

The Light

Newsletter of Normal Lodge #673

<http://www.normal673.org>

August 2008

Master's Word

Brethren:

July is drawing to a close and with it the second month of my term as your Worshipful Master. My, how time flies! It has been a productive two months. In that time we have finalized our plans with The Town of Normal for our new lodge building and construction efforts have begun. Degree work continues and we had an enjoyable morning on July 4, raising two brothers to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason. Obviously we are continuing to progress numerous men through the degree process. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have made Normal Lodge a priority in their lives, Masonry flourishes because of your efforts.

Coming in the near future are more opportunities to get involved not only in our stated meetings and degrees, but in our fundraising, community service, and Masonic unity efforts. We are planning to visit other lodges and participate in Masonic Community Days activities. Please be on the look out for ILCHIP events as well as opportunities to become involved in fundraising efforts for our relief fund. As you know, the relief fund is a joint venture with Felicity Chapter, OES and is the only means by which we are enabled to provide food baskets at Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter to families in need of such assistance. Please consider taking part in these efforts to ensure that this needed service is able to continue.

I will take this opportunity to remind you all of our Brethren in our Masonic Homes. Please consider a donation to the Masonic Homes Endowment Fund. This will allow for the continuation of great service at our Masonic Homes. Contact myself or Bro. Secretary with questions.

Be sure to watch our lodge website at <http://www.normal673.org>. A calendar of events as well as other useful information is on that site.

Calendar of Events

August

7	Eastern Star	7:00 PM
11	Dinner	6:00 PM
	Stated Meeting	7:00 PM
21	Eastern Star	7:00 PM
25	Stated Meeting	7:00 PM

September

4	Eastern Star	7:00 PM
8	Dinner	6:00 PM
	Stated Meeting	7:00 PM
18	Eastern Star	7:00 PM
22	Stated Meeting	7:00 PM

October

2	Eastern Star	7:00 PM
10	Grand Lodge-Springfield	
13	Dinner	6:00 PM
	Stated Meeting	7:00 PM
16	Eastern Star	7:00 PM
27	Stated Meeting	7:00 PM

November

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

We love seeing you at lodge. We meet the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month at 7:00. We serve a dinner at our first meeting beginning at 6:00. Please join us for Masonic Fellowship.

Fraternally,
Jeff Fox
Worshipful Master
2008-2009

Eastern Star Update

Felicity Chapter has a busy time ahead, we will be holding an Advance Night on July 31st with Marilyn Aucutt, Associate Matron and D. Jean Darnall, Associate Patron serving as Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron for the evening. Also advancing, as officers will be JoAnn Darnall as Associate Matron and Tena Fowler as Conductress. Other officers for the evening will be Associate Matron and Associate Patrons from around the state. Guest in the East will be Gretchen Burgess, Associate Grand Matron.

August 7th will bring another Special evening when we hold a 2007 Grand Representative Night, with all chairs being filled by Grand Representatives. Our own 2007 Grand Representatives, Sister Lola Devore of Louisiana and Sister Mary Short of Iowa will be in charge.

September 4th's meeting will be Past Officers Night with Sherri and Ivan Scott serving as Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron. Other officers for the evening will be Worthy Matrons and Patrons from 2005. Our meeting on September 25th will be a special evening for our Official Visit of the Grand Worthy Matron, Meg March and Grand Worthy Patron, Phil Koukol and the Grand Family at 7:30 p.m. This evening will also serve as a reception for Brother Don Mayol, Grand Representative of Oklahoma.

The end of September brings us closer to Grand Chapter and on Sunday, September 28th, the 2009 Grand Officers will be announced by Sister Gretchen Burgess. Grand Chapter will open in Springfield, IL on Monday, October 6th. This will surely be a busy time for all of our members. Looking ahead to November, we will have our annual meeting on Thursday the 6th.

We thank Normal Lodge for joining in the pork chop sales at the El Paso IGA. Our next scheduled days to serve are August 2nd and 23rd. Our funds will go toward providing the food baskets for the Holidays. We have been able to provide many families with food baskets in the past years and hope to continue this effort.

Brothers Who Have Passed to the Grand Lodge Above

George M. Holloway 04-08-2008

Jay S. Orcutt 04-09-2008

William J. Turpin 04-15-2008

Charles H. Boswell 05-15-2008

Walter J. Madsen 05-22-2008

...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

Let us not forget our brethren who rely on the Illinois Masonic Homes Endowment Fund. I am here to ask that each member consider making a small donation to Masonic Homes Endowment Fund. This fund provides 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, WM.

Lodge Steak Fry

The annual lodge steak fry will be held at the Scottish Rite Campground on September 6, 2008. The meal will start at 6 PM. Attendees will have the choice of hamburger, for \$5.00, or steak for \$10.00. Side dishes will be provided with tea and lemonade. Hope you to see you all there.

Contact Jeff Fox, Worshipful Master, 309-219-1427; or John Dorner, Secretary, 309-212-0041; for reservations. Or send an email to normal673@gmail.com

Our Newest Master Masons

Anthony J. Grant
David H. Lodewyck
Charles D. Hardy
Steven T. Schroeder

Charles and Steven took their final step in Masonry with the annual outdoor third degree. Or the first time in the four years since we have been raising brothers on the holiday, we had not rain. David was raised with friends from out of state in attendance. As always, our degree work continues to be good, and we encourage all brethren to participate in presenting the degree work.

New Lodge Building

For those members attending the lodge meetings, you know that we have begun construction. Updates will be regularly made in our stated meetings on progress and decisions made about interior finishes and anticipated dates for lodge work projects and ultimately the move.

If you would like to keep up to date on the progress, regular updates will be made to the lodge website with photos to the front page and the photo page. You can also see upcoming work dates on the lodge calendar. Keep checking back as information will be updated regularly or come to lodge.

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 significant gift should contact the lodge Secretary or the Worshipful Master for more information on how to proceed.

Relief Fund

Summer is winding down and Fall is nearly here! That means Thanksgiving-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 or assist with one of the fundraisers. 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.

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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Bloomington, IL
Permit #185

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