

Semper Fidelis

Trestleboard

May brotherly love prevail, and every moral and social virtue cement us.

Look to the East

Are You Your Brother's Keeper

Regrettably, the word "secret" has an evil connotation in the minds of too many people. The "secret" may be simply an ambition, an idea, a hope, and a desire. But even if the secret is one of guilt, the brother's trust in you must not be violated. To betray the confidence placed in you would be unforgivable. To keep his secret may cost you sleepless nights, but it must be kept. The only one who can release you from this trust is the brother, himself.

In actuality, you have also told your brethren that they can count on you to stretch forth your hand to keep them from failing. You have offered them your strength, your ability, your knowledge when they need it. There are no reservations. It matters not whether the aid they need is mental, physical, or monetary. Your promise contains no "buts."

When a brother is in danger of any kind, it is your duty to advise him of his impending peril. In doing so, you must remember that it is not by your "plumb line" that you judge him, but by his. And his Square and Level, not yours, by which you are to determine his actions. His opinions may differ from yours politically or religiously, but they are his tools, not yours. When he goes astray from his principles, then and only then, should you quietly remind him that he is error. Then you should assist him to find the right track for him to follow.

The concepts of Brotherly Love are to be found in the Five Points of Fellowship. By following them you will help, aid, and assist every brother who might need your support. You will defend your brother against attacks by others, verbally or physically. You will guard his good name as your own. You will do these things and more - much more.

By doing so you will be following the symbolic teachings of the Working Tools and a Master Mason. You have been taught that they are all the implements used by operative and Speculative Masons. The Trowel is set apart, however. The ritual tells you it is to be used, symbolically, to spread, "the cement of Brotherly Love and Affection, which unites us into one sacred band or Society of Friends and Brothers among whom no contention should ever exist..."

It is important to remember that it is Brotherly Love, the principal ingredient in Freemasonry that unites men of every country, sect, and opinion into a great Fraternity. It is Brotherly Love, in every sense that phrase implies, that can unite the world into one circle with a common interest.

These are some of the important lessons to be found in the symbolism of the Three degrees in Masonry. Learn them well. Teach them to all men everywhere.

-- So Mote It Be --

Mike Bartlett

Master



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Officers of the Lodge 2025

	Master	Michael Bartlett	
Senior Warden	J.P. Ledford	Junior Warden	Antonio Saenz, Jr
Treasurer	Earl Wilson	Secretary	WB Jason Caldwell
Senior Deacon	Jimmy Johnson	Junior Deacon	Patrick Kelley
Senior Steward	Charles Bourne	Junior Steward	Nate Bailey
Tyler	WB Henry Drake	Chaplain	WB Denny Norris

Brethren, please do not forget to take a moment, as we always do in our Lodge; to remember the sick, ailing, and those away from their families defending our way of life...and add to it our families.

On the Secretary's Desk

Brethren,

We have a busy year already in 2025. Continue to monitor the Lodge Grandview calendar to keep updated. We also have emailed the March calendar out to the craft, and have a calendar next to the Lodge door for information.

We currently have 45 Brothers who have yet to pay their dues for 2025. Just a reminder that dues for the current year are due on or before the 1st of January. Please remember that this is how we pay our bills, support our charities, and hold events that are a staple of our Lodge.

As was discussed during the Official Visit, we should be living our Masonry everyday of our lives. Letting those who are not Masons see what makes us different. This allows others to see what the benefits of Masonry are for the individual as well as the community.

If you have any updates to your address, phone number, email address, please send to: semperfidelislodge680@gmail.com.

Jason Caldwell
Secretary

Together...We R.I.S.E

*'Spread the cement of
Brotherly Love and
Affection; that cement
which unites us into
one sacred band, or
society of friends and
brothers, among
whom no contention
should ever exist, but
that noble contention,
or rather emulation,
of who can best work
and best agree.'*

Upcoming Events

Brethren,

Upcoming events are in the works and if you have any ideas for our Lodge bring them up so we can all benefit from your ideas.

- Sojourners Meeting - 3 March
- Fellow Craft degree practice - 4 March 1800
- Fellowcraft Degree - 5 March 1900
- DeMolay - 9 March 1500
- OES - 11 March
- Stated - 12 March - 1900
- New Bern SR Reunion - 14-15 March
- Breakfast - 15 March 0800
- Ladies Night Out - 15 March at 1700 at Shoguns
- MM Degree practice --17 March 1800
- MM Degree - 19 March 1900
- DeMolay Installation of Officers - 23 March 1500
- OES - 25 March
- Stated - 26 March
- Ritual Workshop - 27 March 1800
- OES Installation - 29 March 1400
- EA Degree - 2 April at 1900



All of these events are located on the calendar online with details. Remember that we have transitioned to GrandView. Please log onto GrandView at nc.grandview.systems.

If anyone wants to help with the upcoming events, please let the Officers know.

Random pictures of the Lodge:



Wb Tony and his sons:
Giggles as our Installed JR Warden
Chris as the DeMolay Master Counselor.



WB Bill Thacker after receiving one of the
GM 100 awards from MWB Rideout.

Picture after education from
Ms. Charlie about our MHCO.

WB Jason with Ms Annie Aquino
If you haven't met her, please do.



Happy Birthday Brothers



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

DOUGLAS JOHN MRAK 01/02
 RYAN THOMAS MILLER 01/05
 FLOYD LEE TAYLOR III 01/07
 ELI ALTON TROTT 01/14
 CHRISTOPHER WILLIAM HILLMAN 01/16
EUGENE CLAIRE STOUT 01/17
 THOMAS GLENN COLLINS 01/22

LEONARD YEARBY SAFRIT JR 01/03
 ANGELO MASMILA ALANO 01/06
JAMES HAROLD ROUSE 01/10
 JONATHAN DUSTIN TABOR 01/15
 DUSTIN MATTHEW WOOD 01/16
 JUSTIN MARSHALL MCMONIGLE 01/18
CLYDE ROBERT KEAGY 01/28

WILLIAM GRAHAM MATHIS 01/04
MANFRED BRYANT DAUGHTRY 01/07
EMMETT CRAWFORD COLLINS 01/14
HARRY ALEXANDER WEATHERLY JR 01/15
HOWARD KAHN 01/17
 YOUSIF TELYA 01/20

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

SCOTT DOUGLAS LOVVORN 02/02
RALPH BRYAN HICKS 02/06
 JASON LEE HOUCHINS 02/13
 JAMES RANDALL MARSCHALL 02/17
 RONALD LEE HEATH III 02/21

DENNIS GENE ADAMS 02/04
FREDDIE EDWARD FLETCHER 02/11
 RICHARD JOSEPH PATANE 02/13
 CHARLES GEORGE BOURNE 02/18
 JOHN RUSSELL ROHRER 02/23

ETHAN BLAIR WARNER 02/04
THOMAS LLOYD WILKERSON 02/11
WOODROW HASKELL MYERS 02/16
EDDIE BOWLING 02/19
RHYNE EUGENE GARRIS 02/28

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

BILLY LEE FUSON JR 03/02
 JONATHAN RICHARD PADGETT 03/06
 TIMOTHY NEAL BLACK 03/12
 WILLIAM FRANCIS HARRELL 03/13
 WINSTON GABRIEL MCMILLAN 03/20
 JOSEPH PIERCE SHIRLEY 03/24
 CHRISTIAN RICHARD KISSEL 03/28

GEORGE ALONZO GREENE 03/04
 NOAH BRANDON RUNDELL 03/07
 JOHN THOMAS GAINEY 03/13
 FRITZ MATHEW LOWE 03/14
ERNEST BENJAMIN HALL 03/23
 ADAM MICHAEL HOGUE 03/25
ARTHUR LEONARD THORNE 03/30

JOSEPH LYNN HOULE 03/06
CARLTON EDWARD POULSEN 03/10
 MICHAEL BENJAMIN GREENLEAF 03/13
 ALEXANDER CHRISTOPHER ALCON 03/20
 SHAWN WAYNE PYLE 03/24
 TYLER JOSEPH EASTGATE 03/27

Those in **BOLD** are over the age of 70

Necrology Report

Brethren,

During the months of January and February we have lost a monumental Brother as well as a Maternal figure for many of us.

WB Loren Jones laid down his working tools on the 2nd of January at his home surrounded by his loving family. Loren was a Mason for over 19 years and in that time became a Certified Lecturer, Master of Semper Fidelis twice, District Deputy Grand Master. He was a 32° KCCH in the Scottish Rite. He served in many capacities across Masonry, but one of the most substantial was as a Coach and Mentor to many Brothers. He was beloved by many across the state as was evidenced at his Masonic Rites on the 22nd of February where over 100 individuals were in attendance.

Ms. Mary Ann Kahn was a beloved wife, mother and friend. She and WB Howard Kahn were married for over 60 years. Ms. Mary Ann was often seen keeping Howard in line and treating many like family. She was an phenomenal woman who was seen by many as a maternal figure and was always willing to share her life and home with many over the years.

Both of these amazing individuals will be missed in both the Lodge and our hearts.

Ensure your families know your wishes upon passing. Notifying the Lodge and requesting Masonic Honors (if you so desire) is vital to ensure we get things accomplished according to your wishes.

Masonic Education:

Harmony: The Measure of a Lodge

Interviews conducted during the creation of the 2025 Fraternity Plan with both longtime and new Masons, as well as prospects and interested candidates, revealed something that many lodge leaders have long understood to be true: Positive member relations are absolutely crucial to the fraternity.

In fact, among members who said they were no longer engaged with their lodge, the No. 1 reason for their leaving was member relations. That means that when it comes to both making Masons and keeping them, nipping issues of disharmony in the bud is a top concern.

Disharmony stems from many issues, including issues of power and control, personal behavior, a misunderstanding of the rules of engagement, and differences between longer-term members and newer members. As Masons, though, the ideal of harmony is part of our heritage, and it will be our legacy. If practiced intentionally, it can be the fraternity's greatest strength.

Creating a Harmonious Lodge

But what, exactly, does harmony look like? And why is it so important? For starters, harmony is important because members come to lodge looking for it. "We all come to lodge to be among friends," says Deputy Grand Master Sean Metroka. According to Metroka, a harmonious lodge is one in which "a bunch of people like each other, trust each other, and are actively working to create that sort of atmosphere in lodge." Recently, Metroka has led lodge leaders in workshops on crafting lodge harmony and he's become something of an expert on the subject. According to Metroka, among the characteristics of a harmonious lodge, trust is probably foremost among them. After all, without it, there is no way lodges can confront disharmony head-on.

And according to Metroka, dealing with disharmony in a timely manner is crucial. "As human beings, we're not always going to agree with each other," Metroka says. "Once we accept that, we have to be on the lookout for disagreements and deal with them immediately." Letting disagreements between members fester is the worst thing a lodge can do.

When it comes to dealing with disagreements and fostering a sense of harmony in lodge, it's the responsibility of all members. "It's true that the master should lead the way in dealing with these issues, but it's ultimately a matter of individual responsibility to handle conflict in a respectable manner," Metroka says. When it comes to dealing with disharmony, the best solution is to simply talk it out. You'd be amazed at how effective a simple conversation can be in dispelling negative feelings between members, Metroka says. "At the end of the day, harmony is the strength and support of our fraternity, and should be a goal of all lodges."

Tips on Creating Harmony in Lodge

Harmony is the measure of a lodge. Masters are responsible for its safeguarding. It is the foundation on which understanding, fellowship, and respect are built. Lodge leaders at all levels should value the active, ongoing pursuit of harmony. Keep these tips in mind when you're trying to develop a sense of harmony in lodge:

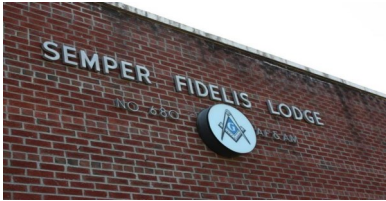
Lead the lodge with harmony as a priority. Since member relationships are the single most important factor in membership engagement, harmony should be a priority of the lodge's leaders. From planning events and stated meetings designed to build harmony and friendship to listening to what members want from their Masonic experience, lodge leaders must build and nurture harmony in their lodge.

Clarify expectations of Masonic culture. Lodges should develop an active, ongoing pursuit of harmony. To nurture harmony, lodge leaders must clarify the rules that were designed specifically to build harmony in the lodge. The concept of "who can best work and best agree" must be understood by all members of the lodge. Expectations of lodge culture include:

- Lodge meetings and activities should be free of personal conflict.
- Subjects that are inherently divisive, including politics and religion, are not discussed within the lodge.
- Decisions of the lodge are honored by all members once made. Members speak with one voice.

Opposing perspectives are welcomed, expressed in a dignified and respectful manner, and considered with patience and open-mindedness.

At the end of the day, as Masons, we must expect and exhibit behavior that is in line with Masonic values, and hold one another accountable. Behavior that runs counter to Masonic values should not be tolerated.



Semper Fidelis Lodge #680

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Acting Master

Mike Bartlett - (910) 545-6468

Secretary

Jason Caldwell - (760) 670-7381



Brethren,

Over the past three years I have had the immense privilege to represent our Lodge and District as the DDGM for the 4th Masonic District. I cannot begin to express the amount of support that I have been shown during this period. Through the succession of Masters; WB Tony, WB Dustin, and WB Mike, we have seen this Lodge go through changes and some trials. I can honestly say that Semper Fidelis is in great hands with the leadership, care and work that our Officers continue to provide.

I want to offer a special shout out to those who have guided me through my questions and randomness. WB Howard, WB JJ, WB Russ Jones, Br Lynn Thomas, and WB Joe Reyes, (and many others) have all given so much of their time and efforts to ensure that I can be away from the Lodge to assist others.

From the deepest part of my heart...THANK YOU TO EVERYONE AT SEMPER FIDELIS!!



The Wisdom of Yoda

Let us together as a craft

Take the time

And heal one another.