



The Light



Newsletter of Normal Lodge #673

<http://www.normal673.org>

February 2008

Master's Word

Brethren -

As we enter our last few months of the current Masonic year I wish to thank all of the individual officers for their hard work and dedication over the past few months. We have experienced a busy schedule including, degree work, dinners, business meetings and lodge visitations which I know can take up more then just a few minutes of their time.

I wish to express my appreciation for these men and ask that you also pass along my thanks to your families for allowing you to serve in such a rigorous capacity so willingly.

Although we are nearing our destination much is still in the works here at Normal Lodge, including the Lodge Officers competition, Eureka Challenge, and for the first time in Normal's history a degree put on entirely by Past Masters of our Lodge. We encourage all members to check the calendar on line and if available come out and show your support by attending any of these worthwhile events.

I would also ask that any Past Master of normal who is interested in serving on the slate for our Past Masters degree kindly contact our Senior Deacon Jeff Fox who is in charge of coordinating this auspicious event.

The degree is tentatively planned for April 21 and further details will be placed on the website and sent out on our email update list as this date gets closer.

Fraternally,

Joshua P. Rinker
Worshipful Master
2007-2008

Calendar of Events

March

6	Eastern Star	7:00 PM
10	Stated Meeting-CANCELLED	
20	Eastern Star	7:00 PM
24	Stated Meeting	7:00 PM

April

3	Eastern Star	7:00 PM
14	Dinner	6:00 PM
	Stated Meeting	7:00 PM
17	Eastern Star	7:00 PM
21	Past Master Night	7:00 PM
28	Stated Meeting	7:00 PM

May

1	Eastern Star	7:00 PM
12	Dinner	6:00 PM
	Stated Meeting/Elections	7:00 PM
15	Eastern Star	7:00 PM
26	Stated Meeting	7:00 PM

June

5	Eastern Star	7:00 PM
9	Dinner	6:00 PM
	Stated Meeting	7:00 PM
19	Eastern Star	7:00 PM
23	Stated Meeting	7:00 PM

MARCH DINNER

The March dinner and stated meeting are cancelled this year as we have realized that all of our dais officers will be on vacation that week. This unfortunate circumstance came to our attention at last stated meeting in February and we apologize for not having planned this out.

Please mark your calendars for the next stated meeting on March 24., we will receive the District Deputy that evening.

Eastern Star Update

Felicity Chapter #387 is preparing for the Official Visit of Sister Meg March, Worthy Grand Matron and Brother Phil Koukol, Worthy Grand Patron on Thursday, May 15 at 7:30 p.m. That evening will also be the reception for our Worthy Patron, Brother Don Mayol as we celebrate his October appointment as the Grand Representative of Oklahoma in Illinois. Brother Don will serve in this capacity October 10, 2009. Congratulations Don!!

Prior to the Official Visit in May we will have "Neighbor Night" on April 17 at 7:30. This will be a guest night when one or two of the neighboring chapters will be invited to serve as the officers for the evening. It's a great way to renew old friendships and make new ones as our Sisters and Brothers from the area share the fellowship of our Order with us.

We are also looking forward to the sharing with the members of Normal Lodge as they work to increase the balance of the relief fund. Did you know that this joint effort has been beneficial to both groups and the community for several years? Won't you please come out to support the efforts of these fine groups as we work bring just a small bit of "sunshine" to a family in need. We were pleased to learn that one of our longtime recipients has let us know that they will no longer need our assistance. It's nice to see that sometimes situations do change for the better.

Felicity Chapter is also proud of the participation of its members in the American Passion Play. Thirteen of the eighteen installed officers of the chapter participate in some way (either on stage, musically or on the door staff). In addition, there are several non "officer" members of the chapter that participate as well. If you have never witnessed the message of the American Passion play or just haven't been there recently please do so. The work of these fine Masonic families throughout the central Illinois area is worthy of your time and support.

If you aren't a member of the Order of the Eastern Star, we encourage you to give it serious consideration. Felicity Chapter #387 meets bi-monthly at the Masonic Temple in Normal on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. We are very proud of the charitable work that we do. The proceeds we realize through serving dinners and working concessions at Illinois State University we are able to support our Grand Chapter as it supports many national and local charities.

**** Per our Chapter by-laws there will be no meeting of Felicity Chapter on Thursday, March 20 in observance of Maundy Thursday.****

Brothers Who Have Passed to the Grand Lodge Above

Francis Ralph Keiser 10-31-2007
Charles Edwin Murray 11-27-2007
Loren Chester Otto 12-11-2007
Owen Otto Brummet 12-22-2007
Wesley Crain Wilcox 01-01-2008
Winfield Edward Bates, Jr. 01-04-2008
Walter Wilmert Bode 01-12-2008
Ronald Lee White 01-13-2008
John "Jack" Phillip Mc Curdie 01-23-2008
Ivan Oral Cloyd 02-28-2008

...another link from the fraternal chain which binds us together. May we who survive him be more strongly bound in the ties of union and friendship."

Masonic Homes Appeal

Easter-time is here! Let us not forget our brethren in the Illinois Masonic Homes. I am here to ask that each member make a small donation to Masonic Homes Endowment Fund. These homes provide a great service to our members and the community. Caring for our brethren is a Masonic requisite. Please help in this important undertaking by considering a small donation to the Masonic Homes Endowment Fund. Please talk to W.Bro. Jeff Fox, or Bro. Secretary with any questions.—F, Jeff Fox, SD

Past Master's Dinner

Our annual Past Master dinner and awards night will be April 21, 2008 with a Past Master portrayed degree. The exact details are not available for inclusion in this newsletter. More information will be available at the regular stated meetings and on our website. Past Master's will receive a personal invitation as the date gets closer from our event chairman, our Junior Deacon, Joe Drobny.

Annual Relief Dinner

The lodge fundraiser for this ongoing charity activity will not occur this year. Please support our relief basket efforts and we look forward to the dinner next year.

Lost Members

In our journey towards more light, we have lost track of a few good brothers. If you know where the lodge can contact these brothers, please contact the lodge secretary:

Frank Keith Harrold, Jr.
Chris Higginbothan

Our Newest Master Masons

Ryan Daniel Kent
Eric Benjamin Clinge
Andrew D Blessing

Ryan and Andrew joined us traditional form with long catechism. Andrew's third degree was held on a Saturday allowing for friends and family from Indiana to be present during the raising. We also completed two degrees for a candidate from Leroy Lodge #221. We presently have 12 candidates in progress and are looking forward to more new masons.

Annual Elections

Our annual elections will be held this year on May 12, 2008 at our regular stated meeting beginning at 7 PM. Please come out and support the current officers, as well as our future lodge leaders.

Relief Fund

Winter is winding down and spring is nearly here! That means Easter-time food baskets. Please support our food basket program by donating time to help with the food shopping. A lot of time and energy goes into these baskets and any assistance would be appreciated. Also, please consider making a small donation to the Relief Fund. This is the fund that supports our food basket program. Relieving the distressed is a duty incumbent on all men, but particularly on Masons...Please be generous with your time and donations. Contact W.Bro. Don Mayol, W.Bro. Jeff Fox, or Bro. Secretary with any questions.

Fraternally,
Jeff Fox, Senior Deacon

Updates

If you would like to update your address or provide us with your email address, you can send them to John Dorner, Lodge Secretary, 312 Victoria Dr., Normal, IL 61761 or email them to : normal673@gmail.com.

You can also be added to the update Email list please send your Email Address to the lodge Secretary. Notification of meetings, degrees and other information is distributed with this list. For those that are worried, no jokes or other posts are ever sent, and we do not share your email address with anyone. We send out usually one email every two weeks with occasional special announcements for degrees and special events.

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