



FAMILY-COMMUNITY-MASONIC PRIDE

OCTOBER, 2010

19780 BRICK ROAD, SOUTH BEND, IN, 46619

574.272.4073

...AND GIVE THEM GOOD AND WHOLESOME INSTRUCTIONS FOR THEIR LABORS...

Hail Brethren !!

I am happy to report that we received communication from Debbie Neispodziany on Wednesday September the 16th. Her message was "We have a kidney!" At that moment Michael was in surgery down at Riley's hospital. You might remember, last fall Council Oak did a fund raiser for Michael's cause. I am so proud to be a brother, while we were able to be a part of this great effort.

At this time the SW is finalizing his plans for the upcoming year and preparing our budget. Please contact him if there is something in particular you think needs to be considered for the upcoming year.

We have scheduled the Past Master's Dinner for Monday October the 18th. Once again it will be held at Reggio's in Mishawaka. Cocktail hour starts at 5:30. Please RSVP to Br. Adam Collin's ASAP so that we can plan enough food. The cost is \$17.00 and as usual Past Masters dinner is on the Lodge.

May Brotherly Love Prevail !

Bill Rasltin, Master



CALENDAR
October, 2010

4TH – Stated Meeting and Dinner. Dinner at 6:30 PM. Lodge opens at 7:30 PM.

11th – Lodge of Instruction. At St. Joe No. 45. Lodge opens at 7 PM.

16TH - JW's Fellowship Breakfast. At the Lodge Hall. 8 AM – 10:30 AM.

18th – Past Master's Dinner. At Reggio's, E. Jefferson, Mishawaka. Social Hour at 5:30 PM. Dinner at 6:30 PM.

20TH – Officers Call Meeting. Martins at Main St. and 23. 6:30 PM.

25TH – Executive Committee. At the Lodge Hall. 7 PM. All Lodge Members are invited.

2010 ANNUAL PAST MASTER'S DINNER

MONDAY, OCTOBER 18TH AT REGGIO'S

EAST JEFFERSON BLVD. IN MISHAWAKA

SOCIAL HOUR @ 5:30 PM - DINNER @ 6:30 PM

COST IS \$17.00 PER PERSON – PAST MASTERS FREE

PLEASE RSVP SW ADAM COLLINS / haliker@yahoo.com or 574.210.6158

*THE JUNIOR WARDEN'S
BREAKFAST*

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16TH

8:00 AM - 10:30 AM

...mmmmmmmm...

good

**!! STATED MEETING AND DINNER !!
MONDAY, OCTOBER 4TH - 6:30 PM**

**JOIN US AS WB AND "CHEF" BILL FOX
BRINGS US A "CHEF SURPRISE !!"**

**LODGE OPENS AT 7:30 PM
MASONIC EDUCATION:
MASONS AS PRISONERS OF WAR**



THE OKLAHOMA MASONIC INDIAN DEGREE TEAM

FROM THE BROTHERHOOD

Keep in Your Prayers: Our JW Steve Traphagan continues to fight a re-occurring cancer problem. He is currently undergoing radiation and chemo.

Brother Doug Selig is undergoing treatment for a tumor behind his eye.

October Birthdays: 2nd – Art James, George Wharton and Glen Klein; 3rd – Ritchie Hanefeld; 6th – James Shimp; 8th – Jim Greenway and Mike Becker; 9th – Pat Condon; 10th – Jack Taylor and Richard Anderson; 11th – Lawrence Weaver; 14th – Paul Lehman; 19th – Frank Niespodziany; 20th – Robert Northage, Jr.; 22nd – Roland Maurer; 24th – Morris Rosen and the 25th – Carl Barberi.

Contact these Brothers and wish 'em Happy Birthday!

Around the year of 1948, there was a group of Oklahoma Indians that got together to put on some Masonic Degree work. It was very well received by those who witnessed the effort. In 1950, part of the 1948 group decided to form the Oklahoma Masonic Indian Degree Team. Every year since, the Team has traveled all over the U.S. and Europe to put on the Masonic Degree. The Team consists of 13 Past Masters and the other are in line at the present time. The Team has never charged for their work and will not do mock Degrees. One of our largest degrees put on previously, was a count of approximately 4,500 brethren present and that was in Delaware. Sometimes the Degree has been done when the Team has outnumbered the people in the lodge.

The Team is not made up of members from any one Lodge, but from several. All the Brothers must live in the State of Oklahoma and be willing to travel two and occasionally three weekends a month, if the Team can travel from Tulsa to a Lodge in an hour, we will work week nights. This amount of travel time during a year can be stressful on home life, but we have a very supportive "home team". On occasion, the "home team" gets to "go on the road"; that is to say the wives of the Team get invited to visit when the ladies of the Lodge members for whom the Team is doing the Degree work. It is through this fellowship that many long-standing friendship, for both the members and the wives, have been built. Team members genuinely enjoy getting to know their Brethren from other states and finding kindred spirits in Masonry.

Since the early 60's the Team has had picture postcards available as a memento of their degree work. The donations received through these help to pay for their travels. Lately, they have added lapel pins, ballcaps, and coins as another souvenir. When the Team travels out of state, they ask the requesting Lodge pay for travel, food and lodging. In recent years, members of the Team have put on a traditional Indian dance programs and Story telling of legends and tales to help some of the Lodges defray part of the cost of their travel. This has been a favorite, not only of the Lodge members, but also their ladies and family members. This is the only time that the ladies and children can see the Team members in their authentic tribal regalia or dance clothes. The Team often visits the Shrine hospitals located near the Degree work. They enjoy their talks with the kids and staff, and perform their dance programs for them. The OMIDT have raised over 900 to the Master Mason Degree.



The Native American Nations represented on the team are Apache, Choctaw, Chickasaw, Cherokee, Creek, Keetoowah, Oneida, Ottawa, Quapaw, Shawnee. In the past, members have been Delaware, Kaw, Kiowa, Pawnee and Ponca.

This is "The oldest Degree Team" in existence today, and mostly that is because as a Team the group has never stopped or had a break since inception - over fifty year ago.

THEY ARE the only known Indian Degree Team.

William E Ralstin, WM, 574.298.6926, bralstin@prolon.com;

Adam Collins, SW, 574.210.6158, haliker@yahoo.com; Steve Traphagan, JW, 574.298.8200, Stephen_E_Traphagan@whirlpool.com; WB Roland Klockow, Treasurer, 574.277.6174, phishing5@gmail.com; WB Paul Lehman, Secretary, 574.259.8143, lehman300@comcast.net; Michael J. Koziel, SD, 574.360.8800, AHukster@aol.com; Gregory Meller, JD, 574.329.4508, gmeller@comcast.net; Jerry Bolin, SS, jlbolin@sbcglobal.net; Rob Howard, JS, 574.904.8122, howard-rob@att.net; Robert A. McNerney, Chaplain, 574.273.1475, RAMINC1@sbcglobal.net; David R. Vaughn, Tyler, 574.234.9509; WB Richard I. Engle, Trustee, 574.532.4620, rengle1@comcast.net; WB Dean V. Engle, Trustee, 574.302.4465, deanengle@counciloaklodge745.com; Rodney A. Strozewski, Property Manager, 574.271.1739; WB David F. Wood, Trestle Board Editor, 574.286.5686, dwood52281@aol.com.