

Trestleboard

Unity No. 146 Masonic Lodge
Chartered December 13, 1870 by the Grand Lodge of Virginia
www.Unity146.org

October 2019

Brethren,

I often read the various Masonic Blogs out there, my personal favorite site being www.midnightfreemasons.org and came across this recent entry. In light of recent event that I have personally been dealing with, the article hit home with me and I wished to share it with all of my Brothers.

What Does YOUR Behavior Say About Freemasonry?

I posted this on my personal blog some time back and it got a big reaction. I don't know that we think about this a lot. We should. I've talked about it before.

When I became a Mason back in 2005, I was joining a group of men. Not only was I joining a group of men, but I became a representative of that group. I joined that group with a desire to improve myself. I embraced those principles, ideals, and morals that the group believed was important to develop in ourselves in order to become men of good character. There was nothing in any of those basic building blocks of character that conflicted with my religious or personal beliefs. And over the last fourteen years I've met some of the finest men I've ever known, and learned a great deal about Freemasonry, about life, and about the characteristic of being a man of principle. We aspire to live by a higher standard than those in the profane world outside.

I used to say that Freemasonry's best advertising was its members. In the social media age, I'm not sure that's true. I'm frequently embarrassed by the way I see Masons behave on social media. I see Masons posting memes they know will start a huge debate, and then take part in online fights that are disrespectful and crude. There's one social media page that seems to pride itself on the lack of respect that they show each other. It's also a public forum. That behavior certainly doesn't represent my values nor most of the Masons I know, and it certainly doesn't demonstrate the standards of our fraternity either.

I wonder what non-Masons think about our Fraternity when they see our members behaving this way? I wonder what perspective Masons looking for information think when they stumble on these forums? I'll tell you honestly, if I'd seen some of that back in 2004 when I became interested in Freemasonry,

OCTOBER 2019 UNITY BLUE LODGE ACTIVITIES AT UNITY LODGE NO. 146

10/02 – Unity Stated Communication, Dinner @ 630p followed by Meeting @ 730p.

10/09, 10/16, 10/23 & 10/30 – Blue Lodge Ritual Practice @ 630p

10/26 – Unity Lodge Breakfast @ 8a

10/29 – Winchester Hiram Lodge No. 21 (Joint) at Unity Lodge No. 146 @ 7p. Masters & Wardens / District Ritual School / DEO Program

OCTOBER 2019 NON-BLUE LODGE ACTIVITIES AT UNITY LODGE NO. 146

10/04 – Order of the Eastern Star #6 @ 7p

10/08 & 10/22 – Shenandoah Valley Demolay @ 630p

10/12 – MAHOVA. Masonic Family Day

10/18 – RAC Hiram #45 @ 730p

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I'm not sure I would have joined. In fact, I'm pretty sure I wouldn't have. That conduct of our members (our representatives) is not what I *thought* Freemasonry was about back then, and it's definitely not what I *know* Freemasonry is supposed to be about today.

I'm a true believer in what this Fraternity can do for men, what it can do for communities, and the positive influence these values we instill in our members can have on the world. I've studied it. I've applied it. I've written about it. I've spoken about it. I've lived it for the last 14 years. I must admit, however, I sometimes question the direction we're headed. This public foolishness is beneath us. We can't even talk about something as mundane as how we should dress for official functions without getting into ugly public fights with one another.

We've become so inwardly focused on ourselves as individuals and our own needs in this era that we forget we're part of a group--each representing each other and all of us representing a higher standard that we aspire towards. We've forgotten that we're not Freemasons to change Freemasonry into an image of ourselves, we became Freemasonry to be changed by the traditional teachings and values of our Fraternity. To become part of a long and proud tradition. To become better men--to rise above the crude and profane world around us and serve as examples to others.

Let's remember who we are when we interact with the world . . . and try to remember that when we represent ourselves as Freemasons to the world, each of us represents ALL of us.

~TEC

Todd E. Creason, 33° is the Founder of the *Midnight Freemasons* blog, and an award winning author of several books and novels, including the *Famous American Freemasons* series. Todd started the *Midnight Freemason* blog in 2006, and in 2012 he opened it up as a contributor blog *The Midnight Freemasons* (plural). Todd has written more than 1,000 pieces for the blog since it began. He is a Past Master of Homer Lodge No. 199 and Ogden Lodge No. 754 (IL) where he currently serves as Secretary. He is a Past Sovereign Master of the Eastern Illinois Council No. 356 Allied Masonic Degrees. He is a Fellow at the Missouri Lodge of Research (FMLR). He is a charter member of the a new Illinois Royal Arch Chapter, Admiration Chapter No. 282 and currently serves as EHP. You can contact him at: webmaster@toddcreason.org

10/26 – Sojourners Meeting
@ 8a

**2019 DATES TO “KEEP ON
YOUR RADAR”**

11/08-10 – Richmond. 2019
Grand Annual
Communication

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Masonic Youth Organizations

The young men of the Shenandoah Valley Chapter of the DeMolay continue to make great strides in the growth of the Chapter. During the last meeting they have begun to make plans to attend a Fall Festival in Manassas and attend a dance with the Job's Daughters. If any of the Brothers have any old ties which they no longer have need, think on donating them to the Chapter for these young men. It would be of great help for them. Again, if you know any young men which you think could benefit from the lessons which our fraternity holds so dear, please let them know of the opportunity which the SVCD can provide.

POC - Brother Bob Nickols (443) 926-1773



or Rnickols@yahoo.com

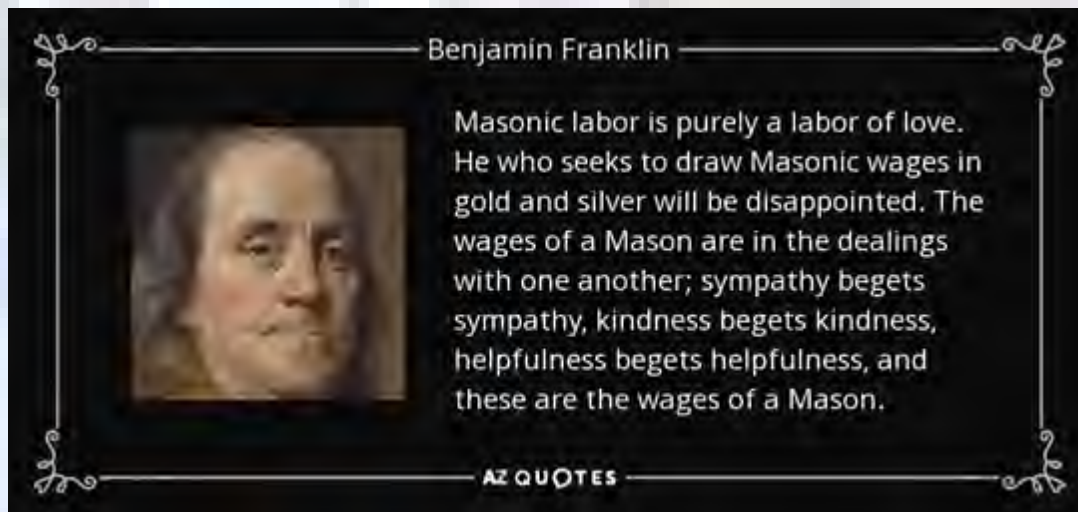
New Members of Unity Lodge

We have one new petition that we are expecting to vote on at the next stated communication. If successful we will be scheduling an EA degree hopefully in October. We still also have the FC Degree for Brother Ed Broome and the MM degree for Brother George Money to get on the schedule. October is shaping up to be a very busy month for our lodge. If you wish to participate in the cast for these degrees, please let me know.

Fraternally,

Charles Taggart

Worshipful Master, Unity Lodge No. 146



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Sincerely & Fraternally,
Charles Taggart
Worshipful Master Unity 146

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! - Psalm
133:1 KJV

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