

Masonic Education

The Level, Plumb and Square

We meet upon the Level, and we part upon the Square:
 What words sublimely beautiful those words Masonic are!
 They fall like strains of melody upon the listening ears,
 As they've sounded hallelujahs to the world, three thousand years
 We meet upon the Level, though from every station brought,
 The Monarch from his palace and the Laborer from his cot
 For the King must drop his dignity when knocking at our door
 And the Laborer is his equal as he walks the checkered floor.
 We act upon the Plumb,—'tis our Master's great command
 We stand upright in virtue's way and lean to neither hand
 The All-Seeing Eye that reads the heart will bear us witness true,
 That we do always honor God and give each man his due.
 We part upon the Square,—for the world must have its due,
 We mingle in the ranks of men, but keep the Secret true,
 And the influence of our gatherings in memory is green,
 And we long, upon the Level, to renew the happy scene.
 There's a world where all are equal,—we are hurrying toward it fast
 We shall meet upon the Level there when the gates of death are past
 We shall stand before the Orient and our Master will be there,
 Our works to try, our lives to prove by His unerring Square.
 We shall meet upon the Level there, but never thence depart.
 There's a mansion bright and glorious, set for the pure in heart
 Sand an everlasting welcome from the Zost rejoicing there,
 Who in this world of sloth and sin, did part upon the Square.
 Let us meet upon the Level, then, while laboring patient here
 Let us meet and let us labor, tho' the labor be severe;
 already in the Western Sky the signs bid us prepare,
 To gather up our Working Tools and part upon the Square.
 Hands round, ye royal Craftsmen in the bright, fraternal chain!
 We part upon the Square below to meet in Heaven again;
 Each tie that has been broken here shall be cemented there,
 And none be lost around the Throne who parted on the Square.
 —ROB MORRIS.

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 Jesse Riggs, PM (972-0942) Treasurer
 Dan Welch, PM (394-2172) Secretary
 Craig Feldner (426-0088) Chaplain
 Art Milbert S.D.
 Philip Phillips J.D.
 Jason Rein S.S.
 Mal Clissold J.S.
 Larry Davis, PM Tiler

Scholarship Trustees
 Philip Phillips (5 years)
 Craig Feldner (4 years)
 Jeff Ovies (3 years)
 James Newberry (2 years)
 Zell Andrews (1 year)

Jesse Riggs (3 years)
 David Moran (2 years)
 Mark Eddy (1 year)

Widows & Orphans Trustees
 Dale Pewitt (5 years)
 James Newberry (4 years)

Building Trustees
 Jeff Bailey (5 years)
 Patrick Craddock (4 years)
 Ed Atkisson (3 years)
 Bob Canaday (2 years)
 Russ Wharton (1 year)

Jul/Aug 2011

Su	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
17	SM	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	C/C	2	3	EA	5	6
7	CO	9	10	*FC	12	13
14	SM	16	17	18	19	20

SM = Stated Mtg
 CO = Commandery Mtg
 C/C = Chap/Coun. Mtg
 * = Practice-No Degree
 ME = Masonic Educ.

Committee Chairmen

Investigation
 Jesse Riggs(972-0942)

Public Relations
 Unconfirmed

Historical
 Chad Gray(972-2253)

Benevolence
 Craig Feldner(Sick/Shut Ins).....(426-0088)
 Mal Clissold (Vice-Chmn - Widows/Orphans)(397-9506)

Lecture/Masonic Education
 Philip Phillips.....(364-7912)

Events/Hospitality
 Dan Dugger(591-6966)

Ritual
 James Newberry(812-1436)

Funeral
 Dale Pewitt.....(533-6714)

Civil War
 Art Milbert(400-2225)

Fundraising/BBQ
 James Amundsen(364-4096)

Conduct
 James Amundsen(364-4096)

Financial/Budget
 Jesse Riggs(838-0929)

Building Trustee Subcommittees
 Facility Rental/Custodians
 Bob Canaday(838-1679)

501(c)3 Corporation
 Jeff Bailey(390-5970)

Building Maintenance
 Craig Feldner(426-0088)

Construction
 Ed Atkisson.....(419-4420)



HIRAM LODGE #7

Meetings

Thur., Aug 4th	6:45	Entered Apprentice Degrees (Chad Jeffers, Christian Dickson)
	6:00	Dinner
Mon., Aug 15th	7:00	Stated Meeting
	6:00	Dinner
Mon., Aug 22nd	7:00	Official Visit—K.I. Wright
	6:00	Dinner

Other Masonic/Bldg Dates

Mon., July 25th	6:00	Civil War Degree Team—MM Degree Practice
Thur., July 28th	7:00	American Legion Meeting
Tues., Aug 1st	7:00	York Rite Chapter/Council Stated Mtg
	6:00	Pot-Luck Dinner
Sat., Aug 6th	8:00a	York Rite—Past Master's Degree
	9:00a	Most Excellent Master Degree
	7:00a	Breakfast
Mon., Aug 8th	7:00	York Rite Commandery Meeting
	6:00	Pot-Luck Dinner
Tues., Aug 9th	7:30	OES Stated Meeting
	6:30	Dinner
Thur., Aug 11th	6:00	FC Degree & Lodge Opening Practice
Thur., Aug 18th	6:00	Williamson County Shrine Club Mtg
		Meeting at Logan's Roadhouse at Cool Springs Mall

Our Known Shut-Ins

Lewis Hollabaugh, PM (615) 794-5242	Jack Beldsoe's Son (Sam Bledsoe— www.samandleslie.com)
Bill Brewer (615) 337-5272	Sherrri Darnell (Jimmy Darnell's widow)
Dwight Pennington (615) 791-1674	Bobby Rutledge
Don Wingfield (615) 406-1111	Marvin Rainey

From the Lodge Room

Items discussed at Stated Meeting

Our Secretary, W. Bro. Dan Welch read a notice that our Official Visit has been scheduled for August 22nd with K.I. Wright. We have two Proficiency Card holders that will be up for renewal. Hiram received letters from two widows who attended our Widows Tea/Scholarship presentation. Additionally, we received two thank you notes from our scholarship recipients thanking us for the Widows Tea event and tour of the Lodge.

Our Chaplain, Bro. Craig Feldner reported on our sick and shut-in brethren. Jimmy Darnell's widow, Sherri has undergone treatments for breast cancer. Bro. Wayne Oglesby is a neighbor and is sending the Lodge's best wishes and assistance. Condolences were made for the loss of Bro Charlie Luttrell of Columbia Lodge. Additional information was discussed on the status of W. Bro. Bobby Rutledge, Bro. Don Wingfield and Bro. Marvin Rainey.

W. Bro. James Newberry reported on the details of the Widows Tea and the Scholarship presentations. M. W. Bro. John Palmer gave some Masonic education regarding Masonic ritual, prayer and tenets of Freemasonry.

W. Bro. Jesse Riggs gave a Treasurer's report and explained that the utility bills to date have exceeded budget estimations (\$4,400 of the \$6,400 budget remaining) due to additional telephone costs and monitoring associated with the new fire/smoke alarm monitoring. A motion was made, seconded and passed to increase the utility budget by \$2000 to cover the anticipated final utility costs.

August Birthdays

2nd Claude C. Gatlin	Guy W. Carden III
6th William T. Depriest	14th M. Dennis Bush
Benjamin J. Enos	15th Rodney (Pookie) Dreblow
7th Ed Steinhauser	16th Thomas Eugene Burch
8th Steven J. Baker	Eddie Lee Fly
9th S. Tyler Farrer	23rd Ben H. Jeffries
10th Peter A. Cassidy	25th Kendal Alan Marcy
Everett P. Henry	27th George O. McClellan
11th Elmer L. Boswell	29th Shane Kelvin McNeil

**If we have missed your birthday, please email the WM so that we can update our records.

From The East

An article was given to me by Bro. Nick Gatlin, titled "Whither Are We Traveling?" which was written by Bro. Dwight L. Smith, PGM almost 50 years ago. Several of Bro. Smith's points are as relevant today as they were when he wrote this paper. This month, I would like to share with you one section that was particularly striking...

"An old legend which comes to us from the Napoleonic Wars tells of a youth, too young to fight, who was permitted to carry the regimental banner. During one bitter engagement his unit was advancing on the enemy under heavy fire. In his youthful zeal the boy went so far ahead of the regiment that he was almost out of contact. The commanding officer sent a runner bearing the message, 'Bring the standard back to the line.' With heroic recklessness the lad sent back the ringing reply, 'Bring the line up to the standard.'

In the United States today, politicians like to refer to the present age as the 'Century of the Common Man.' Even though no man considers himself common and every man desires mightily that his sons be uncommon men, it does make a good vote-catching phrase. Trouble is, in our solicitous concern for the Common Man, we overlook an important principle of applied psychology. Too much emphasis on common men and common things can serve to make common that which should be uncommon. There is evidence today what might be called, for lack of a better term, a Masonic Gresham's Law. Under its operations we are not thrilled with the sight of the line being brought up to the standard; instead, we witness the sad spectacle of the standard being dragged back to the line.

Whether we like it or not, let's face it. The trend is in the direction of altering the pattern to fit the cloth. It has left its mark on every Lodge in Indiana, large and small. In bringing the subject out into the open, I am not merely unburdening myself of a personal irritation—I am only putting into print what has been whispered in my ear on countless occasions these last 15 years.

When we cease to set a lofty mark and expect our Brethren to measure up to it, when we permit a downward adjustment to conform to practices and manners that are casual and lax and crude, we are dealing our beloved fraternity a double blow: **First, a blow from without.** Certainly, we must not expect to retain the prestige the Craft has enjoyed in the past if we can lift our sights no higher than the bowling lanes, the drive-in hamburger stand, the picnic grounds.

Second, a blow from within. Will not men respect and venerate Freemasonry more if they know there are certain rules of gentility—of behavior, of dress, of speech and decorum—which they are expected to observe?"

Gentlemen, I feel that we all have tremendous gifts, time and talent that we have to offer Freemasonry. We, only as a group, have the opportunity to "bring the line up to the Standard [of true Freemasonry]." However, we must start by remembering our oaths and obligations that we swore to uphold. Too often our society seeks to criticize and tear down our fellow man. If we choose to raise the bar of what it means to be a Mason, we have the chance to change our lives, our community and our Country.

I welcome your thoughts, comments and suggestions on this topic.

Fraternally and with Most Kind Regards,
Russ Wharton, WM

Old Business—Call for Assistance

BICENTENNIAL BOOK SUBMITTALS

Brethren—The March 21st deadline for submittals for the Bicentennial Book has long since passed. However, we are still lacking several pieces to complete this historical account of Hiram Lodge.

I implore you to please help in this process. If you are behind in submitting your information—please do so ASAP!!

Some of the following material for the Lodge's Bicentennial Book: (1) Outstanding biographies of Past Masters; (2) text/photos relevant to past ten years of Lodge activity; (3) text/photos relevant to Lodge membership participation in conduct of "civil war degrees" and enactments; and (4) details of recent renovations of Masonic Hall. E-mail submittal to Brother John Sylva is preferred - jsylva6@msn.com. If assistance is desired, call him at 615-591-3316. It would be appreciated if any close friends of recently departed PMs Robert C. Bartlett, James D. Jones, Robert L. Carter, Thomas L. Hightower, Floyd Moss or Charles F. Berry would care to submit anything regarding them.

Russ Wharton, WM

(continued)