

# Trestle Board

## Stony Creek Lodge #5 F.&A.M.



April 2011

The Rochester Masonic News

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Greetings Brethren,

I hope this Trestleboard finds each of you putting away your snow shovels and breaking out the patio furniture! Spring is a time of renewal and vitality in nature, but it also applies to your Lodge. Petitions continue to come in from men who are seeking to belong to something ancient, distinguished and challenging. Television, the internet, and books will continue to bring men to our door without us having to recruit, or the Grand Lodge having to spend a penny on advertising. Ultimately the question of how men come to knock at our doors is unimportant and to focus on it is to miss the point. The true question is how to engage these men in a way that will bond them with their Blue Lodge so that they will stay with it.

In order to accomplish this we don't need to introduce new concepts, but instead encourage the practice of older ones that focused more on the initiatic experience and the intellectual welfare of the Lodge and its members. These older concepts include things such as adopting traditional Masonic dress for all Brethren and not just the Officers, celebrating the time tested and joyous occasion of the Festive Board, and focusing on the complete experience of a candidate for his degrees with ritual excellence and beyond. All of these create an atmosphere of pride and professionalism that place an emphasis that one needs to look no further than their Craft Lodge to be stimulated, challenged, or rewarded. I am so

very proud of how our Lodge has started to move into this direction of Masonic excellence!

Worshipful Brother Andrew Hammer, Past Master of Alexandria-Washington No. 22 in Alexandria, Virginia has defined these individual parts working together as "Masonic observance". WB Hammer's new book "Observing the Craft" is a call to the return of Freemasonry to its most basic roots. "Observance" in WB Hammer's usage isn't to be passively translated as to "watch, perceive, or notice", but in an active sense "to obey, comply with, and conform to" (per the dictionary) ancient Masonic customs and traditions (per our history).

Worshipful Brother Hammer presents his case in a very friendly way, and though his book is sure to ruffle some feathers in the Masonic community, he does so with the greatest degree of respect without sacrificing core Craft values and traditions. The book is a quick read, a mere 160 pages, but its implications to a growing Craft speak volumes. I cannot recommend or praise this book highly enough. I would personally like to offer my own copy to any Brother interested in reading it, and I'm sure other Brothers who have it may be willing to do so as well, but if not the book is readily available on Amazon.com.

April is going to be another busy month for our Brethren and Officers but there are a few dates

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## Officers

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*Best Wishes to you all from New Zealand*



**Brian & Stella Say**

**1 Rosa Crisitna Way  
 The Wood  
 Nelson 7010  
 Nelson  
 New Zealand**



*It's Fall in New Zealand!*

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 David Hilber, SD

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I'd like to highlight. Our Regular Communication on the 5th will feature a presentation from the Michigan Masonic Charitable Foundation. This is a great opportunity for all of us to see what part of our dues are used for. On the 19<sup>th</sup> we will be conferring the Fellowcraft Degree, the number of candidates is yet to be determined. Finally there will be a meeting at Pontiac No. 21 on April 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM to discuss the proposed amendments and

legislation that will be presented at the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge in May.

Your Lodge is moving forward in a progressive way Brethren, and it is only with your help that the momentum will continue!

Sincerely and Fraternaly,  
 Christopher Peace WM



**April 2011  
 Calendar of Events**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	31	April 1	2
		Bowling Night – Meet at Lodge 7:00 P.M. then go to North Hill Lanes				
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Corinthian Lodge #241 Regular 6:30 P.M.	Regular Communication Stony Creek Lodge #5 7:30 P.M.				
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
		E.A. Degree Practice 7:00 P.M.	Rochester Masonic Temple Board Meeting 7:00 P.M.			
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
		F.C. Degree 7:00 P.M.	Grand Lodge Legislation Meeting at Pontiac #21 7:00 P.M.			
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
		M.M. Degree Lodge of Instruction 7:00 P.M.				