

The Trestleboard

A Monthly Newsletter from Urania Lodge #311



102 East Main Street Main City, Ohio 43064

July 2007

From the East:

I hope that this newsletter finds you are well and in good health. It has been some time since we've been able to publish a newsletter, so even though we are now dark, I am glad that we are able to get this one out to you.

It has been a busy time for our Lodge since we last mailed you. We had our annual inspection in March and received a passing grade. I thank all of you who supported us with the inspection this year. As in the past I believe we exemplified excellent degree work.

By now you should have received the letter about the scholarship fund we have established at our Lodge. I had the privilege to present the scholarships during the awards ceremony at the high school to two deserving students from Jonathan Alder. This outreach by our Lodge to the community was very well received. But as we noted in the letters we sent out, your support of this worthy cause for the future is much needed. Please give generously.

Several of you have mentioned to me that you get tired of people asking for your money. It seems like every time you open the mail someone is asking for you to send a check. Over the past year we have purposely tried to not bother you with requests to send money. The only exception being the letter we sent out asking for your support of the scholarships. However, as you may know, our Lodge can not meet our obligations with membership dues alone. We have some fund raising events planned for the weeks and months ahead, I ask that you please support these much needed fund raising activities. Tell your family and friends about these events and help support your Lodge.

I wish you and your family a safe and enjoyable 4th of July holiday and I hope to see in September.

So Mote it Be,

Mike Jackson W.M.

Upcoming Events:

Date	Event	Location	Time
July 13	Steam Thrashers Parade Booth	Urania Temple	6:00 pm
July 17	Madison County AASR Meeting	Chandler Lodge #138, London, Ohio	7:30 pm
July 28	9 th District Golf Outing	Locust Hills Golf Club	1:00 pm
Sept 11	Regular Stated Meeting	Urania Temple	7:30 pm
Sept 15	Horse Trader's Degree	Rush, Kentucky	12:00 pm
Sept 17	9 th District Bi-Annual Meeting	Harmony Lodge #8	7:30 pm
Sept 22	4 Mile Walk/Run Fundraiser	PastTme Park	8:00 am
Sept 25	Regular Stated Meeting	Urania Temple	7:30 pm
Oct 19 th - 20 th	Grand Lodge Annual Meeting	Cincinnati, Ohio	9:00 am
Dec 1	Past Masters Convocation	Christiansburg, Ohio	9:00 am

News & Notes:

The lodge is about to go dark for the summer season, and I would like to wish all an enjoyable summer. We have a couple of events scheduled for this summer, and I hope that perhaps you could find the time to join in on the activities. First of all there is the Miami Valley Steam Threshers Friday evening parade through downtown Plain City. This is scheduled for 6:00 PM Friday, July 13th.

Again this year we will be planning to set up in the lodge parking lot, and sell water, pop, hot dogs, and brats. We will be setting up for this event about 4:00pm, and providing food and refreshments during the parade; which usually lasts up until 8:00pm; after which we tear down. This again is a great opportunity to raise some much needed funds for the lodge, as well as an opportunity for good times, and fellowship.

The next event Planned is the Plain City Car Show. This is scheduled for August 4th, which is the first Saturday of the month. So far it is still taking place in the parking lot by Lovejoy's IGA. We plan on setting up for this event about 10:30AM, meet at the Lodge from 10 to 10:15, load up and head to the parking lot by 10:30. The Registration should start about noon, and the show should run through about 4:00 PM or so. We plan on selling Brats, Hotdogs, Pop, and Water as we did last year. For this event, we plan on doing it in shifts; we will split it into 2 "halves", so everyone that wishes to look at the cars will have that chance, and help out as their time may permit. Once again this is a great way to have a gathering, and help out the Lodge, and have a great time doing it. Anyone wishing to join in on these activities, may contact Marc Iman by phone (614) 873-4078, or email me at imans@earthlink.net.

I look forward to hearing from you,

Marc Iman

The Secretary's Desk:

Welcome is in order for all the newest members of Urania 311 in Wonderful Plain City, Ohio. Gilbert Marcum, Stephen Goddard, Jeremy Graham, Brady Maxwell, Charles Alonzo Dyer, James Fletcher, Gary Schoening and Mick Douglas. These members attended the Grand Masters One Day Class held on March 31, 2007 in Springfield, Ohio. Congratulations!

One sad comment is in the passing of a long time Brother James Clark Rickard who fought a hard battle then succumbed to Cancer on April 2, 2007. He will be missed by family and friends.

Now it is up to you brethren. The torch has been lit. New candidates are being introduced and are in search of more light. It is everyone's duty to come to their aid. Now is the time for all good men to come to the aid of their brethren...Uncle Sam would say the same about his Countrymen. In other words; the time for excuses draws nigh. Oh how easy it is for us to sit at home and make excuses why we cannot attend lodge meetings... but it is a sin to leave your brethren to their own investigation/demise. It is everyone's responsibility. I have heard it said that I don't see a need for attendance in the lodge? On the contrary I believe it is your duty...just as it is your duty to serve this country or our fellow man. Oh ye of little faith...Our country is under attack...from the inside. It is our duty to repel this attack and we need informed people in order to do so. Even certain religions are a part of this attack. Some would say that it is not our duty and our place is complacent...I disagree. We must work together in educating each other so we perform on the same page. Masonry is more that memorizing lectures and ceremony. It is communicating with each other to accomplish a higher purpose. Not an individual purpose but a moral purpose. We become the light.

I wish to acknowledge the works of Brothers Chuck Dyer...the young one...ha...for his effort in building our website and communicating the works of the Ohio Freemason, including daily lessons. Next I wish to thank Brother William "Bill" Arthur for his contribution to us all for his daily, impute "Words to Live by". These words and phrases are full of truth not to mention lessons. If you would like to receive these look no further. Here are both Charles, and Bills web addresses.

- warthur1@columbus.rr.com
- dycrc@ohiofreemason.com

One last comment; the people above are making contributions. There are many ways to do so. Some contribute money, time, and comments for us to ponder. What is your contribution? This was not submitted as a slap in the face... rather a refection of the truth. My .02 cents...without it how can you expect change!

With Love and Affection Brethren,

Gene Dougherty

For the Craft:

Motivation is the word. It is hoped that this writing will create interest, debate, discussion, and possibly even a good argument, whereby together we may begin to see the light that surely appears at the end of a dark tunnel through which our Craft seems to be traveling.

Motivation implies movement. It means the difference in getting up and doing something rather than just sitting there and doing nothing or letting someone else do it - that is apathy and indifference. Webster defines motivation as "causing or having the power to cause motion; an impulse from within."

If we feel as we say we do regarding our Fraternity, let's do something rather than just talk about it and appoint a committee to report back next month and the next.

The fear of change does strange things to people. It has been known to close their eyes, tie their hands and stop them from thinking. No one seems to want to rock the boat; perhaps it is time that we do a little rocking. He who was called a radical a few years ago is rapidly becoming just another old conservative "stick in the mud".

The need for interested candidates is always with us; it always has been. If every petitioner was as enthusiastic as we would have him, there would be no worried cry about declines, attendance, and Masonic Education; for there are always those who of their own accord seek knowledge, light and education. The problem then, is to extend our circle of light further into the multitude of our membership. One of the best ways to do this is by example. Let our light really shine in all places and at all times.

Efficiency takes imagination; and imagination goes hand in hand with initiative. Imagination is not necessarily being far out and impossible. Imagination can be the difference between routine and real progress. Originate and invent ideas and then give them a hell of a try. Nearly everything in our modern world today is the result of imagination. Technology, medicine, space flight, computers; that which is now in use was once only imagined.

Action is the key word; and enthusiasm is necessary to create action. Let's get a piece of the action. Our own action, and create the action, not wait for it to come to us. Let's stop talking high sounding phrases and do something NOW!

My brethren, I'm a little like the boy digging frantically in the large manure pile.... with all of this here for me to dig in ... there must be a pony somewhere. For years I have been accused of being an enthusiastic cock-eyed optimist; well maybe I am; but I just can't believe that all of this talent can or will permit our beloved Fraternity to become second rate or sink into oblivion.

Are you a Master Mason? ... The Candidate answered enthusiastically, "I AM!" . . . If you were brought to trial for being a Mason, would there! be enough evidence to convict you?

Charles A. Dyer

Senior Deacon