

Trestleboard

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

August - October 2004



From the East...

Greetings Brethren!

I hope your summer is going nicely. We just had our Annual Mason / Eastern Star picnic. It was very nice. Dan and Vicki Jones were in charge. They did a great job getting it organized. If you have had the opportunity to be in charge of something, it is a thankless job. All the little things that you need to get and you hope people will attend. You worry that your games for the kids will be fun and do you have enough food? Thank you for putting on the picnic Dan and Vicki. Thank you brethren and Eastern Star members for your help and support.

My family and I had many worries early this summer. My dad found out he had a baseball size tumor on his kidney. The kidney needed to come out as soon as possible. May 20th dad got

his kidney out. My dad was ok! All the cancer was removed. I believe God heard all the prayers from the family and from the brethren. Thank-you for all your support!!

Of course, Batavia Masonic Lodge #404 had meetings when dad was recovering. I had to step aside to help my Dad and Mom. My Senior Warden stepped in to the Master's seat. Ed Steffy was hoping to be Master this November. He has gotten an early jump on it. Ed has been great! He has filled in admirably. I am so proud to call Ed a brother and a friend! The rest of the officers have been very supportive too. I am proud to call all the brethren at Batavia Masonic Lodge #404 brothers as well. Thank-you!

We will be going dark July 12th. This year however we have candidates getting degrees. We will possibly have a 1st and 2nd and 3rd degrees coming up. We will try to keep you informed of the degrees and the dates and times

when we will put them on. Until then if you can help us with degree work, let us know.

Curt Morrison
Worshipful Master

From the West...



Hello Brethren,

It's been a busy time since I last wrote. We have 8 new members from the festival in May, a fellowcraft, and 2 apprentices! I think we can all agree Curt is THE Master of Lodge Growth!

We also had a swim party for the kids at the Children's Home and a picnic with the Eastern Star. And it doesn't seem to end when we go dark, as we will probably have some special meetings to confer Degrees. If you know any of the parts in our degree work, please get in touch and let us know. It's always nice to have a slate from Batavia!

It also looks like we will achieve the Grand Masters Award of Excellence for the 6th year in a row! I can't wait to see you at the Breakfasts which start again in September, or maybe at a degree in our Lodge before then. Call me if you can help or want to be a sidliner at (630) 761-0865.

Happy Trails,
Edward Steffy
Senior Warden



Cast from the June 21st play, *Friar Jacques and the Patron Saints*: (L to R) Ed Steffy, Tom Anderson, Daniel Jones Sr., Dustin Feldman, Joe Blessing, Vicki Jones, Wayne Funk, Hugh Cole, and Dick Daly

From the South...

We have had a great year in bringing in new candidates. I would like to thank all of you who have signed up a new Mason. But what are we doing for our new brothers?

I am trying to learn to subdue my passions and improve myself in Masonry, but I have a problem. It takes more than our impressive ceremonies to teach them the mysteries of Freemasonry. They cannot absorb it all in three days. We learn the meaning of Masonry through repetition over time. I am not just talking about our ritual, I am talking about how to work and live as a Mason.

When you bring in a new candidate, you are assuming a responsibility to see that they have the opportunity to become a better man. When was the last time you called one of our new brothers, and asked him to join you at the lodge for one of our meetings? If all of our new brothers would join us at a meeting, we would have a minimum of 25 Masons at every meeting.

Do they know who our officers are and what their duties consist of? Do they recognize our jewels and symbols

and understand their meaning? Do you? We took an oath of friendship and brotherly love. But can we fulfill this oath without meeting and talking to our new brethren? I think not. The understanding of our symbols and our rituals is more important than the memorization of the work. We are supposed to be the greatest fraternity the world has ever known. What binds us together is our obligation. Without our obligations, we might as well just join a bowling league. At least we would see our brothers once a week for 13 weeks.

What are you doing the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month? And to the officers of Batavia Lodge #404, what are your duties, and what do they mean to you?

Daniel F. Jones Sr.
Junior Warden

From the Secretary...

Hi to all!!!

There are still 3 members who have not paid their 2004 dues: 1 in Batavia, 1 in Yorkville and 1 in PA. Please remit.



Since the last news letter Bros. Charles Schrader, Richard Markuson and Harold Hall have received their 50 year pins and certificates.

The Swim Party at Hall Quarry Beach was held July 8th, finally. We had 39 kids and adults from the Illinois Masonic Children's Home. We would like to thank all who donated money and supplies and those that helped that day. All the kids thanked us for the pool party, it was the best.

Are you interested in getting in line? Bro Ed Steffy will be looking for help soon!!

Last but not least, if you are thinking of changing your will, please think of your Lodge. We need to increase our Endowment Fund.

Harold A. Hall
Secretary

Annual Masonic - Star Family Picnic JUST A NOTE . . .

Thanks to everyone who helped with this years Masons/Star picnic. We saw alot of familiar faces. The best surprise though was seeing Bob and Vicki Snipes, who rode their motorcycle from Rockford. Glad you came to see us! Maybe next year we will get to see more of you.

We would like some input from the membership. Please let us know what we can do for next year to get you to attend. Send suggestions to :

Dan & Vicki Jones
766 Crestwood Dr.
Aurora, IL 60506

Thanks Again!



Annual Star / Masonic Picnic - The adults are trying to stay dry in the balloon toss.

Calendar of Events

- Aug 9 Elgin Lodge #117 Stated Meeting
- Aug 10 Blackberry Lodge #359 Stated Meeting
- Aug 11 First Degree - 7:00 p.m. - Batavia**
- Aug 15 Mendota Parade
- Aug 16 Eastern Star #952 - Geneva
- Aug 17 Geneva Lodge #139 Stated Meeting
- Aug 19 Dundee Lodge #190 Stated Meeting
- Aug 19 Unity Lodge #48 Stated Meeting
- Aug 20 Elburn Days Parade
- Aug 21 Medinah Family Picnic - Elk Grove Village
- Aug 23 Batavia Lodge #404 Stated Meeting
- Aug 24 Eastern Star #265 - Batavia
- Aug 30 Third Degree - 7:00 p.m. - Batavia**
- Sept 2 Dundee Lodge #190 Stated Meeting
- Sept 2 Unity Lodge #48 Stated Meeting
- Sept 6 Labor Day Parade - Naperville
- Sept 7 Geneva Lodge #139 Stated Meeting
- Sept 11 Fox Valley Shrine Club Golf Outing - Bliss Creek (formerly Prestbury Golf Course)
- Sept 13 Batavia Lodge #404 Stated Meeting & Special Election**
- Sept 13 Scrapbook Night for Wives and Friends - Dessert to follow**
- Sept 13 Elgin Lodge #117 Stated Meeting
- Sept 14 Eastern Star #265 - Batavia
- Sept 14 Blackberry Lodge #359 Stated Meeting
- Sept 16 Dundee Lodge #190 Stated Meeting
- Sept 20 Eastern Star #952 - Geneva
- Sept 21 Geneva Lodge #139 Stated Meeting
- Sept 26 Guy P. Vance Scholarship Breakfast & Blood Drive**
- Sept 27 Batavia Lodge #404 Stated Meeting
- Sept 28 Eastern Star #265 - Batavia
- Oct 4 Eastern Star #952 - Geneva
- Oct 5 Geneva Lodge #139 Stated Meeting
- Oct 7 Dundee Lodge #190 Stated Meeting
- Oct 7 Unity Lodge #48 Stated Meeting
- Oct 11 Batavia Lodge #404 - Election of Officers**
- Oct 11 Elgin Lodge #117 Stated Meeting
- Oct 12 Eastern Star #265 - Memorial Service (Formal) - Batavia
- Oct 12 Blackberry Lodge #359 Stated Meeting
- Oct 18 Eastern Star #952 - Geneva
- Oct 19 Geneva Lodge #139 Stated Meeting
- Oct 21 Dundee Lodge #190 Stated Meeting
- Oct 21 Unity Lodge #48 Stated Meeting
- Oct 25 Batavia Lodge #404 Stated Meeting
- Oct 26 Eastern Star #265 - Batavia -(Worthy Matron/Worthy Patron night)
- Oct 27 Batavia Shriner's Beef Tenderloin Dinner
- Oct 31 Sycamore Pumpkin Festival Parade
- Oct 31 Batavia Pancake Breakfast (wear your costumes)**

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

- Oct 5-6 Grand Chapter of Illinois - Springfield**
- Oct 8-9 Grand Lodge of Illinois - Springfield**



The kids were pretty good at balancing golf balls on their spoons. They had a lot of fun.

Family Scrapbook Night

We had such a great response from the ladies on our last scrapbook night in April, that we are having another.

It will be Monday, September 13 at 7:30 p.m. in conjunction with the Stated Meeting and Special Election. Dessert will follow for all.

The cost will be \$5.00 to cover supplies. Please bring 5-10 photos. We will be making 1-2 pages for you to take home along with a special project.

R.S.V.P. to Dawn Hoehn 892-5867. I will need to know how many will be attending so that I have plenty of supplies on hand.

Batavia Library Display

Come check out our spectacular display at the Batavia Public Library! This very informative display highlights all the aspects of our own Batavia Lodge and what it is to be a Mason. Our library committee did a great job pulling everything together! Thanks to Wayne Funk, Dick Kenneavy, and Dan Jones. Thanks also to Dawn Hoehn for lending a creative eye.