



FAMILY-COMMUNITY-MASONIC PRIDE

AUGUST, 2010

19780 BRICK ROAD, SOUTH BEND, IN, 46619 574.272.4073

...AND GIVE THEM GOOD AND WHOLESOME INSTRUCTIONS...

Hail Brethren!!

With the warm days of summer still here, once again the August Stated Meeting will be in table lodge form. This month's meeting will be another great event. Brother Rodney will be manning the grill for our Summer Steak Fry and we have a great Masonic Education program planned... "Movie Trivia!" We really need your help in planning for this by letting us know how many will be present. Please RSVP to ralstin.bill@gmail.com or 574-298-6916. Guests are encouraged. Just let us know they're coming.

Also upcoming in August, we have a Entered Apprentice Degree Scheduled for Monday the 9th, as well as a Master Mason Degree scheduled for Monday, August 30th. The EA Degree is a very special night for a candidate and so is his Raising; and it makes it even more memorable if Brothers are on the sidelines to show their support. Lodge will open at 7:00 PM for each of these degrees, so come and join us and help make these special nights for our candidates and the Lodge.

I would like to organize a Council Oak Lodge round of golf for a Saturday afternoon in September. I'm trying to get a feel for how many brothers might be interested. If you are, please let me know via the above contact information.

Bill Ralstin, Master



CALENDAR August, 2010

August 2nd – Stated Meeting and Dinner. Steak Fry at 6:30 PM. A Table Lodge opens at 7:30 PM.

9th – EA Degree. Refreshments to follow. 7 PM.

18th – Officers Call Meeting. Martins at Main St. and 23, Mishawaka. 6:30 PM.

21st – The JW's Fellowship Breakfast. At the Lodge Hall. 8:00 AM – 10:30 AM.

23rd – Executive Committee Meeting. At the Lodge Hall. All members are invited. 7PM.

27th – Family Night. At the Lodge Hall. 7 PM - 10 PM.

30th - MM Degree. Refreshments to Follow. 7 PM.

**EA DEGREE
MONDAY,
AUGUST 9TH
7:00 PM**

**MM DEGREE
MONDAY,
AUGUST 30TH
7:00PM**

**!! FAMILY NIGHT!!
FRIDAY, AUGUST 27TH
7:00 PM - 10:00 PM**
**FOOD .. MOVIES .. GAMES
BRING THE WHOLE
FAMILY !!**

**!! STATED MEETING AND DINNER !!
MONDAY, AUGUST 2ND, 6:30 PM**
STEAK FRY! - RODNEY IS COOKIN'!
A TABLE LODGE OPENS AT 7:30 PM
MASONIC EDUCATION: MOVIE TRIVIA...

THE JUNIOR WARDEN'S BREAKFAST
**SATURDAY, AUGUST 21ST
8:00 AM - 10:30 AM**
*Come and join us for a great morning of
food and fellowship!!
...mmmmmmmmmmmmmm, good!!*

The Seven Blunders of the Masonic World

FROM THE BROTHERHOOD

Keep in Your Prayers: Chaplain Bob McNerney's son, Bob, Jr. is undergoing treatment for cancer. Please keep Bob and his family in your prayers.

Our deepest sympathy to WB George Brown on the passing of his son.

JW Steve Traphagan is having some recurring health problems.

SS Jerry Bolin's mother is in the hospital.

Congratulations: To JW Steve Traphagan for his outstanding effort on The Relay For Life project!

August Birthdays: 2nd – Roland Switalski, Bill Kabay and Don Stohler; 3rd – Rob Frickson; 4th – Kent Palmer; 5th – Jim Hollister; 8th – Allen Kardell and Allen Stohler; 14th – Doug Selig; 16th - Bill Davis, Jim Fine and Jeff VanMele; 17th – Lynn Ryder; 19th - Jeff Schrader; 25th – Don Bergen; 28th – Abe Marcus and the 29th – Don Schefmeyer.

Contact these Brothers and wish 'em Happy Birthday!

Ritual Without Meaning. Too many times, we are more concerned about performing the ritual perfectly without understanding what it means. I know many men that give great lectures, but will confide that they don't even know what something means. Ritual for the sake of tradition is worthless. Ritual for the sake of enlightenment is valuable. An understanding of the ritual's meaning is far more important than just memorizing it.

Fellowship Without Frivolity. Whenever Masons decide to hold a function for fellowship, a discussion typically ensues about how to make the function have the smallest impact on the lodge's coffers and the wallets of the members. This results in paper plates, meager meals, and boring events. To spend money wisely in order to make fellowship a grand time is wise for the lodge that wants to be successful.

Quantity without Quality. A lodge with seven great men that believe in the Masonic ideals and actively labor to improve themselves—and therefore the lodge—is far better off than a lodge with one hundred men that show up to lodge just to show up to lodge.

Education without Philosophy. Many times, we think of Masonic education as being a lesson on the local lodge's history, a famous Mason, the history of the world wide fraternity, or how to do the ritual properly. But if no philosophy is covered in Masonic education, then little self improvement is accomplished. Discussing Masonic lessons in terms of philosophy, ideas, and a man's conduct is what truly transforms men into Masons. It is important to discuss topics that are foreign to a lodge's membership and it is sometimes even necessary to challenge our preconceived ideologies through Masonic education.

Charity without Connection. Big institutional charities often require that fund raisers be conducted and large checks written to the people that actually perform the charity. This type of charity is devoid of self improvement because it has no real connection. If we extend our hands to our needed Brethren and devote our own skills and time to their problems, then we are engaging in true, meaningful charity.

Frugality without Discretion. Frugality is not a tenet of Freemasonry, a cardinal virtue, or a Landmark. It is okay for the lodge to spend its funds on worthwhile activities that will enhance the Masonic experience of its Brethren. Not everything should be done in the cheapest way, a habit to which we have become accustomed.

Leadership without Competence. A man does not deserve to be Master of the lodge solely because he has spent a certain amount of years in the lodge. We elect leaders without any regard for the skills that they possess to function in that capacity. Only competent, qualified men should be elected to preside over the Craft.

From: "The Small Town Texas Masons E-Magazine"

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