



# The Trestle Board

The Voice of Franklin's Masonic Bodies



Volume 5, Issue 2

February 2010

## Senior Warden—Russ Wharton—Lodge Attendance

### Lodge Attendance

On any given night at the lodge, we might expect 25-35 Brothers to show up for a meeting. At Hiram lodge, that represents about 10% of the total membership. The pessimist chides the lack of participation and warns of dwindling interest in our Fraternity. The optimist points out similar numbers in other organizations and proclaims Hiram's influence in multiple appendant bodies (Scottish/York Rites, Shrine, etc.). I think I fall somewhere in the middle – what one might describe as cautiously optimistic.

### Don't Forget the Unheralded Performers

Too often we focus only on the officers, the Brothers who regularly attend or frequently perform the meaty parts in the degrees. I would like to remind everyone of the many who work quietly in the background - men who cook, men who organize, men who teach, men who encourage – all who serve. Our annual fundraiser (BBQ, fish fry, etc.) will always represent to me one of the best examples of the commitment of Hiram's diverse membership. So many of these Brothers appear out of the woodwork to assist in the overall success of the event. Since my initiation in 2000, I have seen Brothers who tend to 4 am BBQ rotation, 7 am lodge setup, Thursday evening grounds work, daily slaw stirring, pit prep/cleanup (a list of men far too long for me to mention here). I say thank you for the many times you have worked without appreciation and allowed others their time in the sun. May we all acknowledge and encourage the strengths and contributions of these individuals.

### Salute Past Performers

For years I have heard the praises of Brothers named A.B., Les, Fletcher, Fred, Millard, Steve, Jim, and Campbell. Additionally, I've made great friends with Brothers with names like Steve, Mark, Rodger, Craig, Joe, Robert, Jim, Ed, Jesse, Harold and so on. And I have seen their good works up close. [This is just a sample of a much larger list of those I cannot salute in one article.] Some of these Brothers are regularly active, some less so, and some have passed on to the Celestial Lodge above. The membership at Hiram is blessed to have had these Brothers serve our Lodge. I am reminded each month of their commitment when the Worshipful Master asks them to stand and be recognized. May we all be blessed with the patience and

### Encouraging the New Generation

At times, I have been overwhelmed with busy months filled with multiple meetings, degrees, and commitments – sometimes bemoaning the long line of new Brothers working their way through initiation, passing, and raising. However, after looking at the long cast list of the Master Mason Degree, I am reminded of the necessity of the encouragement and development of new members in all facets of Freemasonry. Far too often, we depend too heavily on such a small group to shoulder the load. I remember my desire to explore the "arts, parts, and points" of the Fraternity upon my advancement to each new degree. I am impressed by the energy and dedication of some of our newest Brothers and can see so much potential for the future of Hiram Lodge. May we all be reminded of the energy and enthusiasm at our introduction to the Lodge and our search for light.

While it may seem trite to use the phrase, "it takes all kinds," to describe the necessary workings of the Lodge, it most certainly is appropriate. I am disappointed that we have lost Brothers through attrition for a variety of reasons. However, I am constantly reminded of the great opportunities and growth of Hiram Lodge through the talents of our membership. Some of these Brothers are out there simply waiting to be asked to participate, teetering on the brink of inactivity or demit. I ask all of you to recommit yourselves to the obligations of our Fraternity, forgoing any past issues or conflicts (if any unhappily exist). We have so much to do and so many shoes to fill.

Fraternally,  
Russ Wharton, Senior Warden

### Lodge Dates

- Feb 25** 6:00pm Dinner (Chili Cook-off)  
7:00pm MM Degree
- Mar 4** 5:15pm Dinner  
6:00pm 3 EA Degrees
- Mar 13** 8:00am Breakfast  
9:00am MM Degree
- Mar 15** 6:00pm Dinner  
7:00pm Stated Meeting

### York Rite Dates

- Feb 25** 6:00pm Chili Cook-off  
Fundraiser for Knights Templar  
Eye Foundation

### OES Dates

- Mar 9** 6:30pm Refreshments  
7:30pm Stated Meeting
- Mar 20** 4:00 pm Installation of  
Officers

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115 2nd Ave. S.  
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### Hiram 2010 BBQ & Silent Auction—June 5, 2010

Hiram Lodge will be holding a silent auction on the first floor of the lodge during the annual BBQ on June 5, 2010, from 3-7 PM. Members of the Eastern Star, Scottish Rite, York Rite, or Shriners wishing to donate something to the silent auction should contact Bro. Jeff Pedigo ([jeffpedigo@gmail.com](mailto:jeffpedigo@gmail.com)) or Bro. Dale Pewitt ([dalepewitt@comcast.net](mailto:dalepewitt@comcast.net)). Money raised by the silent auction will be added to the BBQ fundraiser.



### York Rite News

### Eastern Star News

Franklin Chapter #449 will hold officer elections for the upcoming year at our March Stated Meeting on March 9, 2010 at 7:30 pm.

Our Installation of Officers will be held on Saturday, March 20, 2010 at 4:00 pm.

