

Tidings from the East Brethren!

I hope that the Holiday Season has started out right and proper for both you and your family.

Our November stated meeting was one of the best meetings that I have ever participated in during my Masonic career. This sentiment was repeated several times by other Brothers after the meeting, and I think we truly have something very special within our lodge.

The night started out as usual with our Chef Tim Herald preparing a new favorite for us all, White Chicken Chili. This definitely hit the spot as the day was cold and this gently spiced meal warmed the body from the inside out. Thank you Tim! This special meal was our Past Masters Banquet in honor of WBro. Lester Nehls, who was Worshipful Master in 1991 and 1992.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, the Lodge was opened on the Entered Apprentice degree, with one EA in attendance.

Old business consisted of: Display cases have been purchased and will be refurbished and put to use shortly. Bro. Brice Herald gave us a recap of the successful: Highland Lodge Supports Soldiers Program and he thanked all the Brothers that took part in the operation. The Officers were again congratulated for doing such an excellent job during the Lodge of Instruction.

We did have sad news this month, our Masonic Home resident Helen Shackelford passed to the Grand Architect on October 26th. The Brothers of Highland take special joy in knowing that we were able to make a difference in the increased quality of her life over the past year. Highland Lodge is looking forward to our new adoptee at the beginning of the year and we will be putting in a special request to have another resident added to our Lodge as well.

The WM then made a special gift presentation to all the members and guests that were present. Each Brother received a commemorative Schofield House tumbler. Highland had the proud distinction to pilgrimage to the house this year to confer a FC degree. This gift glass was to remind the Brothers of the excellent time that was had by all.

A motion was brought forth and passed to continue our Poinsettia program for the widows of Highland. This was a program started by WBro. David Roose, and we look forward to carrying on this tradition.

Mentors gave status updates on our three EA's and when they will be ready for the Fellowcraft Degrees.

A financial report was given by our Treasurer, Bro. Ed Snyder. The Lodge is in great shape. This year we were very frugal in our spending of money, even though the lodge picked up the tabs on a great many of the events that were participated in by our Brothers and families, but at the end of October, the Lodge bank accounts were up over \$3,300 from the prior year at that time. Well done planning and finance committee.

No Sickness and Distress was reported. Brothers if you or another in our Masonic family comes upon hard times or sickness, please notify an Officer of the Lodge so that we may be able to render whatever assistance is necessary.

Finally, the WM had one final present for our Lodge. As it was the proper time for the Lodge to receive the reading of the Ancient Charges, a special slide show was developed to correspond with the reading of the Charges. This was extremely well received by the Brothers and it really brought these Ancient Charges to life.

After the Charges, another special gift was given, a pocket sized version of the US Constitution and the Declaration of Independence. With all the Masonic ties to these very special documents, it was a very fitting gift to every lover of his country.

The meeting was closed in form on the Entered Apprentice degree, peace and harmony prevailing.

Nov 21 was our last Masonic Officers Preparedness meeting. Many thanks to WBro. Jim Bishop for providing such a valuable series of meeting to prepare the Officers and Committees with understanding of what is their roll in a Lodge.

Nov 29 – Was the Polar Express Train Ride. We had such a great time. Check out the Facebook page for photos. But the evening was wonderful and the kids had a really great time.

Upcoming Dates:

Dec 4 – Stated Meeting – Dinner 6:30pm – Meeting 7:30pm

Dec 6 – Past Master's Degree

Dec 7 – Scottish Rite / Shrine Christmas Party – 9am – 11am

Dec 7 – Installation of Officers

Dec 15 – Wagon Wheel Theatre – Family Event “The Sound of Music” – Warsaw, IN.

As always, continue to check the Highland Lodge calendar on the website for details on all the upcoming events.

I would like to take this time to thank all of the members of Highland for such a wonderful year. The group has definitely persevered through many of the trials and tribulations that sought to bring us down, but in the end, Highland Lodge prevailed. United as one band of Brothers. Thank you for a great 2013!

Be Great! Lux ex tenebris!

Respectfully and Fraternaly,
Kurt A. Begue PM
Worshipful Master