



February Trestleboard Eagle Rock Lodge #19 AF&AM

From the East: We closed down the year with a deluxe and tremendous New Year's Eve dinner prepared by no other than our own Five Diamond rated Chef Bro. Albert Brett. The evening was like no other I have seen at the lodge so far. The brotherhood throughout the evening was excellent and very inspiring. For those who did not make the dinner we had a seven-course meal and you guys missed out. I would like to thank The Chef, Lisa Brett, the Brothers that helped all

day and those who stayed very late that night and helped clean (you know who you are), and to all the Job's Daughters who served the dinner and did an incredible job.

During the first stated meeting of the year on 01/07, Brother Bob Mohny presented the Eagle Rock Lodge 2008 Treasurer's Report. It was a hard report to swallow. The Lodge took big hit on our investment, with that said I am calling all the brothers to come to lodge and give us some ideas as how to raise money to help our funds as we (the officers of the lodge and myself) would like to raise \$10,000 this year, but can not do it without your support. We are looking in doing another raffle; a rummage sale, a breakfast, and many other ideas are in the works.

Eagle Rock Lodge #19 is planning to host The 2009 Bannack Visit & Third Degree. Brother Kent McCandless is doing all the arrangements for this event so don't hesitate to help our D.D.G.M. Brother Kent works hard every year during this event. We are planning to visit Bannack on May 29-30. That is the first weekend after Memorial Day. Seems to be fewer mosquitoes then.

Brothers please do not miss out, Wednesday February 11th we are having two Third Degrees.. I would like to invite our Brothers who have not regularly attended the meeting, to please consider attending and supporting our up and coming new Masons.

From the West: Much has transpired in the month past, both in our Masonic world and across the U. S. of A. in general. Things both bad and good have created opportunities and "interesting times" for all of us. I will go ahead with the unhappy parts so I can end on the good.

The bad news: We have lost two noted Masons since the last Trestleboard. MWPGM Pete Cargill, of Lewiston, and Brother Ray Currence, of Pocatello (and Scottish Rite) are advanced to the Lodge above. The opportunity this brings is in the form of a reminder that we owe it to our Brethren to visit when they are ill and to check on their welfare when they are too quiet. We will be starting a regular practice of visitations by teams of Masons to see this done. Let the Master know when you are available to participate.

Nationally the economy is showing signs of serious problems. Stores and businesses are closing or cutting back. People are starting to pay off debt and save, rather than consuming on credit. Parts of this are good, but many people are suffering the impact. Our investments are down in value, and interest income is reduced. Brothers are out of work or short on hours or income. Older members of our family may see fixed incomes wither. The opportunity presented by is this complex.

We can support one another as family should, helping each other to find employment or sustain our businesses. We can practice those lessons of Masonic Charity we all remember. By these examples we can raise the image of the Craft and attract good men to seek admission. Because we need funds to operate and continue our programs, we can create new ways to raise funds, thereby increasing interest in our organization from within and without.

On the good side of things: Nationally, we have a new President, a new approach, and many challenges. He is not, I believe, a Mason but he speaks of ideals and values, and I offer this quote: *"The time has come to reaffirm our enduring spirit; to choose our better history; to carry forward that precious gift, that noble idea passed on from generation to generation: the God-given promise that all are equal, all are free, and all deserve a chance to pursue their full measure of happiness." ... "our Founding Fathers, faced with perils that we can scarcely imagine, drafted a charter to assure the rule of law and the rights of man -- a charter expanded by the blood of generations. Those ideals still light the world, and we will not give them up for expedience sake."*

These values and ideals are essentially Masonic. Our opportunities are first, to support the acts of government that support those values and ideals, and second, to remind the world that they have their origins in our Craft.

Locally, we have candidates working through the degrees, a succession of petitions continues to arrive, and our membership is active and interested. Raffle ticket sales in support of the Bonneville County Search and Rescue are proceeding well. Our dinners, such as the widely enjoyed New Year's Dinner, have been very popular, bringing the membership to Lodge and letting them see our activities. The opportunities offered are several. We have many chances to practice and perfect our degree work. Good reasons to offer rides to our older Brethren, bringing them for dinner and good fellowship. Ways to be active, meet people, and talk up the Lodge while selling tickets benefiting a good cause.

We will be continuing most of the good programs of yore, such as Table Lodge, Rusty Nail Degrees, Past Masters Night, Open House, and others. We will be starting some new things as well! Come to Lodge and hear the plans, offer ideas, and find your own opportunities to get involved. It feels good, it does good, and it builds Brotherhood.

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