

LIGHT *Added to* LIGHT

Installation of New Officer's

Masons In The News

Worshipful Master Rick Sereneo is no stranger to serving in the East, having previously served as WM in 2012. Rick was born and raised in West Bloomfield, Michigan and graduated from Oakland University with a Bachelor Degree in Business Administration. Rick is the President of OJI Intertech, Inc. located in North Manchester, a manufacturer of automotive parts and industrial coatings. Rick and his wife Lisa live in Huntington and are the parents of sons Alexander a senior at IU, and Graham a senior at Huntington North.

Upcoming Lodge Activities - 2015

Looks to be a fun and exciting year as a number of family activities are being planned with the objective of having at least one activity a month.

Jan – Komets Hockey Night
Feb 14 – Valentines Party at the lodge
Mar – Mad Ants Basketball game
Apr
May
Jun – Tin Caps Baseball game
Jul 3 & 4– Salamonie Festival
Aug 1 – Annual Car Show at the lodge
Sep
Oct 31 – Halloween Party
Nov
Dec

What Goes on at Stated Meetings

Starting in 2013, the Indiana Grand Lodge allowed lodges to conduct routine business by Executive Committee, which is composed of officers. The meeting is held before the normal Stated Meeting, may be attended by any member, and handles the common business of the lodge such as reading the minutes and paying the bills. The positive from this is that Stated Meetings are much more streamlined and can now

be conducted in 30 to 45 minutes. Everything else in the Stated Meeting is much like it has been in years past with the Worshipful Master leading the meeting and going through a specific agenda that includes old and new business, correspondence, reading petitions, assigning investigating committees, and established a calendar of upcoming events and degrees. An evening “at lodge” can run from 6 to 10 pm. Lots of visiting, card playing, and darts precede most meetings. Following the stated meeting, Brother Bob Haley provides food and refreshments for all those in attendance. Brother Bob’s food is always good and plentiful, and all in attendance look forward to eating together and continuing the evening’s fellowship.

If we were going to judge the health or condition of a lodge, several different things might be considered.

1) **Quality of Ritual Work** - A lodge that “does good work” usually has a number of very active members who take pride in their ability to present rituals and at the same time help and encourage others to participate and develop those same skills. Pride in

ritual usually flows down to pride in the local lodge.

2) **Finance Condition** – A lodge that is on solid financial ground is free from the constant pressure to generate new or additional revenue through fund raisers, financial donations, or pressure to increase membership.

3) **Building Maintenance** – An aging lodge hall or one in disrepair can truly be a money pit. There probably isn’t a greater single cause for a lodge to be in serious financial jeopardy than maintenance problems. Some of the most financially stressed lodges in the state are in large communities that are now struggling to maintain large lodge halls that were built in the 1920’s or before. Years of declining membership, an aging membership, and all the inherent problems of an old and high maintenance building has adversely affected many lodges.

4) **New membership** – Whether we like to admit or not, a flow of new members into a lodge is required if the lodge is going to continue to be healthy. Each year members are lost, no longer participate, or pass away. Each of these events places more responsibility on the remaining

members. Not only are new members, but also existing members, are needed to step forward to take on responsibility within the local lodge.

5) **Socially engaging** – Involvement within the fraternity needs to be something we enjoy doing. If the only time the lodge is open or the only time that members are together is for a stated meeting, then everyone’s interest soon fades.

6) **Participation** – A healthy lodge is a well attended lodge, not only by members but also by visitors. A good strong vibrant lodge is one that everyone wants to be a part of, that is fun and engaging, a lodge that by our involvement helps each of us to personally grow. Maybe it is a part of that statement we made when we became Masons, “to seek more light in Masonry”.

Ed Purvis Celebrates 25 Year Membership

Brother Ed Purvis was recognized for his 25 year membership by a dinner that was given in his honor on Nov 8. A good turnout of friend and family honored Ed, as his 25 year pin was

presented by WM Tony Grimes. Congratulations Ed and thank you for your years of contribution to Mt Etna Lodge and to Masonry.

A Look Back In the Lodge Minutes

“On March 21, 1866, Mount Etna Lodge, No. 333, Free and Accepted Masons, was organized...By 1885 the membership was but twenty-five, but since then there has been a revival and in 1913 the lodge reported fifty-three in good standing.” (Huntington Co History, 1914, p. 362)

Honorary Member Named

Brother Bob Crispen was recognized in the December Stated Meeting by being presented with a certificate as an Honorary Member of Mt Etna Lodge 333. Bob has deep roots in Masonry with his father and other family members having been members of King Lodge in Warren. Bob graduated from Warren High School, retired as a Civil Service employee and from the Air National Guard. His Honorary Membership was in honor of his faithful

attendance and support of Mt Etna Lodge and to his dedication to Masonry. Bob is a member of Amity Lodge in Huntington and is a volunteer driver for the Shrine Hospital, and with his wife Shirley is involved in Eastern Star and as volunteers for Job's Daughter. Congratulations Bob!

Visitation Program

Starting in February, 2014 Mt Etna Lodge initiated a Visitation Program to encourage brothers to visit other Masonic Lodges, with the purpose being the encouragement of fraternity among fellow Masons. All Mt Etna members who wish to participate will be provided with a "passport booklet" to record visits. This booklet will be provided at no cost by Mt Etna Lodge. When visiting another Lodge, either the Worshipful Master or Secretary of the Lodge needs to sign, date, and record the name of their Lodge and the Lodge Number. Each individual Lodge will only count one time in regards to visitation. This encourages you to visit a variety of Lodges and not simply visit the same Lodge multiple times. There is no time limit on this

program, so it is something that you can do at your own pace. Two different levels of recognition will be awarded for visiting 10 and 20 different lodges in the form of a certificate and lapel pin.

Upcoming Events

- Jan. 10 Founder's Day, Indianapolis
- Feb. 5 Stated Meeting, 7:30 pm
- Feb 10 Visitation @ Warren Home
- Feb 14 Valentines Party
- Mar. 5 Stated Meeting, 7:30 pm