



Union Masonic Lodge #618, A.F. & A.M.

Comments

Special points of interest:

- Comments
- Facilities and Maintenance Activity

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Secretary: (1) Since our last newsletter, copies of the updated (to January 1, 2012) The Code have been made available by the Grand Lodge, and we have some copies for sale to interested brothers for \$15 each. [The Code also can be referenced online at <http://grandlodge-nc.org/themasonicCode>]

Additionally the Grand Lodge has published and is currently making available a new Masonic Funerals Manual (not sure of the exact title). When we receive our copy of those being distributed to the lodg-

es, the brethren will be able to review the contents and decide if any of them are interested in purchasing a copy. I think these will be sold for \$10, but I have not yet seen a price list. (2) There has been almost no donation activity in our Contingencies Fund Program for the past several months. This is not to be taken as a criticism of any kind; I just wanted to remind everyone of the existence of this program that could permit participation by those otherwise unable to participate in Lodge activity, other than with monetarily. Five levels of participation are

available with name recognition on a plaque in the Fellowship Hall. If you need more details, dig out the announcement letter that was sent out last August, or contact the Secretary. This program has been a big help already in addressing the repair of the roof on our Masonic Temple. Also one never knows when we will have A/C or Heating plant problems, etc. Please reconsider your ability to participate, and help your Lodge be prepared.

Facilities and Maintenance Activity

The onset of hot weather has made work on the roof very difficult, and there has been no activity since the last newsletter when

it was reported that about half of the screws had been replaced.

Upcoming events of interest

June 24—Knights of Solomon Lodge, Dave Harmon Memorial Charity Ride

**June 28—MM Degree.
7:30 degree work, 6:30**

supper. Please mark your calendars. Remember that as usual, a lot of “brother power” will be needed.

**Degree work practices—
6/19, 6/21, and 6/25 at 7:30.**

July 9—Monthly stated communication.

June Birthdays (by age)

AGE / BIRTH DATE REPORT (sorted by current age)

Age Birth Date Name

86 06/17/1925 CARL B. MOORE JR

79 06/17/1932 WILLIAM T. JOHNSON

67 06/06/1945 CLAUDE H. HELMS

63 06/23/1948 RICHARD F. THORNBURG

51 06/03/1961 ROBERT A. BURGESS JR

46 06/14/1965 JAMES W. BENNETT JR

45 06/24/1966 THOMAS B. HILL

25 06/30/1986 EDWARD C. DAVIS IV

Happenings at the June stated

The WM presented one 25-year service award and one 50-year Veteran award. Present to receive these awards were Brother Leroy McManus and Brother Cladwell Parmer Hatley, respectively. Two other brothers —Ambrose Arthur Purser and Bernie Franklin Whitley,

Jr.—were unable to be present to receive their 25-year awards.

This year’s Charities Golf Tournament will be late September or early October, and Brother Ron Harkey needs a lot of worker and contributor support to make this a success.

The Ladies Night Banquet is scheduled for October 6th. Other details will be available at the next stated.

Brother Vinnie D’Andrea presented a very informative Masonic Education talk about often-misused Masonic terms.

July Birthdays

AGE / BIRTH DATE REPORT (sorted by current age)

Age Birth Date Name

74 07/29/1937 ROBERT F. SHINN

71 07/24/1940 NEIL C. DUNN

69 07/19/1942 STEPHEN A. WHITE

66 07/07/1945 BERNIE L. PENCE

61 07/19/1950 DONALD T. HILL

52 07/09/1959 JAMES K. HODGE

50 07/05/1961 JEFFREY M. BRADLEY

49 07/17/1962 STANLEY W. DRYE

48 07/22/1963 CHARLES K. FURR

47 07/06/1964 KENNETH J. KIKER

47 07/28/1964 JOHN E. MILLS

44 07/08/1967 BRIAN K. KNOX

43 07/08/1968 ANTHONY W. WILLIAMS

Of Masonic Interest

[From MasonsofTexas.com]

Is our Fraternity just a little too common?

Thoughts about the fraternity from the 19th Century-----

A real Freemason is distinguished from the rest of Mankind by the uniform unrestricted rectitude of his conduct. Other men are honest in fear of punishment which the law might inflict; they are religious in expectation of being rewarded, or in dread of the devil in the next world. A Freemason would be just if there were no laws, human or divine except those written in his heart by the finger of his Creator. In every climate, under every system of religion, he is the same. He kneels before the Universal Throne of God in gratitude for the blessing he has received and humble solicitation for his future protection. He venerates the good men of all religions. He gives no offense, because he does not choose to be offended. He contracts no debts which he is certain he cannot discharge, because he is honest upon principle."

— The Farmer's Almanac, 1823

Are we ashamed today to think that our fraternity is an elite organization? Or, perhaps, we do not believe that it is!

We have high standards; admit no one who is not moral, upright before God and of good repute before the world. We do "good works" throughout the United States that are worth billions of dollars. The secret is that it is okay to be elite; but we should not be elitist. Elite is to have high standards; elitist is to consider yourself better than everyone else and to let them know it.

To be an elite organization requires constant effort. It can never be satisfied with the status quo; the standards can always be lifted.

Masonic meetings are places of learning, a fostering of ideas, and the lodge is a sanctuary for nurturing and developing friendship. It is where we go to celebrate our brotherhood. In the 18th Century, Benjamin Franklin, Voltaire, Mozart all joined a Masonic Lodge to be with gentlemen who would debate the great questions of the day.

We must understand who we are and the road we've traveled. The philosophy of Masonry required centuries to develop and should be understood and venerated by all members of the fraternity.

Each lodge should have high standards. We need to foster the joys of gentlemanly behavior. Not phony gentlemanliness, but genuine fraternal good behavior. Consequently, at times, it may be necessary to give good counsel to a brother. This can be difficult, especially when it is misunderstood as criticism.

As gentlemen, we should advocate a minimum standard of dress. When initiating, passing and raising a candidate, think of just how important an event that new man will consider it to be if the entire lodge membership looks first-class and is dressed for the occasion.

Good behavior is essential. We should not allow rude, coarse behavior among Masons. There was an Internet discussion recently regarding whether a brother, who showed up at a funeral home in jeans and a golf shirt to perform the solemn Masonic funeral service, should have been excluded. It should not be necessary to even discuss proper dress at a funeral, and it is sad that lodge members would condone such a lack of respect to a deceased brother and his family.

One may rationalize that society is more casual now. And some would add that it is "the internal, not the external qualifications of a man that Masonry regards." (continued on p4)

(continued from p3)

We also say that our providence is to make good men better. If we are to polish the rough ashlar into a perfect one then we must conduct ourselves as the BEST men in society.

I have previously written that the Masonic fraternity is “out of step” with current society because we have higher standards. In other words, we should not lower ourselves to the behavior of the common group. If we are to be elite, when the world around us is rude and common, it should be our stated purpose to improve that world by improving men.

In Europe, Freemasonry is taken seriously because Freemasons take themselves seriously. We should also feel that our fraternity is solemn, noble, exclusive, dignified and special.

I am not advocating that our lodges should be stern, joyless places of strict, dreary ritualists. Not at all! A lodge should be, first and foremost, a place of brotherhood, of friendships, and close personal bonds. It is not a degree mill to be opened, closed and fled.

The degrees of Masonry should be formal, sincere, instructive and enlightening.

The business meeting should be brief.

The Feast, Philosophy and Fellowship should be the centerpiece.

Source: M.W. James T. McWain

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A.F.&A.M.**

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MAKING GOOD MEN BETTER.

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**Send any constructive criticisms or
comments to
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***Don't forget to pass the word around that our Fellowship Hall
is available to rent. Provide any interested party the mobile
phone number for WB Darrell Cline, who manages all of the
reservations. (704) 791-9470***

