

Trestleboard

A.F. & A.M. - Batavia, Illinois - Chartered 1864

Mar. - April 2004



From the East...

GREETINGS FROM THE EAST!

I have learned a lot in the four months that I have been Master. It's been a lot of work. I'm still learning my ritual. I'm going to keep on plugging!

I can tell you in four months I have grown as a Mason. Some of the things that scared me at the beginning, such as opening and closing the lodge, don't scare me now.

Being the Master is very rewarding. I've had the privilege to have four Entered Apprentices going in who are very excited about learning the craft. They've even helped on breakfasts and gone to funerals. They're ready to be Master Masons. By the time this Trestleboard is sent, these four plus the five other Entered Apprentices from our neighboring Lodges will have gone

thru the Blue Lightening. These men should be proud!

In the coming months I plan on getting back to learning about famous Masons. I hope this will interest you. I also hope to get a Cougar's baseball outing together and Past Master's Dinner. We have things to look forward to!

Before that happens, we have a March 22nd date with the District Deputy as well as Ritual Competition. Brethren, won't you try to attend to help us do a good job?

One of our brothers, John Donaldson, went to that house not made with hands. He will be missed for his quiet unassuming support. I'm glad I got to meet him!

Until next time, come see us at lodge. Our communications in the Trestleboard aren't frequent enough!

Curt Morrison
Worshipful Master

From the West...

Last time, I asked "What do you want from OUR Lodge?" Since then, I have received some interesting ideas and a lot of support! Thanks to all the brethren who responded!



Now I ask, "What is the purpose of Masonry"?

Is it the philanthropic endeavors of our Fraternity?

Is it the working and retainment of our Ritual?

Is it the Fellowship we have within our Fraternity?

Is it to support and reinforce the Moral teaching of our Faiths?

Is it a Mystical system of learning tracing its roots to the mystery schools of antiquity?

Is it all of the above?

Or are they all by products of the true purpose and goals of our Fraternity? Which is making good men better!



Congratulations to our new Brothers who were passed and raised at the Blue Lightening held on February 28th. We had 2 from Geneva: Johnny M. Francisco and Robert W. Giertz. Two from Dundee: Robert Ballau and Edward E. Emerson. Four from Batavia: Joseph A. Blessing, Neal J. Conde III, John S. Duros and Timothy L. Hoehn. Two from Cary-Grove: Donald R. Brewer and Dale K. Ingersoll. Welcome to our fraternity!

The Charity teaches us to work for the good of others.

The Fellowship shows us we are not alone.

The Ritual strengthens our mind and sharpens our memory.

The Floor work exercises our control over our bodies.

The Search for our beginnings stretches our imagination of the possibilities.

This all adds up to becoming better men which build a better society. So I ask again, "What is our goal as Masons?" Or are the goals of Masonry as varied as the organizations under the umbrella of our Fraternity. Or are the goals different for every Brother? Let me know what YOU think!

Sincerely and Fraternally,
Edward Steffy, S. W.

From the South...

OR MAYBE LEFT FIELD

We take an oath to never reveal any of the HIDDEN mysteries of Ancient Free Masonry, but that does not mean we have to keep our families in the dark about our Fraternity. We are asked what induced us to become Master Masons, and respond with To contribute to the relief of worthy distressed Brother Master Masons, their Widows and orphans. If our families do not know what Masonry is all about, or do not know whom our Brothers and their families are, how can we contribute to their relief? How do they know whom to talk to if they need help? Can you name the wives or children of more than six brothers out of our 140 members? Does your family know the names of at least six brothers? If we want our fraternity to grow, we must get the word out as to whom we are. And I think we should



start at home.

Here are a couple of questions I heard from our new brothers after the Blue Lightning we held on February 28. What can I tell my wife and family? How can my wife get more involved in Masonry? Are there any other wives that are involved in Blue Lodge functions? Are there any functions that my family can participate in? Yes, we have Appended Bodies that have social functions. But shouldn't we get our families involved at the root, The Blue Lodge? Our families will spread the Word, better than we could ever hope to.

The statements above are my own, and have not been endorsed by any other brother in our fraternity. If you have questions, comments, or suggestions, please come to one of our stated meetings and voice your opinion.

Daniel F. Jones Sr.
Junior Warden

From the Secretary...

Since the last newsletter 3 Brothers received their 50 year pins. WPM Thomas Anderson, Brother Donald Carlstedt and Brother Scotty McLain. WPM Homer Terry received his 60 year pin.



If all goes well, by the time this letter is published, we will have raised 4 new Master Masons.

As always we still have members who have not paid their 2004 dues. In fact, there are 8 of you. They are due on December 31 of each year in advance. PLEASE REMIT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!!!

February 23rd we had a program by Bro. Steinbach on Dr. Bucher, a member of our Lodge 404 and 73 which dates back to 1849. It was very interesting. So you see Brethren, we are trying to make our regular meet-

ings interesting other than paying bills and having refreshments. Please join us on the 2nd and 4th Monday's

Harold A. Hall
Secretary

From The Picnic Committee.....

It is getting that time of year again to start thinking about our annual Batavia Lodge/Eastern Star combined picnic. We need input from all of our families!!!

We would like to get an idea of the ages of people that might be attending so we can buy appropriate game prizes and have suitable games for each age group. We also need input as to some ideas for games for different ages. This is your picnic and should have your input into what we do. Please give this info to either Dan or Vicki Jones 630-896-3613 or to any Batavia Lodge Officer or Eastern Star Officer and they will get it to us. More info will follow as to date and time. Thank you for your help.



On February 26th at Grand Lodge School held at Geneva Lodge No. 139, seven ruffians from Batavia Lodge No. 404 stole the Traveling Trophy from Geneva. On February 28th at the Blue Lightning held at Batavia Lodge No. 404, seven thugs masquerading as worthy brothers to help us with the Blue Lightning stole the traveling trophy back to Geneva Lodge No. 139

Calendar of Events

March 8	Batavia Lodge #404 stated meeting		
March 8	Elgin Lodge #117 - Official Visit		Geneva
March 9	Blackberry Lodge #359 - Official Visit		Elburn
March 9	Eastern Star #265		Batavia
March 13	Master and Warden's Breakfast	7:00 a.m.	Geneva
	— Colonial Restaurant		
March 13	Lay Cornerstone — New Children's Home		Murphysboro
March 15	Eastern Star #952		Geneva
March 16	Geneva Lodge #139 stated meeting		
March 18	Dundee Lodge #190 stated meeting		
March 18	Unity Lodge #48 stated meeting		Geneva
March 21	Geneva's Past Master's Dinner	5:00 p.m.	
March 22	Batavia Lodge #404 - Official Visit		
March 23	Eastern Star #265 Exchange Night with Geneva		Batavia
March 28	Pancake Breakfast	7:30 a.m. –12:30 p.m.	Batavia
March 30	Grand Lodge School of Instruction Blackberry	7:00 p.m.	Elburn
April 1	Dundee Lodge #190 stated meeting		
April 1	Unity Lodge #48 stated meeting		
April 5	Eastern Star #952 Exchange Night with Batavia		Geneva
April 6	Geneva Lodge #139 stated meeting		
April 10	Master & Warden's Breakfast	7:00 a.m.	Geneva
	— Colonial Restaurant		
April 12	Batavia Lodge #404 stated meeting		
April 12	Elgin Lodge #117 stated meeting		
April 13	Blackberry Lodge #359 stated meeting		Elburn
April 13	Eastern Star #265		Batavia
April 15	Dundee Lodge #190 stated meeting		
April 15	Unity Lodge #48 stated meeting		
April 19	Eastern Star #952		Geneva
April 20	Geneva Lodge #139 stated meeting		
April 25	Pancake Breakfast	7:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.	Batavia
April 26	Batavia Lodge #404 stated meeting		
April 27	Eastern Star #265		Batavia
April 29	Standard Club – Unity	7:00 p.m.	Geneva
May 1	Grand Master's Festival	8:00 a.m.	Chicago
	— Scottish Rite Cathedral		
May 3	Eastern Star #952		Geneva
May 4	Geneva Lodge #139 stated meeting		
May 6	Dundee Lodge #190 stated meeting		
May 6	Unity Lodge #48 stated meeting		
May 8	Master & Warden's Breakfast	7:00 a.m.	Geneva
	— Colonial Restaurant		
May 10	Batavia Lodge #404 stated meeting		
May 10	Elgin Lodge #117 stated meeting		
May 11	Eastern Star #265 Honoring Mothers		Batavia
May 11	Blackberry Lodge #359 stated meeting		Elburn

ALL STATED MEETINGS – 7:30 P.M. – ALL EASTERN STAR – 8 P.M.