



# **TRESTLE BOARD**

## **February 2017**

Midland Lodge 144  
1st and 3rd Thursday  
[midlandlodge144@gmail.com](mailto:midlandlodge144@gmail.com)  
[www.fam144.com](http://www.fam144.com)

This edition produced and edited  
by Russell Ward



## From The East

Midland Lodge Family,

It is my honor and my privilege to serve as Worshipful Master of Midland Lodge #144 for 2017. Thank you for bestowing your faith and trust in me to lead and care for our Lodge for another year.

I am excited for what 2017 will bring to our Lodge. We have been traveling down this road we call life together for a while now. I am grateful to each one of the officers and their willingness to serve Midland Lodge this year. We have kept raising the bar each year, but the rising tide lifts all boats. We are looking forward to working with other lodges and help raise the tide in their lodge too.

I am looking forward to another year of terrific events which should be both fun and educational. We had our first Country Breakfast on January 7th which was well supported by both the brethren, wives, and kids from the lodge as well as the community. Our new officers jumped right into sharing the light of Masonry this year by conferring the Fellowcraft Degree on January 10th and the Master Degree on January 24th on seven candidates at Called Communications.

Other events on calendar this year will be more Country Breakfasts, Murder Mystery Dinner Theaters, BBQ Sandwich Sale, but we will also be

having Family Fun Days and other fun events. We have a lot of work that needs done to maintain our 100+ year old building and will need funds to accomplish these goals. However, we also need to play as hard as we work. We will keep you informed on upcoming events by email, Facebook, trestleboards, and personal contact. Please come join in with your Midland Lodge Family.

As we being 2017, I challenge each Brother of Midland Lodge to evaluate what being a Mason, and a member of this Lodge, means to you. As Masons, we are members of the world's oldest and largest fraternity. We join for different reasons. Some of us for fellowship, others for a sense of belonging, and yet others who want to explore the mysteries, symbolism and esoteric teachings. What we all have in common is our belief in the Supreme Architect and a commitment to each other.

Many of us find ourselves struggling with the pressures of life, work and family schedules. I understand that, and face those same pressures myself. Rather than viewing your Masonic membership as yet another pressure, consider that we are an outlet for that pressure. Lodge is a place of respite, where you can find relief from the outside world. For those who have been away from us for a while, I encourage you to attend just one Lodge event each month – whether it be a stated meeting, the conferring of a degree, or attending a social event.

One thing is true, and that is that we get out of Masonry what we put into it. But more than that, the Lodge benefits exponentially from each Brother who participates in our activities. And in 2017, we need your participation more than ever as we begin to undertake more community outreach, offer more charitable relief and give more back to the Brethren.

Together we can do great things. We can repair the world by improving ourselves and by strengthening our Blue Lodge. We can do great work together, and we can have fun doing it because as you know, we are the Midland Lodge Family.

Fraternally,  
Bill Miller, PM  
Worshipful Master



## From The West

### Get Plugged In

Thank you so much for choosing me as your Senior Warden for 2017. We have room for improvement in this new year. We must always remember that we may not all be the best of friends, we are still brothers. I am closer to some of my Masonic brothers than my blood brothers.

Another year is upon us. I invite you to add something different in 2017 that you didn't do in 2016. For many of us it is difficult for us to plug anything more into our already busy schedule. But if you look hard enough, I think you can find some time and room.

Remember that "Idle time is the Devil's workshop." So staying busy is destined to keep you out of trouble and onto the straight and narrow. Do some swapping this year. If last year you had a weekend and you chose "A", this year choose "B". Continue to support the things you feel we should, but add some items that maybe you had not considered last year.

I ask one more thing of you this year. Grow closer to God. Make a conscious effort to read the Bible and other positive Christian influential books. I am currently reading a book my pastor wrote last year called "Make a Break for it." He talks about his near death experience with a pimp that cut his femoral artery. Yet he cried out to Jesus and was saved.

There are several life and leadership lessons in this book that are truly inspiring.

If you have not found a good church, I invite you to mine, but hope you will go "church shopping" and find the one that fits you and your family.

Regardless of the religion, not all churches are equal. The pastors are different, the seats are different, and so are the general members. Be selfish, find a church you think you and your family can grow with. Don't just attend, get plugged in and volunteer to help in any way you can.

Your kids and grandkids will watch you more than they will listen to you. Act as if they are always watching you, even when you are alone. Smile at them every chance you get and show them how to treat people with kindness and respect everyday. Try to be that living example of how to walk

uprightly before God and man, square your actions by virtue, and make the effort to be a little better today than you were yesterday.

Fraternally,  
Tony McCool  
Senior Warden

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### ***Important Dates to remember:***

**Murder Mystery Dinner Theater**  
**March 17th, 18th, 24th, and 25th**

**3rd Annual Masonic Picnic**  
**Columbus-Ft Benning Shrine Club**  
**April 15th**

**Country Breakfast Fundraiser**  
**March 4th**

**Everyone please come out and join us for breakfast. As always, we are grateful to have your support.**



## From The South

Midland Lodge Family,

I am extremely honored to have been elected as your Junior Warden this year. I will do my best to earn the vote of confidence in me.

I have two fantastic stewards to work with me. We have already raised the sink so you do not have to bend over so far to wash the dishes anymore. That is the handyman work of Brother Tyler John Senn. I know that many of you have worked on things in the Lodge in the past and just know that it is very much appreciated.

We have a chairlift coming for the brethren who need it. We were blessed with it from East LaPorte #358 Lodge in North Carolina that donated it to us. Once it is installed we will post pictures on our Facebook page so keep on the look out.

This year is going to be another fun year at Midland Lodge. We have the calendar full with our fundraisers and other community activities and I hope to see you at some of them. When you can participate in an event, plan to go to lunch as a group because that will allow you to get to know the brethren and families that participate also. I have found that as I have gone to lunch, just hang out, or car pooling to various events I spend more time with my brothers in the Lodge which allows me to get to know each of you better. I believe that fellowship brings us closer together.

Remember all of the brethren in your prayers. We have many who are sick or ill for various reasons.

Again thank you for allowing me to serve you this year as Junior Warden.

Fraternally  
Russell Ward  
Junior Warden

# UP COMING EVENTS

**3rd Annual**  
See your Blue Lodge for More Details

**Columbus Georgia Masonic Family Picnic**

**April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017**  
**11 am till 4 pm**

Columbus - Fort Benning Shrine Club  
3202 Edgewood Rd

# *UP COMING EVENTS*

# *Mayberry Gazette*

Brought to you by Midland Lodge #144

\$1.50

March 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, and 25<sup>th</sup>

## **MURDER IN MAYBERRY**

**MYSTERY DINNER THEATER**  
**RESERVATIONS REQUIRED**  
Make your reservations now



March 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, & 25<sup>th</sup>  
Midland Lodge  
will host a  
Murder Mystery Dinner Theater.

Doors open at 6:30 pm  
Show will start at 7 pm.

You can get tickets by calling (706)662-5812,  
(please leave a message)  
or by emailing  
[midlandmurdermystery@gmail.com](mailto:midlandmurdermystery@gmail.com)  
You can also buy tickets at  
[www.fam144.com/mmdt](http://www.fam144.com/mmdt) or  
[www.freshtix.com](http://www.freshtix.com)

Tickets are \$30 payable by cash, check,  
credit card, or paypal.



Dinner will be served at  
8701 Garrett Road Midland, Georgia



Beginning with a fantastic appetizer  
followed by  
Aunt Bee's Award Winning  
Roast Beef, Baked Potato,  
Glazed Sweet Baby Carrots,  
A roll, Tossed Salad,  
and Apple Pie to finish off the dinner.

*Mason of the Year Recipient  
Jon Michael Roberts*



*Bob Pavey Award Recipient  
George Hugar*



## From the desk of the Secretary:

Brethren and friends, as we start another year in our Masonic history at Midland Lodge I am in awe of the brethren that have walked the halls of our Masonic temple before us. I see their pictures on the wall but know not their names, they were honorable masons and men who made our lodge what it is today. Talk to some of our members in their 70's and 80's and they will utter the names of Johnny Danford, Bob Abernathy, Dan Watson, and others. Our senior Steward is the grandson of Brother Abernathy, a man of very high esteem and greatly steeped in the Masonic rituals in ways not currently witnessed in today's masons. But will you be one of those that are spoken fondly of in the coming years after your time has expired? I would suggest that you heed these words often quoted in area cemeteries by well-informed brethren: "Let us so regulate our lives by the lines of rectitude and truth, that in the evening of our days we may be found worthy to be called from labor to refreshment, and be well prepared for translation from the terrestrial to the celestial lodge to join the fraternity of the spirits of justified men made perfect."

Yes, I know, easier said than done, especially in today's times. We are so caught up in the world of immediate communications, news flashes, and what is said across the country that we are not aware of the events right before us. That's one reason we do things together as a group and try to recognize the present. Breakfast fundraisers, Murder Mystery Dinner Theaters, Family nights, Trips to Damascus Way, the boys home, VIP Bed Race, just to name a few - this is our world and we should embrace each event with enthusiasm. Will you be remembered? Yes, but only if you stay involved with enthusiasm and integrity in everything you do. You might even be the next Mason of the Year!

## 2017 Officers

First Row left to right Organist Bob Whitmore, Chaplain Tommy Wade, Senior Deacon Van Segars, Senior Warden Tony McCool, Worshipful Master William Miller PM, Junior Warden Russell Ward, Junior Steward Michael Phillips, Tyler John Senn: Second Row left to right Secretary Dan Dawson PM, Treasurer Bob Lyon PM, Senior Steward George Hugar, Junior Deacon Chuck Rayborn



# MIDLAND LODGE 144 TRESTLE BOARD 2017



Midland Lodge  
8701 Garrett Road  
P.O. Box 144  
Midland, GA 31820