



# **TRESTLE BOARD**

## **December 2017**

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

This edition produced and edited  
by Russell Ward



## From The East:

Brethren,

As I sit and write my final trestle board article, I cannot help but to reflect on my feelings when I was first elected to serve you as Worshipful Master. I was intimidated by the thoughts of living up to the great Past Masters that have led this Lodge. It is overwhelming to look at the photos of the Past Masters and then remember what great leaders they were and still are in Midland Lodge.

What a great year God has blessed us with this year at Midland Lodge! We have Initiated, Passed, and Raised more Masons than any other Lodge in Georgia. We have improved our Lodge, our community, our homes, and ourselves. All our work in the community and assisting distressed worthy Brethren has kept us busy.

It has been a tough year. From losing some great Masons that will forever be missed. Brother Bob Whitmore and Worshipful Brother Ken Wakefield was a huge loss for our Lodge. Many of us smile while we tell stories about how Brother Bob would cut up when you met him or how Worshipful Brother Ken would be the first one at a breakfast and would be making the biscuits.

We have dealt with cancer, amputations, loss of employment, car wrecks, hospitalizations, births,

deaths and the list goes on and on.

However, every time life would throw Midland Lodge a curve ball the Brethren of this Lodge stepped up and met each need head on. Without hesitation with prayers, visits, and financial support each situation became a Midland Lodge situation not just the Brethren dealing with it themselves.

I could not be prouder of the Brethren, ladies, children, and friends of Midland Lodge. All of the hard work and living by all the Masonic principles and lectures earned us the coveted title as Lodge of the Year for the Grand Lodge of Georgia.

As a Lodge, Midland Lodge has tried to set a good example to the Masonic community and to our own community around us. We know how powerful it can be to lead by example. It is powerful but needs a lot of commitment and responsibility.

As Masons, we too must lead by setting a good example to the people around us, and around the world. We must preserve our way of life and diligently conserve the freedoms that America was built on. This way we may continue worshipping in the church or place of worship of our choice, and not be afraid to stand up for what is right. In short, we MUST be living examples of what Freemasonry has taught us.

The world is changed by your good example, not by your opinion. Albert Einstein once said... "Setting a good example is not the main means of influencing others; it is the only means."

If you try to improve another person by setting a good example to them, then you are really improving two people.

If your actions and good examples inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more, and become more, then you are a leader. Leadership is not a position or title, it is the result of an action and setting a good example. We have some outstanding leaders in the officer line at Midland Lodge.

What do you think happens when we don't follow the Masonic teachings and precepts? How do you think other people feel when we tell them

what we do, and then we do the exact opposite?

Indeed Brethren, we have a lot of responsibility as a Mason. We need to evaluate ourselves and make sure we live the precepts of Freemasonry in our daily lives.

Let us be a leader to our family and our community. As a good leader, let us push ourselves forward with vision, excitement and inspiration.

Let us be friend unto all. Friendship is one of the strongest characteristics that will lead to the gaining of trust and respect. Leading with trust also boosts enthusiasm. With the absence of trust, productivity will drop and enthusiasm may disappear. The vision of setting a good example we are trying so hard to make happen may lose its appeal.

Let us not lose sight to the moral teachings and precepts of our fraternity. When we, as a Mason, do not practice what we want to convey to other people it will injure our fraternity. It can be almost impossible for other people to understand what we are trying to communicate. Let us all work together in setting a good example.

In closing I will leave to you with a question. What kind of example are you setting as a Mason... in your home... in your church... in your community... in your workplace... in your Lodge?

I want to thank each of you and your families for supporting me during the two years of serving you as Worshipful Master. I hope that I have lived up to your expectations of that title. It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve each of you.

**“Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave - just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”** - Matthew 20:26-28

Fraternally,  
Bill Miller, PM,  
Worshipful Master

## From The Desk of the Secretary:

Brethren, this past year our lodge has been nothing short of awesome in my eyes. Think about it - LODGE OF THE YEAR! Out of 412 lodges still in existence in our state, we were awarded that distinction based on the judging criteria established by the Grand Lodge. This is what happens when a lodge works together and has the leadership to keep us pointed in the right direction. Kudos to our Worshipful Master, the Wardens, the Deacons, and everyone else who helped lead us to the winner's circle!

Another interesting highlight that came from Grand Lodge this year is the growth of our membership. From August 2016 to August 2017 Midland initiated 15 and raised 14 masons. In 2015, we were first in raisings also with 19 masons. Our lodge is growing every year despite suspension and death numbers that seem to take a toll on all lodges.

We are definitely doing something right here at Midland No. 144, Lodge of the Year 2017. Our degree work is the best in the 4th District, our leaders are the leaders in other Masonic bodies around the district and state. Our fundraisers are very successful providing us with funds to assist our members in need and charities that we admire and support. We are family-friendly and do activities that include the wives and kids at most events. And finally this: we take good men and make them a better citizen, better father, better son, and fonder husband. We accomplish that by the examples of the fine men that are members of our lodge today and by those that have gone before us.

Happy holidays, my brethren!  
Danny L. Dawson, PM  
Secretary



## From The West

### Encourage Others

Another year is about to close out. We have had much success in 2017 and would not have been possible without your continued support. Midland is a great Lodge and we proved it by finishing #1 in the State of Georgia. This only happens with motivated Brethren and encouragement of their family members. We are fortunate that we have a Lodge that has such high involvement of our spouses and other family members.

We can look back at this year and truly give thanks during this holiday season. I want to challenge you next year to get more involved. Find ways to include our families in activities and events in masonry. The Shriners have several events in Macon to include a large Blue Grass Festival and car shows.

Shriners in Phenix City have a Halloween Party. The Shrine Club here in Columbus is known for hosting events like car shows and Trunk or Treat. There is a lot to do and several ways to include our families that we can take advantage of with the Shriners.

Burns Night in January at the Scottish Rite is a great family event that is open to all Masons. The Commandery has an event that is open to all in the summer where we remember and give thanks. They also send a local pastor to Israel free of charge, what a great cause to

support. I am sure there are more that I am leaving out with Boston Butt sales, Schnitzel Dinners, Country Breakfasts, Firework Sales, BBQ cooking, spaghetti suppers, Widow's Baskets, etc. All of these we can support at our Lodge and others.

Let's encourage our Lodge to be the leader of brotherly love and affection throughout the Chattahoochee Valley in 2018.

When I was in a college fraternity, we were encouraged to memorize a line in a speech called the 9th paragraph. At its core are the same principles that we, as Masons, uphold. It goes like this, "We believe that the essential elements of true brotherhood are love, charity, and esteem. Love that binds our hearts with the sturdy chords of fraternal affection.

Charity that is impulsive to see virtues in a brother and slow to reprove his faults. Esteem that is respectful to the honest convictions of others and that refrains from treading upon that which is sacred to spirit and conscience."

I am also reminded of the first line of the Jaycee Creed, "Faith in God gives meaning and purpose to human life." I hope that during this holiday season that you grow stronger in your faith. It does take studying the word of your faith as often as possible. Exposing yourself and your family to the word of God.

Wishing you and yours all the best.

Fraternally,  
Tony McCool  
Senior Warden



## From The South

Midland family,

We have had a great year at Midland Lodge. Under the leadership of WM Bill Miller, we have been honored as the Lodge of the Year for the Grand Lodge of Georgia. This is such a great honor it is humbling to write about it. Each of you should be proud of yourselves and of the Lodge officers since it took all of us working together to attain this achievement. When I look at what led up to this achievement, I look to the outstanding leadership that we have had so far. We have had several Past Masters that have built a strong foundation and continue to lead the Lodge into the future by advising and assisting the current Worshipful Master, as needed. I know that they are still encouraging us to grow and challenging us to do the best that we can do.

One thing I can tell you for sure is that as I travel around the state to various Masonic functions, several Brethren I meet ask how we do things at Midland Lodge. In my opinion, all of you are what makes us a great Lodge. It is reflected in your attitude and your service to our Lodge. We have our families supporting us and for that we are very appreciative. We have each of you donating your time and your talents to make our Lodge great. I have come to think of it as #midlandfire.

We are moving in the right direction and many Lodges want to know what we are doing so they can imitate us. This is the greatest compliment that anyone can pay our Lodge and our Midland Family overall. What we must do now is keep the fire burning bright and strong because it is a good a

thing for Freemasonry.

The other thing that we have at Midland is that our bond as brothers is strong. What I challenge each of us to do is to spread brotherly love into the other Masonic bodies where we are members. I believe in doing so we can spread the #midlandfire to those bodies and enable them to grow, as we have at Midland Lodge. If we have an issue with a brother, let's commit to approach him and do all that we can to reconcile. We all can do a great service for Freemasonry by making sure that we promote goodwill towards all.

Fraternally yours,

Russell Ward

Junior Warden

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

**Final regular communication of 2017 and election of new officers December 7th, 2017**

**Installation of new officers and Midland Lodge Christmas party Potluck December 9th, 2017. Dirty Santa, good food and great fellowship- see flyer for details.**

**Country Breakfast Fundraiser January 6th, 2018 be on the look out for sign up sheets for donations and volunteers.**

**Be on the look out for dates for future events.**

**Thank you for all that you do to support our Lodge**

***Merry Christmas!  
and Happy New Year!***

# UP COMING EVENTS



MIDLAND LODGE #144  
2018

INSTALLATION  
OF OFFICERS

&

CHRISTMAS  
Party



December 9th  
11:00AM



POTLUCK DINNER

Dirty Santa Gift Exchange (Under \$10 gifts)

# *2nd Annual Lodge Photo*



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# MIDLAND LODGE 144 TRESTLE BOARD 2017

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