



BUILDING A BETTER FOUNDATION: ONE MAN AT A TIME

FEBRUARY, 2010

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...THE GLORY AND BEAUTY OF THE DAY...

Brothers, first of all, I would like to thank all of the Master Masons that elected me for Junior Warden for the year 2010. I look forward to working in any capacity that will allow our Worshipful Master to achieve the goals he has set forth for the Lodge as we move forward. I would also like to thank all of you for your prayers last year as I dealt with the most serious health crisis of my life. 2010 will be a much better year for me in that respect!

It has been explained to me that as officers, we have specific roles and responsibilities that extend beyond the Lodge meetings. The Junior Warden is in charge of “refreshment” and the activities attached to the same. We plan to continue the Junior Warden’s breakfasts and work to use the occasion to reach out to more of the community in the area and simultaneously increase our membership. We have discussed the need to plan more social activities that may include our spouses and family beyond the “Special Ladies Night” breakfasts and Canoe Trip. To this end, your suggestions are needed. If you would like to submit one, contact any officer or plan to attend an Officers Meeting and bring your idea for discussion. Remember, This Is Your Lodge! The Officer’s Meeting is open to all Entered Apprentices, Fellow Craft and Master Masons. We need to plan early so we can get these events on the calendar.

I would like to report to you on our trip to Indianapolis last Saturday. WB Bill Ralstin, SW Adam Collins, WB Dean Engle, WB Paul Lehman, WB Bill Fox and I attended the Founders Day event facilitated by the Grand Lodge of Indiana and held at the Scottish Rite Cathedral. The place was packed!

The days program consisted of several presentations, the first being a Masonic “Who’s Who” educational piece, with several Brothers dressed in period correct garb, representing prominent Masons such as Ben Franklin, Prince Hall, Mark Twain, George Washington, Teddy Roosevelt, General MacArthur, and others. A DVD was presented on how to become an effective leader and what a Leader’s responsibilities are. The presentations continued with a Widow’s Sons Masonic Motorcycle group presentation on how any Lodge may start up a chapter comprised of motorcycle riders, the charity work they perform and the events that they sponsor. The Grand Lodge premiered their new Web Site that is available to the public; with an additional level of information available to Master Masons, once they are registered on the site. Other lectures were informative about managing Lodge real estate and income tax issues. The group came away with some good ideas which will be shared with the craft at a later date.

If any EA, FC or MM would like to participate in the development of any of these ideas or if he has one of his own or would just like to sit in and listen, plan to attend one of the Officer’s Meetings scheduled on the Trestle Board.

Steve Traphagan, JW



CALENDAR February, 2010

February 1st - Stated Meeting and Dinner. Dinner at 6:30 PM. Lodge opens at 7:30 PM.

3rd – Master Mason Degree Practice. At the Lodge Hall. 7:00 PM.

8th – Master Mason Degree. At the Lodge Hall. 7:00 PM. Refreshments to follow.

17th - Officers Meeting. At Martin’s, corner of IN 23 and Main Street, Mishawaka. 6:30 PM.

20th - Pancake Breakfast. At the Lodge Hall. 7:30-10:30 AM.

20TH - Family Bowling!! Regal Lanes, 8th Street in Mishawaka. 1:00 -3:00 PM. \$40 per lane; includes shoes and food.

22nd Executive Committee Meeting. At the Lodge Hall. 7:00 PM.

!! FAMILY BOWLING !! COME AND JOIN THE FUN... SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH

1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

REGAL LANES IN MISHAWAKA

\$40 / Lane (for 5 people) / Includes: free shoe rental, 1 large pizza and a pitcher of pop

Please RSVP to Jerry Bolin, 292-0213 or jlbolin@sbcglobal.net

FROM THE BROTHERHOOD

Broken Column: None.

Keep in Your Prayers: All of our Brothers and their families in their illness and misfortune; or who are in harm's way.

WB David Fuller continues his valiant struggle with cancer. Please keep him in your prayers.

February Birthdays: 2nd –Byrl Smith, 6th – Reggie Bourlier and Douglas Edison, 7th – Stanley Wolff, 8th – Earl Allison and WB Virgil Vories, 10th – Gordon Ahreen, 15th – WB Gene Ralstin, 16th – Mark Goddard, 17th – Phillip Potts, 21st – Dean DeVries, 22nd – James Hentz and George Stump.

Contact these Brothers and wish them Happy Birthday!

From a Traveling Brother: "Brother, we're not in 'Kansas' anymore..."

My brothers, I have recently been sorting out intricacies of visiting in another jurisdiction. I have had very good and able brothers guiding me. A certain *frère* Alain owns a shop not far from my apartment in Paris and doesn't mind chatting about the Craft. I left Chicago in September with credentials from the GLNY. One might imagine that with these and the appropriate secrets that visiting a lodge would be easy. Not so my brothers, not so! One evening, I went to the *Grande Loge Nationale Française* (GLNF) as I was assured that with proper credentials, I could attend a meeting on any evening. GLNF was nearly unmarked--there was only a small brass plate with those initials next to the door. The Brother Tyler inspected my papers, and said (in French), "Brother, your papers are in English!" Luckily, another brother standing-by explained them. Everything was in order, so the brothers explained where the various lodges were meeting that evening. I was early, so I bought a copy of GLNF's directory and a beer. Afterwards, I headed to the lodge and found I was the only one there. So I waited. Eventually, I realized that it was the weekend of All Saints' (a major holiday here): the lodges had cancelled.

But not all was in vain. I had a copy of the directory in hand (a useful thing, with unmarked buildings abounding). Also, dear brothers, it had been a rough week, and sitting for twenty-five minutes in an empty lodge was much needed. As I sat, I contemplated the mysteries of our Craft. And although the Great Lights were not displayed and the lesser ones were not lit, I had opportunity to remember being brought to Light. Perhaps my search for our French brothers had not been successful that evening, but it seemed that many adventures still remained. I left with a *bonne soiree* to the Brother Tyler and I jumped the nearest intra-city train. And I left with a new perspective. *...to be continued...*

FROM OUR FEARLESS SECRETARY

As a reminder to all of our Brethren, your 2010 Membership Dues are now payable. Please take the time and quickly remit your dues; as they help promote and operate our Lodge.

David A. Fuller, Secretary

!! STATED MEETING AND DINNER !!

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1ST

**Join us as WB and "Chef" Virgil Voreis
serves up his famous Oyster Stew!
DINNER AT 6:30 PM. - LODGE OPENS AT
7:30 PM.**

THE JUNIOR WARDEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH
7:30 AM TIL 10:30 AM**

COUNCIL OAK MASONIC LODGE HALL

**BRING YOUR FRIENDS, FAMILY AND CANDIDATES AS WE
CONTINUE OUR GREAT SATURDAY MORNING OF FELLOWSHIP!!**

...MMMMMMMMM...GOOD!

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