

Tidings from the East Brethern!

It has been so long since we have communicated in this fashion, and so much good work has been done by the lodge over the past two months, I will do my best to keep this as short, but concise as possible.

Our Motto: Lux ex tenebris (Latin for: Light from Darkness) is so appropriate, as this was the first year that Highland Lodge did not go dark for the months of July and August. And during these two extra bonus months, we used our time wisely and accomplished some really great work.

Our July stated meeting was a very unique experience. We held our meeting in Table Lodge format and this was very well received by the Brothers in attendance. Bro. Mark Goebel, SW, opened and conducted the meeting as I was out of town. He did an excellent job and ran the meeting well. Tim Herald again spoiled us with some of the best home-made south-of-the-border food. Thank you Tim!

Reports from investigating committees, led to ballots being spread, and two unanimous elections for the degrees of Masonry. The newly elected members were assigned mentors and given their preliminary instructions at a later date.

Masonic education was the Scottish Rite video: The Meaning of the Flag, which was so highly appropriate for our meeting the day before Independence Day.

On Sunday, July 14th, we were very proud to have one of our own: Brice Herald, travel down to Indianapolis with his family to receive his Masonic Scholarship. This money was well invested in Brice, he has a very bright future after college.

The lodge continued throughout July to work on our Master Mason proficiency. July 10th and 24th the Brothers met to practice their parts.

On July 17th we met to confer the EA degree upon our two newly elected Brothers and the degrees and lectures were performed with excellent proficiency.

At our August stated meeting, we again followed our new tradition and held another exemplary Table Lodge. The guests that attended from the other lodges were very impressed. Again Tim Herald put out a spread fit for Kings, home-made chicken cordon-bleu, mixed vegetables, black eyed peas and a home-made blueberry bread pudding. Not only was the gourmet feast incredibly delicious, but very healthy also. So Brothers, you really don't have any excuse for getting out of the house and coming down to share the camaraderie and excellent food by Chef Tim.

After opening in Full Form, we welcomed our visiting Brethren, and I turned control of the Lodge over to Bro. Mark Goebel, SW. He did a fine job last month in my absence, I figured he could do an even better job this month, and he did. Toasts were given in accordance with Table Lodge, the lodge was called back from Refreshment to Labor in ritual form, the meeting went very smoothly and all our business was held in order.

Petitions were read for two more interested candidates for the degrees of Masonry and investigating committees of: Mark Goebel, Andy Holman and Mike Doxsee were assigned. We look forward to these committee reports in September.

The fund raising committee continues to do an excellent job of selling automobile emblems and cookbooks. This has been a nice way to add a little extra money into our funds.

Masonic education was given based upon some paramount dates in Masonic history and other facts related to specific events in history.

The Lodge was brought to attention and a moment of silence as observed for the passing of Bros. Estelle Smith and Robert Holler.

The lodge has received our marching orders regarding Lodge of Instruction. This year we will be hosting Waynedale Lodge #739 at our Temple. Highland will be conferring the 1st section of the EA, receiving distinguished guests, and going from Labor to Refreshment in ritual form. Waynedale will be responsible for: Refreshment to Labor in ritual form and conferring the 2nd section of the MM degree. This is a mandatory meeting for all officers and ritual proficiency of your part is expected.

A motion to amend our By-Laws was made and seconded. The summary of the change is to remove the extra fees for transferring and plural membership Brothers.

Current: Article 8 (FEES), Section 3 and 4:

Sec. 3. (Reg. 40.100). A petition for Plural Membership shall be accompanied by a fee of \$70.00 which shall be deposited into the Benevolence Fund, except for \$5.00 of which will be transmitted to the Grand Secretary with the Annual Recapitulation statement and \$15.00 of which will be transmitted to the Associated Masonic Trustees of Fort Wayne, Indiana and paid monthly as received.

Sec. 4. A petition for Affiliation by Transfer shall be accompanied with a fee of \$65.00 which shall be deposited into the Benevolence Fund except for \$15.00 which will be transmitted to the Associated Masonic Trustees of Fort Wayne, Indiana and paid monthly as received.

Proposed Change: Article 8 (FEES), Section 3 and 4:

Sec. 3. (Reg. 40.100). A petition for Plural Membership shall be accompanied by a fee of \$20.00, \$5.00 of which will be transmitted to the Grand Secretary with the Annual Recapitulation statement and \$15.00 of which will be transmitted to the Associated Masonic Trustees of Fort Wayne, Indiana and paid monthly as received.

Sec. 4. A petition for Affiliation by Transfer shall be accompanied with a fee of \$15.00 which will be transmitted to the Associated Masonic Trustees of Fort Wayne, Indiana and paid monthly as received.

This motion, after some preliminary discussion was tabled until all Lodge members could be notified in writing, with discussion and voting on the change during our September stated meeting.

Also, motion to purchase a display case for our fund raising merchandise was approved by voice vote.

Sickness and Distress: Bro Clark Hill is having health issues and has been moved temporarily to a convalescence care center. A sympathy card and visit is scheduled.

Bro Goebel closed the meeting, with peace and harmony prevailing.

The Highland Lodge calendar is online and filled with a massive amount of activity for you and your family. Please come out and have fun with us!

Aug 15 – Lodge Visitation to Millersville Lodge #126 in Indianapolis for their MM degree

Aug 21 – FC Degree – Dinner 6:30pm, Degree 7:30pm

Aug 22 – MM practice 6:00pm

Aug 24 – Mike Doxsee knighted in Indy

Aug 25 – Shriner’s Fly-In Breakfast
Aug 28 – MM practice 6:00pm
Sept 4 – Stated Meeting – Dinner 6:30pm, Open 7:30pm
Sept 5 – MM practice 6:00pm
Sept 8 – Masonic Home Festival
Sept 12 – MM practice – 6:00pm
Sept 18 – MM practice – 6:00pm
Sept 19 – MM Degree – dinner 6:30pm, degree 7:30pm
Sept 26 – Masonic Officers Preparedness – 6:49pm
Oct 15 – Lodge of Instruction

Masonic Officers Preparedness:

Brothers of Highland and ALL lodges in the area, you are warmly and cordially invited to partake in Masonic Officers Preparedness hosted by Highland Lodge. This is a program started a couple of years ago by WBro James Bishop to help lodge officers as well as any member of a lodge, better understand the inner workings of a lodge and many interesting Masonic facts. Anyone interested in knowing more about Masonry and the inner workings of a lodge is encouraged to attend. And for anyone who is in an Officers line in blue lodge, this is an absolute must!

Brothers you have an open invitation to join us for dinner before our next stated meeting. Please do not miss this excellent opportunity to share in the camaraderie with your Brothers.

Be Great! Lux ex tenebris!
Respectfully and Fraternally,

Kurt A. Begue PM
Worshipful Master