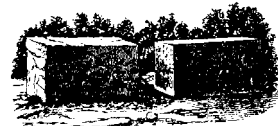




In the Quarries



The Batesburg-Leesville Masonic Lodge Newsletter

December 2004

Volume 6, Issue 2

From the East

Brothers, the year is almost over, and it has really flown by. I have enjoyed my time in the East this year, and I look forward to serving the lodge in the best way I can next year. I want to thank everyone who has helped make my job easier this year. I especially want to thank all of the brethren who made the Annual Ladies Night a success. We could not have done it without your assistance.

Even though 2004 is winding down, we still have some work before us. On December 2, members of B-L 138 helped to install the officers at Elmore Lodge in Pelion. On Saturday, December 11, we will have a 3rd degree put on by Past Masters of B-L 138, with four brothers being raised. Three days after that degree, at our regular business meeting, we will be receiving a visit from SC Grand Master, MW Brother Jack Marler. Then on Friday, December 17, we will be assembling our annual Christmas fruit baskets which will distribute on Saturday, December 18.

I hope to see you at some or all of these upcoming events. It would be great to have a full lodge for the Grand Masters visit.

Finally, let us all remember those who are less fortunate during the holiday seasons. Let us each recall the words: "Every human being has a claim upon your kind offices. Do good unto all."

Thank you all, and Merry Christmas.

Carlton Clary, Worshipful Master

From the Secretary's Desk:

Brethren - don't forget! Dues are due and payable prior to December 31.

Nothing new, no new programs, and the same for the Lodge's history. Remember, your dues card is your passport in Masonic membership, so keep it up-to-date. If you move, either temporarily or permanently, please let the Lodge know.

Also remember, if we can't find you, then neither can the Post Office. Update your address, phone number, and email addresses and then we don't need to employ a mind reader when trying to find you.

Please attend the annual meeting on December 14 for election and installation of officers. Also, when asked to assist, do it willingly - your officers always need you to keep the machine running smoothly.

Finally, please remember December 11, and be there at the Lodge at 7:30 a.m. for breakfast and 9:00 a.m. for a Master Mason's degree. Here is a great chance to demonstrate for the new brethren that we are united and dedicated to the principles we talk about. I thank the members of the Lodge for their support and assistance and pray that you will support the new corps of officers in every endeavor.

Fraternally, David M. Lantz

Important Note

Most Worshipful Brother Jack A. Marler, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of South Carolina will be paying a visit to Batesburg-Leesville Lodge #138 at our regular communication on December 14. Come out and help us welcome our distinguished guest(s).

Lodge Improvement Day Held Sept 4

On Saturday, September 4th, a handful of brothers and members of their families gathered at the lodge for a day of work and lodge improvements. Their efforts focused on many outdoor improvements to prepare for the barbecue, and some indoor preparations as well. Participants were involved in cutting the grass, weed-eating, painting, and pressure washing. We also cleaned out the front flower beds, installed landscape cloth, put in some new mulch, and added a few plants, and we removed the top Square and Compasses for a little rejuvenation. Since that time, a few other improvements have been made, including the painting of the outer stairs. A "thank you" goes out to everyone who helped to make the lodge look a little better for our many barbecue guests.

Annual Barbecue Fundraiser a Success



This year's barbecue was held on a beautiful Saturday, September 11, although food preparation started early the day before. Over 1400 tickets were sold during the weeks prior to the barbecue and on the day of the event. A job well done goes to everyone who helped sell tickets, cook & sauce chickens, and assemble plates. Because of our annual barbecue fundraiser, we were able to add over \$3000 to our benevolent/charitable fund to be used for future relief. A huge "THANK YOU" goes directly to Brother Walter Smith for the many hours he put in getting everything ready for such a huge event.

The Trestleboard

- Dec 5 Practice for 3rd Degree - 5:30 p.m.
- Dec 11 3rd Degree put on by B-L Past Masters - Breakfast @ 7:30 a.m.
- Dec 14 Regular Communication - Elections & Visit from Grand Master
- Dec 17 Assemble Christmas Baskets
- Dec 18 Deliver Christmas Baskets
- Jan 11 Regular Communication
- Jan 22 8th & 10th District Instructional -11:00 a.m. at the Columbia Scottish Rite Center
- Feb 8 Regular Communication

This info is current, as of December 1st. For the most up-to-date info and dates, see the website at www.mastermason.com/BL138

Saturday Breakfast/Fellowcraft – Sept 18

On a crisp Saturday morning in September, 27 brothers gathered at the lodge to help pass four brothers to the degree of Fellowcraft. After a wonderful breakfast of sausage, biscuits, grits, and eggs, we all headed upstairs for a second degree for Brothers Josh Koon, Tim Koon Jr., Brandon Long, and Jimmy Lucas. The lecture was delivered in dramatic fashion by RW Brother Dave Lantz. Also in attendance at this special Saturday degree were Deputy Grand Master, RW Brother Ron Mitchum and Junior Grand Warden, RW Brother Barry Rickman. It was a great day for fellowship and for moving brothers on their journey.



Ladies Night Enjoyed by All

On Saturday, November 13, over 75 Masons, wives, widows, and family members ventured out into the cool evening to enjoy the annual Ladies Night held at the Activities Building of B-L Presbyterian Church. While everyone was able to fellowship throughout the evening, there were certainly a few highlights that stood out. At 7:30 the meal was served which was fantastic - a salad, prime rib, baked potato, and roll



courtesy of Gregg Long and family. While everyone was dining, we were treated to Scottish bagpipe music, stories, and jokes courtesy of the Reverend Ed Wilkes of Lexington. Then after the meal, awards were given out to 25-year, 40-year, and 50-year Masons who were present. Brother William

Wesberry received recognition for his 40 years as a Mason and brother James I. Spence received recognition for 50 years in the craft. The group also recognized Brother Frank Bledsoe and his wife Sam in honor of their 50th wedding anniversary. The night ended with the door prizes for the ladies. A great time was had by all, and we are already looking forward to next year's event.

Brother Jim Doebler, Newest Affiliate

Batesburg-Leesville #138 is happy to introduce our newest affiliate, Brother Jim Doebler. Jim is originally from Aiken Lodge #156, and was first invited to attend our lodge by Brother Frank Bledsoe (they attend the same church). Brother Jim has been working out in Arizona since September and we look forward to seeing him in the lodge when he returns!

New Plants Added to Lodge

If you have driven by the lodge recently, you should have noticed that we now have a veritable garden in the old barren flower beds up front. The beds include evergreen plants such as juniper, azalea, camellia, acuba, Chinese mahonia, and will feature others very soon. Many of the plants came from Appletree Landscaping & Garden Center located at 5466 Bush River Road in Columbia. Appletree is run by Brother Marion Smith, and he was kind enough to give our lodge a 20% discount on all plants purchased from Appletree. A special thanks goes out to Mrs. Sheryl Bickley and Mrs. Georgia Horrocks (wife & mother-in-law of Brother Seth Bickley) for their help in making us look good to all passers-by.



Not One Person

by Brother Dan Weatherington

Not one person ever joined Masonry because George Washington was a Mason.

Not one person ever joined Masonry because Harry Truman was a Mason.

Not one person ever joined because of any of our great Masonic heroes.

Joining doesn't make you any of those people.

Not one person ever joined in order to give a million dollars a day to charity, or homes, or crippled children. You don't have to be a member to give money.

Not one person ever joined because our ritual is outstanding, or our minutes are accurate, or a hundred other things we worry about. They don't know about our ritual.

They joined because someone they knew and admired was a Mason. It could have been a father, a friend, a man down the street, or someone 1,000 miles away. Who, it didn't matter. They admired him and wanted to do the things he did, and they did it by the millions.

Want to help our growth? Be the kind of man someone admires. Someone will notice.

The above is reprinted from the Masonic e-mail journal Cinosani, originally published in the quarterly Newsletter of Anniversary Lodge of Research No. 175, New Hampshire.

Happy Holidays!

If you have any info for a future issue, please contact Dave Lantz, 604-0938 or Seth Bickley, 892-6174, or email any news, information, dates, and/or pictures to BandLLodge@pbtcomm.net. Better yet, tell us face-to-face at a lodge meeting. We'd love to see you there.

The Slate

Worshipful Master	Carlton Clary	892-6460
Senior Warden.....	Ronnie Siegler	532-2547
Junior Warden.....	Ronald Norris	532-7825
Secretary.....	David M. Lantz.....	604-0938
Treasurer.....	Marvin Epting	532-5143
Senior Deacon	Al Niver	359-2137
Junior Deacon	Chris Long	532-2943