



W.K. Bray Lodge No. 410

Free and Accepted Masons

P.O. Box 294, Hatboro, PA, 19040

February 1, 2012

Teaching Values, Building Relationships and Strengthening ties to Community

The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun. Ecclesiastes 1:9

So according to our most revered King Solomon, been there, done that....

Our favorite builder must have been pretty depressed in his last years on earth. Everything was vanity, vanity, and vexations. Seems the future was all about the past.

Which brings me to one of my favorite movies, one that my son Harry and I watched, over and over again on New Years day. That movie is of course, "Back to the Future", the 1980's Michael J. Fox blockbuster that asked the eternal question: if you traveled back in time and messed with the events, would the future be different? The answer of course is, yes. But ultimately, the movie is about doing the right thing, believing in your self and acting with courage.

I haven't got a "new" agenda for W. K. Bray Lodge this year, as it has all been said or done before, according to scripture. What I do have to offer you, my distinguished and honorable brethren, is a reaffirmation of the fraternal ties that bind us to each other based on the values we hold sacred, and the hard work it takes to grow relationships both in and out of the Lodge.

Values, Relationships, Community

We begin with the Work. From the Work, all else springs forth in Free Masonry. Each Monday and Wednesday evening, brethren are learning, memorizing, rehearsing and exemplifying the Masonic Ritual which teaches us the values we hold near and dear. I urge everyone, all our members to attend just one Monday night session throughout the year and see for yourself the quality of Work and the quality of the men teaching the work. Perhaps, you may be inspired to continue your journey as well.

When the time is right, won't you consider the appendant Masonic bodies and continue your path of discovery? We have many members of W. K. Bray that have gone on to the degrees within the Scottish Rite, the York Rite, Tall Cedars, and the Shrine. Each have there unique attributes and rewards. Each will bring to you new knowledge, new experiences and new friends.

If you are a bit shy and would rather learn Masonic teachings on your own, there are three new classes available on our Grand Lodges' website, www.pagrandlodge.org. These new independent study programs feature Masonic Law, History and Mentoring. You also may inquire into the Academy of Knowledge, or Lodge of Research, at the Grand Lodge. These venerable educational bodies of study will take you deep into the history and structure of your fraternity. There are several acknowledgements and awards for achieving the numerous requirements of study.

Values, Relationships, Community

Happy Wife, Happy Life! is a silly cliché that I have over used again and again. But it's so true, even among friends and brothers, as we all need to nurture our individual relationships, if they are to strengthen and grow.

Let's make it a little easier to see who's who in our lodge. Let's build a directory of members who wish to VOLUNTARILY add themselves to a central repository of useful information. Name, address, phone, email, profession/vocation, former vocation, family, how long a mason, interests, hobbies....

(over)

I know there may be reservations about such a directory, but it would be strictly voluntary and intended for the members use only. Consider this: if I'm in need of an appraisal for my house, I'm calling Bro. Gresh. If I need to get myself out of some legal trouble, I'm calling Bro. Meyer. If I plan on seeing a play at the Village Players, I'm calling Bro. Campman. I use my member's directory! More info to following March.

Following a stirring speech from Bro. Michael F. Imperial, P.M. this past November, several brothers suggested forming a History committee to augment the work Bro. Thomas Eynon, P.M. and Bro. Imperial, P.M. began with the history of our Lodge up until the mid nineties. We need to update and add to that body of work. Leading the long-range initiative for this very important work will be Bro. Brent Ford. If any of you wish to assist him, please reach out with your ideas. Let's build upon our relationships further by focusing on our rich past.

Upon being raised, Bro. Wayne Birster, Sr., P. M. told me that I now have an exclusive ticket to travel the world. Welcomed by men in every jurisdiction, we ALL have the right and privilege to take part of the greatest fraternity on earth. This year I would ask the brethren to travel with me, first within our jurisdiction, and then beyond to other states. On Saturday, March 31st, we will be traveling to Bristol Lodge # 25, an historic, true "moon" lodge and enjoy a stated meeting within district. Later in the year, there are early plans for visiting Lodges in New Jersey and Maryland. If this will fill your cup of Masonic fellowship, then please contact the Wardens or myself. The experience of traveling together will also add to renewed friendships not only with our members, but also with the masonic community at large. More info will follow our Bristol visit.

Values, Relationships, Community

So, we have this historic Lodge of like-minded, values driven, hard working brethren, who would like to increase in membership and sustain the passionate overall goal of making "good men better". Let's get the word out. Let's articulate our "brand", our mission.

Most months we have a Pancake Breakfast that accomplishes three things. First of all, it makes money for the Lodge's general fund. Last year we netted over \$1000. Secondly, it brings the brothers and their families closer together working, dining and conversing. Lastly, it is one of the best advertisements we have to prospective members. My hope is to add to this event with a potluck dinner in the spring, a picnic/cookout in the summer, and a Chicken Barbecue in the fall. Well-publicized events will bring in new members, but we need to continue to work hard on executing our plans.

Next, let's network with local organizations that may add members to our Lodge. I am proposing a small donation each month to a worthy group who helps others in our community. This small amount would be given on behalf of the brethren celebrating their masonic birthdays, and wouldn't add a dime to our expenses. In lieu of a more-pricey birthday gift, we would use that allocated amount of monthly expense as a donation to a selected service organization, while a gift of lesser cost will still be given out to the brothers at the stated meeting. Consider how Enterprise Fire Company's volunteers might look upon a gift from its neighbors here in Hatboro. Might they consider becoming a member of such an organization? Might we consider becoming a member of theirs?

Finally, my intention as Worshipful Master of the Lodge is to spread the word that Masons are men of high values, men of encouragement and charity, but most importantly, men of action. If there is an individual, family or group that is in need of our help, labor, skills or direction, I want the community to re-learn that their Masonic Lodge will help. Therefore, if there are opportunities for us to help others, please bring it to my attention and let's consider the relief.

Fraternally yours,



Bro. Timothy J. Schultz, W. M..
W. K. Bray Lodge, #410
Hatboro, PA 19040
215-470-5076