



Your Lodge Needs You

"When the going gets tough, the tough get going." I'm not sure where this quote comes from, but it's been around a long time and still holds true. Football coaches throughout my career used this quote to motivate players to greater deeds, especially during the half-time break when the team was behind. There are other techniques used by coaches, but this one seems to work. It invades an athlete's psyche with guilt motivation, for, if you are not tough, then you're weak. What male of the species wants to be thought of as weak? Most athletes desire to be tough, to be relied upon, to be looked up to, to be the playmaker that changes momentum and wins the game with unbelievable heroics. It's the tough man who digs deep down and finds that extra energy, that additional needed push, that positive and successful attitude that wins the day. Some have what it takes, others do not. Weak men make excuses, and, in the world of football, they don't play.

This quote has a place in Freemasonry as well. Peoria Lodge #31 has had numerous shake ups among the officer core: Brothers that have been called away from Lodge duties due to work related responsibilities, those being transferred out of town, or those with family concerns that consume precious time. Most recently, this is the case with Fred Cheek (SD) and Tim Walsh (Chaplin), both of whom had to drop out of line. This type of challenge for the Lodge is nothing new. I've seen it happen again and again and it will continue to happen for years to come. There are numerous reasons for brothers to drop out of the line, some unavoidable and some avoidable and some calculated, but they all have one thing in common: They leave opportunities for other dedicated Masons to fill their positions and thereby show what can be done with toughness of mind directed toward problem solving.

For all those brothers reading this article, your Lodge needs you to step up to the plate and hit a home run. Some brothers have already decided to join in the service game. They're motivated to excel and fill a need for this Lodge. Guys like Dale Justus (JW), who last year was a Steward and has advanced all the way to a pedestal position in one year, Joe Terrell (JD), who is the Senior Deacon Pro Temp and last year was not even in the line, and Ed Barron (SW), who stepped up to fill a huge need when the Lodge requested his expertise. Others have also made their desire to serve known. Guys like Steven D. Wieters (JS), who wants to advance in the line as far as needed by the Lodge, Dennis McMillen, who recently has moved back to town and wishes to get deeply involved serving in

any position up to SD, and Shawn Barker (Marshall), who is acting JD and only recently began coming to Lodge after getting side tracked in other Masonic orders.

These men represent some of the toughest players this Lodge has to insert into the game of Masonry. They are willing to carry the responsibility of running this Lodge for years to come. When you see them, give them a pat on the back and your support. They are doing Masonic work for you and they should be recognized, thanked, and congratulated.

Let me hear from you if you desire to serve Peoria Lodge #31 in any manner. Your Lodge needs you.

Wayne De Vlieghe, WM, Peoria Lodge #31

My Last



I often write on a particular topic, by borrowing from the genius of Freemasonry the chosen theme is not only specific; it is also symbolic of a much broader message(s). A means to express, through familiar subject matter, to your conscious reasoning, more complex implications.

Suffering from chronic boredom, I once attempted to count all the meanings attached to the number 3 in the Staircase Lecture. After processing this exercise for a time, it became apparent that the result would be irrelevant without also including the remaining combinations of 3's in the entire Ritual. Then, if all the 5's and 7's were excluded there would be no relativity to the number of 3's. Then what significance are the 3/5/7 counts unless they are set against references to our laws, to the VSL, or to the repetitions of Wisdom, Strength and Beauty, etc., etc., etc.

In some instances a quotation is the basis for what I write, other times I employ parables and in one case I asserted (please feel free to disagree with me) the ultimate lesson of the entire

Hiramic Legend hinges on a single word.

With all the messages we teach, with all the mutations of those messages, and with the countless compound meanings each may convey as its context is varied, it stands to reason that no one can comprehend it all in a single dose.

Back to the genius of Freemasonry, the beauty of our teachings has nothing to do with the myriad number of times or the metaphors we employ to teach the lessons, it is the effort (if any) the Brothers, especially the Leadership inculcate. The more they do, the stronger Freemasonry grows. The less they do, the less we can be distinguished from the profane world outside our doors.

So long, Farewell, Amen

Ed Barron

Our Fund Raiser



Summer is quickly moving along and fall may bring the Lodge a new set of circumstances which the officers and the Lodge may have to consider. As the pit roast approaches your individual efforts will be asked for to help our Lodges fund raiser be as successful as possible. This is one of the main ways we have to earn money helping keep our doors open. So with your tickets reach out to as many people you can within and without the Lodge promoting and encouraging them to come.

To finish up my comments regarding the experience I had with the Grand Lodge Communication in June, it's amazing to see how these brothers can dedicate so much time to this Fraternity. Of not only committing the time and energy to their own Lodges just to become

a Past Master to even qualify for the opportunity to be part the line, is amazing. My hat is off to them.

In closing I will stay true to my word and follow through with my thoughts of what I believe Freemasonry means to me as presented in my June article. This Fraternity continues to impress me as time moves along as to what I find myself capable of doing especially with the circumstances with my epilepsy.

To be able to take this good man and make me a better man through the principles of Freemasonry continues to make me grow with the Blessing of God. I have no problem expressing my faith in God, for without his Blessings, Wisdom and guidance I would not be able to do these things.

Until next time,

Dale Justus, JW, Peoria Lodge #31