

From the Master

Written by Monroe Bradley, WM



Brethren: let me start by thanking each and every one of you for entrusting the care of the lodge we all love to the stewardship of this year's officer line. We will do our best to exercise sound judgement and continuity as we move through this year into our future. Our number one goal is to pass the leadership of the lodge onto next year's line in at least a little better condition than we received it.

I am happy to say that if you read the last Trestleboard then you will agree that we had a banner year. This creates a solid foundation on which to continue to construct our house. We plan to keep our focus on our vision: **brotherly love, relief and truth**. This will be used as a measure

of our priorities. We will also continue to be guided by our mission statement:

We are a community-based lodge that makes good men better by focusing on brotherly love, relief and truth while projecting a positive image in the community

. These two statements will guide every decision. Of course, you will see some streamlining of existing processes and creation of new ones as we prepare ourselves for the many opportunities available to us. This will take all of us working as a team, contributing our special skills and talents where and when we can.

So far we are off to a great start. The election went well and only a couple of positions remain to be filled which we hope to do soon. A special thanks for our brother secretary, WB Bob Stacoffe, who worked so hard to make that happen. Our annual awards and installation ceremonies were very well received by all who attended. Even though the list of those who helped is too numerous to list, I want to extend a special thanks to RWB Cohen for guiding us through a very important practice which produced two great back-to-back ceremonies. We are working on a plan to present the remaining awards to those brothers who were unable to attend the ceremony. Though I will be the first to admit that our first stated meeting conducted by the new line had some mistakes, we were able to successfully open and close while bringing a new brother to light. We have already had a since that first meeting so you will see continuous improvement as we all travel forward together. Once again, I want to thank all the past masters for their continued patience and willingness to help us get better. A special thanks to WB Rod Basye who took time from his busy schedule to conduct a practice with the officer line.

On a final positive note, our brand is being effectively presented in the community. How do I know this? We are starting to get calls from good men in the community who are interested in what we are doing. Also, people in the community are talking about the local lodge's involvement in the community. We still have a ways to go, but if we all take a portion of our light from under our bushel basket and illuminate that small part of the world we interact with, then the results will be monumental.