



January 2018

FROM THE EAST



Brethren, I hope that this Trestleboard finds you well, and that you had a truly Merry Christmas and have begun a great new year. As I think on both the strengths and weaknesses of not only myself, but our lodge, I find that the thing that comes most to my mind is the importance of education. In the past several months, we have had many guest speakers, and I intend on continuing that practice for the remainder of my tenure in the East. With that in mind, I'd like to share part of an article that I ran across on the masoniceducation.com website. This article was written by Alphonse Cerza and is titled "AND GIVE THEM PROPER INSTRUCTION." While it is not a new article, like many things in Masonry, it has stood the test of time, and I believe that it is as relevant now as when it was written (*emphasis of certain parts of the article are mine, not Bro. Cerza's*).

AND GIVE THEM PROPER INSTRUCTION

The Worshipful Master is constantly being reminded by the ritual that he has a solemn duty "to set the Craft to work and give them proper instruction." The two key words "work and "instruction" naturally go together. In recent years, unfortunately, the word "work" has been applied only to the ritualistic work of the Craft. In its broadest sense it really means all types of Masonic work.

The aim of Freemasonry is to teach men to live uprightly, do good in the community," and by their work to set a good example." Since the word "mason" implies work and Freemasonry glorifies the dignity of work, we can reasonably assume that the Craft should devote its attention to the kind of work which will help fulfill this aim.

There is no question that the Masonic ritual is the foundation of the Craft. In it we find the message that

Freemasonry has for the candidate, its philosophy, and its moral teachings. If one knows these lessons fully and completely, he is indeed a wise man. Too many of us are concerned more with perfection of the words rather than securing a full understanding of the spirit and the meaning of the ritual. Let us not make the mistake of believing that the ceremony of initiation makes a man a Mason. True, this ceremony is vital and necessary, but ***unless the lessons of the ceremony and the spirit of the ritual is understood, it is nothing.*** For example, for hundreds of years in the ancient world there were a number of associations that we now call the Ancient Mysteries. These organizations had a number of things in common. One element stands out above all others: the belief that the ceremony of the Mystery purified the candidate. This basic belief, more than any other factor, brought these organizations to an end. Let us learn one lesson from this page of history: ***The ceremonies of the three degrees are of no value unless they are understood by the candidate and are grafted into everyday life.*** An informed and enlightened membership is a better and more successful one. This is not idle talk. Brother William H. Knutt, in 1952, at the Mid-West Conference on Masonic Education, gave a report in which it was clearly shown that when the great depression of the thirties came along, the jurisdictions in which the Craft had been offering educational programs lost the least number of members.

The Craft should be put to WORK. That there be perfection in the ritual, that members receive instruction in the ceremonies of the Craft, and that our degree work be retained is of vital importance. No fault can be found with the ritualistic work for it is the foundation of our Order. Fault should be found with the view that we stop our efforts with the conferring of the degrees. ***We are amiss in our duty to the Craft when we do not properly prepare our candidates and then abandon the newly-made Mason to his own devices.*** Lodges that devote their entire time to conferring degrees will soon find that quantity is not a substitute for quality. The quality of the membership is determined not only by the careful screening of applicants for the

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degrees but also in making the new member a Mason in fact. This can be done by putting the new Mason to work.

What his work shall be must be determined by the Worshipful Master. While the new member is receiving his degrees someone should try to ascertain his likes, his dislikes, his hobbies, his aptitudes, and his inclinations. If he has a fondness for ritualistic work, by all means put him to work in that field. If he likes to read introduce him to Masonic literature. If he likes to speak why not encourage him to become a Masonic speaker? All this effort will help make this member a better Mason for he will be doing what he likes. And the Craft will profit thereby.

(The rest of the article can be found here:

<http://masoniceducation.com/article/?article=and-give-them-proper-instruction.>)

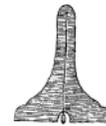
My brothers, I find that I am most satisfied when I am engaged in work that matters; work that uses my gifts and occupies my mind. What are your likes, your hobbies, your aptitudes? How can you best work and best agree?

Dow Mathis
Master



At the Lodge's December 15th Christmas Party, Worshipful Master Dow Mathis Presented A \$1,000 Donation To The Kendall County Women's Shelter (KCWS). Accepting The Donation is KCWS Coordinator, Ms Sonja Gutierrez.

FROM THE WEST



Now that the holiday season has passed it's back to business as usual both within in the lodge, and in our personal lives. As we move forward into the new year I wish everyone the best in the future to come. With that let's jump back into our study of the liberal arts. We left off with grammar so what naturally follows suite is the art of rhetoric, which will be the focus of this article.

Rhetoric, simply put, is learning the art of persuasion. Of all the arts rhetoric is given the least attention, and is probably the least understood. The art of rhetoric, or persuasion, can be used as a tool to accomplish great deeds, but can equally be used as an evil tool of manipulation. For our purposes rhetoric is used to encourage others in right and reasonable conduct, while equally guarding against potential harmful influence through simple awareness of the modes used. There are three modes deployed in the use of rhetoric, they are emotional, ethical and logical. The idea is to persuade through the use of emotional, ethical or logical arguments; knowing the audience sets the tone.

In my opinion emotional persuasion is used most commonly. The quintessential example of emotional persuasion is the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) commercial on television. For those who have not seen it the commercial is very emotionally charged, showing an assortment of badly abused animals while playing tear jerking music. If you are not moved by this commercial at all you are a rare individual indeed, however, if you are, you have just been emotionally persuaded. Take the same commercial but play it to a suspenseful tune, and the commercial is rather terrifying. Most people run purely on emotions from moment to moment and care little for taming the same, or are simply unaware of the influence emotion has on

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their lives. As a consequence of this media is heavily geared to persuaded through the manipulation of our many emotions.

Ethical arguments of course appeal to a person's ethics or sense of morals. In todays society we see ethical modes of persuasion deployed in every direction. Naturally a person is going to side with the ethical argument that best fits their picture of morals. Again, knowing your audience is key here especially with ethical and logical modes of persuasion. A politically liberal individual would be hard pressed to convince a politicaly conservative individual to agree on certain issues pertaining to ethics, and vice versa.

Logic follows an individual's ability to reason. Therefore, the use of logical persuasion is based on a person's ability to follow sequential information, and to understand and make sense of such. If a person or audience does not possess these traits this form of rhetoric will be useless. To quote Sam Harris, an author, philosopher and neuroscientist, "If someone doesn't value evidence what evidence are you going to provide to prove that they should value it? If someone doesn't value logic, what logical argument could you provide to show the importance of logic?" As logic is its own art, more will follow on this mode of rhetoric next month.

Rhetoric can be a valuable tool to society in the right hands, but equally a tool of evil in the wrong ones. While using rhetoric to encourage others in right and reasonable conduct be aware of the subtle influences the three modes of persuasion, emotional, ethical and logical, can also have on you. I look forward to seeing everyone at the January stated meeting, until then many blessings during this new year, and be safe.

Matt Archilla
Senior Warden

**Kendall Masonic Lodge No. 897
Deaths**



Stanley Doyle Young

Almighty Father! Into Thy hands we commend the soul of our beloved Brother.

FROM THE SOUTH



Brethren,

It looks like the ending of another great year. With the present acts of going through the Christmas season and the New Year to come, I would like to wish everyone a safe, warm and loving Christmas with a prosperous blessed New Year.

At the beginning of the month, I read an interesting article about the Christmas story. This article really stood out because I had never ever read an article from this point of view. After all, we always read, watch or listen to the same Christmas articles or shows in which, at times, we can become immune to the same old Christmas story to where the holiday season just becomes repetitive making us complacent.

How many of us can imagine the nativity scene in our heads, right now? Some of us will view the Star in the East shining over a barn with Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus in the manger. Some of us may only think of Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus. Some of us will continue to think of a combination of the three wise men bringing their gifts with a combination of the other two scenarios I just mentioned. Even as a kid, the shepherds have always stood out to me, so I always remember the shepherds when I think of the Nativity scene.

"And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night -Luke 2:8". Our bible on our altar states the shepherds ran to see the baby Jesus. "And they came with haste, and found both Mary and Joseph, and the baby who was lying in the feed trough. -Luke 2:16". These shepherds were guided by a star. They ran to the direction of the light and found the baby Jesus.

Shepherding has been around for thousands of years. Back then this was considered a filthy, low society position of a job. The shepherds usually slept out in the fields alongside the sheep. If they were lucky, some of them even had a covered wagon in which they would sleep in instead of on the ground. This was a not high paying position. It guaranteed working in bad weather,

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SECRETARY'S CORNER



Brethren... I hope you had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year's Day!

Also if you are not an endowed member, 50+ Year Member, or Life Member and haven't sent in your dues and received your 2018 Dues Card, your 2017 Dues Card ran out on December 31st. So get your dues in as soon as you can.

Hey Master Masons... we're getting close to being ready for another Master Mason's Degree this year. Come and be a part of Raising a Brother on Saturday, January 13th. We're going to conduct the degree at the Outdoor Lodge at Camp Alzafar... weather permitting. Watch for emails saying where as we get closer.

Here are a few things to put on your calendar for January:



On Monday, January 8th at 7:00 PM Kendall Masonic Lodge No. 897 will honor one of its members with the 2017-2018 Golden Trowel Award. Come, see who it is and congratulate him for his work throughout his Masonic career!



Monday, January 15th, will be our January Stated Meeting with Dinner starting at 6:30 PM, Food and Fellowship last until 7:20 PM or so, and our Stated Meeting starts at 7:30 PM. Some of our wives stay in the Banquet Room during the meeting so bring your wife and/or other family members and come to the dinner and meeting.



Did you know who won the \$500 Gift Certificate from Bass Pro Outdoor World at the December Stated Meeting? Congratulate Kyle Jackson!



Masons... remember that the 2018 Grand Communication is fast approaching. It will be held in Waco at the Grand Lodge building starting on Thursday, January 18th and lasting

through Saturday, January 20th and will end with the Installation of the 2018 Grand Officers including the District Deputy Grand Masters. Don't miss it!



The M. C. Holman Masters, Wardens and Secretaries Association of the 51st Masonic District, Grand Lodge of Texas will meet on Wednesday, January 24th, 2018 at Rising Star Lodge No. 429 in Center Point and you can join us. We have a light meal at 6:30 PM and a short Business Meeting at 7:00 PM. Your wives and other visitors are welcome to attend. This month we will be assembling the Masonic Home and School's Fantastic Teeth Kits for delivery to area Elementary Schools in Boerne and Comfort.

Don't say that there is nothing going on at Kendall Masonic Lodge for you or that you don't have time. We always find times for those things we consider important. Many of you have gotten out of the "habit" of attending lodge. Well... start a new "habit" of being an active part of our Fraternal Brotherhood and not just "card carrying" members.

We're here and we always have something going on that you can be a part of and make a difference.

Gary L. Bausell
Secretary



Worshipful Master Mathis (right) Presents \$500 Bass Pro Gift Card To Raffle Winner, Senior Deacon Kyle Jackson



<i>January Birthdays</i>	
Brother	Date
Matthew T. Hite	1/2
Jeffrey A. Sill	1/4
Zane L. Maltsberger	1/5
Ryan J. Maltsberger	1/5
Jonathan B. Cluck Jr.	1/6
Jimmie B. Black II	1/12
Wayne H. Gately	1/14
Richard L. Fulk	1/16
Rodney G. Edmondson	1/18
Stephen L. Hill	1/18
Thomas I. Pipes	1/19
Michael L. Whiteside	1/20
Jerry L. Kelley	1/24
Mac M. Hopkin	1/25
Richard D. Baggs	1/26
Edward J. Mueller	1/28
Maurice R. Rose	1/30

<i>Raised In January</i>	
Brother	Years Ago
John W. Angle	56
Cletus A. Kleen	55
Morris C. Jernigan	55
Abner L. Kestler Jr.	50
James R. Schmitz	41
Robert F. Todd	25
John D. Smith	12
Lyle B. Schichner Sr.	11
Roger W. Hall	11
Roger D. Curry	8
William R. Lemmons Jr.	8

Building Preservation December Donations	
<i>Donor</i>	<i>In Memory/Honor of</i>
Billy Lemmons Jr	Bro Billy Lemmons Sr
Bob Easterling	Easterling Family
Abb Kestler Jr.	Bro. Archie Burke

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facing the dangers of wild animals, diseases, and thieves combined with long exhausting days of herding and finding lost sheep.

Needless to say, it was the shepherds out in the field who were approached by an angel of the Lord. Furthermore, these shepherds were selected to go abroad. They went to Bethlehem, and they continued to spread the good news. When they left to see the new Savior, do you think they had time to shower? Make alternative plans? Make suitable arrangements for whatever? I don't think so. I believe, they immediately left because of their trust and faith.

Consequently, as I reflect, I never thought, until right now after reading this article on how important the shepherd really was regarding the nativity scene. I

never really thought about their backgrounds, social status, income, or any of it. If you think of it, they were the first persons on this Earth who went forward and began spreading the Light.

As Masons, we are reminded to practice charity. Charity is defined as the voluntary giving of help. This does not always mean to give money. There is the giving of time, hope, love, encouragement, services, and so much more. Think of your working tools, and let us all as Masons practice our faith, regardless of what it is, in this new coming year and amplify our charities to one another as well as our community. Thank you.

Ovidio Flores
Junior Warden