

Florence Lodge #281 A.F. & A.M.

Trestleboard

February, 2010

W.. David L. Rose
Worshipful Master, 2010

5903 Maple Street
Omaha, NE 68104

Upcoming Calendar for Florence Lodge #281

- Monday, February 1—Regular Business Meeting
@ Florence Lodge #281 at 7:30 pm
- February 8— Practice
@ 7:00 pm - Tangier Shrine Crescent Room
- February 12—Friendship Dinner at Scottish Rite—bring a
prospective candidate to dinner at no cost!
- February 15—Practice for proving up in 3 degrees
@ Florence Lodge #281 at 7:00 p.m.
- February 22—Proving up for opening and closing in all
three degrees
@ Florence Lodge #281 at 7:00 p.m.
- March 1— Regular Business Meeting
@ Florence Lodge #281 at 7:30 p.m.

Please remit your **2010 dues** as soon as possible to remain current. E-mail Secretary Dale Wagner at dewagner@cox.net if you have questions about your current standing.

February Birthdays

James Dolan
Harlan Falk
Kenneth Gaiser
Frank Given
Clifford Holste
Thomas Johnson
Eugene Kriebs
Michael Lillie
Cary Manson
Daniel Masker
James McDonald
Ronald Roeder
Horst Schneider
Gary Stapleton
Benjamin Steiner
Glenn Taylor
James Vakoc
Frank Young



The Tenets; Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth.

The word tenet stems from the Latin word *tenēre*, to hold. When we speak of the tenets of Freemasonry, we allude to principals so universally accepted as true, they go without saying. Examples are abundant: Good health is better than illness; a truthful man is more dependable than a liar; it is better to save money than to waste it; an industrious man is more useful than an idle one. These are but a few of the countless examples of teachings that no intelligent man can possibly question. Everybody takes them for granted.

The principal tenets of Freemasonry are **Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth**. While we lay the greatest emphasis on the principal tenets, there are others which Freemasons must not ignore.

Freemasonry considers Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth to be teachings of this kind, true in the sense that no man can question them; they are obvious, self-proving, and axiomatic. As Freemasons, we accept these teachings to be self-evident realities, not visionary ideals. We do not say these *ought* to be true or they *should* be true. We accept that they *are* true. Our question is not whether to believe them or not, but what are we going to do with them?

I won't discuss all three tenets, but it is worth looking at the tenet of *Brotherly Love*. Love places the highest possible valuation on another person. A man's mother or father, his wife or sweetheart, his children, his intimate friends, are valued not for advantages a man may gain from them, not for their usefulness, but each one in his own person and for his own sake. We work for such persons, we make sacrifices for them, we delight to be with them; that in detail and practice is what is meant by love.

What then, is *Brotherly Love*? It means that we place on another man the highest possible valuation as a friend, a companion, an associate, a neighbor. "By the exercise of Brotherly Love, we are taught to regard the whole human species as one family." We do not seek selfish gain through our relationship. Our relationship with a brother is its own justification, its own reward. Brotherly Love is one of the supreme values without which life is lonely, unhappy, and ugly. This is not a hope or dream, but a fact. Freemasonry builds on that fact, provides opportunity for us to have such fellowship, encourages us to understand and to practice it, and to make it one of the laws of our existence, one of our Principal Tenets.

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From the East

On February 22, we will prove up with the Grand Custodian, opening and closing in all three degrees. We do not do this simply to prove we can. We do this for three significant reasons. The first reason is to demonstrate “how” to use Memory, whether by a lucky trait at birth or by training your memory with mnemonic devices. Some members speak the ritual over and over again to learn it. Others, go over it with a trusted Brother.

Another reason we prove up is to interpret the ritual. We hear it again—some for the second or third time, others for the 100th time—and we are able to reflect on what we hear and think about the meaning.

The third use of memory is perhaps the most esoteric—remembering. This might best be described simply as how we internalize our ritual and apply it to our lives. A great example of this might be the concept of “acting on the level,” something all Masons have interpreted and applied to our daily lives. “Acting on the level” is not something we think about. Like breathing, this is something we simply do as part of our daily lives,

I know I have compressed a lot of complex ideas into a short column, but the annual tradition of “proving up,” has many practical values which work in tandem to improve the members as moral men and Masons.

Please plan to join us on February 22 for what is always an exceptional experience.

Fraternally,

David Rose
Worshipful Master

2010 Officers

W.. David L. Rose.....Worshipful Master/ dlrose@cox.net
W.. Micah I. Evans.....Senior Warden/ mevans0424@cox.net
W.. Paul E. Nerz.....Junior Warden/ pnerz@yahoo.com
W.. Paul L. Welsch.....Treasurer/ mplwelsch@gmail.com
W.. Dale E. WagnerSecretary/ dewagner@cox.net
W.. Jeffrey A. Merriman.....Chaplain /frostymerriman@cox.net
W.. David A. Kipp.....Senior Deacon/ david.kipp@yahoo.com
W.. Randall A. McFarland.....Junior Deacon/ rmcfar@cox.net
Bruce Theye.....Senior Steward/ btheye@fnni.com
Carl H. Moum.....Junior Steward/ carlmoum2@hotmail.com
W.. F. Edward LaBreck.....Tyler/ alabreck@cox.net
W.. Doyle E. Berg.....Marshal

Brotherly Love, continued

Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth are the principal Tenets of Masonry. There are other tenets, also – Teachings so obvious that argument is never necessary to sustain them. With this in mind, ponder the teachings of the craft as you reflect on the degrees. You may not find them novel, but novelty is unimportant in the light of the knowledge that the truths upon which Freemasonry is founded are eternal. The freshness of immortality is on them because they never die; in them is a ceaseless inspiration and an inexhaustible appeal. They are tenets of Freemasonry because always and every where they have been tenets of successful human life.

Excerpted and adapted from “The Masonic Scholar: A Manual of Masonic Education for Candidates”
<http://www.mastersjewel.com/masons/ea/EA04.htm>