United States as being charitable and spreading the good word about masonry.

Unfortunately, the Grand Lodge of Texas does not recognize this group as a sanctioned organization in Texas. Although there are masons in Texas who ride motorcycles, they, however, are not allowed to belong to the "Widows Sons" or any other appended body not recognized by the Grand Lodge of Texas. If they did and/or continue to do so, it would be a Masonic offense and they would be brought up on Masonic charges.

So why, you ask, all this rhetoric about this group? Well, simply, Grand Lodge is meeting in just a couple of short months, the first week in December, to be exact. And, I feel that to have these motorcycle riding masons recognized, Grand Lodge should write an edict recognizing them. So come to Grand Lodge and voice your opinion. I would love to see you there.

As always, I invite all who have not attended lodge for some time to come back and see what you have been missing. All you need is your dues card. The fellowship is still there, now all we need is you.

Your Junior Warden, Joe Moses

"The Square and Compasses" continued from page 2

security against many a pitfall in life. Without this knowledge, or by disregarding it, a man can go too far, exceed his limitations, and lose control of himself. By doing so, he loses some measure of his self-respect, which leads to losing respect for others and ultimately losing respect for God.

We live within physical and spiritual spheres that are both limited and unlimited. Hemmed in and restricted we strive for liberty without rule or limit. However, limitless liberty is anarchy and slavery. Liberty rests upon law, and it is a wise man who takes account of both, who knows how to qualify one by the other. The Compasses teaches the Freemason how to achieve this balance, in his physical and spiritual life.

Political philosopher Edmund Burke wrote, "Men are qualified for civil liberty in exact proportion to their disposition to put moral chains upon their own appetites; in proportion as their love to justice is above their rapacity; in proportion as their soundness and sobriety of

Plano Lodge Family Night

Plano lodge hosted a favorite event among members and families of the lodge; a Family Night on Wednesday October 22nd at Plano lodge.

There were the usual full table of eats, (as well as several buckets of fried chicken.)

The program was presented by Brother Charles McKay. He had prepared a most interesting presentation on Scotland and Masonry. And, we were lucky to hear his Scottish recitation of the Robert Burns Poem that you may find on this page.

Calendar of Events: November

Plano Lodge Events

November 6 – Stated Meeting
 November 13 – Two EA degrees
 November 8 or 15 (Saturday @ 9:00 AM) – FC Degree
 November 20 – One EA degree
 November 27 – Dark, Happy Thanksgiving
 December 4 – Dark, The Grand Lodge of Texas
 December 11 – December Stated Meeting

Special Events

- Scottish Rite—Valley of Dallas stated meeting November 10th 12:15 PM
- Hella Shrine stated meeting November 20th
- Plano Assembly Rainbow #320, Installation November 11th & Business meeting November 25th
- Plano Chapter #702 Order Of Eastern Star November 17th

A Man's A Man for A' That.

Robert Burns

Is there for honest poverty
 That hings his head, an a' that?
 The coward slave, we pass him by -
 We dare be poor for a' that!
 For a' that, an a' that,
 Our toils obscure, an a' that,
 The rank is but the guinea's stamp,
 The man's the gowd for a' that.

What though on hamely fare we dine,
 Wear hoddin grey, an a' that?
 Gie fools their silks, and knaves their wine -
 A man's a man for a' that.
 For a' that, an a' that,
 Their tinsel show, an a' that,
 The honest man, tho e'er sae poor,
 Is king o men for a' that.

Ye see you birkie ca'd 'a lord,'
 What struts, an stares, an a' that?
 Tho hundreds worship at his word,
 He's but a cuif for a' that.
 For a' that, an a' that,
 His ribband, star, an a' that,
 The man o independent mind,
 He looks an laughs at a' that.

A prince can mak a belted knight,
 A marquis, duke, an a' that!
 But an honest man's aboon his might

-
 Guid faith, he mauna fa' that!
 For a' that, an a' that,
 Their dignities, an a' that,
 The pith o sense an pride o worth.
 Are higher rank than a' that.

Then let us pray that come it may
 [As come it will for a' that],
 That Sense and Worth o'er a' the
 earth,
 Shall bear the gree an a' that.
 For a' that, an a' that,
 It's comin yet for a' that,
 That man to man, the world, o'er

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*"The
Square and Compasses" continued*

understanding is above their vanity and presumption; in proportion as they are more disposed to listen to the counsels of the wise and good, in preference to the flattery of knaves. Society cannot exist unless a controlling power upon will and appetite be placed somewhere, and the less of it there is within, the more there must be without. It is ordained in the eternal constitution of things that men of intemperate minds cannot be free. Their passions forge their fetters."

Much of our life is ruled for us with the laws of nature governing the universe while the laws of the land make us aware that the rights and liberties of others limit our liberty. In addition, we are faced with the norms of society that we dare not to defy altogether. These represent many areas from which our passions and desires can stray at our peril. However, there are many areas of our life where we have freedom and these are the places where most of our joy and sorrow lie.

It is in the realm of desire and emotion within ourselves where we are the freest and the most alone. It is here that the Freemason needs the wise and faithful use of the Compasses.

How to use the Compasses is one of the finest arts, requiring the highest skill of the Master Mason. If he is properly instructed, he will rest one point on the innermost center of his being and with the other draw a circle beyond which he will not go, until he is prepared to go farther. He will live and labor within his limits, striving to increase his moral and spiritual knowledge until he reaches the outer rim of his circle, his bounds. He will then draw another circle and grow to its bounds until he attains a full-orbed life, balanced, beautiful, and finely poised. No wise man should dare to forget the saying, "In nothing too much," for there are many situations encountered in life where a step too far or a word too much leads to disaster. If he experiences a quick tongue, a hot temper, or a bad mood, he will apply the Compasses to keep his weaknesses within his circle of

strength and control his passions.

As we consider our relationship to God, we must also use the Compasses to draw a circle encompassing as much of His nature as we can understand, enlarging the circle as our spiritual understanding grows. While it is beyond man's grasp to fully understand God's nature in this life, He does provide for us an avenue to understand that nature when we are instructed to "love our neighbor as ourselves." In this sense we are reminded of the inscription at the Salisbury Abbey when truth and loyalty should never deviate towards our fellowman.

It is fitting to close this discussion with the symbolic explanation of the Compasses provided in Akin's Manual. The words warrant our careful reflection. "The Compasses remind us of His unerring and impartial justice, which, having defined for our instruction the limits of good and evil, will either reward or punish us, as we have obeyed or disregarded His divine commands."

3rd Degree November Anniversaries

Gerald S. Callaway, II	Nov. 8, 1991	Jerrel Jones	Nov. 18, 1993
Daniel R. McCullough	Nov. 8, 1962	Steve W. Baker	Nov. 19, 1994
Isaac N. Davidson, Jr.	Nov. 9, 1972	Jeffrey N. Forrester	Nov. 19, 1998
Sam Tiner	Nov. 9, 2000	Randy J. Carr	Nov. 19, 1998
Walter L. Haire	Nov. 9, 1961	Jeffery S. Rowland	Nov. 19, 1992
James Fredrick Roberts	Nov. 10, 1994	Bobby Martin	Nov. 19, 1970
Oscar Hartline	Nov. 11, 1965	Dan Keels	Nov. 20, 1975
Larry D. McNamara	Nov. 12, 1966	Warren S. Hartley	Nov. 20, 1996
James L. Griffin	Nov. 12, 1964	Thomas W. Plunkett	Nov. 20, 1982
Bruce Weaver	Nov. 12, 1992	Douglas E. Sam	Nov. 20, 1986
Philips W. Jennings	Nov. 13, 1969	Wilfred D. Cain	Nov. 21, 1974
Chandler R. Snow	Nov. 14, 1996	Maurice J. Tebcherany	Nov. 23, 1963
David H. Pace	Nov. 15, 2000	Bob Sova	Nov. 23, 1982
Gerald R. Crawford	Nov. 15, 1973	William B. Brayton	Nov. 29, 1984
L.B. Moore	Nov. 16, 1967	Kerry A. Weeks	Nov. 29, 1966
Jeffery W. Haines	Nov. 16, 1995	Charles P. Conrad	Nov. 29, 1979
Manning O. Bozeman	Nov. 16, 1961	Leonard A. Forbes	Nov. 30, 1967
Benjamin J. Elkins	Nov. 17, 1994	James Richard Barth	Nov. 30, 1978
Lonnie J. Turner	Nov. 18, 1971		

November Birthdays

Carl E. Jones	November 2	Luther G. Jones	November 9	Shelby Barger	November 21
Dan R. Cone	November 2	Joseph H. Smith	November 10	Earl R. Griffin	November 23
Thomas K. Williams	November 4	Bill Woods	November 11	G. A. Davidson	November 23
Richard James Grubb	November 5	John M. Allen	November 11	John A. King	November 27
John D. Bain	November 6	Joseph W. Dalton	November 11	Jerry N. Toler	November 27
Jerrel Jones	November 7	William Chapoton	November 14	Nathan White	November 28
Bill Boyd	November 8	Chris A. Shaw	November 15	Tom M. McKamy	November 29
Keith Hollingsworth	November 8	Byron Anderson	November 16	John Luttrell, Jr.	November 30
Ralph S. Johnson	November 8	Ryan N. Lambert	November 17		
Sam Shields	November 8	Dick Lee	November 20		
James B. Pate	November 9	George Easterling	November 20		