



# **TRESTLE BOARD**

# **FEBRUARY 2016**

**MIDLAND LODGE 144**

1st and 3rd Thursday

[fam144@earthlink.net](mailto:fam144@earthlink.net)

[www.fam144.com](http://www.fam144.com)

# MESSAGE FROM THE EAST

One of the greatest strengths of our fraternity is its stability throughout the years. There have been many challenges endured by Masonry over the centuries. The fraternity has survived political, social, and economic issues including scandals and downright persecution. I believe part of our fraternity's ability to withstand these occasional forces come from two things; the ritual (which never changes) and our time-proven method of transitioning the leadership of the lodges.

In a "perfect" scenario it takes someone seven years to move through the offices and become Master of the lodge. This time is designed to be spent not only in learning the ritual, which is daunting enough, but also in gaining an understanding, and developing the skills, of lodge management. Many of our advancing officers have not had the luxury of this slow and deliberate progress through the chairs. But we are all having great fun with some of this acceleration of duties! All lodges wisely ask that at some point in the year the officers move to advanced stations for stated meetings, as part of working towards the smooth transition from one Master's year to another's. Lodges prosper because of this, successful programs are continued and new programs are introduced before implementation is begun. They learn the ritual of opening and closing quicker by "just doing it". It really works well, as evidenced by the continuation and strength of the fraternity! I was taught in the military and live by the philosophy that you should be training the man two positions below you to fulfill your duties. This philosophy provides an organization resilience for any situation that may arise.



We have started this year already on a solid foundation. Midland Lodge has a class of three Entered Apprentices and another one in waiting. It was truly a great site to see newly raised Master Masons giving lectures within the lodge. I know that WB Dan Dawson, WB Bob Lyons, and WB Keith Simmons, to name a few, are relieved in the fact that we have brethren learning these lectures. It is like a breath of fresh air to know that, in time, these lectures will not be lost.

Midland is planning a many great events this coming year. To name a few:

1. Country Breakfasts on February 6th, April 2nd, July 23rd, and September 3rd
2. Spring Murder Mystery Dinner Theaters on March 4th & 5th, 11th & 12th
3. Columbus Georgia Masonic Family Picnic on March 26th
4. BBQ Sandwich Sale on July 25th
5. Fall Murder Mystery Dinner Theaters on October 7th & 8th, 14th & 15th

The Past Masters, and members have worked very hard and with much determination and "sweat equity" to bring the Lodge to where it is today. This is only accomplished with your support, commitment and participation. Please support your lodge with your finances, time, and talents. I know that many of you have a restrictive cable tow, but make an honest effort to find room for your lodge.

I implore you to continue to live your obligations that you took kneeling before the Altar, and

---

# MESSAGE FROM THE EAST CON- TINUED

to continue good works in Masonry, in your Lodge, and most importantly, in your daily lives...your obligation is not to be taken lightly! It is the fundamental concept that we teach to all newly obligated Brethren.

"And how to build a better world?  
Well, not by chart or plan.  
Unless we start to teach the boy  
To be a better man.  
For all the dreams of nobler things  
Will meet the same old fate,  
Unless we turn to fellowship, and do away with  
hate."  
Edgar A. Guest

"No one can be wrong with man and right with  
God."  
Henry Emerson Fosdick

Be at war with your vices, at peace with your  
neighbors, and let every New Year find you a  
better man.  
Benjamin Franklin

Fraternally,  
William Miller  
Worshipful Master

---

## FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

---

### What happens to my dues money?

Brethren, we all pay dues in one form or another for everything that is meaningful in life. We make some form of "tribute" in time, money, or effort to get to the top when we go upon some great or important undertaking. Maybe you've heard the term uttered by musicians that have made it to fame and fortune, "I paid my dues" to explain how they deserved the success that they finally achieved in their careers. It wasn't money they were speaking about – it was the effort.

For some of us paying our annual dues requires some effort, judging from the number of 2016 (and 2015) dues cards I have issued so far this year. If you made the effort already, thank you brother. I believe that if the Secretary didn't have to manage dues money, he might have more competition for his job every election month! It's time consuming and time intensive! But where does it go after you write the check, hand over the cash, or go online at our website and pay with a credit or debit card?

The lodge is billed each August for per capita on each member, with allowances for perpetual and emeritus members in some areas. Basically, each master mason is billed \$29.50 and each emeritus member is billed \$25.50. Currently we don't charge our 43 emeritus members their portion of the per capita, but one day that may change.

So that leaves \$30.50 per member to pay the following bills: insurance, telephone, electricity, water, and gas. The expenses of the office, stamps, paper, envelopes, copies, etc must come from other sources like donations and fundraisers.

---

## FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK CONT.

---

The last point I'll make is that you try to support our fundraisers as much as possible. Without you we could not repair the building or replace broken appliances, plus we want to be able to contribute to our charities, too. That's what it's all about anyway- making the world a better place because of our good deeds and efforts. Faith, Hope, and Charity. Make it a good day my brethren!

---

## 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

---

## UPCOMING EVENTS

---

4-5 & 11-12 Mar Murder Mystery Dinner  
Theater Fundraiser

26 Mar 2nd Annual Columbus Georgia  
Masonic Family Picnic

2 April Midland Country Breakfast Fund-  
raiser

9 Apr Masonic Children's Home Workday

1 May International Organization of  
Rainbows for Girls Mother's Day Dinner  
Fundraiser

7 May DeMolay Hot Dog Sale Fundraiser

4 Jun 2nd Annual Gavel & Fez Car Show  
Fundraiser

25 Jun BBQ Sandwich Sale for the Georgia  
Masonic Children's Home Fundraiser

23 Jul Midland Country Breakfast Fund-  
raiser

3 Sep Midland Country Breakfast Fund-  
raiser

7-8 14-15 Oct Murder Mystery Dinner  
Theater Fundraiser

29 Oct Fall Festival

3 Dec Installation / Christmas Party

# *Murder On The*

March 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>

March 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>

**MURDER MYSTERY  
DINNER THEATER**

# *Riverboat Queen*

**Boarding begins at 6:30 pm**

**Our show sets sail at 7 pm**

**Midland**

**Masonic**

**Lodge**

**8701 Garrett Rd**

**Midland, GA**

**Tickets: \$30 each**

**Payment: Cash, Checks, or Credit Card**

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

**Order Online**

**RESERVATIONS  
REQUIRED**

<https://www.freshtix.com/events/murder-on-the-riverboat-queen>

**[Facebook.com/midland.lodge](https://www.facebook.com/midland.lodge)**

**[Facebook.com/midlanddinnertheater](https://www.facebook.com/midlanddinnertheater)**

---

## EDITOR'S COMMENTARY

Brethren, being a relatively new mason I have been honored by being appointed as your Senior Deacon for 2016. With this appointment comes many responsibilities, the most important of which is to “welcome and provide for the examination of visiting brethren”. I really enjoy this part as it requires me to be familiar enough with our own members as to not mistake them for visitors! I introduce myself to all visitors to our lodge and later introduce them in open lodge. This is a real blessing to me and I enjoy the privilege of being able to do so.

Another opportunity I have is to help raise funds for the lodge with the masonic items for sale in the display case in our dining hall. I am currently trying to figure out items that might be of more interest to everyone. As a result I will offer discounts on the older stock to make room for new stock. I would really like to hear from all of you on what items would be of interest to you so please let me know.

Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity. This is the first line Psalms 133 and I think it is important for all of us to keep this scripture in our forethoughts. I know before I became a mason and especially before I became a member of Midland Lodge I really had no close friends in Columbus especially since all of my family is located in the Midwest. I know have brothers at Midland Lodge and at other Lodges in Columbus that I have grown close to and I can't tell you how much that means to me. I hope that each of us would reflect and say to ourselves the very same thing that now we have brothers which will not take the place of family but will augment our families.

I appreciate the opportunity to serve and enjoy serving each of you. Just know that you all are important people to me and if there is any way that I can help you please let me know.

Fraternally  
Russell Ward  
Senior Deacon

---

## ANDY'S CORNER

### “What is a Grit?”

A classic line from the hilarious movie, “My Cousin Vinny”. When I arrived here in God's country 30 years ago, I found a few phrases deeply disturbing. Here is an example of what I mean: Can you come and jump me off and then carry me down to my car dealer?

Huh...? What...? Well I soon learned that after jump starting a friend's car and taking them to where they needed to go was what that phrase meant.

Have you been jumped off lately? A great Mason, WB Paul Wells often asks “Why are we here? Because we want to be!” I want to be at Midland Lodge number 144 and any other Masonic event that I can attend. I get recharged each and every time from the fellowship, camaraderie, and esprit de corps. I get jumped off if you will. I receive a heart full of inspiration and even more light. Our leadership is the absolute best. Our combined energies to make our world a better place is amazing. Come get jumped off as often as you are able and I guarantee you will be recharged.

Andy Bourke

---

## COUNTRY BREAKFAST REPORT

This year our first breakfast was a huge success. Thank you! 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.

# MESSAGE FROM THE SOUTH

All is well down south in more ways than one. We always I need your support with events and activities.

On the bulletin board in the foyer (just as you walk in the building) is the dinner list. If you have not already chosen a date to prepare a meal PLEASE sign up. We only have about six dates left, please choose one. There is also space on this list for you to tell us what you “plan” to be cooking, do update this list.

I encourage you to “gain more light” in your masonic career. Not only do you have a chance to join the Shrine, Scottish Rite, York Rite and others, but there are educational opportunities available. Lodge of Instruction is a good place to start and attending our Tuesday practices. We also have Grand Master’s Forum in early January (just had one on 1/9) but we also have the 4th District Convention that you may attend on August 20th at Ft. Benning Lodge.

The Grand Lodge of Georgia has online courses you can take to teach you about Masonic Code, Symbols, Etiquette, and more. These are great courses, some harder than others, and are well worth the time spent. The more you know, the better prepared you are to be a better man and Mason.

Lastly, I would like to encourage you to memorize a lecture or two. I would recommend the ones that mean the most to you, for me it was the Working Tools. I like to stress the “spiritual” meaning when presenting the Working Tools. The perambulations are also an easy learn as they are in the KJV of the Bible.



See you in Lodge.

Tony McCool  
Junior Warden

A colorful advertisement for a picnic. The background is a close-up of a grill with flames and a burger being cooked. Text is overlaid on the image. In the bottom right corner, there is a cartoon illustration of a diverse group of people, including children and adults, holding drinks and smiling. A small circular logo with a Masonic symbol is in the top right corner.

**2nd Annual Columbus Georgia Masonic Family Picnic**

See your Blue Lodge for More Details

**March 26th, 2016**  
11 am till 4 pm

**Columbus - Fort Benning Shrine Club**  
3202 Edgewood Rd

This edition produced and edited  
by Russell Ward

# MIDLAND LODGE 144 TRESTLE BOARD 2016



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