



# Sioux Falls Freemasons The Trestle Board

*Three Lodges,  
One Brotherhood*

February 2019

IN THIS ISSUE

## When Masonry Lives in your Heart

by Brian Pulling, WM Minnehaha #5

When I first was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason at the first One-Day back in Ft. Pierre I promised my grandfather that I would start going to Lodge with him. As we spent time in Lodge together, I promised him that one day I would work through the chairs to become the Master of the Lodge.

Fast forward a little over 20 years. During that time my grandparents had both passed away and I had also drifted apart from Masonry. Then, I found myself in the company of some fine Brothers who invited me back to Masonry in their Lodge here in Sioux Falls. The timing felt right, and the Lodge felt like home, so I became a member.

I started working through the chairs and due to some unforeseen circumstances with Brothers moving away I found myself nominated to become the Master of the Lodge more quickly than I had anticipated. It was as if my grandfather's guiding hand was telling me that it was OK, and it was the right time for me to be in that position where I could fulfill my promise to him from so many years ago.

For those of you who were at the Installation Ceremony you will likely recall me getting pretty choked up when it was my turn to speak. Having given a lot of public speeches, getting emotional was not something I was

accustomed to doing in that venue. I quickly realized that the moment I was in was much bigger than I had thought it may be. Seeing my father, and my son, who was the Master Squire and Master of his own Lodge/Manor at the time, in the audience and with my grandfather looking on from above; I discovered that Masonry truly lived in my heart.

Seeing my Masonic mentors in the room helped bolster me, realizing the faith my Brothers put in me to lead our Lodge humbled me, that I was able to share it with my family instilled some pride in me, and missing my grandfather all came crashing in on me at once. After a lot of hard swallows and my voice cracking to the point of shattering I finally got through my acceptance remarks.

There are very few events in my life that can compare to this singular moment. When you really feel something down to your core, whether it shakes your reality or grounds it, you know it when it happens. That night was one of those moments and I am thankful every day that I was able to do it like I did. I hope that as you look back over your time in Masonry or are looking forward to what your time in Masonry will bring, I hope you get to experience that moment when you know Masonry lives in your heart too.



### Your Masonic Education

Celebrating Black History Month: You may have heard about Prince Hall Masonry but how much do you know about Prince Hall himself?

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### Masonic Spotlight!

This month we are featuring information about Prince Hall Masonry.

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# Salutations from the Senior Wardens

by Wade Welding, SW Minnehaha #5

## Learning and Earning Trust

I have found that Masonry can either help or hinder relationships. For my relationship it has helped in several ways. My wife and I have come to an understanding that, although we love doing things as a couple, we also do things on our own. We do separate activities to show the increased love we have for one another through the trust of doing things apart from each other.

As many of us have learned, trust can be an issue with any relationship. You start out getting to know each other. Then, while your relationship grows, you begin to date. People don't realize that as they are dating, they are learning how to trust one another while the other is not around. Couples can have a problem with this because they can get so used to being together so much, that they haven't experienced the separation part of a relationship. It can be a difficult and scary task to undertake.

When Masons went off to work in the quarry, their significant others had to trust what their men were doing while away. The same holds true when your girlfriend or wife goes to work or an activity, you need to trust what they are doing.

Masons are taught to meet on the level. To trust one another in their actions and motives. It's the same with relationships, if you are willing to meet on the level with your significant other, your trust will hold strong and likely continue to grow.

With our relationship activities, such as Masons, trust is not an issue. We have gone through the dating and early stages of our marriage where our trust is now and can remain strong.



# A Word from the Junior Wardens

by Jerry Grouzis, JW Minnehaha #5

## Masonry is a Life Journey

When I first became a Mason two and a half years ago, I knew it was going to be a life journey. I remember my first meeting as a Master Mason, to tell you the truth, I was lost. I didn't know what was going on and I also didn't know many people. I didn't know if being a Mason was for me. I'll tell you that didn't last very long. Everyone in my Lodge was friendly and very helpful. As time went on, my Lodge became my new family.

Then there came the day when I was asked to be Senior Deacon. What an honor that was for me. During that time, I found out how much memorizing I had to do, but it was fun! I have noticed doing the Senior Deacon part helped me piece some parts of Masonry together. I am now Junior Warden and I am noticing that another piece of Masonry is coming together for me. I know I have two more seats to conquer to see all the pieces come together but it will be well worth it.

Masonry also opened new doors for me like the Scottish Rite. I enjoy volunteering my time with the charity work we do for the children. I am also looking forward to helping with degree work in the future.

Masonry and the Scottish Rite are more to me than learning parts and helping with degree work. It's being a part of a great brotherhood and community that helps each other out and also helps people in need.

Like I said in the beginning of my story, Masonry is a life journey of learning new parts, meeting new people and making a lifetime of friends and memories.



THIS MONTH'S EDUCATION TOPIC

# Your Masonic Education

by Various Authors

## You may know about Prince Hall Masonry but what do you know about Prince Hall?

Prince Hall (c. 1735–1738—1807) was an African American noted as an abolitionist for his leadership in the free black community in Boston and as the founder of Prince Hall Freemasonry. He lobbied for education rights for black children and was active in the back-to-Africa movement.

Hall tried to gain New England's enslaved and free blacks a place in Freemasonry, education and the military, which were some of the most crucial spheres of society in his time. Hall is considered the founder of "Black Freemasonry" in the United States, known today as Prince Hall Freemasonry. Hall formed the African Grand Lodge of North America. Prince Hall was unanimously elected its Grand Master and served until his death in 1807.

Steve Gladstone, author of *Freedom Trail Boston*, states that Prince Hall—known for his role in creating Black Freemasonry, championing equal education rights, and fighting slavery—"was one of the most influential free black leaders in the late 1700s."<sup>[2]</sup>

There is confusion about his year of birth, place of birth, parents, and marriages—at least partly due to the multiple number of "Prince Halls" during this time period.

### Early life

Prince Hall was born between 1735 and 1738. His place of birth and parents are also unclear. Prince Hall mentioned in his writings that New England was his homeland, so there is a possibility he was born in England. The Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, in its Proceedings of 1906, opted for 1738, relying on a letter from Reverend Jeremy Belknap, a founder of the Massachusetts Historical Society. Prince Hall's birthday is traditionally celebrated on September 14. Hall's early years are unclear. Historian Charles H. Wesley theorized that by age 11 Prince Hall was enslaved (or in service) to Boston tanner William Hall, and by 1770 was a free, literate man<sup>[7]</sup> and had been always accounted as a free man. It was

through William Hall that Prince learned how to process and dress leather. *Inside Prince Hall* author and

historian David L. Gray states that he was unable to find an official historical record of the manumission. Hall, identified as able to read and write, may have been self-taught or, like other enslaved people and free blacks in New England, he may have had assistance.

### Family, church and work life

Hall joined the Congregational Church in 1762 at 27 years of age. He married an enslaved woman named Sarah Ritchie (or Ritchery) who died in 1769. Hall married Flora Gibbs of Gloucester in 1770. David Gray states he was married for a second time to Sylvia (Zilpha) Ward Hall. An article about Prince for *Africans in America* by PBS states that Prince Hall married a woman named Delia, a servant outside William Hall's household, and had a son named Primus in 1756. In his research into the life of Prince Hall and the origin of Prince Hall Freemasonry, *Inside Prince Hall*, author David L. Gray found that there is no record of a marriage of Prince Hall to Delia, nor record of a son, Primus.

In Boston, Hall worked as a peddler, caterer and leatherworker, owning his own leather shop. In April 1777, he created five leather drumheads for an artillery regiment of Boston. Hall was a homeowner who voted and paid taxes.

### Revolutionary War

Hall encouraged enslaved and freed blacks to serve the American colonial military. He believed that if blacks were involved in the founding of the new nation, it would aid in the attainment of freedom for all blacks. Hall proposed that the Massachusetts Committee of Safety allow blacks to join the military. He and fellow supporters petition compared Britain's colonial rule with the enslavement of blacks. Their proposal was declined.

England issued a proclamation that guaranteed freedom to blacks who enlisted in the British army. Once the British Army filled its ranks with black troops, the Continental Army reversed its decision and allowed blacks into the military. It is believed, but not certain, that Hall was one of the six "Prince Halls" from Massachusetts to serve during the war.

Having served during the Revolutionary War, many African Americans expected, but did not receive, racial equality when the war

## Masonic Website of the Month!



Sioux Falls Freemasons and Minnehaha #5

Sioux Falls Freemasons has its own Facebook site

<https://www.facebook.com/SFFreemasons/>

Minnehaha #5 also has its own Facebook site

<https://www.facebook.com/Minnehaha5SD/>

## Masonic Phone App of the Month!



Symbols of Freemasonry I  
Mind and Miracle Productions Entertainment  
Everyone 10+  
Contains Ads  
This app is compatible with all of your devices  
Add to Wishlist

This app provides a description and understanding many of the symbols used in Freemasonry.

### FAST FACTS

Attached to the Harleian ms, (1665) is a scrap of paper on which is written "there is several words and signs of a Freemason to be revealed to you which as you will answer before God at the great and terrible day of judgement you keep secret and not to reveal the same in the ears of any person but to the Masters and fellows of the said society of Freemasons so help me God." This is the earliest mention of words and signs in the Old Charges of Masons.

ended. With the intention of improving the lives of fellow African Americans, Prince Hall collaborated with others to propose legislation for equal rights. He also hosted community events, such as educational forums and theatre events to improve the lives of black people.

Many of the original members of the African Masonic Lodge had served during the Revolutionary War.

### Freemason

Prince Hall was interested in the Masonic fraternity because Freemasonry was founded upon ideals of liberty, equality and peace. Prior to the American Revolutionary War, Prince Hall and fourteen other free black men petitioned for admittance to the white Boston St. John's Lodge. They were turned down. Having been rejected by colonial Freemasonry, Hall and 15 others sought and were initiated into Masonry by members of Lodge No. 441 of the Grand Lodge of Ireland on March 6, 1775. The Lodge was attached to the British forces stationed in Boston. Hall and other freedmen founded African Lodge No. 1 and he was named Grand Master.

The black Masons had limited power; they could meet as a lodge, take part in the Masonic procession on St. John's Day, and bury their dead with Masonic rites but could not confer Masonic degrees or perform any other essential functions of a fully operating Lodge. Unable to create a charter, they applied to the Grand Lodge of England. The grand master of the Mother Grand Lodge of England, H. R. H. The Duke of Cumberland, issued a charter for the African Lodge No. 1 later renamed African Lodge No. 459 September 29, 1784. The lodge was the country's first African Masonic lodge. Due to the African Lodge's popularity and Prince Hall's leadership, the Grand Lodge of England made Hall a Provincial Grand Master on January 27, 1791. His responsibilities included reporting on the condition of lodges in the Boston area. Six years later, on March 22, 1797 Prince Hall organized a lodge in Philadelphia, called African Lodge #459, under Prince Hall's Charter. They later received their own charter. On June 25, 1797 he organized African Lodge (later known as Hiram Lodge #3) at Providence, Rhode Island.

Author and historian James Sidbury said

Prince Hall and those who joined him to found Boston's African Masonic Lodge built a fundamentally new "African" movement on a preexisting institutional foundation. Within that movement they asserted emotional,

mythical, and genealogical links to the continent of Africa and its peoples.

After the death of Prince Hall, on December 4, 1807, the brethren organized the African Grand Lodge on June 24, 1808, including the Philadelphia, Providence and Boston lodges. African Grand Lodge declared its independence from the United Grand Lodge of England and all other lodges in 1827. In 1847 they renamed to Prince Hall Grand Lodge in honor of their fore bearer.

Hall was considered the "father of African Freemasonry." Prince Hall said of civic activities:

My brethren, let us pay all due respect to all who God had put in places of honor over us: do justly and be faithful to them that hire you, and treat them with the respect they may deserve; but worship no man. Worship God, this much is your duty as Christians and as masons.

### Community activism

Prince Hall worked within the state political arena to advance the rights of blacks, end slavery, and protect free blacks from being kidnapped by slave traders. He proposed a back-to-Africa movement, pressed for equal educational opportunities, and operated a school for African Americans in his home. He engaged in public speaking and debate, citing Christian scripture against slavery to a predominantly Christian legislative body.

Hall requested that the Massachusetts Congress create a school program for black children. Hall cited the same platform for fighting the American Revolution of "Taxation without Representation." Although Hall's arguments were logical, his two attempts at passing legislation through the Massachusetts Congress both resulted in failure. Hall then started a school program for free black children out of his own home with a focus on Liberal Arts and classical education.

He is known for giving speeches and writing petitions. In a speech given to the Boston African Masonic Lodge, Hall stated, "My brethren, let us not be cast down under these and many other abuses we at present labour under: for the darkest is before the break of day ... Let us remember what a dark day it was with our African brethren, six years ago, in the French West Indies. Nothing but the snap of the whip was heard, from morning to evening".

His notable written works include the 1792 *Charge* and 1797 *Charge*. Hall's 1792 *Charge* focused on the abolition of slavery in

his home state of Massachusetts. He addressed the importance of black leaders playing prominent roles in the shaping of the country and creation of unity. In his 1797 *Charge*, Hall wrote about the treatment and hostility that blacks received in the United States. He recognized black revolutionaries in the Haitian Revolution. Hall also wrote a petition in 1787.

In a speech he presented in June 1797, Hall said:

Patience, I say; for were we not possessed of a great measure of it, we could not bear up under the daily insults we meet with in the streets of Boston, much more on public days of recreation. How, at such times, are we shamefully abused, and that to such a degree, that we may truly be said to carry our lives in our hands, and the arrows of death are flying about our heads. ... tis not for want of courage in you, for they know that they dare not face you man for man, but in a mob, which we despise ...

Prince Hall was involved in the Back-to-Africa movement and approached the legislature to request funds for voluntary emigration to Africa. In January 1773, Prince Hall and seventy-three other African-American delegates presented an emigration plea to the Massachusetts Senate. This plea, which included the contentions that African Americans are better suited to Africa's climate and lifestyle, failed. When a group of freed black men had begun to trip to Africa, they were captured and held, which reignited Hall's interest in the movement, but he found that there wasn't sufficient momentum and support for the Back-to-Africa movement to make it a reality.

### Copp's Hill Burying Ground

Prince Hall died in 1807 and is buried in the Historic Copp's Hill Burying Ground in Boston along with other notable Bostonians from the colonial era. Also, thousands of African Americans who lived in the "New Guinea" community at the base of Copp's Hill are buried alongside Snowhill Street in unmarked graves.

A tribute monument was erected in Copp's Hill on June 24, 1835 in his name next to his grave marker. The inscription reads: "Here lies ye body of Prince Hall, first Grand Master of the colored Grand Lodge in Mass. Died Dec. 7, 1807" According to biographer David Gray, newspaper accounts showed that Hall died on December 4 and was buried three days later. His wife, Sylvia (Zilpha) Ward Hall, was the executrix of his estate, which amounted to \$47.22, and there was no realty.

# News to Know!

## Don't Forget to Send in Your Stories, Pictures and Events!

Brothers please remember to send anything that you want included in the Trestle Board to your Worshipful Masters whose e-mail addresses can be found on the last page of the newsletter. We have gotten some good feedback on the new Trestle Board and we would like to keep highlighting our Brothers.

## Squires and DeMolay will be Selling Deserts at the Shrine in March to Raise Money for JDRF.

The Squires and DeMolay are off to a great start for their first fundraiser of the year for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF)! They raised money from friends and family members in January and the Lodges and other Masonic bodies in February. Finally, they will be selling cake pops at the Shrine on Wednesday nights in March. They hope to raise \$1,750 this year for JDRF!

## We Need Brothers to Join Committees!

Brothers if you are interested in any of the committees listed on page 9 please make sure you reach out to your WM and let him know. It is a great way for you to live out your passion in Masonry and have an impact on your community and the members of our Lodges!

## Go Find Your Walking Shoes!



Brothers, the Sioux Falls Lodges along with the Job's Daughters, Squires and DeMolay have decided to participate in this year's St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 16<sup>th</sup>! We would like every Mason in and around Sioux Falls to try to join us for this event.

We are hoping to show the community that Masonry is very much alive in Sioux Falls and that there is a great diversity of bodies to join within the Masonic Family. Just picture this, the Masons, Scottish Rite, York Rite, Job's Daughters, Squires, DeMolay, etc. and maybe some Grand Lodge Officers (with their green jackets in a dignitary car) all marching together. IT WOULD BE IMPRESSIVE!

If you are interested, please let your WM know and he can get you on the list. We hope to see you out there enjoying the brotherhood and the fresh air together!

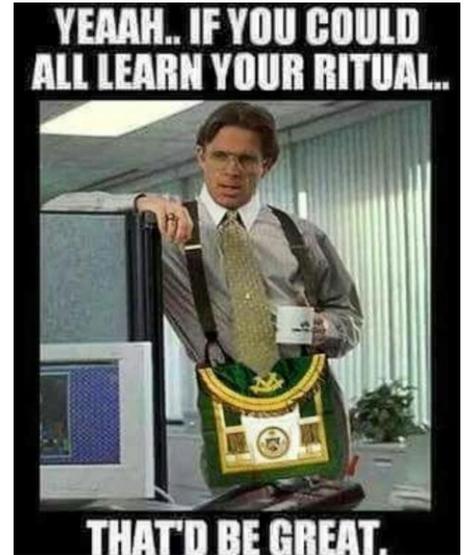
## The Knights of St. Andrew are Meeting Again!

The Knights of St. Andrew (KSA) have resurrected their Order and are meeting again! This is a group of black hats in the Scottish Rite that are going to put on the Knights of St. Andrews Degree along with helping the members of the Scottish Rite with degree setup, meals, events, etc. They may even be planning some trips to visit other KSA chapters for ideas and fellowship. The elected officers are:

- Brendan Lutz – Venerable Master
- Brian Pulling – Senior Warden
- Gavin Wigg – Junior Warden
- Tim Schendel – Secretary/Treasurer

If you are a black hat member of the Scottish Rite and are interested in finding out more, please contact:

- Brendan (brendenlutz22@gmail.com) or
- Brian (barrister1965@gmail.com).



How did you get the Black eye?  
The wife was giving me a lecture and I corrected her three times.

# From the Bodies of the Lodges

## Minnehaha #5

Minnehaha #5 is getting ready to bring several new Brothers in to the Fraternity. They have had an excellent start to the year with a lot of renewed interest in the Lodge. We have had some members start coming back to Lodge nights and have continued to participate in regular degree work.

There are also several Brothers expressing a desire to learn new parts in the degrees. In addition to that, new Brothers are asking how they can be a part of what is happening all the way from interest in starting through the chairs to upping our game in the community.

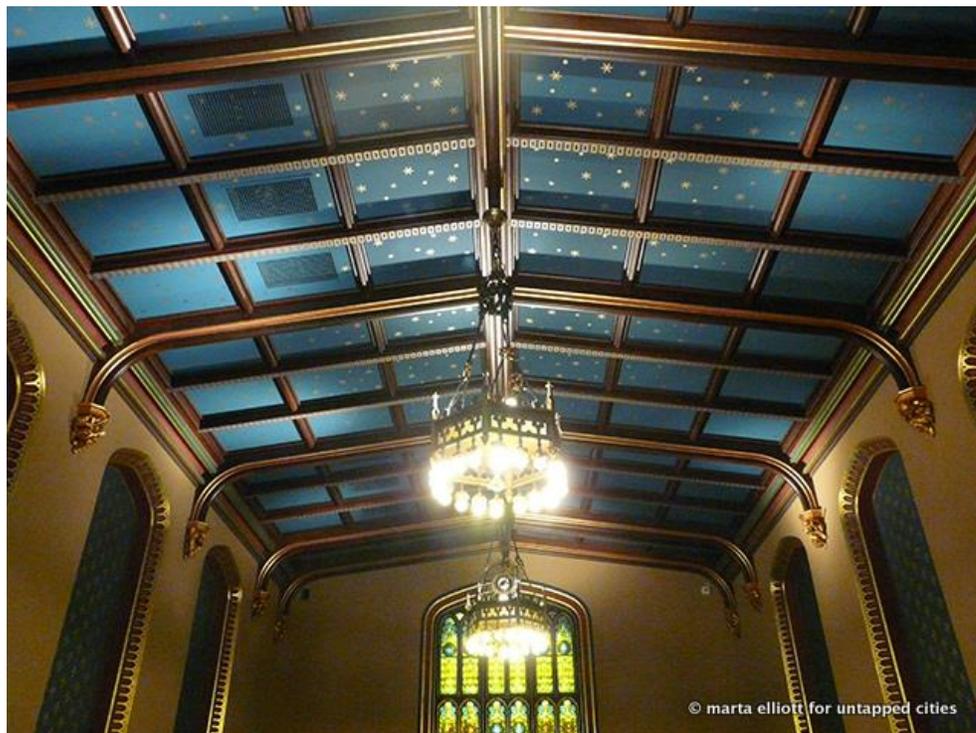
This new energy is infectious and very exciting!

## Unity #130

Unity has been lending a hand helping out with the degree work in the other Lodges as well as our own. We would like to thank the other Lodges for their invitations for us to participate. The extra practice has been great!

## Trinity #200

Trinity Lodge #200 had an amazing time preparing and serving a meal at The Banquet in Sioux Falls this month. It was well attended by the Brothers and much appreciated by the Banquet and their guests.



The Gothic Room in the Grand Lodge of New York

# Masonic Spotlight!

IN OUR MASONIC CENTER



## Prince Hall Masonry

Prince Hall Masonry is the Oldest Black Organization in the United States.

Prince Hall Freemasonry is a parallel line of Freemasonry, originally started as a Masonic lodge for freed African slaves in the colonies during the Revolutionary war when Prince Hall and 14 men of color were made Masons in Lodge No. 441 of the Irish Registry attached to the 38<sup>th</sup> British Foot Infantry. It marked the first time that men of color were made Masons in America. When the British left Lodge No. 441 granted Prince Hall and the brethren the authority to meet as African Lodge #1 (Under Dispensation). Finally on March 2, 1784, Prince Hall petitioned the Grand Lodge of England for a warrant/charter which was granted to them on September 29, 1784.

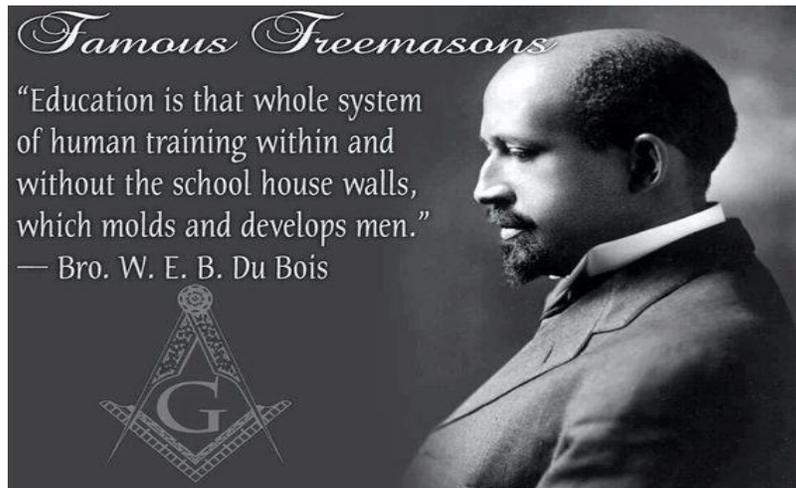
Today, the Prince Hall fraternity has over 4,500 lodges worldwide, forming 47 independent jurisdictions with a membership of over 300,000 masons whereby any good-hearted man who is worthy and well qualified, can seek more light in Masonry.

Notable Prince Hall Masons include: Scottie Pippen (Chicago Bulls), Sugar Ray Robinson (Boxing Champion), Rev. Jesse Jackson (Civil Rights Leader), Booker T. Washington (Founder of the Tuskegee Institute), Thurgood Marshall (US Supreme Court Justice), Daniel "Chappie" James (General, USAF), Nathaniel "Nat King" Cole (Singer), Nelson Mandela (Civil Rights Leader, President of South Africa) and countless others.

## An Influential Brother

### Bro. W.E.B. Du Bois

was made a Prince Hall Freemason December 12, 1910 when initiated into Widow Son Lodge #1



## Masonic Stag Night is Scheduled for March 9<sup>th</sup> Time to Throw Some Axes!



Brothers, the next Masonic Stag Night is in the works. We are going to try our skills at throwing a few axes and hanging out together (Masons, adult beverages and axes, what could go wrong?) Brother Pulling is trying to schedule the downtown 605 Escape location for a 7pm start time. He does need to get an idea of interest prior to booking the venue so please contact him ASAP. If we book on line it is \$30/person for one hour. Depending on interest we may be able to get a corporate rate. **Please contact WM, Brian Pulling with questions or ideas (minnehahalodge5wm@gmail.com)**

## Brothers to Keep in Our Thoughts

We have not been notified of any Brothers in need. There are some Brothers who have family members with health concerns. Please keep those Brothers and their families in your thoughts.

## Did you know?

These men were all Prince Hall Masons.



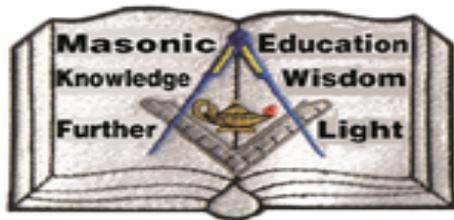
# Committee Cornerstones {We need Brothers!}

by Your Committee Representatives



## Good Works and Outreach Committee

This Committee is in charge of finding opportunities within the community to do good works, finding ways to help Masonic widows, and working with the other Masonic organizations to aid in charitable efforts. This Committee will also work to find opportunities to reach out to the community and get Freemasonry noticed again.



## Masonic Education Committee

This Committee will be charged with keeping the Brothers tools from gathering dust. This can be done by coming up with presentations that can be carried out in each Lodge or inviting in speakers on things that may be interesting to the Brothers. This Committee will also help with things like putting together education packets for new Masons.



## Mentoring Committee

This Committee will be charged with helping set up guidelines for vetting potential candidates and finding committed Masons to act as mentors to new brothers. This Committee will find ways to help shepherd new Brothers through their first year of membership.



## Ritualistic Excellence Committee

This Committee will be charged with helping conduct our rituals at the highest levels. This Committee will help train Brothers with an interest in learning rituals as well as helping everyone get sharper at their ritual work. This Committee will help build degree teams as well as educating those who are interested in having a deeper understanding of our rituals.



## Communication and Technology Committee

This Committee will be charged with helping all of our Brothers stay informed of Masonic happenings around the city, state and region. This Committee will also be in charge of our on-line presence and ensuring that we are communicating with our Brothers in ways that are most impactful to them.



## Masonic Building Association Committee

The books have been balanced and the account has very little money in it. The Committee is looking for recommendations for how to cut costs in the building or raise revenues through rentals. The biggest cost currently is utilities. If you can think of any ways to help please let your Lodge representative know so we can try to avoid a per capita increase.

# Calendar of Events

## Minnehaha Lodge #5

**Stated Meeting:** First Thursday of the Month  
Dinner at 6pm, Lodge at 7pm

**Degree Work:** EA Degree, 3/9 at 9am, FC Degree, 4/4 at 7pm, planning MM Degree in May

## Unity Lodge #130

**Stated Meeting:** Second Thursday of the Month

Dinner at 6pm, Lodge at 7pm

**Degree Work:** MM Degree, 3/28 at 7pm, EA Degree, 4/11 at 7pm

## Trinity Lodge #200

**Stated Meeting:** First Monday of the Month  
Dinner at 6:30pm, Lodge at 7pm

Dark: July and August

**Degree Work:** FC Degree, 3/18

## Cigar Lodge

**Date and Time:** Contact Bro. Kyle Orth

## Masonic Stag Night

**Date and Time:** Second Saturday of the Month

7-9pm (maybe longer)

Masonic Center Basement

Contact Bro. Brian Pulling

## High Twelve Lunch

**Date and Time:** Thursdays, 11am-1pm at the Royal Fork

## Good Works and Outreach Committee

**Date and Time:** TBD

## Masonic Education Committee

**Date and Time:** TBD

## Mentoring Committee

**Date and Time:** TBD

## Ritualistic Excellence Committee

**Date and Time:** TBD

## Communications and Technology Committee

**Date and Time:** TBD

## Masonic Building Association Committee

**Date and Time:** TBD

## Scottish Rite

**Stated Meeting:** Second Tuesday of the Month at 5:30pm

**Degree Work:** Third Tuesday of the Month, Spring Reunion Degree Work May 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>

## Knights of St. Andrew

**Stated Meeting:** Second Tuesday of the Month at 7pm

## York Rite

**Stated Meeting:** First Tuesday of the Month at 7pm

Dark: July and August

## DeMolay and Squires

**Stated Meeting:** First and Third Monday of the Month

Squires meet from 6pm – 7pm

DeMolay meet from 7pm – 9pm

## Monthly Shrine Rush Party

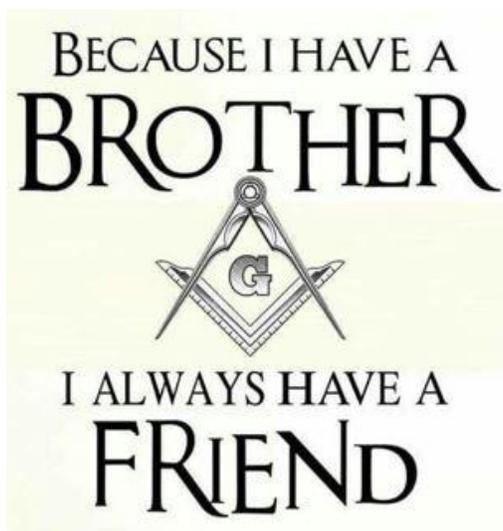
Third Wednesday of the month at the Shrine Temple

## Chance to Advance

April 13<sup>th</sup> at 8am with the FC Degree presented by Trinity and the MM Degree presented by Unity

## Scottish Rite Clinic Spring Patient Party

April 16<sup>th</sup> at the Masonic Center



# Part Upon the Square

## ***A New Year's Challenge (the 1 to 10 Challenge)***

by Brian Pulling, WM Minnehaha #5

Brothers, as I reflect on the last six months and try to grasp all that I have learned from the Brothers in my Lodge and the other Lodges I have come in contact with I asked myself am I really living as my Brother's Keeper? I have done my best to help out a Brother when I can, listen when I should and do what I can to advance the Craft; but there was something else missing.

I tried to do some reading to find out what it was that I was missing when I came upon a challenge. I don't even recall where I read it at this point, but it was concentrated on how well do you really know the members of your own Lodge. Do you know the name of a Brother's wife? How about how many kids he has? What does he do for a living? Etc. It really hit me that outside the Brothers who come to Lodge each month I really didn't know much of our other members' lives at all. The challenge that was issued in this article was to have each member of a Lodge

reach out and call 10 or more other members of the Lodge and just chat with them, see how they are doing, be our Brother's keeper like we should be. It was then that I knew what my New Year's Resolution/Challenge would be.

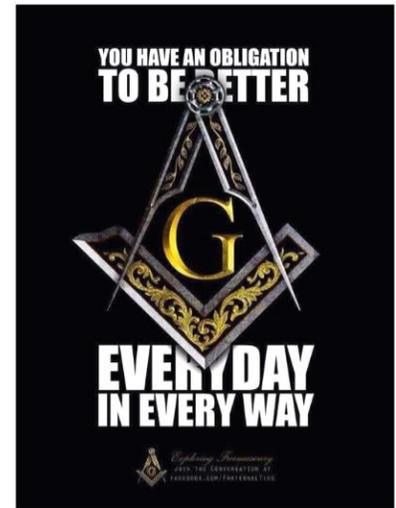
I am going to randomly pick 10 members of our Lodge and give them a call just to introduce myself and see how they are doing. Then I am going to challenge the officers of the Lodge to do the same. Then, after a month or so, I am going to see what everyone's experience has been and encourage other regularly attending members to do the same. By the end of my term it would be great to know that every member of our Lodge had been contacted by someone in the Lodge if nothing more than to just say hello to a Brother.

The challenge is out there, will you take the time to call 10 men who you call Brother?

**Brian Pulling**  
**WM, Minnehaha Lodge #5**  
 (minnehahalodge5wm@gmail.com)

**Dane Bloch**  
**WM, Unity Lodge #130**  
 (unity130master@gmail.com)

**Bob Weatherford**  
**WM, Trinity Lodge #200**  
 (trinitylodge200wm@gmail.com)



## The Final Funnies

**Sioux Falls  
 Freemasons**  
**The Trestle  
 Board**  
**Three Lodges  
 One Brotherhood**  
 520 South 1<sup>st</sup> Ave  
 Sioux Falls, SD 57108

