



Alpha Lodge Newsletter

May & June 2011

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From the East

As inspection season winds down, Alpha Lodge is keeping busy with candidates and meetings every Tuesday night. For those who haven't visited lodge in a while, we've had a meeting every Tuesday for the last few months. We see that continuing as we keep up our calendar busy with degree work and special events.

As we near summer, we still have the Table Lodge in May and an Open House in early June. Those are in addition to our popular social nights on the fourth Tuesday of every month. For those, we have speakers ranging from investment bankers in April to the recognition night for our Kettering firefighters and police officers in May to a Civil War re-enactor in June, Ben Franklin in July, and Mark Twain in August. This is in addition to the great food and fellowship!

With rising costs, the lodge is also considering a possible dues increase this year. We will talk about this at a future meeting. As a member, your opinion matters on this so we'd like to get your input at this meeting. If you can't make it to a meeting, please email or call the lodge using the contact info above.

Regarding charity, we are collecting canned goods for needy families or a local food pantry. To help out, just bring some spare change and/or some nonperishable items with you to lodge next time.

Continue to check the website for the latest news and event schedules.

Trestle Board

May	3 Special Meeting Fellow Craft Degree (1)	7PM
May	6 Seniors	8-11AM
May	7 Breakfast	7-10AM
May	7 Open House	3-7PM
May	10 Monthly Stated Meeting	7PM
May	13 Seniors	8-11AM
May	14 Table Lodge	6PM
May	17 Special Meeting Master Mason Degree	7PM
May	20 Seniors	8-11AM
May	24 Social Night See article in Newsletter	6PM
May	27 Seniors	8-11AM
June	3 Seniors	8-11AM
June	4 Breakfast	7-10AM
June	7 Special Meeting Entered Apprentice Degree (2)	7PM
June	10 Seniors	8-11AM
June	12 Masonic Home Day	
June	14 Monthly Stated Meeting	7PM
June	17 Seniors	8-11AM
June	21 Special Meeting Master Mason Degree (1)	7PM
June	24 Seniors	8-11AM
June	25 Special Meeting Entered Apprentice Degree (2)	9AM
June	26 Lodge Picnic at Lofinio Park	1PM
June	28 Social Night	6PM
July	1 Seniors	8-11AM
July	2 Breakfast	7-10AM

Breakfast

As usual we will continue to serve breakfast on the 1st Saturday of each month throughout the summer from 7AM until 10AM.

Social Night

The Social Night on the fourth Tuesday of each month will also continue through the summer. We have some interesting programs planned. If you have any suggestions let the Secretary know. Dinner starts at 6PM bring a covered dish and \$2 per person to cover the cost of the entrée. Bring the family and friends and come join us for an evening of fun and fellowship.

Dues Increase

As you were pre-warned a dues increase is imminent and will be voted on at the May meeting. A decision will be had on the exact amount. \$10 would satisfy the immediate need but within two years we would need another \$10. So, \$15 or \$20 are also options. A \$5 increase each year for the next 4 years has also been mentioned. The Past Masters have recommended \$20.

Standing Resolution

A change in the Standing Resolutions of the Lodge has been recommended by the Past Masters of the Lodge permitting the Lodge to invest up to 25% of our total liquid assets into other types of investments other than Certificates of Deposits and Savings accounts. This will be brought up for discussion at the Stated Meeting in May and voted on at the meeting in June. This resolution is an effort to increase our interest income.

Special Meetings

As you can see by the Trestle Board we have some degree work scheduled. Sometimes it may be necessary to schedule or re-schedule a candidate. Prior to attending Lodge if in doubt you may call the Secretary either on his cell phone or home phone. It might save you a trip. Also, there may be a chance that a Special Meetings may be called for some other day than Tuesday; these will be put on the web-site.

Summer Officers' Practice

I'm sure the officers will hold practices during the summer to prepare for next year. At this time the schedule has not been announced however, a phone call to the Senior Warden, Bro. Matt Rentz, (270-8854) to those who are interested might prove to be beneficial.

Scottish Rite 9th Degree

A definite date, February 18, 2012, has been set for the conferral of the 9th degree. A letter will be sent to the cast with rehearsal dates which are January 23rd, February 6th, and February 16th. A brief meeting will be held before the Lodge meeting on May 10th (6:30PM) to discuss the Degree and complete the cast. If you are interested please attend this meeting or contact R.W. Bro. Gary Nicholson.

Ohio Masonic Home Day

As in the past Alpha will be manning the food booth at the Ohio Masonic Home Day for the 2nd Masonic Officers' Association. If you would like to help by working in the tent please call the Secretary at 293-1404. We usually work from 9AM until 3PM and all that is required is a ball cap. We have a blast and all the proceeds go to the Home. The date is June 12th. It's a picnic atmosphere with games, food, music, and tours of the Home. Bring the family and join us for a great time.

Grand Lodge Endowment Program

The Grand Lodge does have a way to have your dues not only paid for life but perpetually even after your demise. \$800 will purchase you a life membership. As dues continue to raise this \$800 continues to look better. Currently we have over 70 who are members of this program. Don't have the \$800? There is an installment plan where this can be paid over 5 years. Of course you must continue to pay your regular dues over that length of time. I'm sure like everything else this may soon go to \$1,000. If you join before that you can lock in the \$800 now over the 5 year period. Interested? Contact the Secretary for an application form.

Grim Reaper Report

Bro. Lathe Hawkins, passed away on March 11th, Bro. Uriel B. Watson passed away on March 20th, and Bro. Earlie Bullman passed away on April 4th. Please remember the families of these Brethren 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'.

Home Open

On Saturday May 7 we will hold an open house inviting interested non-Masons to learn more about our fraternity and the procedures concerning petitioning Alpha Lodge. This will be from 3-7PM, refreshments (hot dogs, chips, etc) will be provided. Invite your friends and relatives. The Secretary will be present to answer questions and provide information.