



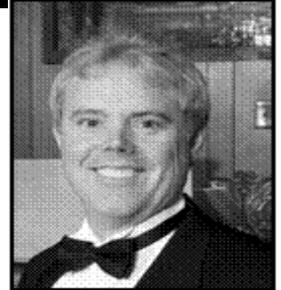
Three Great Lights  
Masonic Lodge #651  
Free and Accepted Masons

October  
2013

# The Trestleboard

## From the East

Greetings from the East,



Rick Field

Dallas to be exact. Well, okay, Little Elm is more accurate, for a family wedding. Once again I am reminded of the hope and enthusiasm of the youngsters

with the fantastic family interaction; which is only made possible by communication.

Interesting what that means- a one, two, or multipath action to exchange information. In this case, to herd everyone to be at the same place at the time.

For our Lodge, we have been using the Website- <http://www.masoniclodge651.com/>, the Trestleboard - written and email- and of course, regular conversations with our persons as we meet, greet, and converse. For those that attend some of our activities and or read the Trestleboard, we are able to catch up and keep up on the various schedules and activities. For the rest of our brethren and families, I don't know. I don't really hear from you. Several have left a voicemail to which I responded in kind, others with email or proxy emails. All are great but I never get an acknowledgement so I do not know if the communication has really occurred. All I can assume is something was not correct, like the lodge records, I misdialed on the cell or email, or the other party did not receive the info for some other reason. If I am pursuing an issue that concerns the Lodge interest, I need to know. And this month would be a very good time to voice some feedback.

We are at the annual change of Officers season for the new ensuing Masonic Year. Unfortunately, again, this year there will not be a full line for the Lodge. The newest news is that some officers may be leaving soon for new work locations. This will put additional stress on the decreasing group of men that are trying to keep the Lodge running. Hope was that the website would enlarge our presence in our community. This has worked very well for our rentals. We have almost a full house most of the time proving that we are seen.

But here there does not seem to be much interest generated in this locale to join this Lodge. This will need to be resolved going forward. Action(s) will be determined by feedback from active members and those who have an interest coupled with personal effort to help direct this Lodge. Until then we will keep on and continue to adapt as we can.

Hope everyone had a great summer and will enjoy the fall.

Until next month,

Rick Field, PM

## AS OBSERVED FROM THE WEST

Been there, done that, my wife said you will not be Master again! Four times is enough...That having been said let us look at what I see from the West end of the Lodge Room. Most of the business is conducted between the east side of the altar and the East, as no one sits west of the Junior Warden, except maybe the Tiler, when he is invited into the Lodge Room. That means the Junior Deacon, who has good hearing, and the Senior Warden, who has to crank up his hearing aids to even get the slightest clue as what is being said, but that is what I live with.

On a more important note here is what I observed from the West. In August we had 10 side liners. I thought WOW things are picking up. WRONG. In September we had ONE. And if he had been asked to fill a vacant Officer Station we would have had ZERO. Key Officers were missing. The Junior Warden was not there, had to work. No Senior Deacon, we don't have one, Jerry is filling in but has the same edict as I have "you will not be Master again".

Brethren we need to take a serious look at our lodge. Where do we want to be in the next few years. A year ago we had a special call meeting, at which Worshipful Randy Downey PM, our inspector presided. The meeting was well attended. What do we want to do was the question. A few Brothers made a commitment. We had a closed installation. Now let's look at where we are at. The Master committed to serve two more years. In my opinion right now I feel he is very discouraged and almost burned out. The Junior Warden has not qualified, nor has he been installed, which means he is not even close to move into the Senior Warden's station. We have no Senior Deacon, who has qualified as Senior Deacon, let alone move up to the Junior Warden Station.

Where does that leave us. We've been at this cross road before. Before us are three forks in the road. The one in front of us is the path we are on now. If we stay on it we will end up having Grand Lodge pulling our Charter, take all our assets, Building and we will cease to be a Lodge. This leaves the brothers who don't belong to another Lodge scrambling to move their membership.

The fork on our right has five to ten Brothers commit themselves to be Officers and keep the Lodge going. This means EVERY WEDNESDAY they will be at Lodge, either for practice, Degrees, and especially for the Stated Meeting. Those of us that are addressed as Worshipful made that commitment and some are still doing it.

The fork on the left has us consolidating with another Lodge. Does this work? At times it does and doesn't. Mt. Moriah, in Los Gatos is the consolidation of four lodges and is very active and strong. About a third of our membership lives in San Mateo County, another third lives in Santa Clara County, and the other third lives out of the area. Which way do we go? At present we are part of the Santa Clara Valley Officers Association. The closest Lodges are Palo Alto and Los Altos. By consolidating our members do not have to worry about their membership as they will be members of the consolidated lodge. The building will be the property of the consolidated lodge as well as all of our assets.

Brethren which fork do we take?

Bill Malmstrom, PM, Senior Warden

What is a cowan? What is an eavesdropper?

"Cowan" is an Old Scotch word, meaning an ignorant Mason who puts stones together without mortar, or piled rough stones from the field into a wall without working them square and true. He is a Mason without the Word, the Apprentice who tries to masquerade as a Master.

The eavesdropper in ancient times was that would-be thief of secrets who listened under eaves of houses (there was often a space between wall and roof, for the purpose of ventilation). Because to hear he had to get close to the wall under the eaves, he received the droppings from the roof if it rained—hence eavesdropper. In modern times the eavesdropper is that bold man who forges a good standing card or finds and masquerades as its owner; the man who has read a so-called "expose" of Masonry and tries to get into a lodge, in order to ask for charity or help. He is very rare, and few tilers have ever met him.. The cowan, however, - the Fellowcraft or Entered Apprentice stopped for cause, the one time member in good standing who is now dropped for one cause or another—these not infrequently try to pass the tiler.

Three Great Lights lodge #651  
 Meetings are held at  
 The Royal Hodge Masonic Center  
 651 Roble Avenue  
 Menlo Park, CA

## Birthdays in October

Brother	Birthday
Robert W. Graves, Sr.	3
Robert Rensen	6
Donald E. Mathers	7
Brian L. Coleman	8
Richard M. Steiger	8
Bruce H. Winter	9
Douglas J. Hipsley	10
Raymond D Fantasia	14
Carl A Cavaiani	16
Matthew S. Schultz	18
George L. Crombie	25
Jimmie F. Gorman	28

## October calendar of events

2	Light Meal	6:15 pm
2	Stated meeting	7:30 pm
4-6	Grand Lodge Communication	
9	First degree practice	7:00 pm
12	Grand Master Reception Friendship Lodge	
16	First degree (Officers in Tux)	7:00 pm
21	OAM Los Altos #712	

Three Great Light's web page has the latest dates and times for lodge activities. Between Trestleboards this is the place to find out what, where and when for last minute events. It includes the latest Trestleboard and list of officers. Bookmark it today!

[Http://www.masoniclodges651.com](http://www.masoniclodges651.com)

## 2013 Officers of Three Great Lights Lodge #651

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San Mateo, CA 94404

# Trestleboard

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## October 2013

[www.calodges.org/no651](http://www.calodges.org/no651)  
651 Roble Ave  
Menlo Park, CA 94025

There have been many great explorers who share a common grounding, as Brothers in Masonry. Here are a few of them. See if any names look familiar. (Davey Crockett, Jim Bowie, Sam Houston, Christopher "Kit" Carson, Lewis and Clark, Charles Lindbergh)

Throughout the years, the Masons have attracted many adventurers, including John Glenn and Edwin Eugene "Buzz" Aldrin, who brought a Masonic flag to the moon in 1969. Throughout the history of Freemasonry many men of influence and accomplishment have been drawn to the fellowship of the fraternity. Some were successful men before they petitioned for membership, by the society's standards. Others went on to accomplish great things, because they put into practice the lessons and teachings of Masonry.

