



The Light



Newsletter of Normal Lodge #673

<http://www.normal673.org>

July 2007

Master's Word

It has been only about 2 months since our new officers have taken their posts within lodge and already we are in full swing. A new year has brought with it new opportunities and new goals for the current Masonic year and for the future of Normal Lodge. I am pleased to announce that the officers and myself are busy planning the rest of the year which is bound to include a variety of events ranging from social events, to meet and greets, and even a rusty nail degree.

We are excited about the new structure we have implemented with the help of our unfinished work committee to streamline the execution of degrees within lodge. You will notice that on the lodge calendar we have posted specific dates for the Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft, and Master Masons degrees every month to make the task of scheduling much easier. Also we are beginning some of our degrees at 6 instead of 7 to ensure that we are not at lodge too late on Monday nights. So far we have succeeded with great results in this initiative.

Lastly but surely not least we are asking the help of members of Normal Lodge to aid our building committee in coming up with a deficit for the new building. The deficit sits at over 100,000 dollars and we have been asked by the city to attempt and come up with this difference. Before we are able to move forward with further negotiations we must attempt to do some fundraising on our own. If you are able to assist in anyway please contact John Dorner Secretary of Normal lodge and we can explain further. Thank you all for your continued support and we look forward to seeing you in lodge.

Joshua P. Rinker

Worshipful Master

Calendar of Events

August

2	Eastern Star	7:00 PM
13	Dinner	6:00 PM
	Stated Meeting & 2°	7:00 PM
20	3° (tentative)	6:00 PM
16	Eastern Star	7:00 PM
27	First Degree	6:00 PM
	Stated Meeting	7:00 PM

September

6	Eastern Star	7:00 PM
10	Dinner	6:00 PM
	Stated Meeting & 2°	7:00 PM
17	3° (tentative)	6:00 PM
20	Eastern Star	7:00 PM
24	First Degree (tentative)	6:00 PM
	Stated Meeting	7:00 PM

October

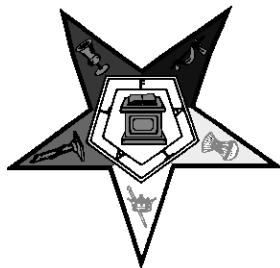
4	Eastern Star	7:00 PM
5-6	Grand Lodge—Springfield	
8	Dinner	6:00 PM
	Stated Meeting & 2°	7:00 PM
15	3° (tentative)	6:00 PM
18	Eastern Star	7:00 PM
22	First Degree (tentative)	6:00 PM
	Stated Meeting	7:00 PM

November

1	Eastern Star	7:00 PM
12	Dinner	6:00 PM
	Stated Meeting & 2°	7:00 PM
15	Eastern Star	7:00 PM
19	3° (tentative)	6:00 PM
26	First Degree (tentative)	6:00 PM
	Stated Meeting	7:00 PM

Degrees are subject to change for candidates.

Felicity Chapter News



Felicity Chapter is taking the rest of the summer to wind down. We've had a busy Spring/Summer to this point and are looking forward to the next three (3) meetings when we'll have stated meetings on August 2, August 16 and September 6.

We will travel to Bloomington on Tuesday, August 21 to share in a Neighbor Night. Officers of Felicity Chapter will fill half of the stations in Bloomington Chapter on this night. The other half of the stations will be filled by members of Ionic-Thompson Chapter from El Paso.

Our meeting on September 20 will be a Matrons and Patrons Night. On this night each of the offices will be filled by either a current Worthy Matron or Worthy Patron from another chapter in Illinois.

We are looking forward to Grand Chapter which will be held in Springfield on October 1-3. Several of our members will be presented at the informal opening on Monday, October 1. We are also looking forward at the Grand Chapter Session to a visit from Sister Barbara Benton, Most Worthy Grand Matron and Brother Bill Owen, Most Worthy Grand Patron. This year will be the Official Visit for the 2006-2009 triennium. Sister Barbara and Brother Bill are both from Oklahoma. Sister Barbara has visited Illinois several times in the past. One of the highlights of her visits is when she shares with us her version of the Lord's Prayer done in Indian sign language. Sister Barbara's heritage is that of the Choctaw Nation and she enjoys sharing her love of her heritage with the members of the Order throughout the world.

We will celebrate "Silver and Gold" Night at our stated meeting on October 18. This is the night we honor those that are receiving 25 and 50 year pins in 2007.

Our annual meeting will be on Thursday, November 1. That meeting will be preceded by a potluck dinner at 6:15 p.m.

Felicity Chapter meets on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of every month at 7:30 p.m. We have a great time and share a wonderful fellowship following the meetings. Please join us sometime.

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.

New Lodge Building

For those members attending the lodge meetings, you know that we have received bids from the contractors to build a new lodge building. The bids were higher than we had hoped and also higher than the current offer from the Town of Normal by approximately \$100,000. The Town has increased their offer and asked that we attempt to make up the remaining deficit from member donations.

To assist us with the endeavor the Town has offered to provide us with a tax deductible path as donations directly to the lodge are not. In addition, the Illinois Lodge of Research Library and Museum is interested in moving their location to our new building. Their foundation has pledged an amount towards the new building to that end, but donations to that foundation are also tax deductible and provide an additional path to those who are interested in supporting our effort.

If you have interest in making a direct non-tax deductible donation to the building fund, you can send it to the lodge secretary. Anyone interested in finding our more information on a tax deductible gift should contact the lodge Secretary or the Worshipful Master for more information on how to proceed.

In the eventuality that we are not able to raise the needed amount and reach an agreement with the Town, donations made directly to the lodge will be placed in the lodge permanent building fund which will endow the lodge building for future repairs and maintenance. Thank you for your support.

Lodge Steak Fry

The annual lodge steak fry will be held at the Scottish Rite Campground on September 8, 2007. Details are to follow and will be announced in lodge. Contact Don Mayol or the lodge secretary for reservations and information.

Relief Committee

The combined Relief Committee of Normal Lodge and Felicity Chapter wish to thank all who supported our relief program this past Easter season. We were able to deliver 15 food boxes which were graciously received by the families. Our hope is that we will be able to continue this program in the future.

We will be having another fundraiser dinner soon, so please help us support this effort.

Again we **THANK YOU** and the families' thank you.

Our Newest Master Mason

Kevin Michael McGuire

Kevin was raised at the annual outdoor third degree held on July 4, 2007 at the Scottish Rite Campground. The degree had to be moved indoors due to the rain, but it was a great experience for the members who attended and the candidate.

Brothers Who Have Passed to the Grand Lodge Above

...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."

William H. Daily
Jack M. Iungerich, Sr.
Harold W. Paine
Robert D. Webb

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

Masonic Homes Appeal

Brethren I would like to take a moment to remind you of our Brethren living in our Masonic Homes. These homes provide a service, we should help provide for them. Please consider a donation to the Masonic Homes Endowment Fund. No gift is too small, and all the funds raised will go to support the quality Masonic Homes in Illinois, so that they may continue to provide a much needed service. Contact the Worshipful Master, Bro. Secretary, or the lodge liaison, Jeff Fox with any questions. Thank you and God Bless

Email List

If you would like to be added to the Normal Lodge Email list please send your Email Address to the lodge Secretary, John Dorner, at normal673@gmail.com. Notification of meetings, degrees and other Normal Lodge information is distributed with this list.

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