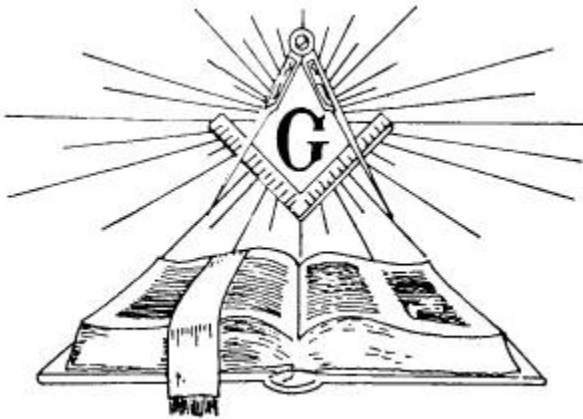


November/December 2015

THE TRESTLE BOARD



A Publication of

The Three Great Lights

Lodge # 651

Menlo Park, California

What's Inside:

The Status of Your Lodge, or How We Regain our Charter.

If Masonry is not a Religion, Why Do You Have Deacons?

Why do the Stairs in the Second Degree Wind?

What's Coming Up:

December 2, 2015, 7:00 p.m. - Stated Meeting

December 9, 2015, 7:00 p.m. - Hall Board Meeting/Ritual Practice

December 11, 2015, 7:00 p.m. - Ritual Practice

December 18, 2015, 7:00 p.m. - Ritual Practice

December 25, 7:00 p.m. - Christmas Day

January 6, 2015, 7:00 p.m. - Stated Meeting

CONTENTS

Your Lodge at a Glance.....	3
Publication Information.....	3
From the East.....	4
The Editor's Corner.....	5
Letter from Grand Master.....	6
From the West.....	7
Did You Know?.....	8
The Senior Deacon's Corner.....	9
Election Status.....	9
The Artist Formerly Known as: Three Great Lights #651.....	10
Miscellany.....	11

YOUR LODGE AT A GLANCE

Master:	Peter K. Van DerWerff
Senior Warden:	Kevin Hall
Junior Warden:	Steve Hamilton
Treasurer:	Michael A. Garoutte
Secretary:	William G. Biddell
Senior Deacon:	Bruce A. Last
Junior Deacon:	Larry L. Jones
Chaplin:	Thomas Prussing
Senior Steward:	Rich Synder
Junior Steward:	Morian Walker
Marshal:	Bill Malmstrom
Tiler:	Bruce A. Utecht

Publication Information

The Three Great Lights #651 Trestle Board is a publication of The Three Great Lights Lodge #651 located at 651 Roble Avenue, Menlo Park, California, 94025 to provide information and insight to our members.

Members of our lodge who own and operate their own business may advertise in this publication. The lodge reserves the right to refuse any advertisement for violation of the California Code of Masonic Conduct or in bad taste or offensive. Political advertising in any form is prohibited.

Advertising proceeds beyond the cost of publication are given to Masons 4 Mitts.

For questions, ideas, submissions, and advertising, please contact the
-Editor, Bruce Last at bruce@attorneylast.com.

FROM THE EAST

Brethren of Three Great Lights 651:

The other shoe has fallen. First, MW John L. Cooper III enacted the “friendly surrender” of our Charter. Now, the incoming Grand Master M. David Perry and the Executive Board have dropped the other.

The incoming Grand Master gives us until January 31, 2016 to complete four tasks and regain our Charter. The letter I received from Inspector Worshipful Randy Downey outlined those tasks. To summarize the tasks:

- Identify a full officer line, from Master to Tiler, for the next year.
- All officers demonstrate proficiency in opening and closing the lodge and the three degrees.
- Provide a timeline to exemplify all three degrees from start to finish providing a meaningful experience for candidates.
- Timely file all required reports, as well as any missing reports.

Our top four officers feel that they can do this, and your Secretary and Treasurer are committed to this accomplishment.

Our Lodge now needs a few brothers to commit to fill the remaining stations. In particular, we need two Stewards and a Marshal to fill the chairs and perform the floor work and some ritual in all three degrees.

While it may appear that the Grand Master provided different objectives in the last two years, the goal of our Lodge providing a complete progressive line was always included.

The Grand Master’s communications have caused some confusion. A letter received a few weeks after the enclosed letter stated our suspension would continue until the next Grand Lodge session. I requested that our Inspector clarify this matter.

The reply was:

“31 Jan is the date by which 651 must have accomplished all of the items listed in the letter, including qualified officers, past due reports, etc. If everything hasn't been accomplished by that time, then the next steps of charter revocation will begin. This doesn't appear to prevent consolidation discussions from happening after 31 Jan, but it will confirm that 651 will no longer exist in its current form. Apologies for the frankness of my message, but I want to ensure you understand what I have learned.”

As you now see, we have not only a definitive list of milestones to meet, but a date by which we must accomplish them.

Now some positive news. The Grand Lodge returned us to the San Mateo District whence we came. Our new Inspector is the Worshipful Chris Smith.

While I will become the Master of Los Altos 712 next year, I will keep most Wednesdays open to help in any way I can and to assist in raising The Three Great Lights # 651 from its slumber.

A handful of Brothers are deeply committed to this goal. I ask you now, “ARE YOU ONE OF THEM?”

-Bill Malmstrom PM, Outgoing Master.

THE EDITOR'S CORNER

Welcome back to our new Trestle Board. My goal is to bring both Lodge information and informative content about Masonry in general. I am pleased to hear your ideas and comments. After all, commitment to improvement is lifelong.

-Bruce Last, Editor



GRAND LODGE
FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS
OF CALIFORNIA
CALIFORNIA MASONIC MEMORIAL TEMPLE
1111 CALIFORNIA STREET
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94108-2284
(415) 776-7000 FAX (415) 776-0483

Inspector District 337
Randy Downey
1084 Windsor Street
San Jose, CA 95129
Home: (408) 255-3719
e-mail: oldmandowney@msn.com

October 1, 2015

Worshipful William Malmstrom
Master
Three Great Lights Lodge No. 651

Dear Worshipful Malmstrom:

The Grand Lodge Executive Committee has met, in consultation with Worshipful Jeff Wilkins, Assistant Grand Lecturer for Division III, and myself, regarding the status and future of Three Great Lights Lodge No. 651.

It has been noted that the lodge appears to be largely outwardly-focused, rather than concentrating on those internal matters which actually make a lodge of Masons. While it is admirable to have a desire and a commitment to serve the community, it is imperative for a lodge to function in a sound manner, and to concentrate on its true purpose, which is to make Masons.

To the end of making certain that your lodge can function as a lodge in the future, the following minimum criteria have been established:

- Identify a full corps of officers for the upcoming year, from Worshipful Master to Tiler, inclusive
- All officers demonstrate proficiency in the ritual work in opening and closing, and all three degrees
- Establish a timeline to exemplify, for your Inspector, all three degrees in their entirety, such that the work would provide a meaningful experience for candidates.
- All required reports are completed and submitted, including the Secretary's semi-annual report to the lodge, and the Hall Association's semi-annual report to the lodge, both of which were due in August of this year, plus all current and past-due forms 200 for your Hall association.

FROM THE WEST

I attended the Grand Lodge Annual Communication with Worshipful Bill and Rocky Ortega. It was good to see some old friends and share some time with them.

The legislation presented at the communication and its disposition is available at www.freemason.org

As you can see from Worshipful Bill's "From the East", we need a full line of qualified officers able to present the degrees by the end of January. This in turn means that we need not only a full line of officers, but more practices.

Accordingly our first practice session occurred on October 28th with additional sessions on the following Wednesdays. While we have a bit of rust in our hinges, the Grand Master's goal is not unattainable.

Moving forward, ritual practice is set for every Wednesday starting promptly at 7:00 PM. (Except for November 25th).

All the sections of the three degrees need work, as well as ensuring a flawless opening and closing.

I ask that everyone join us at our next practices in December and January. We must exemplify all three degrees before the end of January, and our goal is to impress.

Even if you are not currently an officer, attending ritual practice provides insight into the ritual and a good first step to becoming a sideline alternate.

In the meantime, everyone should study their part so to keep a smooth practice.

-Pete VanDerWerff, PM, Senior Warden and Master Elect

Did You Know?

Why Do The Stairs In The Second Degree Wind?

In I Kings VI:8 appears:

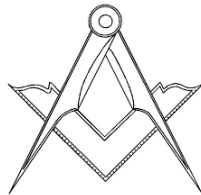
"The door for the middle chamber was in the right side of the house: and they went up with winding stairs into the middle chamber, and out of the middle into the third."

In the Second Degree, the Fellowcraft climbs the winding stairs to reach the middle chamber where are paid his earned wages, in corn, wine and oil.

Symbolists find an especial significance in the "winding" of the stairs, denoting the necessity for a courageous ascent. Unlike straight stairs, winding stairs do not disclose what is ahead. One climbing a winding stair in confidence does so because he is a man grown, no weakling, but one able to face even an unknown future with courage.

Taken as a whole, the Fellowcraft degree as a whole is a symbol of achieving manhood. Appropriate to its teachings is that winding stairs denote courage. The Entered Apprentice degree symbolizes youth while the the Master Mason degree symbolizes age.

(Source: MSA Digest 101 Questions About Freemasonry)



THE SENIOR DEACON'S CORNER

“If Masonry is not a religion, why are you called a Deacon?”

Several people asked me this question when I speak about my position in our Lodge. I wondered about this too, as my experience was that the title “Deacon” describes a position in a church.

The answer is found in the etymology of the word. While currently associated with a ministry position of a church, this is not the historical use of the word.

Our current word “Deacon” derives from the Old English word “diacon” which arose from the Greek word “diákonos”.

“Diákonos” translates to “servant”, “waiting-man” and “messenger” as well as “minister.”

As you know, part of the duties of both the Senior and Junior Deacons are to attend to alarms at the various doors of the Lodge and carry messages to and from various officers. These tasks fit pretty well with the ancient Greek definitions of “servant”, “waiting-man” and “messenger”.

-Bruce Last, Senior Deacon

ELECTION STATUS

At the November Stated meeting we elected a new slate of officers for the lodge, shown on the “Your Lodge at a Glance.” We now await the Grand Master’s approval due to the rules of our suspension.

The Artist Formerly Known as: Three Great Lights Lodge # 651

At our November stated meeting, following notice to all our members, we voted to change the name of the lodge from Three Great Lights Lodge #651 to Menlo Park Masonic Lodge #651. The purpose of the name change is to better identify our lodge with the community in which we exist.

The measure passed unanimously.

One of the issues in rebuilding our lodge is that, despite all we do for our community, our existence is one of Menlo Park's better kept secrets.

A problem common to many Masonic, and other community, organizations is a decline in membership. There are many social reasons dissuading people from joining organizations such as ours. However, it made no sense to compound our problems by keeping our light under a basket as it were.

On an interesting point of history, our lodge's original name was "Menlo Park Masonic Lodge". The Three Great Lights name came to us by way of several consolidations with other lodges.

Like our election results, this change requires approval of the Grand Master before it takes effect. We do not anticipate any objection.

So join me in welcoming, or rather welcoming back, our new, or old, name Menlo Park Masonic Lodge # 651.

MISCELLANY

Bits, Pieces, Trivia, and More, Not Necessarily Masonic Related

TOY DRIVE: Three Great Lights # 651 (or should I say, Menlo Park Masonic Lodge #651) is once again working on a toy drive with the cooperation of the Menlo Park Fire Department. Bring your new, unwrapped toy(s) to the December Stated Meeting and we do the rest.

KRAMPUSNACT: The “Night of the Krampus” is celebrated in the Alpine countries of Europe on December 5. The Krampus is the antipode of Santa Claus and punishes misbehaving children. On Krampusnacht, young adults don Krampus masks and costumes and, with the consent of the parents, visit ill behaved children. Interestingly, it is the Krampus, not Santa, who brings coal in the European alpine tradition.

STATUE OF LIBERTY: What is the inscription on the cover of the book the Statue of Liberty holds? July 4, 1776, but it is in Roman numerals, so that would be July IV, MDCCLXXVI. “D” is the Roman Numeral for 500. (Thanks to Mike Garoutte for this.)

MASONS 4 MITTS: In 2015, Masons 4 Mitts raised enough money to give new baseball mitts to nearly 8,000 children in California. Over the past seven years, California Masons provided more than \$500,000 to this program.

THE MISSING CORNER OF OUR COUNTRY? In 1792 Masons installed the first piece of the White House, a cornerstone. Although this is well documented, no one can find it. Even Harry Truman and Barbara Bush searched for the stone with no luck.

The Three Great Lights

Lodge #651

651 Roble Avenue

Menlo Park, CA 94025

