



Alpha Lodge Newsletter

March and April

2015

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FROM THE EAST- CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS

My Brothers-

As we get ready for spring, there is much to celebrate. The coming of warmer weather brings a renewal of life to the earth and to our spirits. Lodge celebrations include two new Master Masons, continued strong efforts by our officers in their ritual work, and increased attendance at our meetings by visitors and our own Brothers. March will bring two very special meetings, as we initiate a new EA and anticipate a visit from the Grand Master of Prince Hall Lodges to Alpha. This will be a great opportunity to learn about Prince Hall Masonry, as part of our Lodge Education programs. We continue to "Fill The Bucket", to raise funds for Ohio Special Olympics and are planning other events to raise money for this worthy cause. Our Annual Inspection, in the Entered Apprentice Degree will take place on Tuesday April 7th, with dinner (a delicious chicken main dish- yum...) at 6:00 P.M., followed by degree work at 7:00 P.M. Plan to attend and support your officers and welcome our new Brother to Alpha !!

Alas, among all the positive things happening at Lodge, there are problems that need attention. One of my duties as Master is to "Put the Craft to work and give them proper instructions". Some of you are making this part of my job very difficult. The most pressing concern is the poor performance and poor attendance of our MM craft. Our last two raisings have been poorly done, by Alpha's standards, and illustrates the need for all of the craft brothers to review their roles in the degree work. We need to PRACTICE our parts as members of the craft. To say that practice is unnecessary because "I know my part" is not the case- our last two raisings showed

that. It is a disservice to our candidate to give a shoddy effort and performance and an embarrassment to the Lodge when we have visitors. We are moving towards doing the MM degree as is stated in the Ritual. Many of you do not know or understand the "right" way to do the ritual and we are going to be more exacting in doing that work. We/ I will be asking you to show that you really can do your part and that you will be willing and able to "do things right". We will have one more MM degree before we "go dark". There will be a practice to go over the work. I ask you to renew your commitment to doing an excellent job as members of the craft. Come and perfect your work and enjoy the fellowship of your brothers.

Fraternally- Bob Karl- WM

Grim Reaper Report

Since the last Newsletter we have lost two members, Brother Louis T. Laquaglia passed away on December 22nd, and Brother Hugo Pemberton passed away on December 31st. Please remember these brothers' family at this time and may they hear those welcome words 'well done good and faithful servant thy task well done, enter thou into the joy of our Lord'.

Inspection

The Annual Inspection of the Lodge is on April 7th. We will be inspected in the Entered Apprentice Degree. The Lodge will open at 7PM with dinner at 6PM. The cost is \$12 with tickets available from the officers or you may call the Secretary at 937-312-7315 to make reservations. The reservations must be made by Tuesday April 1st. The entrée Salisbury Steak.

FROM THE SOUTH

Matt McFarland, Junior Warden

In this newsletter you have read about a dues increase, and an increase to the fees of obtaining the three degrees in Alpha Lodge. I know that this is an issue that will spark a debate among the Brethren, I am going to take this opportunity to state my view. I think it is important to note that all of us live in the same world, and it seems that a dollar isn't worth a dollar anymore. The same holds true for Alpha Lodge, the cost of heating and cooling, maintaining the building, postage, printing, and all of the other things that go into running a lodge keep relentlessly going up. Our dues remain unchanged, and the fees for the degrees has been constant for nearly 60 years. Additionally, I think that the change in fees is a positive change because it will allow us to present a newly raised brother with a bible and working tools to commemorate his journey not only through the degrees but his journey as a Master Mason in search of more light. I believe that these will be treasured items for both the brother and his family for years to come.

There are three quotes that I would like to use to close this article: Firstly, the first of the two great pillars of the Lodge Epicurean.

"A high quality lodge must be paid for -- therefore dues need to commensurate with this."

And from an Alpha Lodge Brother that shall remain nameless.

"Masons are cheap, and they love to bitch."

Lastly, from Dwight L Smith, Past Grand Master of Masons in Indiana.

"Has Freemasonry become too easy to obtain? Fees for the degrees are ridiculously low; annual dues are far too low. Everything is geared to speed-getting through as fast as possible and on to something else. The Lodge demands little and gets little. It expects loyalty, but does almost nothing to put a claim on a man's loyalty. When we ourselves place a cheap value on Masonic membership, how can we expect petitioners and new members to prize it?"

MWB Smith was addressing a problem facing the fraternity in the 1960's. It is still a problem today. It only makes sense to me that both our dues, as well as the fees for new members should be changed to mirror the value of membership in our fraternity. I hope that you will join me in supporting these changes.

Trestle Board

March	3	Entered Apprentice Degree	7PM
March	6	Seniors	9-11AM
March	7	Breakfast	7-10AM
March	10	Stated Meeting	7PM
March	13	Seniors	9-11AM
March	17	NO Meeting	7PM
		Inspection Practice	
March	20	Seniors	9-11AM
March	24	Stated Meeting	7PM
March	27	Seniors	9-11AM
March	31	HOLY WEEK	
		Inspection Practice	7PM
April	3	Seniors	9-11AM
April	4	Breakfast	7-10AM
April	7	Special Meeting	7PM
		Inspection	
April	10	Seniors	9-11AM
April	14	Stated Meeting	7PM
April	17	Seniors	9-11AM
April	21	TBA Probably Fellow Craft	7PM
April	24	Seniors	9-11AM
April	28	Stated Meeting	7PM
May	1	Seniors	9-11AM
May	2		

Code Changes

There are two code changes that have been proposed and will be voted on March 10th, the first is a \$5 dues increase raising the dues to \$80 per year. The second is a long awaited increase in the candidate fees to \$225 this would include the candidate receiving a Bible and a small set of working tools as a memento that he was made a Mason.

William Matt McFarland

Born in Dayton, Ohio, a Stebbins Indian, and a veteran of the U.S. Air Force was raised a Master Mason on March 15, 2003 in the One Day Class. He started through the Lodge Officers' line in March of 2013 and is the current Junior Warden. He is the President of the Fairborn Shrine club and an Antioch Bobbie. He is the Vice President of the PNC Bank in Town and Country Shopping Center. His favorite Masonic memory is serving as Senior Deacon announcing and meeting many of Alpha lodge's Past Masters.