

# Wausau Trestleboard

## Master's Message

It is my distinct honor to be elected Master of Forest Lodge for the ensuing Masonic year and I look forward to continuing the strides made under the diligent leadership of our newest Past Master Jesse Furrer. Jesse you navigated some difficult waters this past year and were aces throughout it all. They say the storm reveals the sailor and you were proved just bully! I could go on for a rather lengthy stretch of time extolling his virtues, accomplishments all while grossly over-thanking him for his incredible sacrifices as deserved but that would take away from the precious few lines allotted me for talking about me! To introduce myself for those who may not know, my name is Joe Barlow.



I've lived in Wisconsin now for almost 25 years--though still an Oregonian at heart. I am married to my wife of almost 19 or 37 years or something like that (Jean "loves" that joke) and at last count, I

### Forest Lodge 130 - 2019 Officers

Worshipful Master	Joe Barlow
Senior Warden	Kevin Sorenson
Junior Warden	Ryan Wojicechowski
Secretary/Treasurer	Barry Diehl
Chaplain	Charlie Imlah
Senior Deacon	Mathew Shelton
Junior Deacon	David Zuke
Senior Steward	Lars Framness
Junior Steward	Alben Kramer
Tiler	Eric Hesbol
Counselor	David Imlah

believe we're at something like 3 or 8 kids--rough estimate. I stopped counting at two and consider our third to be a parts kid. (Jean tolerates that joke) 2 boys and a girl who I refer to as Willie, Waylon and What's-'er-face respectively. (Jean hates that joke. So, does what's-'er-face come to think of it) We even had a dog in there at one point I think but can't be sure. I was raised a Master Mason in 2006 Chadwick Lodge #68 Coquille, Or. where my Grandfather Frank Booth coordinated the degree, was my conductor about the Lodge during and was there with a rather strong grip and an even stronger Masonic embrace. I can't tell you how often I think

of that moment. No doubt his memory will be with me throughout this year more so than usual. "Show me your friends and I'll show you your future." Brother Papa was right, and by joining the Masonic order he knew I'd have friends and Brothers the world over as his way to watch over me after he was gone. As my Grandma Dutchie Booth says, "I'm never in need. he left me in good hands."

This year will no doubt be one of transient upheaval of sorts. As of this writing the final signing on the sale of our current building and purchase of our new home—address to be published-- is mere days away and a new chapter of Wausau Masonry will commence. I promise you that every effort has been made so as to mitigate as many foreseeable problems as possible. Without the thorough leadership of WB Thom Passow and the rest of the trustees the financial long-term future of Masonry in Wausau is secure. Sustainability was looking bleak had we continued with "business as usual" but because of Brother Thom's tireless efforts we now have a very sound future in this community for

generations to come. I encourage those who know him to search him out and say thank you. I could go on for a rather lengthy stretch of time extolling his virtues, accomplishments all while grossly over-thanking him for his incredible sacrifices as deserved but that would take even more of this ever-diminishing space from allowing me to keep talking about me! I would be remiss however if I didn't thank the Merrill Masons' of Virginia Falls #226--916 ½ East Main street Merrill for their *generous hospitality* as our interim home during our transition. So thank you very much! We are indeed indebted to your kindness. They incidentally meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday @ 7:00 PM.

**The Masons' Christmas Dinner**

*We planned a Christmas feast last year that would be gastronomical;*

*And yet the thing turned out I fear, to be both sad and comical.*

*A big tom turkey we acquired and fed him most prodigiously,  
His growing girth we admired and cared for him religiously*

*We attended to his wants in teams alas though, somewhat fecklessly;  
Because Masonic words it seems were talked about too recklessly.*

*For, when the fatal day arrived, this turk with eyeballs glistening  
Gave us the proof he had contrived to do a lot of listening.*

*His body and his brain we guess, had both grown very sizeable.  
He gave our token of distress in gobblings recognizable.*

*To take his life would be absurd like casting slurs on motherhood.  
Of course, we could not kill this bird a member of our brotherhood.*

*Whatever way a Mason trends, he never is a barbarian.  
That's why our Christmas dinner friends, was strictly vegetarian.*

Ahem. I am digress-getting back to me now. In 2019 I plan to emphasize the ritual, esoteric and traditions of our great Fraternity this upcoming year and hopefully make a lot of new friends and Brothers along the way. Our Lodge is active, energetic and excited about being Free Masons. That is contagious Brothers. It is indeed a great time to be a Forest Lodge Mason! Come see for yourselves. Below you will find my contact information. Any questions or concerns feel free to contact me directly. Better yet, ask me at Lodge. I invite you down to Lodge. If we haven't met yet, introduce yourself. Just don't get too chatty about mundane details or you'll take time away from being able to

extoll my virtues, accomplishments and will not be able to aptly thank me for my incredible sacrifices as deserved! I kid of course my gratitude goes to Past Masters Furrer, Passow and Virginia Falls#226 membership and, of course, my undying love and admiration for Brother Papa and my indescribably patient wife. What's-er-name.

Cordially and Fraternally,  
~Joe B~

**Survey - Charities**

The survey into the selection of charitable organizations for the 2019 budget will be discussed as an agenda item at a Management Committee Meeting scheduled for January 2, 2018. At that meeting a proposal to the membership will be formulated which will be additional to those charities currently supported.

**Scottish Rite Breakfast Club**

Meets for breakfast at 7.00 A.M. on the first, third, and fifth Wednesday at Perkins  
**Wisconsin Valley Auxiliary**

Following the election of a new chairperson, details of the Auxiliary Agenda are not to hand. Those seeking details of upcoming agenda events are suggested to contact the new chairperson, Gayle Tesch, directly. For communication data please liaise through the past chairperson, Virginia Grasse vide [vgrasse@charter.net](mailto:vgrasse@charter.net).

The following brothers celebrate their birthdays for the month of January 2019.

January 6<sup>th</sup> – Jeremy Rotter  
January 12<sup>th</sup> – Joe Barlow  
December 4<sup>th</sup> – Francis Wickeham  
January 14<sup>th</sup> – David Johnson  
January 17<sup>th</sup> – Stephen Williams  
January 20<sup>th</sup> – Fredrich Johnston  
January 21<sup>st</sup> – Leif Ringstad Sr  
January 24<sup>th</sup> – Abraham Kurth  
January 25<sup>th</sup> – Mathew Shelton  
January 27<sup>th</sup> – William Brown  
January 28<sup>th</sup> – Barry Diehl  
January 28<sup>th</sup> – Steven Peterson  
January 28<sup>th</sup> – Richard Sauer

#### **Dates to Remember**

**January 2** – Forest Lodge No 130 Stated Communication Tiling 7:00 P.M.

**January 8** – St Omer Commandery Stated Meeting 7.00 P.M.

**January 9** – Forest Lodge No 130 Initiation Mr. Stange Tiling at 7.00 P.M

**January 16** – Forest Lodge No 130 Stated Communication Tiling at 7:00 P.M.

**January 17** – York Rite Chapter and Council Stated Meeting 7.00 P.M.