



Liberty Lodge No. 412 F&AM



April 2020 Trestleboard

Message from the East; Worshipful Master Ken Ammons

Hi Brothers!

I hope this finds you well and that you are keeping as isolated as possible. This virus is certainly testing our sanity and I pray that you are coping well. Know that if there is something our Brothers can help with, please let us know even if it is just needing a sounding board... I'm here...going stir crazy myself! I keep checking with family and friends around the country to find that everything is pretty much at a standstill, which is probably the best action to stop this thing.

All Masonic functions are closed until early May so far.

Please stay safe until it all blows over!

In Brotherhood,

W.: Ken Ammons; 941-238-8828

Quote of the Month

"When you reach the end of your rope, tie a knot in it and hang on."

-Franklin D. Roosevelt

Message from the West; David Finkelstein

My Brothers,

I have often said that the world doesn't need us talking politics on social media because there so many people already doing that. So it is with the current virus, to my mind. Our society is thoroughly evaluating that topic. If you want to think about the current virus, turn on the TV, or go on Facebook and read the posts from the immunology experts who were constitutional law experts two months ago. Instead, let's talk some more about how Masonry speaks to us. I recently wrote about how Masonry speaks to us through its emblems and symbols. But Masonry also speaks to us other ways, like through our Lectures. In our lectures, Masonry teaches us the doctrines of Masonry, what it means to be a Mason, and what we ought to be doing as Masons. And in those lectures, Masonry teaches us A LOT about those things.

Let's start with the Entered Apprentice lecture. We hear the EA lecture presented to us all at once, much faster that we could ever digest it. But it's written down in our red book, where we can take it slowly, one thought at a time, taking as long as we want with each concept.

I will shortly quote page 40, lines 4 and 5 of the red book [I was told that anything that is not coded is not a secret of Freemasonry and can be written down]. There, Masonry teaches us what Fortitude is. I had always thought of Fortitude as one monolithic thing: Stamina. But in lines 4 and 5, we are told that, to Masons, Fortitude is a very specific type of stamina and we are told



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where that stamina comes from. After this quote from lines 4 and 5, we will do a short analysis of those lines: Fortitude is a) "the noble and b) steady c) purpose of the mind [that enables us to endure any pain or danger]".

So, first of all Masonry teaches us, in these lines, that Fortitude is a noble strength. Not strength that comes from being elected to an office, or from having big muscles in your arms or legs. We are told Fortitude is strength that "shows fine personal qualities or high moral ideals" (the dictionary definition of noble), whatever muscles or bestowed authority you are using. It's strength that comes from a good place used for a good reason.

Masonry also says in lines 4 and 5 that Fortitude is a steady strength. Not a strength that waxes and wanes; not a "fair weather" strength. It is a steadiness where you stay resolute until your challenge or ordeal has been completed or ended, one way or the other.

Finally, Masonry teaches us that Fortitude is a purpose of mind. Humans can run great distances. But guess what? So can ants and they don't really have minds. Running a long way isn't Fortitude. It's the purpose of mind that tells the body to run a long way that is Fortitude.

Look what just happened. Masonry gave us a 10-word lesson on Fortitude, and it took me this whole letter to analyze those 10 words. And I probably could have said more.

So, if you want to know what Masonry is or what it teaches, a great resource for you are the lectures. In them, Masonry teaches point after point about the principals and tenants of Masonry and tells you dozens of things that Masons believe in and do. You can go to any line in any of the three 25-minute lectures and spend the rest of the day, the week, the year or your life thinking about what Masonry is teaching us there.

Try it. Pick a couple of related lines in a lecture and see what amazing thing you learn about your fraternity. You don't have to be that guy that I was 11 years ago, complaining that I didn't know what Masonry was or why I was a Mason. You can be the guy I am now, complaining that I don't know how to make coffee.

David Finkelstein; SW 941-587-8800

Message from the South; John Gum

Brothers,

From the "Masonic Etiquette" booklet. "If there is any one place in all the precincts of the Temple where a wise Worshipful Master will use every possible precaution to see that good taste, courtesy, and thoughtful kindness are displayed to the utmost, it is in the Preparation Room where all Degrees begin". With this stated, let me tell you about the preparation room when I was raised. It was at a different Lodge than my regular Lodge and I knew very few of the Brothers. Another Brother and I were the only two to be raised. The individual assigned to assist us in preparing was from that Lodge as was the other Brother being raised. The individual assisting us cussed the entire time and especially enjoyed using the "F" word.



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While I am no prude and occasionally let fly with some potty mouth, I was shocked and really wondered at that point what type of organization would allow such behavior, especially inside the Lodge. Just something for all of us to keep in the back of our minds.

John Gum; JW 941-545-1034

From the Lodge Secretary; Richard Benson

Brothers,

I received the below message about "How HOPE is Contagious Too" and wanted to share it with the Brothers and friends of Liberty Lodge.

COVID-19 may be contagious, but HOPE IS CONTAGIOUS TOO!

The last several weeks we've been exposed to a barrage of scary news stories. While many of these stories are hard to hear, it seems to us that they tend to be extremely one-sided. None of us are able to predict what is going to happen, but we also know that staying positive can create less stress, foster motivation and is much better for our overall health. Here's some of the positive news:

Health wise:

- **We have some really smart people in this world that are working on treatments.**
- New drugs and treatments are being explored at record speed. The National Institute of Health (NIH) began a trial last month using the anti-viral drug remdesivir to treat COVID-19 patients.
- Regeneron Pharmaceuticals has announced a clinical trial of sarilumab, a drug that may be helpful in reducing lung inflammation of COVID-19 patients.
- There are many researchers continuing to explore new and existing treatments, and the hope is that one day soon, it will be found.
- While they feel scary, **lockdowns and self-isolation helps prevent the spread.**
- Evidence is showing us that working from home, and social distancing works. It takes several weeks to see results, but keeping people isolated (especially those with symptoms) reverses the trajectory of infection.
- We would expect to see this start impacting the US over the next couple weeks.
- People can and do recover from COVID-19. **Over 100,000 people have recovered** from the virus. That number is almost certainly too low as many people who have mild or no symptoms may have never been tested and didn't know that they had the virus.
- New cases and deaths in China and South Korea are slowing considerably and **life is getting back to normal.**



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Financial Opportunities during COVID-19:

Yes, there are some financial opportunities.



- You **don't have to pay your taxes until July 15th** (assuming you owe less than \$1 million)!
- The Federal Reserve has signaled that it is going to keep **rates near zero** until the economy has gotten past the coronavirus and is on track to meet the Fed's targets for jobs and inflation.
- Low rates may not mean much now, but as we recover, the ability to borrow at very low rates will help accelerate growth.
- Congress passed a **stimulus package worth in excess of \$1 trillion, delivering much needed checks to most US households.**
- Many lenders are willing to **delay loan obligations** including credit card companies. Ask your lender if you may have a reprieve for 90 days.
- **Stock markets tend to have gigantic future returns after these types of losses.**
- "In the year after the trough of the markets since 1929, the S&P 500 has gained an average of 47%".
- Obviously, we don't know when we'll hit bottom (or if we already have!), but if history is any guide, a significant portion of the gains typically accrues during the early months of a rally.

Social Trends:

- Despite pictures of people hoarding toilet paper and hand sanitizer, there are countless others showing how **one person can make a difference.**
- There are health care workers on the front line, grocery store employees keeping the shelves stocked and neighbors looking out for each other.
- As Mr. Rogers once said, in times of crisis, "look for the helpers". They always appear. They don't do it for honor or recognition. **They do it because they want to help their fellow man.** Those helpers are the reason I know we will get through this.
- **#Flattenthecurve** - This movement promotes staying indoors to avoid exposure and spread.
- This hashtag is trending across the country as people from all risk categories and age groups find unique ways to help the greater community.



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It's important to recognize that positive thinking is *NOT* the idea that you'll never encounter obstacles.

It is all how you *respond* to the obstacles.

SPREAD HOPE!

This article is from an email sent out by The Eye Associates.

Richard Benson, Secretary Liberty Lodge 412 F&AM
rbenson1873@yahoo.com

If you would like to become a Trestleboard Sponsor, to help the Lodge defray the cost for our Website and Communications, please send a check to the Secretary.

Current 2020 Trestle Board Sponsors:

Platinum Sponsor (\$100)

WM: Ken Ammons

Gold Club (\$50)

None.

Silver Club (\$25)

None.

Liberty Lodge Brothers with a March Birthday:

Steven (Ben) Grubbs

Kevin Sapio

Have a Great Birthday Brothers!!!!

Liberty Lodge Brothers Celebrating a Masonic Birthday in March:

Jamie Rocafort - **42 years**

Kevin Sapio – 17 years

Jeffery Smith, PM (Palmetto 110) – 24 years

Richard Benson, Secretary - Liberty Lodge 412 F&AM
rbenson1873@yahoo.com



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Liberty Lodge No. 412 F&AM meets on the second Saturday of each month at 9:00AM

Lodge Meetings:

**402 - 15th Street East
Bradenton, FL 34208**

Lodge mailing Address:

**PO Box 461
Bradenton, FL 34206**

Worshipful Master

Ken Ammons

(941) 238-8828

kenammons49@gmail.com

Senior Warden

David Finkelstein

(941) 587-8800

sarasotalawyer@gmail.com

Junior Warden

John Gum

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doc_j_gum@hotmail.com

Secretary

Richard Benson

(941) 251-7466

rbenson1873@yahoo.com

Treasurer

Giles Light

(941) 907-8470

glightfl@yahoo.com

Lodge Instructor

Tom Haber, PM

(904) 501-0993

tomhaber32043@gmail.com

GrandMaster of FL Masons: **M.:W.: John W. Westerman, III**
jwesterman33881@gmail.com

23rd District DDGM: **RW.: Daniel W. Van Alstine, DDGM**
23rd.DDGM2019@gmail.com

23rd District Instructor: **RW.: Barry Hart, 33^o, PDDGM**
missingyrs@gmail.com



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Liberty 412 Past Masters

2017 - Earl Dennis Jr.
2018 - Dr. Mark L. Mason
2019 - Thomas Haber

Liberty 412 Perpetual Members

Ken Ammons
Dr. Mark Mason, PM 2018
Thomas Haber, PM 2019
Steven Grubbs
Les Ruggerio, PM (Manatee 31)
Robert Leonard
David Phillips

Liberty 412 F&AM Mason of the Quarter:

2019:

1st Quarter - Kenneth Ammons
2nd Quarter - Richard Benson
3rd Quarter - John Gum
4th Quarter - James Sloan

2020:

1st Quarter - Tom Haber, PM 2019
2nd Quarter -
3rd Quarter -
4th Quarter -

Liberty 412 Sick and Distressed:

None that we are currently aware of.

Please inform our Chaplain Bob Cunningham of any Brothers or family members facing sickness or distress, or requests for Funeral Services at (941) 417-7872 or to bob44c@aol.com

Liberty 412 Social Media Links:

Liberty Lodge 412 F&AM Website: <https://libertylodge412.com/>

Liberty Lodge Facebook Site: <https://www.facebook.com/@libery412>

23rd Masonic District Website

Webmaster: Gary Schweinhaupt

email information to: GarySch@trowel.com

www.trowel.com/flamason/dist23.htm

Piggy Banks for Charity is a Lodge Charity program started by our SW David Finkelstein. **So far Brothers of Liberty 412 have donated over \$515.00 through this important Charity!**



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Degree and Proficiency Work

A reminder to ALL Candidates for Liberty 412 Degrees; prior to your taking a degree Liberty Lodge By-laws require you pay the required \$100 for the Degree to the Lodge Secretary

Awaiting Balloting: None.

Awaiting EA Degree: None.

Awaiting EA Catechism: Baron Kamp, Jerry Agan, Stanley Walker Jr., Jason Garrett & Jose Lopez Morgado.

Awaiting FC Degree: None.

Awaiting FC Catechism: Yerandy Molina.

Awaiting MM Degree: None.

Awaiting MM Catechism: None.

Liberty Lodge 412 - Committees for 2020:

Finance Committee

Chair - David Finkelstein, SW
Richard Benson, Secretary
Giles Light, Treasurer

Vigilance Committee

Chair - John Gum, JW
Robert Cunningham
James Sloan
Mike Rogers

Petitions Committee

Richard Benson, Secretary
Mark Mason, PM
Tom Haber, PM

Education Committee

Chair - Kenneth Ammons, WM
David Finkelstein, SW
John Gum, JW
Tom Haber, PM

Lodge Board of Masonic Relief and Charity Committee

Chair - Kenneth Ammons, WM
David Finkelstein, SW
John Gum, JW
Robert Cunningham
Mike Arnold

Lodge Property Committee

Chair - Mike Arnold
George Lukas
Robert Leonard

Lodge Librarian

Tom Haber, PM

Investigation Committee

Appointed by WM for each Petition

Meeting Welcoming Committee

Chair - John Gum, JW
Mike Rogers
Tamas Zettner
Mike Arnold
George Lukas
Mark Mason, PM

Mentoring Committee

David Finkelstein, SW

Catechism Committee

Chair - Tom Haber, PM
Tamas Zettner
Robert Leonard