



## March Trestleboard Eagle Rock Lodge #19 AF&AM

**From the East:** Happy March to You! Hopefully winter's back is broken and we can start to enjoy being outdoors. Remember, we are all Irish on St. Patrick's Day. It appears from discussion with MWPGM Prewitt that we are set for our Bannack Visit on July 1st. Pluses and Minuses. It will be the weekend before the 4th, probably quite busy. This gives us an opportunity to show more people through the Lodge up there, hopefully creating more interest in Freemasonry. It will be a little warmer, most likely, but the weather should be a little more settled. This date will also most likely allow our own MWGM

Herndon to attend and break bread with us. We will also request permission through channels to do a degree up there again this year. I will get information packages together and send to Grove City and St Johns, hopefully having them share the day/weekend with us.

I will hopefully be able to do a little more with the Lodge. I am up to covering over a mile and my stamina is improving. Once again, everything is fixed, no ongoing problems to fight with. It is so nice to have such a strong line that I had no concerns at all with how the Lodge would be with me taking my hiatus. Can I come back or have they done so well I'm out on my ear?

It is nice to have work to do, two firsts already and a petition received. I am about to get serious on two leads I have for petitions. Both are assists from contacts that have already been made by other Brothers. Brother Bob Evans died before his contact got his petition filled out; I know him well and will follow up for Brother Bob. In order for us to show a gain this year, we still need more. We want to emphasize quality and not just numbers but you know someone who is good enough to be a Freemason. We can't ask, but we can manipulate. If you need help in how to manipulate, remember how your daughter played you like a fiddle? Wives can also give some advice on the art.

The new lapel pins are here. \$1.50 each. It will be fun to have them for our visiting Brothers and maybe as gifts for others. I think that we should also give a pin to first line signers on the petitions?

I hope to start getting with the program and getting some other groups on board for our open house. It is hoped that it won't be just us, but York and Scottish Rite, Shriners, OES and of course the Jobies. It should work in well with the Grand Master's ideas for growth in the Lodge. It is hoped that by showing all the facets of the Masonic Family, it may be that we will be of more appeal to more people. It may be that there seems to be too much emphasis on growing. It is comfortable now, we know our Brothers, and everything is predictable. We are not facing the financial woes of many of our other Lodges, but if we don't progress, we die. We are healthy now; we again have a line that has no retreats. The only way we can continue to have fresh faces is to accrue new Brothers. We need the Brothers to carry on the Fraternity and continue to keep the Lodge room full. Think what contributions our new Brothers are making and the fun of seeing their enthusiasm in learning and doing the work that it takes to keep the Lodge healthy. The responsibility for the Fraternity is ours. It is we who must keep it in a strong, healthy condition that makes others see in it what we saw when we joined.

### **Senior Warden Brother Dave Ceci: WHENCE CAME YE:**

I originally hail from a small city called Rome, which is smaller than Idaho Falls, located in north central New York State between Utica and Syracuse. Being called Rome probably conjures images of a "little Italy". It was predominately of Italian heritage, which is probably why my grandparents decided that was the place for them. They immigrated to the U.S. via Staten Island about 1910. Some of my fondest memories of my childhood was Sunday and holiday dinners at my grandparents – so much food, the home made wines, strong coffees, anisette, and all the conversations in Italian. The food is something I really miss. I haven't had a REAL Italian dinner in over 20 years. Johnny Carino's and the Olive Garden are not Italian.

In my early teens, my father lost his job at Rome Cable, so we moved to Cleveland, Ohio. I spent my teen years there and enlisted in the Navy out of high school since I couldn't get into college do to poor grades even though I had scholarship offers. It was either enlist or be drafted and possibly go to Viet Nam. I chose to enlist. Soon after I enlisted, I was married to my beautiful, understanding, and supportive wife who provided me four great kids – two daughters and two sons, and now have four grandsons with a fifth grandson on the way (my wife wanted a granddaughter). And like our Worshipful Master Kent McCandless, the Navy was a good choice, which I would recommend to any young person. The Navy was very good for and to me. After I got my act together, they provided me an opportunity to attend undergraduate school at Purdue University where I earned an engineering degree and received a commission. After plenty of time at sea and in other duty stations, they again offered me an opportunity I couldn't refuse. They sent me to graduate school at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) where I earned two engineering master degrees. Since I was having so much fun in the Navy, and they were continuing to provide me opportunities I probably would not receive anywhere else; I decided to stick around a while. Ultimately, my family grew tired of moving so often, so I decided to retire after 22 years of service.

Upon retirement, I told my wife that I had worked for over twenty years and that now it was her turn. She said no. So off to work I go - again. I applied at the site and was hired in 1992 as an engineer. Since then I have progressively advanced in and with the various contractors and I am currently the Nuclear Maintenance Manager for the INL nuclear facilities under BEA.

As you all are probably aware, one of my passions is motorcycles, which I have been riding for over 35 years. During one of the many local motorcycle events, I met Brad and Kristeen Putnam. Brad is a member of our lodge who is currently residing in Elko, Nevada. Over the course of a few years, Brad and I talked of the fraternity, which raised my interest to the point that I finally asked him for a recommendation – the recommendation of a friend. And again like our Worshipful Master, I had the pleasure of a certain old curmudgeon as my coach – Don Cowell, and the regret that I did not discover the rights, privileges, and joy of Freemasonry much sooner.

In closing I would like to invite all our brothers to attend lodge regularly. There are many topics in which we could use your insight, thoughts, and expertise as we pursue some projects this year such as the proposed open house for the public.