



Lafayette Lodge # 83 AF&AM

4th QUARTER 2014

Masters Corner

Brethren,

I want to thank everyone for a wonderful year, without the help of all you Brethren this year of 10 new Master Masons would not have been possible. Good luck to everyone and God Bless.

Sincerely
WB Charles Roby

Welcome

2014

Brothers

Entered

Apprentice

Bro. Damion

Anderson

Bro. William

Mages

Bro. Adam

Kiefer

Fellow Craft

Bro Joshua

Humphrey

Master Masons

Bro. Kelsey

Gonzales

Bro.

Christopher

Jones

Bro Theodore

Poulos

Bro Eric Cook

Bro. Scott

Loworn

Bro, Bolivar

Guillen

Bro. Ernest

Lynn

Bro. James

Simpson

Bro. James

Teague

Bro. Stephen

Mann



Secretary's Desk

Brethren,

2015 Dues statements have gone out. Remember they are due on Jan 1st of each year. Do not forget they have gone to \$100.00 per year

Fraternally

Bro. Robert Savacool

Necrology Report

Bro. Richard Ladd born on January 7th 1936. He was initiated on June 11th 1974, passed on October 29th 1974, raised on January 28th 1975 in Lafayette Lodge #83.

He entered the Celestial Lodge Above on October 1st 2014.

Bro. Joseph Abbott born on September 15th 1925 was initiated on September 28th 1951, passed on November 15th 1951, raised on February 22nd 1952 in Bagong Lodge # 17, Affiliated Lafayette Lodge June 7th 1982. He entered the Celestial

Lodge October 26th 2014.

Items of Interest

Please visit the New Onslow County Masons web site. It is designed to put events for all the Onslow County Lodges in one place. If you have any ideas to help the site contact Mike Wagoner at mike@onslowcountymasons.com

www.onslowcountymasons.com



GOD BLESS AMERICA

VISIT US ON FACEBOOK



THE BALLOT BOX

One of the corner stones of Freemasonry is the Ballot Box. It is the only other furnishing of a Lodge worthy of a place upon the Altar with the Holy Bible, Square, and Compasses.

Every Mason throughout the history of our Gentle Craft has entered into our Fraternity through the ballot box. In this jurisdiction as a Master Mason, when you are seated in your home Lodge, it is mandatory for you to ballot on every candidate for the Degrees.

During balloting, every Master Mason present, approaches the ballot box and after giving the due-guard and sign of the Degree upon which the Lodge is open; thereby reaffirming your vow, that you will cast your ballot in accordance with the great principles of your obligation; and by taking a white ball or a black cube out of the compartment in the ballot box and passing it through a small opening into a secret compartment.

If even one member had selected a black cube during the balloting of your petition, you would not be sitting among us. We would not have known who cast that black cube for it is against the laws of Masonry to tell anyone how you vote or to inquire of any brother how he voted. The secrecy of the ballot and the requirement that a black cube rejects are two of the greatest safeguards of the Fraternity. This may seem harsh to an applicant that might appear to be qualified to be made a Mason, but the passage of time has proved that our laws concerning the ballot have served for the good of Masonry.

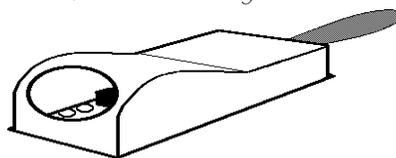
This power placed in your hands is awesome. No one, not even the Grand Master, may inquire as to how you vote or why you vote as you do. Only you, and your God, will know how you vote. Neither can the Grand Master nor the Grand Lodge set aside the black cube you cast. It is a tremendous power in your hands and it is your responsibility to use it for the good of Masonry. Use your power with caution and intelligence. It is difficult to explain what is and what is not, a good reason to cast the black cube. A Mason should never vote his prejudice, nor for revenge, or for petty reasons, but for the good of his Lodge and for the good of Masonry. So, my brother, vote with the cardinal virtue of Justice in mind; Justice to the Lodge to cast the black cube on an applicant you believe to be unfit. Justice to yourself to cast the black cube on an applicant you believe would destroy the peace and harmony of your Lodge. Justice to the applicant in acting on the square and, Justice to your heart and conscience in knowing you are doing the right thing. The white ball elects the black cubes rejects. Be careful how you vote, my brother, and always vote for the good of Masonry.

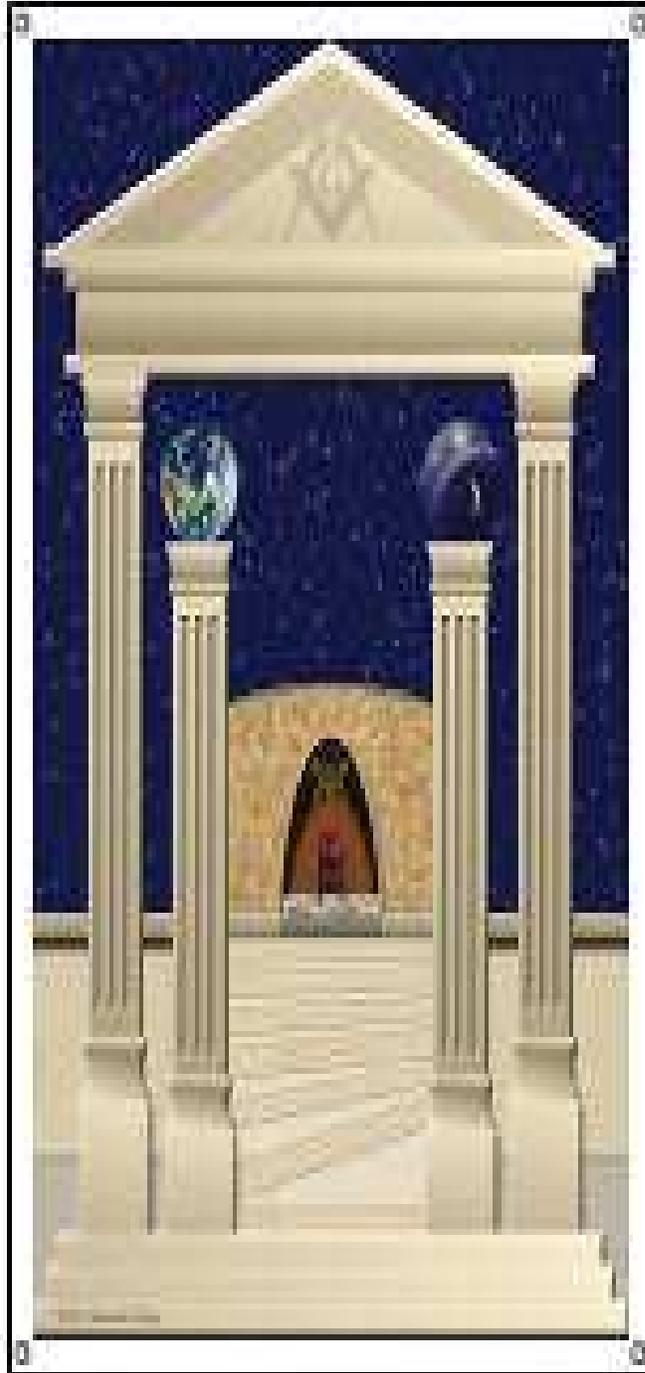
This, my Brother, is the ballot box. It is the only other furnishing of a Lodge worthy of a place upon the Altar with the Holy Bible, Square, and Compasses. It is by the use of this instrument that the members of the Lodge determine who will be their Brothers.

Incidentally, it is mandatory that you ballot on every candidate for the degrees, when you are seated in your home Lodge. Balloting, my Brother, is a solemn and serious duty; one that should be executed with perfect understanding and exactness. It is accomplished by approaching the Altar, saluting the Worshipful Master with the d-g and S of the degree upon which the Lodge is open; thereby reaffirming your vow that you will cast your ballot in accordance with the great principles of your obligation; and by taking a white ball or a black cube out of the compartment in the ballot box and passing it through a small opening into a secret compartment. To demonstrate your understanding of this procedure, you may now cast a sample ballot. You know that your ballot will be secret.

You should always keep it that way. Please be advised that to discuss, disclose, or make known your ballot in any way is a very serious Masonic offense. The ballot box is no place to exercise a petty grudge, personal pique, or private quarrel. You and you alone will be the judge of the qualification of the petitioner. However, it is not expected that you will be personally acquainted with each petitioner, and for that reason the Worshipful Master will appoint a committee of three, and that committee will make a thorough investigation of the qualifications of the petitioner. The Secretary of the Lodge will read the recommendations in open Lodge for your guidance. Bear in mind, my Brother, that the Masonic Fraternity is not an organization endeavoring to make mediocre men good men, but rather an institution designed to make good men better men. You are admonished to cast your ballot without fear, favor, or prejudice; always remembering that white balls elect, and that it takes only one black cube to reject a petitioner.

Be careful, my Brother, be very, very careful, and look well to your ballot.





c