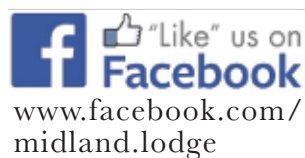




TRESTLE BOARD
SEPTEMBER 2015

MIDLAND LODGE 144

1st and 3rd Thursday
fam144@earthlink.net
www.fam144.com



MESSAGE FROM THE EAST

‘Do not go gentle into that good night’

Where has the time gone? We’re ten months into the year and it seems like yesterday that I was sitting down with our Officers for the first time trying to figure out what all we wanted to accomplish this year. I keep that list of initial goals in the front of my lodge binder and at least once a month, I go back and look at what we set out to do. There a lot of things that we will not accomplish this year that I was looking forward to. But the things we have accomplished far outweigh those we did not.

We started out the year with a Mission Statement that now hangs in our dining hall that reads:



MIDLAND LODGE #144
 OUR MISSION:
 MAKING GOOD MEN BETTER THROUGH SERVICE TO
 GOD, COUNTRY, FAMILY, AND THE COMMUNITIES WE LIVE IN.
 8701 Garrett Rd, Midland, Georgia 31820
 (706) 505-6702
 fam144@earthlink.net

<http://www.fam-144.com>
 <http://instagram.com/midlandlodge144>
<https://www.facebook.com/midland.lodge>
 <https://twitter.com/midlandlodge144>

We have made a lot of good men better this year. We have had a 19% increase in attendance to our regular meetings. We have only had a couple of meetings where we did not have a first or second reading of petitions. We have had about four called communications for degree work this year and have had five or six other lodges help us with courtesy work.

We have also helped the communities that we live in. We had a 41% increase in fund-raising which equated to a 408% increase in charitable donations. The two newest events that we



added this year was the Gavel & Fez car Show and the Knights of Solomon Motorcyle Club Dice Run. It looks like both of these events will become annual events as the next Gavel & Fez car-show is already being planned.

2014 Donations: \$864.00 Total
 2015 Donations:

VIP Bed Race	\$200.00
Children’s Home BBQ Event	\$1,200.00
Children’s Home Filling the chairs	\$100.00
Children’s Home KOSMC DiceRun	\$1,541.00

Shrine Hospital G&F Car Show	\$1,000.00
Miss. Rainbow	\$236.00
Red Cross	\$100.00

Total Donations \$4,377.00

We have also grown tremendously as a family this year. What started out as planned events to go bowling and play putt-putt have grown into unscheduled outings with each other because friendships between kids and/or wives have been developed. The amount of ladies and children

MESSAGE FROM THE EAST CON- TINUED

that show up for our dinners has also increased and let's be honest, it's a lot more enjoyable to see their faces in the dining hall than our ugly mugs.

We have also given glory to God in everything that we've attempted to do. I can recall the first time that I was standing in the dining hall and WB Keith Simmons unexpectedly called on me to bless our meal. At the time, I was petrified to pray out loud. I still am not that comfortable doing it. But, the Lord has truly blessed me and blessed our Lodge and I am honored and humbled every time I pause to give thanks to Him.

This has been an incredible year that each and every one of you should be proud of. Now, that my year is coming to a close, I will not look back with regrets on the things that we did not accomplish nor will I be satisfied with the things we did accomplish. We can do more and it is up to each one of us to keep pushing. Our Past Masters; Paul Wells, Bill Block, Ken Wakefield, Bob Lyons, Dan Dawson, Keith Simmons, George Payne and Bruce Simmons have set a great example for me to follow. They did not hang-up their apron and the end of their journey; they've done an incredible job at staying active and working hard. I will end with a quote from the Welsh Poet, Dylan Thomas:
Do not go gentle into that good night,
Old age should burn and rave at close of day;
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.

Let's continue to rage against the dying of the light!

Fraternally,
Clyde Hill

HI-JINKS CLOWNS

Just a bunch of Clowns,
The Al Sihah Shrine clown unit (Hi-Jinx) is alive and well and presently preparing for the Circus on September 26th and 27th. It is a ton of fun being a circus clown and interacting with the kids. It is also very exhausting after five shows. Luckily it is only once a year.
But the clowns do so much more than the circus. In the Spring and in September, we were in front of a grocery store raising money and awareness of Shriners Hospital. We raised right at \$1,000 this year for the kids in need.
We also participate in many parades with several funny cars along with other Shriners. Not only in Columbus but in Macon and other small towns in the surrounding counties. Being a clown unit allows us to participate in national clown conventions and compete in different events as clowns. These national and regional gatherings bring us together with other clowns from all over the country to exchange ideas and fellowship.
We also visit the Shriners Hospitals every year. Often times our visits are in costume and sometimes without. I personally have had the pleasure of visiting the Shriner's Hospitals in Cincinnati and Honolulu. The Hospital in Hawaii has treated over 34,000 kids of which 8,000 were from other countries. Kids all over the world can use the type of specialized care we provide, what a great philanthropy.
If you ever thought of being a clown see me or just ask around for a clown contact. We would be honored to have you.

Halloween HOTEL Horror



Murder Mystery
Dinner Theater
OCTOBER 23th & 24th
OCTOBER 30th & 31st

MIDLAND MASONIC LODGE
8701 GARRETT ROAD
MIDLAND, GEORGIA

Time: Doors open at 6:30 pm; Show Time 7 pm

Tickets: \$30 each, 10% off for a table of 8

Payment: Cash, Checks, or Credit Card

Contact: (706) 505-6702 – Leave a Message
or dinnertheater@earthlink.net

• NEW ORDER ONLINE

RESERVATIONS
REQUIRED

<https://www.freshtix.com/events/halloween-hotel-horror>

[Facebook.com/Midland.Lodge](https://www.facebook.com/Midland.Lodge)

[Facebook.com/Midland-Murder-Players](https://www.facebook.com/Midland-Murder-Players)

MESSAGE FROM THE WEST

As the year starts to draw to a close, I have so much to give thanks for. I have learned so much about life, love and brotherhood. I want to thank the brethren in entrusting me with serving them as their Senior Warden. I have learned so much more about the craft. I have endured through a lot of personal issues this year. Prayer, my wife, God's love and true and trusted brethren have helped me to have peace in my heart. I look forward to what the future holds for me.

I rejoice in the direction Midland has been traveling the last few years. Our growth and success is a testament to the work we do. We still have much to do this year. It takes all able masons to make this lodge a success. Please keep it up and know I will support you all that I am able to.

Be Blessed in all you do

Fraternally,
Howard A. Eubanks
Senior Warden



COUNTRY BREAKFAST REPORT

This year we had four breakfast fundraisers the turnout was great in both the brethren volunteers and the community in general who turned out to support our lodge. We attribute the good response to the use of social media to promote each breakfast. One thing that stands out during our Saturday mornings breakfast fund raisers. I am amazed at how people gather and not only eat but to renew freindships building up the community.

MASTER MASONS RAISED 2015

Franklin Lee Dillard	8/20/2015
William Charles Rayburn	8/20/2015
Michael Lloyd Phillips	8/20/2015
William Joseph Horn	8/20/2015
James Logan Harris	8/20/2015
John Paul Morgan	6/9/2015
Nicholas James Hamm	6/9/2015
Jonathon Michael Thomas	6/9/2015
Danny Blake Sanders	5/7/2015
Howard George Hugar	5/7/2015
Tyler Jacob Ferreira	5/7/2015
William Ashley Smallwood	5/7/2015

MESSAGE FROM THE SOUTH

Many Grand Lodge Officers, the Al Sihah Potentate, and many other Master Masons have asked us the question lately, "What is Midland Lodge doing to grow so fast?" What are we doing differently than the rest of the fraternity? Our fraternity has been in decline since the 1960's. At our largest we had 4.1 million Freemasons in the United States in 1959 down to currently approximately 1.2 million. However, our lodge has seen major growth within the past few years.

Bro SW Howard Eubanks and I were afforded the opportunity to attend the 2015 Georgia Masonic Leadership Conference in Milledgeville. To say the least, it was an eye opening experience. We were teamed up with officers from other lodges around the state and we both quickly learned that we are blessed to serve a lodge like Midland Lodge. We do not see the problems that these other officers were talking about within our lodge.

There are many reasons, I believe, Midland Lodge is continuing to grow at it's current rate. However, I think we can find all the reasons within the Trestleboard that our Heavenly Father has given us, the Holy Bible. First, we have tried to bring the family back to the lodge. Most families are limited with their time because of the hustle and bustle of our lives where, more times than not, both husband and wife have to work to make ends meet. Understandably, many spouses want to spend what time they do have together as a family. The officers of the lodge recognize and understand this issue, so we have tried to make a conscience effort to include the wives and children in as much as possible at the lodge. Families are always welcome to eat with us before lodge meetings, we have had family outings together, and we have more brothers socializing outside



the lodge together to bring us tighter as a Masonic Family. In the book of Acts, Luke tells us "And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved" Acts 4:46-47 KJV.

The next reason, there is the light being shown to the community that supports us as masons. We have attracted a large number of good men that have become faithful brethren within our ranks because of events and activities that they have been invited too. These men could not help but to notice that we had something special between us and they wanted a piece of that for themselves and their family. Jesus tells us in the book of Matthew "Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Matt 5:14-16 KJV.

There are many more reasons for our growth, but I believe the main reason is found in the book of John. Where Jesus says "I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing" John 15:5 KJV. We have strived to glorify God in all that we do. We have given Him all the honor and glory. With our lodge, as individuals and collectively, we have put Him first in all things, God has increased our numbers. He has lived up to His words in which He says we will bear much fruit.

MESSAGE FROM THE SOUTH CON- TINUED

We are far from perfect, but we are moving forward with God commanding our steps brethren. "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. Col 3:23-24 KJV". All we need to do is continue to do our best to glorify the Father in everything we do and we will continue to bear much fruit. "For once you were full of darkness, but now you have light from the Lord. So live as people of light! Eph 5:8 KJV".

Fraternally,
Brother Junior Warden
Bill Miller

ANDY'S CORNER

In the predawn darkness we gathered silently, each man alone with his thoughts. Through sleep-deprived eyes we cast sidelong glances at each other. They would come. We knew it with every fiber of our beings. They were out there. We could sense their looming presence in the darkness. Would we be able to hold? We were so few. Under heavy eyelids we made ready as best we could. With steadfast determination we turned to the many tasks necessary to our very survival. Our destiny awaited.

Suddenly, the long awaited assault began. Out of the morning mist they came, seemingly beyond number. Ever mindful of our desperate plight, and weary beyond comprehension, we manned our posts and knew - each of us - we would defend to the last man if need be. Bracing ourselves against the overwhelming odds we would stand our hallowed ground or die trying. The minutes seemed like hours. Wave after wave they pressed forward relentlessly. Though heavily outnumbered, time and again we held. Mind-numbing sights and sounds burned themselves into our brains. Tenaciously holding the line and clinging to hope for relief, at seemingly the last possible moment our reinforcements arrived.

Though bone tired, those of us that remained rallied. But for the arrival of these stalwart veterans all might have been lost. Selflessly they joined us in our gallant struggle and finally, at long last, it was over. Mission accomplished. Some, barely able to stand, gave in to their fatigue and silently wept.

Taking stock of those remaining we mourned our losses. In grateful hearts we acknowledged the dedication of those who didn't make it to the end. United, we had triumphed.

A hard fought battle had tested us and found us not wanting. Victory was ours. The deeds of this day would long be remembered by those who would follow in our footsteps. History books would record that on this day, in this place, another Country Breakfast had been won.

Andy Bourke

EDITORS CORNER

I really never knew what to expect when WM Clyde Hill said to me I want you to take over the Trestle board. I was excited to be able to contribute but I knew that WB Dan Dawson had been doing this for several years. I said to myself this is going to be hard since Dan Dawson is a hard act to follow figuratively and literally. I hope that I have been able to carry on the tradition that was established long before me taking this on. I am not really much of a writer, I am more of a media tech. I am a sound and video engineer the behind the scenes type of guy who does not like standing out. I say this with all sincerity and humility, I hope that I can live up to the expectations of my brethren at Midland Lodge. I came to Georgia 28 years ago not knowing what the future held but knowing I was looking for a place to live once I left the Army. I came to know Jesus as my personal savior along the way and since then he has blessed me beyond measure. I met my wife here and finally now I have many brothers in Midland Lodge that I have come to know as family. I just want to say that I appreciate each and everyone of you. I do not feel as though all of my family lives far away now and that is a very good feeling to me.

Fraternally
Russell Ward

FROM THE SECRETARY'S OFFICE

IF YOU MOVE PLEASE LET ME KNOW!

Once you are lost from us bad things can happen to your membership in Freemasonry and I don't want that to happen to you. Stay in touch with your lodge by email, facebook, twitter, or text. Attend your lodge at least four times a year or the one closest lodge to your home.

Please support your lodge fundraisers with your time and talents - we need you! Always pay your dues in a timely fashion without any reminder from myself or your lodge brethren - it's an oath you took when you were raised. Finally, my door is always open if you need brotherly advice. Remember: Brotherly love, morality, and relief.

Keep it on the level.

Fraternally,
Danny L. Dawson
Secretary
Past Master 2010

BROTHERS WHO PASSED ON TO BE WITH THE GRAND ARCHITECT OF THE UNIVERSE 2015

NAME-----	BORN-----	RAISED-----	DIED
Jimmy Joe Lawson	10/27/1937	7/16/1973	3/18/2015
William Gerald Hooks	10/28/1926	3/8/1966	5/14/2015

MIDLAND LODGE

FALL FESTIVAL

POTLUCK DINNER

NOVEMBER 7TH
11 AM TILL 5 PM



PEOPLE'S CHOICE



HAPPY FALL

DOOR PRIZES
MUSIC



Craft Table
Cupcake Walk

Face Painting

Carnival Games

FAMILY
Picture Booth



MIDLAND LODGE 144 TRESTLE BOARD 2015

**This edition produced and edited
by Russell Ward**