



TRESTLE BOARD

SEPTEMBER 2016

MIDLAND LODGE 144

1st and 3rd Thursday
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www.fam144.com

This edition produced and edited
by Russell Ward

MESSAGE FROM THE EAST

What can Pencil Power Teach us about Teamwork?

I came across this 'ode to a pencil' and found it a simple yet insightful parable, outlining five very important lessons both for life and teamwork. I hope that you read this article and be the best pencil you can be in your family life, social life, spiritual life, and masonic life. We do a great job at Midland Lodge #144 at building a team, however we can always do better. I pray that we continue down this journey we call life together, together as the Midland Lodge Family.

The Pencil Maker took the pencil aside, just before putting him into the box. "There are five things you need to know before I send you out into the world." Always remember your pencil power and you will become the best pencil you can be.

- Everything you do will always leave a mark
- You can always correct the mistakes you make
- What is important is what is inside of you
- In life, you will undergo painful sharpenings, which will only make you better
- To be the best pencil, you must allow yourself to be held and guided by the hand that holds you

In reflection, I realized how much we can take from these lessons in regards to teamwork and leadership.

As a leader, you have the ability to significantly impact the lives of those around you. Leaders influence how others go home at night and how they treat their families & friends, they affect the self-esteem & confidence of others, and they impact how people move forward in their lives. We all have the ability to make a mark – what mark do you want to leave?

We are all humans who make mistakes. We also



have the ability to right our wrong's, learn and grow into a better person. Being vulnerable, admitting your mistakes and making it right helps develop a solid foundation of trust and respect within a team.

Every team member is a special person with unique strengths, talents and abilities. When these strengths are recognized, respected and leveraged, individuals are able to thrive and the overall team performance will increase.

We all need to be constantly sharpened; when we are challenged to be our best, we are given the opportunity to achieve our best. Sometimes this sharpening is not comfortable; however, is a necessary step in moving forward as professionals, team members and leaders. Continually practice becoming comfortable with the uncomfortable.

In a high performing team, individuals rely on each other. Everyone plays an important role and team members count on one another to do what they are supposed to do. Our actions and interactions impact those around us. Being accountable to one another and demonstrating commitment and are a few characteristics that define a true team player.

Fraternally Yours,
William Miller
Worshipful Master

EDITOR'S COMMENTARY

As I look around at our Lodge today I see the pictures on the wall of times long gone. I see the Lodge looked different back then; I hear the Masons who have been at the Lodge for a while describe the changes that have taken place. The obvious things are the outside stairs was moved to the other side of the building but, a not so obvious change is what happened to the store that was in the first floor? What about the post office that was in the building? There are lots of things that have taken place over the 100 plus years that Midland Lodge #144 has been at where it is today.

As I sit and ponder these things a phrase comes to mind which is, as all true brothers and fellows have done. There is the answer. Those who have gone before me have been busy keeping the Lodge in great shape for those of us who come along later. All of a sudden I realize that all of us have inherited the Lodge as it is today and now it becomes ours to take care of for all future Masons of Midland Lodge #144. I don't know about you but, that seems like an important responsibility which I do not take lightly. I know it is important to maintain the Lodge in as good a shape or better shape than it was when I joined.

Another thing that we inherited from those who have gone before us is our good name. Midland Lodge #144 has a great reputation and it also becomes our duty to keep that reputation up as well. I was at the Masonic Children's Home appreciation event recently with WM Bill Miller, Bill Block, PM, and Jim Mixon. I noticed the Most Worshipful F. Drew Lane standing there and walked up to him to shake his hand. I said "Most Worshipful, I know you may not remember me but we met at the 4th Masonic District Convention." He said, "I don't remember actually but I know Midland Lodge #144", as he pointed to the logo on my polo shirt. I can't tell you how proud that made me in that moment of our Lodge. The Grand Master of the State of Georgia knows Midland Lodge #144. That made me feel very proud of our Lodge and it did not

matter that he did not remember me because he knew our Lodge. Brothers and Sisters of Midland Lodge #144 that is because of all of your hard work, and you guessed it the work of those who have gone before us.

FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

Brethren-

I will offer a question to you for this article: "Should I go to Grand Lodge this Year"? Well, that depends on several things. If you can't get off from work a whole day then that ends it right there. If you can then you might ask, what's in it for me?. Let's start there.

I know you hear about "Grand Lodge" all the time and you might associate that with seeing the Grand Master and his officers a few times each year and that's partially true. But Grand Lodge is like our Midland Lodge except that it only meets once a year and the members (the ones that get to vote or speak) are comprised of current and Past Masters of the subordinate blue lodges in the state of Georgia. So if you're not one of those then you'll just be like a visitor to our lodge: you can sit but not vote or address the Grand Master unless permission is granted.

That being said you will enjoy a spectacle of opening ceremonies with visitors from all over the U.S. comprising heads of several adjunct bodies of masonry. This will take up a considerable amount of the time on Tuesday morning before the break for lunch. After lunch the lodge gets down to business and takes up some announcements and balloting on lodge business for the year.

Finally around 430-5pm the lodge will try to close for the day and adjourn for the picnic.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The farmers - market is the site for our annual picnic that begins about 6pm. Each of the 12 districts provides a culinary treat for all to enjoy at the picnic. This year Midland is once again heading up the 4th district food offerings with Bro George Hugar's famous pork ribs. They were a big hit last year!

Okay, so are you going this year? If so you want to get up early on October 25th because the doors close at 9am in Macon for opening ceremonies. Let's ride together! See you at lodge!

Dan Dawson PM
Secretary

2016 MIDLAND LODGE OFFICERS



Worshipful Master William Miller
Senior Warden Keith Simmons
Junior Warden Tony McCool
Secretary Dan Dawson
Treasurer Bob Lyon
Senior Deacon Russell Ward
Junior Deacon Van Segars
Senior Steward Jon Roberts
Junior Steward William Rayburn
Tyler George Hugar
Organist Bob Whitmore

30 Sep - 1 Oct 8-9 Oct Murder Mystery
Dinner Theater Fundraiser
October 15 - 16 Circus
October 25 Grand Lodge
October 29 Fall Festival
December 3rd Installation / Christmas
Party

MESSAGE FROM THE WEST



Greetings Brethren and Ladies. What a great year we are having at Midland Lodge. It is thanks to all of you who have supported our fundraisers. Even the ladies of Midland Lodge have joined in to raise money which is evident in some of the new items you see in the dining room of our Lodge.

I hope to continue the success in the future as we continue to grow. Some have said that Midland Lodge is on fire. All I can say if that is the case let's keep up the momentum and the good work. I am proud to be serving the lodge as the Senior Warden and look forward to the years to come.

Fraternally Yours
Keith Simmons
Senior Warden

Murder at the High School Reunion



**Mystery
Dinner
Theater**



**Sept 30th
Oct 1st
Oct 8th**
Doors open at 6:30pm
Show starts at 7pm

Tickets \$30

**Oct 9th
Sunday Matinee**
Doors open at 1:30pm
Show starts at 2pm

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MIDLAND LODGE FALL FESTIVAL POTLUCK DINNER OCTOBER 29TH 11 AM TILL 5 PM



DOOR PRIZES

FACE PAINTING

KID'S COSTUME CONTEST

CARNIVAL GAMES

MUSIC

PUMPKIN DECORATING CONTEST



Bear to Care Project

Donate a NEW stuffed animal to help

Officer Ted E. Bear

bring comfort to a hurting child.

All donations will be presented to the Columbus Police and Fire Department

**From Now
until
Sept 11, 2016**



Midland Lodge #144

Officer Installation / Christmas Party

December 3rd

Installation at 11 AM

Lunch at 12 PM

Awards 1 PM

Christmas Party 1:30 PM



Santa might just show up!

Our Midland Family



MESSAGE

FROM THE SOUTH



Good Going
By Tony McCool

What a great year this is turning out to be for our lodge. With tremendous leadership and teamwork much has been accomplished. Our BBQ and breakfast fundraisers are so well attended that we run out of food. We always plan to sell more than the last time, but we continue to outperform those expectations.

None of these projects we have can be successful without your continued support. Your time in assisting in the planning, purchasing the product, and showing up to volunteer are the true marks of a Mason and great Brother.

I challenge you to do more. Look for new projects we can do. Don't limit yourself to just fundraisers. Let's go on a picnic, trip to Callaway Gardens, white water rafting, camping, Infantry Museum, etc.. Suggest it to the officers, bring it up in a meeting, and let's make it happen. One thing I enjoy are visitations. Plan a time where we can go visit another lodge, maybe during one of their projects and not a lodge meeting.

There is always more you can do in Masonry. We have a wonderfully diverse group of brothers with many different interests. We are really doing some good work in the community and we ain't stopping yet.

Come be a part of the fun.

COUNTRY BREAKFAST REPORT

This year our country breakfast fund raisers were huge success. Thanks to all who attended and all who cooked, served, or donated to the breakfast. This is a good trend for us to continue and it will help us keep the lodge in repair and contribute to the Masonic community in general.

MIDLAND WIVES CORNER

Hello Everyone!

Wow! It is September already. Seems like just yesterday a group of awesome ladies and I sat down to discuss how we could not only support the Men

of Midland #144, but make a difference in our world as well. We agreed that we wanted to start in our own backyard so to speak.

We decided to begin with the lodge itself. We put together a Valentine's Day Basket and Mother's Day Basket to be raffled off. The ladies worked hard at selling the tickets at meetings, lodge functions, and to friends and family. With the support of lodge members, friends, family, and the community, we were able to raise enough money to purchase two 50 inch televisions for the Dining Hall, and a much needed laptop for the lodge. The new TVs were used at the September 3rd Country Breakfast for advertising upcoming events. We are planning a movie night in the near future as well!

Your wonderful ladies decided they wanted to do something for the awesome ladies and children of Damascus Way. I reached out to Ms. Christine and found out that they were in need of a grill. A Hot Dog sale was planned. Again with the support of the lodge and community we were able to purchase a new grill for them! Delivering the grill just would not be enough. We decided that we were going to bring the guys and have a cookout with the ladies and children! It was awesome! We spent an entire day loving on them. They enjoyed having us there and the feeling was mutual. It didn't stop there. We recently went back for a Pizza Party/ Game Day! There have been bonds made between Midland Lodge and these wonderful ladies and their children. Plans for the future include a Christmas Party on December 17th! Please make plans to join us. I promise you will be glad you did!

There are many more things coming up for our Midland Family! The Fall Festival on Oct. 29th, a Lodge Thanksgiving Potluck on the last meeting night before Thanksgiving, and the Installation/ Christmas Party in December just to name a few of the big ones! The year is not over yet. We still have plenty of time to make a difference and have a little "Family Fun" as well!

The Ladies would like to thank the Men of Midland Lodge for all of your support. We are proud to be a part of Midland Lodge #144 and proud of our guys!

Lovingly,
Lisa Miller

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