

LIGHT *Added to* LIGHT

Halloween Party Scheduled

The annual Halloween Party will be held at the Lodge on Saturday, October 29th starting at 6:00 pm. Bob Haley and his band of “ghoulish helpers” host a fun evening of games, prizes, food, a movie, and a hay ride. This is always a fun activity that is open to the public and encourages members and guests to enjoy an evening together.

Degree to be Held

A Master Mason Degree will be conferred on Thursday, November 10th at 7 pm at the Lodge. Please join us as we raise Brother A. J. Degen to a Master Mason.

Scottish Rite Convocation

The Fall Scottish Rite Convocation will be held in Ft Wayne on Saturday, November the 12th at the Mizpah Shrine across the street, Parnell, from the Ft Wayne Coliseum. Doors will open at 8 am and the first degree will be at 9 am. In 2012 the Scottish Rite Temple in downtown Ft Wayne was sold and the Scottish Rite was relocated to its present location on Lawrence Drive off Illinois Road. Starting in November, 2016, the Scottish Rite will be holding its stated meetings and other events at the Mizpah Shrine and offices will be relocated somewhere in that vicinity. If you are a Scottish Rite member and wish to attend the Convocation call the Scottish Rite Office at 260-423-2593 for reservations. If you are interested in joining Scottish Rite you can contact either Bob MacDonald at 260-224-9309 or Jay Allen at 260-403-4645.

Mason in the News

The Mason in the News for this issue is Steve Halchuck. Although Steve is a relatively new Mason and member having been raised to a MM in October of 2015, he definitely has been involved. Steve was born in Ohio and following a two year hitch in the Army in the late 60's became and over the road trucker. "My wife was originally from Huntington and I was driving for a company out of Decatur, so we relocated there which is where we still live. My wife worked at K-Mart in Huntington with Bob Shumate's wife so we socialized as couples on the weekend when I was home. I knew Bob was a Mason and that led to discussions that led me to join. I had always thought Masons were elitist, but that isn't true. I am impressed with all the different people I have met and how everyone has a different background, yet we are all the same"

Steve is very active in the Lodge helping wherever help is needed. His two most visible contributions are as one of our two chef's for meetings and special events and as our Junior Stewart. "I like to help out. I became a Mason to be

active and not to be an absentee member."

Steve always has a smile, is willing to contribute in whatever way possible, and exhibits an enthusiasm for Masonry that is contagious.

A Trip East

While on vacation in September in Massachusetts, I made arrangements to visit the Scottish Rite Headquarters in Lexington, MA. On a suggestion from Brother Steve Dooley, I called ahead to see if Sovereign Grand Commander John McNaughton would be in town and whether he would be available to meet with my wife Bonnie and I. Things worked out, and on the day we visited Brother McNaughton was gracious enough to meet us in the lobby of headquarters, briefly show us around, and then to conduct us to his office for a visit. He shared a thought with me that I had seen him write about previously in the Scottish Rite Magazine "The Northern Light". The question was "What is the most important thing in Masonry?" Well I danced around that question as best I could sharing with him all my vast knowledge of Masonry. Finally he said "It's Masons". He went on to say that we had taken an

obligation to look after and care for our fellow Masons and that when you boiled it down, some of the things we might think are significant in our individual Lodges might not be that important after all.

A Look Back In the Lodge Minutes

The most frequent public display by the local Lodge dealt with the passing of a fellow Brother. Notification was passed to all the Brothers to be present at the Lodge Hall the day of the service. "Called meeting for the funeral. The procession was formed and meandered to the Church where a Masonic Funeral Rites were conducted and then escorted the remains to the cemetery." (Minutes Aug 3, 1919). It should be noted that the Masons walked to the church, about two blocks away, in what is assumed to be full Masonic regalia. It is imagined that burial, especially for area resident would have been in the Masonic Cemetery located in Mt Etna.

Masonic Funeral Rites must have been taken very seriously since each member's death was recorded in the Minutes, and a committee formed to

write a eulogy for the departed Brother. Frequently the eulogy was read into the Minutes, and one hand written copy does exist in one of the pre-1900 Minute Books. To show how serious the Funeral Rites were, one entry brought charges against a Brother who failed to appear at one of these services. The charges were dropped when the Brother showed just cause for his absence.

Cost of Dues

The Grand Lodge Annual Communication was held in May in Indianapolis and an increase of apportionment per member by \$3.10 to \$50.05 was made. \$35.55 covers various GL's expenses and the remaining \$16.50 is for the Masonic Home. At the Mt Etna stated meeting in June, it was agreed to hold dues for 2017 at the 2016 rate of \$120. In regard to Mt Etna Lodge revenues from dues, keep in mind that all 50 year members are "Gold Card Members" and are exempted from dues for their many years of faithful membership.

Indiana Masonic Home

Mt Etna was listed in the Summer Issue of the Indiana Freemason Magazine on page 46 as being one of the Lodges in the state that has contributed to the Indiana Masonic Home Foundation during the past year.

Casual Observation

When comparing Mt Etna to other area Lodges I have visited, we are doing very well. Attendance at stated meetings averages about 20 members, plus an additional 2 or 3 visitors. We have a strong group of dedicated officers who willingly serve. The Lodge has a group of very good ritualists with the capability of presenting any of the degrees from within our own membership. We always eat well after every stated meeting and special events courtesy of Bob Haley and Steve Halchuck. Those who participate genuinely enjoy each other's company with lots of conversation, teasing, and laughter.

So what is missing? Maybe it's you. If you are not a regular attendee, live within driving distance of Mt Etna, and your schedule allows you to participate then make an effort to attend the next stated meeting or special event. I think you will find you will see some old

friends and meet some new members. You will find that Masonry is just as enjoyable today as it once was. I guarantee it! See you in Lodge.

Upcoming Events

Oct 29 – Halloween Party, 6:00 pm

Nov 3 – Stated Meeting, 7:30 pm

Nov 10 – Master Mason Degree, 7:00 pm

Nov 12 – Scottish Rite Fall Convocation, Ft Wayne

Dec 1 – Stated Meeting, 7:30 pm