

# LIGHT *Added To* LIGHT

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## **150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

2016 will mark the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of Mt Etna Lodge #333. Plans are underway to celebrate this milestone with preparation to include general upgrades within the building, namely painting and new carpet. A letter from Worshipful Master Rick Sereno will soon be mailed in regard to this effort.

## **So Why Are We Masons**

Perhaps we have all asked ourselves that question at sometime. One of the best answers came from Mt Etna member David Purvis-Fenker, a student at Valparaiso University and resident of Columbia City. David sent me the following: "During the first week of March two friends and I traveled to Washington, D.C., by way of Harpers Ferry. The original plan was to bike from Cumberland, MD, to D.C. We ended up driving the whole way due to lack of training and bad weather. Before the trip I reached

out to the Brothers of Logan Lodge #25 in Harpers Ferry, WV, asking if they could assist us on our trip. Their Secretary, Brother Ron Willis, PM, not only provided us with lodging for the night, but also served us dinner and breakfast, and gave us a tour of the town. In exchange, all he asked was that we help him remove an old water heater from this basement, which we gladly did. We had a wonderful experience on our trip, and the Willis family's generosity allowed us to keep our lodging expense down."

I would say that is a pretty good testament of what Masons do for Masons. Thanks David for your input.

## **Member on the Move**

Brother Bob MacDonald is the Senior Warden this year at Mt Etna Lodge. Bob was raised as Master Mason on May 10, 2012, at Mt Etna and has been actively involved since. In addition his to involvement at Mt Etna, Bob is now serving as the

Master of Ceremonies in the Lodge of Perfection line of the Ft Wayne Scottish Rite in Ft Wayne. Bob lives in Huntington and works for Scientific and Regulatory Consultants, Inc. (SRC) as a Vice President of Regulatory Affairs in Columbia City. He and his wife Carla are the parents of two adult daughters and the grandparents of 5.

### **Spring Activities**

Several activities are planned for the Lodge during the spring and summer. The last item in each issue of the newsletter is "Upcoming Events", which lists the activity, date, and time. Several of these events are planned as fun outings where members, family, and friends are welcome. A golf outing is planned for Saturday, May 23 at Dogwood Glen in Warren. Cost is \$25 per person which includes 18 holes of golf, golf cart, and lunch. If interested, contact Dave Swanson at 260-750-5338. Another event scheduled for May is a fun shoot to be held on a Saturday in May at the Roush Lake Shooting Range. If interested, contact Bob Haley at 260-388-2703.

One of the tenets of Masonry is fraternity. Defined, this might be described as a doctrine or principle of enjoying time together with your Masonic brethren. We encourage all members to participate in these activities.

### **Brothers' Passing**

Brother Robert E. Pond of Warren passed away March 20, 2015. He had been in Ohio for a number of years as teacher and superintendent before returning to Warren to retire.

### **Warren Home Visitation**

A visitation to the Warren Home Heritage Point was held on February 26. Residents include Ralph Taylor, Dale DeWeese, John Clayborn, Dick Hinton, and Cloid Cloud.

Representing our Lodge was: Rick Sereno, Bob McDonald, JB Allen, Junior Wehr, Bob Haley, Steve Williams, and Dave Swanson. The meeting lasted about 2 hours, and everyone really seemed to enjoy the visit. Much of the time revolved around checking to see how everyone was doing and talking about past

Masonic lodge events. Dave Swanson and Dick Hinton led members on a short tour of the fitness center and swimming pool. It was suggested that another visit be held and the brothers at Heritage Pointe seemed pleased.

## **It Must Be a Sign**

One of the items in the Lodge's Strategic Plan is to add "signage" for the Mt Etna Lodge. As you might guess, there are no signs marking Mt Etna as having a Masonic lodge. That will soon be corrected as round porcelain Masonic signs have been purchased to let visitors and others know of our Lodge's presence and notification of stated meetings.

## **Order of the Rusty Nail**

The Order of the Rusty Nail is to be presented at Mt Etna during the regular stated meeting on September 3<sup>rd</sup>. "The Order of the Rusty Nail is a short program for use in a tiled lodge to refresh the memories of brethren holding a valid dues card who are not regular in their Lodge attendance. The Order of the Rusty Nail refreshes the memory regarding the passwords and signs of the three Blue Lodge degrees. It touches on Lodge customs

and reviews the mysteries and legends of Freemasonry as taught in the ritual". (MasonicWorld.com) This degree will be presented by Mt Etna members with invitation of other Lodges to attend. We hope that you will plan to be there as well.

## **So What Do Meetings Look Like?**

Mt Etna is fortunate to have a good average attendance at stated meetings. Average total attendance for 2014 was 18  $\frac{3}{4}$  which consisted of 16  $\frac{1}{2}$  members and 2  $\frac{1}{4}$  visitors from other lodges. So how does that compare with other lodges? Other area lodges with similar attendance numbers are Bluffton, Wabash, Van Buren, and Converse. Attendance is one of several different indicators of the health of a lodge.

## **Got An Email Address?**

Do you have an email address for Lodge communication? If you are receiving this newsletter through the U.S. Mail and have an email address, please contact Chuck Clampitt at [cclampitt@frontier.com](mailto:cclampitt@frontier.com). This will

reduce the time and expense of mailings, and at the same time make you aware of on-line notices and upcoming events.

## **A Look Back In Lodge Minutes**

In years gone by two lodge offices were paid positions. They were the Secretary and the Tyler. Each received the same amount annually. As of Dec 17, 1904, each received \$5.25 for their yearly service. While the Secretary's responsibilities were much the same as today, the Tyler's were more extensive and varied. "The Tiler (sic) was ordered to purchase a carpet sweeper (cost \$2) and to use it after he gets it." (1903) The major role of the Tyler was to see that a fire was built, presumably in a pot bellied stove during cold weather, to clean the lodge room, empty the spittoons, and clean and fill the gas lanterns.

## **Mason To Celebrate 101<sup>st</sup>**

The family of Virgil Rennaker is planning on celebrating his 101<sup>st</sup> birthday on Sun, May 10 from 1:30 to 3:00 pm at his residence at the Sterling House, 2452 West Kern Road, Marion, IN 46952. If you cannot attend I am sure he would enjoy a card.

## **Upcoming Events**

### **Apr 30 Tin Caps Baseball Game**

May 7 Stated Meeting, 7:30 pm

May – TBD Saturday Shoot at Roush Lake Shooting Range

Mar 23 Golf Outing at Dogwood Glen, Warren, 9am

Jun 4 Stated Meeting, 7:30 pm

Jul 2 Stated Meeting, 7:30 pm

Jul 3 & 4 Salamonie Festival Food Trailer Fund Raiser

Aug 1 Mt Etna Lodge Car Show

Aug 6 Stated Meeting, 7:30 pm

Sep 3 Stated Meeting, 7:30 pm – Degree of the Rusty Nail to be presented