

LIGHT *Added* to LIGHT

Words from the WM

As we move through April and on to May, our 150th CELEBRATION, July 9th, is soon upon us. We recently had a visit from Don Feller who will be the Grand Lodge Marshal for our rededication. He provided us with additional information and suggestions for our rededication. He is expected to return again to further finalize the events of that day.

The special collection requested last year under Worshipful Brother Rick Sereno, was successful and allowed the Lodge to proceed forward with new carpeting installed in our Lodge Room and 1/2 of our downstairs (eating area). We have also proceeded with applying fresh coats of paint to our Lodge Room, Preparation Room, Hall and Stairway. For those who have not had an opportunity to attend Lodge recently or stop by, I'm eager for you to see these improvements. While the additional funding was indeed helpful the many hours of time spent by Brothers in tearing out old material, cleaning and

preparing surfaces and installing a new underlayment upstairs along with painting was greatly appreciated. Definitely the weather outside gave us a chance to keep warm and join together in these projects during the early months of 2016.

More recently, the Men's bathroom floor and the serving area floor have been painted. We are still in need of guttering on the North Side of the building and structural repair to flooring over our basement area continuing back into the Kitchen. Hopefully we will be able to work on the guttering and the beams supporting it once the weather changes. Work on the structural flooring will then begin and move forward in stages most likely in 2017.

To wisely use our Lodge funds for these ongoing projects, a charge of \$15 per person will be required to reserve your seat for the 150th CELEBRATION and dinner immediately following the rededication at the Mt. Etna United Methodist Church.

Please RSVP as soon as possible and no later than June 10th. The number of reservations should be clearly indicated with the corresponding check for the attendees. This is to be sent to the attention of:

Guilford Wehr Jr.
5017W 900S
Warren In 46792

Check paid to the order of - Mt. Etna Lodge #333
Note – 150th Year Rededication

Note: With limited seating in our Lodge (we are estimating accommodations for the first 80 reservations). These advanced reservations will additionally assist us in coordinating the dinner with the Mt. Etna Church. We are therefore requesting your reservations by the above date of June 10th.

The public rededication will begin promptly at 12:00 NOON with the dinner at the Mt. Etna United Methodist Church immediately following. We are investigating whether there is a possibility of providing a small bus or transport from the Church to our Lodge and from the Lodge to the Church in order to ease any potential parking issues.

IF YOU HAVE ACCESS TO SUCH A SHUTTLE OR HAVE ANY SUGGESTIONS ON WHO WE MIGHT CONTACT, PLEASE SEND THESE SUGGESTIONS TO MY ATTENTION: bmacdonald@srconsultants.com
Looking at time period (11:30-12:00 and 1:00-1:30)

In closing out our summer Mt Etna #333 is again participating in the Warren Festival (July1st and 2nd) with a Food Booth and our Annual Car Show is the first Saturday in August (August 6th). Please put these on your calendars and come and join us in these festivities by attending or “signing up” for a time slot, particularly during the Warren Festival to help with these events and fundraisers.

LOOKING FORWARD TO A WONDERFUL SUMMER AND PARTICULARLY THESE UPCOMING EVENTS FOR FELLOWSHIP WITH ONE ANOTHER AND OUR FAMILIES

Sincerely,
Bob

Saints before Us

Masonic lodges have much in common with other fraternal and service organizations as well as churches. Many seem to suffer from

decreasing and aging membership, aging buildings that are difficult and expensive to maintain, and a significant percentage of membership that doesn't care to or are unable to participate. Each of these groups all share these common problems and typically go into a long slide into irrelevance and eventual closure.

As we think back, each of these organizations were started and maintained through the years by what we might call "saints". These were the individuals and couples who had a vision, were tireless workers, and made the lodge, club, or church a focal point in their lives. They encouraged others to join, led by example, and served as mentors to new members. They taught us the principles, encouraged us to undertake new responsibilities, and were willing to pass the torch of leadership from one generation to the next.

While we all can think back on those individuals that led us in Masonry, many of those same characteristics that we admired are what is needed today. While the younger generation and the world around us changes, the principles of Masonry are just as

relevant as they ever were. Perhaps they can be summed up at the closing of a lodge meeting when we hear: how do Masons meet...upon the level; how do Mason act...upon the plumb; and they part on the square. So may we meet act and part".

We need to remember that we are "the saints" for the next generation of Masons. May we each do our best to make sure that we pass on Masonry to the next generation as rich and meaningful as the one we were fortunate to have inherited when we were made Masons.

Mason in the News

The Mason in the news for this issue is Harvey Dewees. Harvey grew up in Warren and attended Warren High School until 1966 and was part of the second class to graduate from Huntington County Community High School in 1968. He graduated from Purdue University School of Pharmacy in 1973 and was raised to Fellow Craft Degree in October of that year in King Lodge in Warren. He moved to New Hampshire in 1976 where he has lived every since. He

and his wife Sharon (Herr) have been married 45 years and have three adult sons. Both Harvey and Sharon enjoy camping, kayaking, and traveling and he has umpired baseball for over 30 years. He said that now that he is retired, he has trimmed back his umpiring schedule to spring high school baseball so that he can be finished by the end of May giving him more time to ride his Harley Davidson.

As with many other Masons, Harvey came from a Masonic family. His father Dale was active in Masonry and is a past master of King Lodge and his mother was a member of Eastern Star. Like many high school aged boys around Warren, Harvey was a member of the Palmer Chapter Order of DeMolay. "Some of my memories of being in DeMolay included the moving "White Rose" lecture on Motherhood given by Mack Schulz and the camping trip to Pokagon State Park with my father and Meredith Miles who were chapter leaders. I also remember I was delegated the job of keeping coal shoveled into the boiler bin in the basement of the lodge in the winter by my father."

"Although I am not active in lodge activities, I have carried the compass of Masonry as a guiding influence in my life. I was fortunate to grow up around some respected Masons and men such as Gene Michaud, Everett Boxell, Ray Sills, and Ben Good, and always felt to be in good company. I have always felt the fraternal bond with all brothers in Masonry that I have met over the years."

One Man's Thoughts

Norman Vincent Peale was a famous clergyman and author and is best remembered for his book "The Power of Positive Thinking" and the founder of Guidepost magazine. Peale was also a very accomplished Mason. In the February 1993 Scottish Rite Journal, Peale is quoted: "To me, Freemasonry is one form of dedication to God and service to humanity. I am proud to walk in fraternal fellowship with my Brethren. Why am I a Freemason? Simply because I am proud to be near a Brother who wants to keep the moral standards of life at high level and leave something behind so others will benefit. Only as I

personally become better can I help others to do the same.” What Dr Peale said 23 years ago is just as relevant today as it was then.

Up Coming Activity

A Ft Wayne Tin Caps baseball game family outing is planned for May 19th with the game starting at 7:05 pm. Reserve tickets with Bob Haley at 260-388-2703.

A Look Back In the Lodge Minutes

One of the recurring expenditures from the time of the Lodges organization in 1866 until the late 1930's was for benevolence. In the era before the 1930's when "New Deal" programs were created, a "safety net" did not exist to provide aide or assistance to people in need. When illness, death, or financial setback occurred, the Lodge stepped in to provide help. Typically this was for Masons and their families, but benevolence for non-member also occurred.

"A motion was offered and adopted to pay the balance of funeral expenses of the lately deceased daughter of Brother Rogers." (Minutes Dec 16, 1893)

"A bill for \$19 was allowed to Grant Leverton for nursing Bro W.R. McDaniel and an order drawn for that amount." (Minutes Apr 5, 1902). Several other entries were recorded involving the paying for the cost of "nursing" various persons.

"A bill for \$19.50 in favor of Ulrich & King was allowed the same being the balance of funeral expenses of S.P. Mitchell, who died July 27, 1911." (Minutes Sep 2, 1911)

"A motion made to allow Ray Stephens \$5 toward getting artfishel lims (sic). An order was drawn for the same" (Minutes Feb 20, 1926)

"A bill for coal for Mrs. Sharp \$17.33. Also Xmas to Mrs. Sharp \$25.00" (Minutes Jan 1, 1927). At the time the cash balance of the Lodge was \$216.74

"R.H. Fisher moved that Brother Leroy Garl Ralston be given \$25 for relief and ____ by Hall. All his

personal property being destroyed by fire.” (Minutes May 2, 1936)

The most unique example of benevolence was recorded in 1925. “A bill was presented by the committee appointed to see the welfare of Bro T___ S___ and take to the Masonic Home at Franklin, Ind in the amount of \$44.40.” The Lodge authorized the purchase of a full set of clothes be purchased for Brother S___ including a suit, underwear, shirts, socks, shoes, etc. so that he had all new clothes to take to the Masonic Home. Other expenditures included meals and gas for two other members who drove him to Franklin, the cost “to keep” Brother S___ by a fellow member, etc. totaled \$130.67. (Minutes May 1, 1925) This along with an entry dated March 7, 1925 for \$75 for T___ S___’s care would have been a huge portion of the Lodge’s available cash funds. To show the impact, an entry on May 2, 1925 stated that a new roof was needed but was not approved because of insufficient funds. Caring for a fellow Brother was more important than a new roof.

Upcoming Events

- May 5 – Executive meeting prior to stated meeting
- May 5 – Stated Meeting, 7:30, annual cookout to follow
- May 19 – Tin Caps Baseball, 7:05 pm

- Jun 2 – Executive meeting prior to stated meeting
- Jun 2 – Stated Meeting, 7:30

- Jul 1 & 2 – Salamonie Festival Food Booth Fund Raiser
- Jul 9 – 150th Anniversary Celebration Ritual Practice – 2nd & 4th Thurs 6-8 pm