

To Drink Or Not To Drink

Resolution 2011-02, the legislation voted upon at the 2011 Grand Lodge Communication in Flagstaff, AZ, June 3rd and 4th, relates to alcohol use in Arizona lodges. This resolution does not condone or promote the use of alcohol in lodges but removes the Grand Lodge's ability to regulate this issue. The Grand Lodge is effectively leaving the regulation of alcohol use to the individual lodges citing that Masons should act with temperance and good judgment regarding its use in lodge.

The resolution passed. It is now my responsibility to issue a statement regarding how Peoria #31 will regulate this concern in our own behalf.

Brothers, I have found over the course of my lifetime, that good judgment, like common sense, is not so common. Opening our lodge to alcohol use among the brothers before degree work will not benefit either the candidates or the brothers. It would only serve to interfere with the solemnity of the work and will be, therefore, as in years past, not allowed in our lodge. Likewise, before our business meeting, the brethren need to vote on and discuss issues presented before lodge with a clear head, so again, this will not be allowed. Since we have not been drinking alcohol in our lodge in past years, Peoria #31 brethren should not feel we are losing something but maintaining the status quo and exercising temperance and good judgment.

The real reason why this legislation was brought up before the Grand Lodge vote was due to Scottsdale Lodge's loss of potential income from renting their facility for a Super Bowl party. It cost them \$10,000 which was cheerfully taken by a local church instead. The point here is to allow individual lodges to increase income potential. This may or may not be a good situation for Peoria #31 and I cannot say with certainty that this aspect of the new found freedom will be a benefit or not.

Peoria #31 must take a wait-and-see stance on this aspect of income producing potential in our lodge. A possibility exists of establishing a committee to investigate the costs of insuring the

lodge against liability and the costs of advertising to secure business in this regard. A motion can be entertained at our next stated meeting and the lodge can vote on establishing a committee for this purpose. If so, the lodge would need to prevail upon our attorney and insurance agent brothers to advise and assess these concerns. There are also sanitary and state health department concerns and security details that must be considered before taking the plunge. It may be that the lodge will have to invest tens of thousands of dollars to bring the facility to code. Will the income potential outweigh the investment?

This is not something our lodge should consider blindly. Taking time to consider this issue will also benefit our lodge by viewing how other lodges approach this business and to learn from their experience.

In short, Peoria #31 will not allow this aspect of alcohol use in lodge until due diligence on business consequences is assessed.

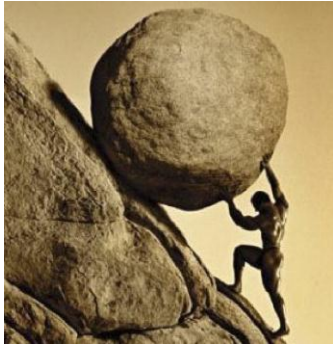
Wayne De Vlieghe, WM, Peoria #31



ARE YOU GETTING THE LEADERSHIP YOU DESERVE?

The ancient Greeks tell the story of this cat named Sisyphus. Long story short, he was doomed for eternity by Hades to roll this big assed rock up to the top of a mountain. But, every time he got it to the top, the rock would roll back down under its own weight. So Sissy (as his friends called him) would have to go back down, fetch the rock and start all over again. He was most certainly doomed to this horrid fate by forces beyond his control.

President Kennedy impressed the world with his declaration, “A rising tide lifts all boats!” Wildly insightful stuff if you happen to be a boat. By contrast in the human world, just



because one person raises their standards, doesn't mean everyone else rises in due proportion. Rising therefore, or remaining stuck in the mud is a self-imposed choice.

Demanding more of yourself and others; requires more effort, it requires courage, it requires seeing possibilities, it requires the assumption of risk. On



the other hand, accepting crapola is easy. If the bar is set so low that traversing it can be accomplished while crawling on your belly; then self esteem soars, plausible deniability becomes absolution, and the ranks of the mediocre swell.

Ultimately then, is leadership measured by:

A. Nobler deeds, higher thoughts and greater achievements?

or

B. How many “friends” one has on facebook?

The moral of the story:

If you do what you always done, you're gonna get what you always get.

So, whatever You choose to do, is the answer to the question!

Ed Barron, SW, Peoria Lodge #31

Grand Lodge Report



The month of June has been a busy time for me and Masonry. Starting out with the 129th Annual Grand Lodge Communication in Flagstaff which was my first time to attend and I did it as one of your officers.

My wife and I arrived there on Thursday, June 2nd but after settling down in our room and my registering, it was too late in the day to participate in the sessions going on that afternoon. That evening we attended the formal Grand Banquet which was presented at the Conference Center on the Northern Arizona University campus.

We had a good time there and the events over the next two days were quite interesting. There were different events planned for the ladies to help them through their weekend stay. I thank those ladies who planned out those activities for their efforts because it helped my wife deal with her first time experience with the fraternity to this extent. With the location for the 2012 Grand Lodge Communication as Sedona at the Poco Diablo Resort June 1st and 2nd my wife has expressed an interest in going to that as well. Which I was very pleased to hear because her support will be critical during this trying time for me over the next few years.

I also had the distinct pleasure of experiencing my first stated meeting dinner the Tuesday right after Flagstaff. A high pressure start for the month of June for me. I would not have been able to do it without the help and support of the brothers who stepped up to the plate in my time of need. Which include WB Mert, Bill Cramer, Steve K. Wieters, his son Steve D. and the other brothers who help to make the evening successful. I thank them.

Well, because I did get a little long with my words I will save my thoughts of what Freemasonry means to me until next month.

Until then, take care and God Bless,

Dale Justus, JW, Peoria Lodge #31