



May Trestleboard Eagle Rock Lodge #19 AF&AM

From the East: In the April Trestleboard there was a short explanation of the origin of “Ancient” in the acronym AF&AM which stated “When Masonry was being “modernized”, in 1700s England, a group objecting to this formed a new Grand Lodge called the “Ancients”. While eventually all came together in the United Grand Lodge, we retain that name as a reminder of our desire to conserve the old ways.” A couple of weeks after distribution of the Trestleboard; I received a short note from Br. Bruce Miller, with excerpts from a book by William L. Fox titled “*Lodge of the Double-Headed Eagle: Two Centuries of Scottish Rite Freemasonry in America’s Southern Jurisdiction*” clarifying the origin of “Ancient”. The book states that a rival to the Grand Lodge of England was formed named the Grand Lodge According to the Old Institutions which “attacked the older lodge for its alleged waywardness”. This caused the Grand Lodge of England to become known as the Modern Grand Lodge and its members referred to as “Moderns”, while the newer Grand Lodge became known as the “Ancient” and its supporters “Antients”. The newer Grand Lodge being referred to as “Ancient” is probably due to its adherence to the “Old Institutions”. The book goes on to state “According to common tradition, Grand Lodges in the United States which trace their charters to the Moderns are known as Free and Accepted Masons. Those possessing charters from the Antients are known as Ancient Free and Accepted Masons.” I hope this clarifies any confusion concerning the origin of “Ancient” in AF&AM.

In April we passed two brothers to Fellow Craft – Br. J. Shirts and Br. M. Tensmeyer. Both of whom will be raised in Bannack (see below). And we had the pleasure and honor of raising Br. J. Gentry to the Master Mason degree who demonstrated his proficiency in the MM degree two weeks later. Since his initiation as an EA and demonstrating his proficiency in the EA degree in open lodge, Br. Gentry expeditiously progressed through all his degree work. Well Done Br. Gentry. We look forward to you being a frequent contributor to the success of our lodge.

The 2nd Stated Communication was Lambskin Apron Night. All members in attendance, including the Lodge Officers, wore their Lambskins. It was a memorable evening, particularly when some of the members chose to share what the lambskin has meant to them, how it has enriched their lives, or that they had in their possession or were wearing their father’s or grandfather’s apron and what that meant to them. Thanks to Brs. G. Galbraith, V. Esparza, J. Perez, J. Shirts, and J. Gentry and all the others who shared their Lambskin memories and thoughts. I received comments after the meeting that it was the best meeting they had attended in a long time.

On Monday April 21 we had a blood drive at the lodge with the collected blood being designated for Grand Master Pete Cargill in his fight to regain his health. As you know, he has been diagnosed with a form of leukemia and is currently undergoing treatment. The last information I received is that he is doing well and is now able to receive a limited number of visitors. I must say it was disappointing when less than fifteen brothers showed up at the lodge to donate blood.

After the pot-luck dinner on Wednesday 4/30, we had the honor and privilege of receiving a presentation by Major Vaughn Ward of the USMC concerning a marine’s perspective of Iraq. Maj. Ward is a 4th generation Idahoan whose family has a long history of service to our nation going back to the Civil War. He is a graduate of Boise State University and has worked on Secretary Kempthorne’s staff in Washington when he was a senator, served in the US Marines, and in the counter-terrorism department of the CIA. His presentation was very informative and included topics covering WMDs; Iraqi police; tales of heroism by our young marines, soldiers, and sailors; atrocities committed by the insurgents; how the Iraqi people are receiving and adjusting to freedom and democracy; the state of their infrastructure; and how the Iraqi people perceive our presence. His presentation was followed by an extensive question and answer period in which the audience asked many insightful and thought provoking questions. After the presentation Maj. Ward was presented with a plaque from Eagle Rock Lodge #19 to commemorate his visit and proclaiming him an outstanding American for his service to our nation.

Senior Deacon Dave Jobe arranged and coordinated the presentation by Maj. Ward. His work and tenacity to make the event happen was superb and he is highly commended for his continuing outstanding performance. The evening’s pot roast main dish was again expertly prepared by Senior

Steward Albert Brett who always makes our dinners memorable. Well Done to you both and Thank You!

Upcoming Events

Open House: We will be hosting an Open House for the public on Saturday, May 10 from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. The concordant Masonic organizations have been invited to attend and provide information concerning their organization, tenets and principles, activities, and contributions. This Open House is to provide an opportunity for those who know little or nothing of Freemasonry to become a bit more knowledgeable of what we do and how Freemasonry has enriched our lives and has helped us to continue to evolve into better people. Please attend, even if only for a few minutes, and share your Masonic experiences and what Freemasonry means to you with our visitors.

Second Degree: Br. D. Hodder will be passed to the Fellow Craft Degree on Wednesday, May 14. Lodge will open at 7:30 PM.

Bikes-For-Books: This program is one of the ways we contribute to our community by providing an incentive to encourage our young people to read to help them realize the joys of reading for pleasure, enlightenment, and furthering their educations. Bicycles and helmets have been purchased for kindergarten through 6th grade for the winners of this year's program at Hawthorne and A. H. Bush Elementary Schools. Brethren, mark your calendars to attend the presentation of the bikes to the winning students at Hawthorne on Friday, May 16 at 10:00 AM and at A. H. Bush on Thursday, May 22 at 9:30 AM. Our Senior Warden, Josh "Honorable Dave" Perez superbly managed and coordinated this year's program. Thank you from all of us Br. Josh, and I want to personally thank you for your work and donation of your time. Well Done!

Table Lodge: A Table Lodge has been scheduled for our 2nd Stated Communication on Wednesday, May 21. Please join us for another fun evening of superb food being prepared by Br. Albert Brett, fellowship, good times. If you need help getting to the Lodge for this enjoyable evening, please give me or any officer a call and we will help get you there and home.

Bannack: Our annual Called Communication in the historic gold mine ghost town of Bannack, Montana is scheduled for the weekend of May 30 – June 1. We will open lodge on the 3rd degree to raise Br. J. Shirts and Br. M. Tensmeyer and will meet in the Bannack Historical Masonic Lodge No. 3-7-77 in the late afternoon on Saturday, May 31 at about 4:00 PM in the preserved lodge room. The original Bannack Masonic Lodge #16 received its dispensation from the Grand Lodge of Nebraska on April 27, 1863. The Bannack Lodge was re-chartered as a historic lodge in 2000. Please come join us for the day or for the weekend and enjoy camaraderie, good food, and Bannack, Montana and the local area rich in the legends, lore, and events from the "old west" from gold robberies, hangings, gun fights, vigilantes, and the first government seat of the Montana territory, to the legend of 3-7-77 worn on the shoulder patch and car doors of the Montana Highway Patrol. Bannack is located southwest of Dillon just off Montana Highway 278.

Adopt-A-Highway: As previously reported, we have adopted a section of US 20 at the intersection with the Lewisville Highway for which we will be responsible to periodically walk and collect litter for disposal. Now that the weather is becoming more cooperative, you can expect the clean-up date to be scheduled in the near future. Please plan to participate. The clean-up date will be promulgated when established.

By-Law Changes: I had previously communicated in the April Trestleboard that I intended to introduce some proposed changes to our By-Laws during the 2nd Stated Communication in May. Of particular interest will be the proposed changes to our annual dues and the Secretary's compensation. Because of the Table Lodge scheduled for the 2nd Stated Communication in May, I have decided to postpone the introduction of these proposals until the 1st Stated Communication in June (6/4).

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