

From the East

Why is a Fire Engine Red?



Fire trucks have four wheels and eight people. Everyone knows that four and eight makes twelve. There are twelve inches in a ruler. Queen Elizabeth, a ruler, is also the name of the largest ship on the seas. Seas have fish and fish have fins. The Finns fought the Russians. Russians are red. Fire trucks are always 'Rushin'. Therefore, fire trucks are red. And if you think that's wild, you ought to hear some people try to explain why they don't come to Lodge.

This is December 2011; the last month of the year. It is the time when we celebrate Christmas with family and friends. When we take time to reflect on the year that is ending; also looking forward to the coming year. Pondering what it will bring.

It is my hope that more of you will start coming back to Lodge on a regular bases. To catch up with old friends and meet new brothers, who are waiting to become your new friends.

I came to Masonry 15 years ago to learn how to improve myself as a person. As Master of Peoria Lodge, the area I need to improve on is communications. So, that I can keep you informed of upcoming events and Lodge activities.

So, please as you reflect on the past and decide what you would like to accomplish this year. Please consider coming back to Lodge this year. Help me and the officers to improve our Lodge by making it a better place to meet old friends. And new ones that would love to become your old friends too.

May your days be blessed with family and friends this holiday season.

Peter Francis WM

From the West

First, congratulations to all the newly installed officers; especially the Worshipful Brothers who took on the responsibility of filling the much needed stations. A special thank-you to WB Bill Phelps, installing Master and to WB Russ Nichols, installing Marshall, what a great job they did!

I was so glad to see the great turnout of Brothers that I haven't seen for awhile, yet I missed seeing a many others. For one reason or another, our attendance is down. Some Brothers have very substantial reasons, as conflicting work schedules, attending school, prior commitments, or some might be becoming disenchanted with Masonry in general.

Granted, in some areas Brothers may have conflicting views or may have issues with certain policies or decisions that have been implemented, but we all must strive to be the best Masons possible by not letting negativity control what we all believe in as Masons. And why wouldn't we all want to be part of the greatest fraternity in the world. By becoming involved in your Lodge there are many areas which need your help. By volunteering to be on a committee, or by learning a charge, ballot box lecture, or apron presentation? If memorization is a problem why not head up or be part of building maintenance, or pantry and distribution team.

In closing; let's all remember the glorious and noble purpose of the trowel. Its purpose is to spread the cement of Brotherly love and affection which is to unite us into one sacred band or society of friends and Brothers among whom have no contention should ever exist, but that noble contention or rather emulation of who can best work and best agree.

Each one of our members is a vital part to the success of our fraternity.

Bill Cramer (Acting Senior Warden)



From the South

Work or get Fired...

Lead, follow or get out of the way. Common expressions used in construction. The typical comeback would be "I've only got two speeds and if you don't like this one, I know you're not going to like the next one."

In some ways we are like a construction crew. We build better men and also build better character in ourselves. We come to the Lodge and work as a team to accomplish many things. We are drawn together by a mystical tie that binds us, not as a work crew but as a band of brothers working together to make Masonry an organization that likeminded men are drawn to.

So, it is not work or get fired. It's not lead, follow or get out of the way and Masonry is not a two speed organization. There is always something to do and there is always someone that steps up and shoulders the load. That is what makes our fraternity work. What an honor it is to be a part of a team like this.

In the coming year we will continue the tradition of making good men Masons and hopefully work to improve Lodge attendance. Let's give it our best shot.

Joe Terrell - Junior Warden
Esse Quam Videri