



# The Masonic News



www.MasonicNews.org

January 2018

## Electa Chapter #8

Mike Lagueux

This is both my best time of the year and my worst. There is the familiarity of the meetings held over the last 12 months, and the apprehension of what is to come in the next 12 months. January is the familiar; opening the Chapter, conducting the business of the month, the familiar things of the last few months...and the uncertainty of those months to come.

We did all those things. Paying the bills, listening to the various committee reports, having a coin march, and closing for the last time before a new administration officially begins. All things necessary and comfortingly familiar, you know...routine!

It's funny though; among the "old stuff" there is a strange excitement in the foreshadowing of the "new stuff". We get to see the Worthy Matron-Elect begin to tell us her plans for the Chapter for the coming year, all the time thinking to ourselves either that will never work or, hey that just might work. While some of it sounds vaguely reminiscent of the things we have been doing, there are new activities and programs that are being hinted at that seem pretty appealing to those who are listening.

We have expanded our membership this year with new initiates and new dual members. Unfortunately we have lost to the remorseless hammer of time many friends who we still feel sad about and miss. We had a very nice memorial service complete with musicians, poetry, and prayers for them...and us. It was both a time that seemed like we had pulled a Band-Aid off a still healing wound in our soul, and a realization that missing them still keeps them in our hearts. Time will heal some of the pain and longing, but will also keep us remembering them when we hear that voice that sounds familiar, or notice that person in the crowd that looks just like them from the back.

It always seems like the first quarter of any new year is about three days long...the first day is getting programs in place and installations, the second day is Grand Communications, beginnings and visitations, and the third day is realizing how much has been done and how much is left to do! By now it's March and you look back wondering why you haven't gotten all the "stuff" you had planned done, hoping you can catch up over the next couple days/weeks/months...what ever that period of time is!

Ah, shoot...it's summer now!

But if you want to see true relaxation, look over at the sidelines to the Jr. Past Master, new Past Worthy Matron, or other past head of one of our fraternal organizations...it won't be hard to tell who it is; they're the ones with the smile and relaxed look on their faces. They may be on some committee, but it's only ONE thing they have to deal with and keeping one ball in the air is nothing now after what they have just accomplished in the last twelve months.

Whatever you do, don't look at the new head of your organization and judge him or her on what the smiling one in the corner has completed. Listen to the new one, offer help or advice if they need it, and don't take it personally if they don't take your advice. Sometimes experience is a really great teacher if no one is hurt in the process. Most of all have fun in the coming months and try all the things your new leader has thought of to try to improve your experience with the organization you

belong to.

The most important thing you can do for your Lodge, Chapter, etc., is to come to a meeting sometime this year. You belong here, you pay to be a member, and there are people willing to help you if you have forgotten what happens at the beginning. But most of all...it might be fun.

I probably should stop writing and get this to the editor...he has texted me worried that I might not get it in on time for this month's publication! And he's right; I have been procrastinating and enjoying going to the first few installations of the year. And besides, as one of his correspondents, I know he loves me and there is nothing he can do about it!

In the interim, go to the installations that are still coming and enjoy the organization you belong to. Meet an old friend, make a new friend, and get involved with Masonry. It's a great family to belong to.

God Bless and keep you.

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### DUES ARE DUE

Dues for all Nebraska Masonic Lodges for 2018 are due Jan. 1. Send payment to your Lodge Secretary. Members with unpaid dues are delinquent as of March 1. Suspension by Grand Lodge comes April 30. Suspension in Blue Lodge also means suspension in Eastern Star, York Rite, Scottish Rite and Shrine.

Look at your dues card. If it does not say 2018, send payment today to your Secretary.

Eastern Star dues are also due Jan. 1. Send dues to your Chapter Secretary. Unpaid members will become delinquent Oct. 1, with suspension Dec. 31.



The Lincoln Scottish Rite presents

## Robert Burns Night Celebration

Saturday, 27 January, 2018  
5:45 social time  
6:30 dinner

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# The Masonic News

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## Lincoln Lodge #19

Bruce T. Anderson

By the time you read this news, Lincoln Lodge No. 19 will have had its new officers installed. The new officers are truly a new group of Brothers. Most of the offices this next year will be filled with Brothers who took their degree in 2017. What a way to start off our 150th year; a youthful look indeed!

- Worshipful Master** - W.M. Charles R. (Dick) Clark
- Senior Warden** - William W. Folsom
- Junior Warden** - Corey C. Spreeman
- Treasurer** - W.B. Bruce T. Anderson
- Secretary** - W.B. Bruce T. Anderson
- Chaplain** - J.P. Sabby
- Senior Deacon** - Wesley C. Bottorf
- Junior Deacon** - Beau J. Ballard
- Senior Steward** - Eddy M. Rodell
- Junior Steward** - Tyson S. McPhillips
- Tyler** - Andrew T. LaGrone

You also need to mark your calendar for May 20th. As a part of our 150th year celebration we will be having a re-dedication of our Lodge by the Grand Lodge. More details to follow.

We are also going to start off the year with two Entered Apprentice degrees. Now is the time to come back to the Lodge and see what is happening.

I was reflecting on the activities of the past year and noticed the lack of families at our events. Masonry is a family organization. No, family cannot attend our meetings or degrees but they can come to other events and even perhaps dinners before our meetings. I ran across a pamphlet from the Grand Lodge of Oregon that, I think it spoke to families very well.

### What is the purpose of Masonry?

The main purpose of Masonry is to take good men and assist them in becoming better husbands, fathers, sons and brothers. Masonry does this by keeping them exposed to moral and ethical teachings and by consistently asking them to consider important character building issues. One of most important concerns is what each Mason gives back to his community. Masonry's cornerstone is charity. Approximately two million dollars a day is given to charity by all Masonic organizations combined. In short, by improving ourselves we are placed in a better position to help others.

Should the Mason in your family becomes ill or hospitalized, please take a moment to call the Secretary or Master of his Lodge. You will be amazed at the support he and the family will receive. Taking care of Brother Masons and their families is a labor of love for a Mason.

Masons help in good times too! Inquire about scholarships for college bound teens, housing and care for senior family members, and Masonic Youth Camps for children. There are many ways in which Masons live out their way of life. It is up to each Masonic Family to choose its own way to contribute.

### How can your family be involved in Masonry?

Some of the countless ways that your family can be involved in the Masonic family include:

- Attending Lodge sponsored functions such as public programs, parties, dinners, tours and civic programs.
- Working with the Lodge at its various charitable events such as fund drives, bike rodeos, child identification programs, blood drives, drug and alcohol prevention programs, telethons, and private charitable work such as visiting the sick and tending to the needs of widows.
- Becoming familiar with the full family of Masonry which includes Eastern Star, Amaranth and Daughters of the Nile for women, DeMoley for teenage boys, Constellation of Junior Stars, Rainbow and Triangle for teenage girls. All of these groups provide the wholesome environment which springs from Masonry.

Any Questions? Should you have any further questions please ask your Masonic Member. If he cannot provide an answer, please do not hesitate to contact the Master or Secretary of his Lodge directly (it is a good idea to have their numbers available). Or, in time of emergency, please feel free to call Grand Lodge for further information or assistance: 402-475-4640. It is our sincerest hope that you will be proud of your Mason and of your family's involvement in Masonry. We welcome you with our hearts!

### The Masonic Family Welcomes Your Family to Freemasonry!

A man in your family has become a Mason. Congratulations You are now connected to a worldwide brotherhood which takes as it's creed:

Friendship, Morality and Brotherly Love.

We welcome your family to our Masonic family. There is much to know about Masonry. It is our sincerest hope that Masonry will become a true family affair

for you and yours. There are many opportunities for family involvement, not only in the Lodge but in groups designed for the Ladies and Youth, charitable activities in the Community and much, much more. We hope this brochure whets your appetite to enjoy the Masonic experience with your family to the fullest.

### What Masonry is and is not

The Square and Compasses, Masonry's most popular symbol, signifying integrity and virtue. Freemasonry is: The oldest, largest and most charitable men's fraternal organization in the world. Spiritual, not religious in nature, requiring every member to profess a belief in a Supreme Being of his choice. Family oriented with many programs and groups to involve the entire family. An opportunity for a man to improve himself. Rich in history, tradition and patriotism. Sensitive to the needs of each community where it exists. Open to men of good character regardless of race, creed or religion.

Freemasonry is NOT: A secret society. Any information about Masons can be found at a well stocked bookstore or local library. Masonic buildings are clearly marked and listed in the phonebook. Members wear Masonic jewelry. The only secret about Masonry is that there are no real secrets!

A Mason is proud of his membership! Family values are critical to the Mason. Membership should never interfere with family life.

### A very brief Look at Masonic History

No one knows just how old Freemasonry is because the actual origins have been lost in time. Most scholars believe Masonry rose from the guilds of stonemasons who built the majestic castles and cathedrals of the Middle Ages. In 1717 a formal organization was created in England when four Lodges in London joined in forming England's Grand Lodge.

Freemasonry in America was initiated by our early settlers and was supported by men such as Washington, Franklin, Hancock, Revere and DeWitt Clinton. As a matter of fact, most of Washington's military staff were Masons. The Grand Lodge of the State of New York was chartered in 1781. We urge your family to read Masonic history; it is a vital part of our proud American heritage.


The Mason in your family has joined a renowned philanthropic brotherhood which has 1.7 million members in North America and 3.2 million members world wide. There are very few places in the entire world that could not offer your family Masonic friendship or assistance if the need arose.

### The Degree System of Masonry

Your family member will be going through a unique experience in the modern world as he participates in our three degrees leading up to his achieving full membership as a Master Mason. Ancient in origin, each degree teaches an important lesson through the use of symbols. There is never any 'hazing' in a Masonic Degree. The Degrees are dignified and when understood can add great value to the Mason's daily life. All Masons wear aprons at their meetings to symbolize the historic link between our current Brotherhood and the builders of old.

### Masonic Meetings

All Lodges meet on a regular stated basis which allows your family to plan events. Masons receive more of the benefits of Masonry by attending meetings, so long as that attendance does not harm the family in any way. We hope that your family will support and encourage your Mason's attendance and that the whole family will take every opportunity to participate with him.



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## Myrtle Chapter #94

**Jamie Janovec**

Greetings and Happy January to all. The holidays have passed and everyone is getting back to normal in the post-holiday season. Myrtle members spent time with their families over the holiday season, and it was a busy time for all.

January 9th we had our final Chapter meeting with Worthy Matron Jeanne Bonnett and Worthy Patron Bob Foreman. Annual reports were read and highlights of the year read to the group. Worthy Matron-Elect Laura Kilmer gave details on her open Installation January 28th at 2pm (Sunday). She hopes to see everyone there! It was nice to see so many members on the sidelines and much participation was had by all. We concluded our meeting with a Memorial Service

honoring our members that we lost in 2017.

As I look back on 2017 I learned so much on what it takes to make a great Chapter. We may come from different walks of life, but we all share a common family bond as a Brother and as a Sister in Eastern Star. It was a pleasure serving as correspondent, and I hope I can do so again in the future.

Star Love,

Jamie Janovec

Note: I apologize again, but I thought it would be nice to feature the "Know Your Members" section next article so it can coincide with my report about this year's installation. Thank you again for your patience.

## Lancaster Lodge #54

**Turner Cox**

On January 5th Lancaster 54 had a busy business meeting, we first discussed some of our newer Entered Apprentice members and how they were coming with their advancement; they are coming along very well and in the coming months we will be having some more ritual work, so be on the look out! We'd love to have you come and be part of their passing (and eventual raising).

February 16th we will hold an Entered Apprentice Degree for Mr. Neil O'Connor who is our newest candidate, and again we'd love to see some Brothers come visit.

Back on December 15th, Lancaster 54 initiated two new brothers, B. Raul Ochoa and B. Dan Dodson, both of whom seemed very eager to continue their journey through Masonry and we hope that they will be very

active in Masonry moving forward.

We also have many upcoming events in January and February; on the 19th we have an EA practice for Mr. O'Connor's degree; on Sunday the 28th it is the installation of Officers for Lancaster 54 at 2pm; Friday February 9th is our regular meeting and on the 16th is the EA Initiation for Mr. O'Connor. Looking a bit into the future, on March 16th Lancaster 54 will be having a camping trip; if you are interested in details get in contact with Kory Johnson or Matt Zier.

East Lincoln 210 enjoyed a wonderful Christmas Party. The evening was well-attended, the Christmas tree looked beautiful, and SW Joel Green honored WB LeRoy Rosenthal with gifts and praise for an excellent and productive year. After a nice meal, the children watched How The Grinch Stole Christmas, then were surprised by a visit from Santa. The adults participated in a gift exchange corresponding to a reading of The Night Before Christmas. Brooklyn Green performed a few songs on the piano, and the children and adults went home with gifts bags. Thank you to all who helped to create such a festive holiday party.

During the January business meeting, a few of the brethren of 210 tried out their new positions: Bro. Rodne' Jones, Bro. Adam Holle, and Bro. Joel Green all did well for first-timers. After Grand Master recommendations were discussed, WB Monte Dietrick gave a short Masonic Education talk. WM-Elect Joel Green presented WB LeRoy Rosenthal with one last

message of appreciation, and the discussion turned to preparation for the January 14th Installation of Officers.

Regarding sickness and distress, WB Tom Michaelson reported that Bro. Herman Heinzman passed in December, and that MWB James Brown had kidney surgery in Seattle and is now at home recovering. Please keep the families of these brethren in your thoughts.



## Martha Washington Chapter #153

**Betty Kirby**

extended to Sister Sue Hedges, who is now a plural member of Martha Washington. We are so excited to have her share in our Chapter life.

Our other exciting news was the appointment given to Sis. Shirley Boardman as Grand Representative to the District of Columbia in Nebraska. We wish Sis. Shirley safe travels and many happy memories (yet to be made) with this appointment.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Kelsey Larsen who is recovering from surgery for a torn ACL and Sis. Lillian Bauer who is hospitalized with a minor stroke. We wish a return to good health for those who are battling colds and flu. And our prayers continue for our Worthy Grand Matron.

On a brighter side, Sis. Phyllis McGill recently celebrated her 92nd birthday. Happy birthday this month to Sis. Yvonne

Martha Washington Chapter #153 met on the cold evening of January 4th. We had many Pro-Tem officers that evening because a number of our regulars were absent, having fallen to the respiratory virus that seems to be everywhere! Nevertheless, we had 17 chairs filled and had several sideliners as well! Sis, Pam Lindholm, Worthy Matron Pro-Tem, thanked all the hardy souls for coming out for the meeting.

We prepared for the Creamed Chicken Dinner on January 13 by enlisting volunteers for the preparation, serving, kitchen help, and cleanup. If you are reading this article, be sure to mark your calendars for the second Saturday of each month to come and enjoy a hearty meal of creamed chicken and biscuits or home made Bunzas. (The company is pretty good also!) A hearty welcome is

Nelson, Marolyn Marshall, Vicki Edwards, Sabine Dahl, Michelle Smith, Judy Holtgrewe, and Brother Mark Poston. Happy Anniversary to Sis. Maxine and Brother Mike Buchardt.

Come join us on the first Thursday of every month at 7:30 for our stated meeting. We love to have sideliners and guests!

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# Bethel #5

Grace L.

Bethel #5 has had an exciting and fun-filled couple months. Here are some of the activities we were involved in.

### Husker Parking

On Saturday, November 4, a few adults and members helped to sell spots in the parking lot of the Masonic Temple. We are thankful that we have the opportunity to provide this service to Husker fans and raise some much needed funds in the process!

### Naphis Temple Dinner

A few of the members and adults had the pleasure of meeting only a few days later, on Monday, November 6, to help serve a dinner for Naphis Temple at the Shrine Center. Thank you to our other Masonic bodies for giving us the opportunity to be visible in the community.



### National Sojourners Presentation

One of our members, Lauren P., had the honor of joining the members of National Sojourners for a dinner on November 9. She was given some time to speak at the meeting to share what Job's Daughters was and what it meant to her. She was a great representative of Bethel #5 and Job's Daughters International. Good job, Lauren!

### Election of Officers

At Bethel #5's regular meeting on November 11, elections were held. Elected to office were Honored Queen Lauren P., Senior Princess Isabella K., Jr.



Princess Grace L., Guide Katrina K., and Marshal Gwen L. Congratulations to the newly elected officers!

### Joint Table Lodge Dinner

On November 14, our members and adults had the pleasure of serving another dinner at the Masonic Temple. After they finished with their duties they had some time to take silly pictures.



### Greenery Fundraiser

The fall fundraiser for Bethel #5 was fresh greenery sales from Mickman Brothers. The greenery smelled so fresh and the customers were excited to see their purchases. It certainly brought in the Christmas cheer. This has become an annual fundraiser for the Bethel. If you think you'd be interested in purchasing fresh greenery next fall, watch the Masonic News next fall or check in with a Bethel #5 member.

### Other Fun Events

After our meeting on December 9, a few members went to the UNL Dairy Store for a treat. You don't need a crowd to have fun!



### Breakfast with Santa Hike Fundraiser

One of our most fun and hopefully recurring fundraiser making its debut

this winter was our Breakfast with Santa on Saturday, December 16. We served all-you-can-eat pancakes, sausage, fruit, and beverages. Those lucky enough to be in attendance got to meet Santa up close and personal! There were also coloring pages to complete while holiday music played in the background. Mrs. Claus also played a role by reading a fun storybook in the library to children. We had a fantastic turn out and raised an exciting amount of money to donate to HIKE! The members and adults had as much fun as those in attendance! We hope to be able to do this fundraiser year after year and grow it even more!



### Christmas Party

The very same day of the HIKE fundraiser, we held a Christmas party. Each participant brought a wrapped gift and we played a game to see who would get to choose a gift first. The next person to follow could either choose the gift from someone else to have, or choose a new gift. We exchanged fluffy socks, yummy cocoa, candy and many other fun gifts. We were reminded of what creative and fun members we have at Bethel #5. The party was followed up by our regular meeting, and it was also Gwen's last meeting as Honored Queen.

### Shrine Nobility Christmas Party

To end a VERY busy day on December 16, members and adult of Bethel #5 helped serve the Shrine Nobility Christmas Party at the Shrine Center. Even though it had been a long day for all of us, we still managed to have fun while serving and cleaning



up during this festive event. We even had time for a "family portrait" of sorts at the end of the night.

### Installation of Officers

On Sunday, January 7, Bethel #5 got to shine during their Installation of Officers. The sidelines were filled with many friends, family, and Masonic visitors when Gwen L. passed on the crown to the newly elected Honored Queen, Lauren P. To cap off the ceremony, Lauren escorted Gwen up

After the installation on January 7, she was able to deliver all of the goods collected to Pieloch Adoption Center. Donations included a box full of food, treats, cleaning supplies, three large bags full of newspaper, and all of the little blankets that the members assembled at their sleepover in October. The Pieloch Adoption Center was very grateful for the donations and would be putting the blankets to use in the animal cages. When the animals get adopted, the blankets get to go home with the animals! So, a piece of Bethel #5 will go home with some of the adopted animals and their new families!



to the dais by walking through an arch of glowing light sabers presented by DeMolay members. Also installed were Isabella K. as Sr. Princess, Gwen L. as Marshal, Serenity M. as 1st Messenger and Faith P. as 3rd Messenger. Two of our members, Grace L. as Jr. Princess and Katrina K. as Guide, weren't able to attend installation and will be installed at a later date. After the ceremony, everyone gathered downstairs for a taco bar and gathered at tables decorated by glow necklaces, crowns, and wands. We were honored that so many of our Jobie sisters and Masonic family were able to spend this day with us. Our deepest thanks to those of you that were able to attend our event.

### Delivery of Shelter Donations

During Gwen L.'s term as Honored Queen, she held several donation drives to collect supplies for the local Humane Society.

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# Bethel #63

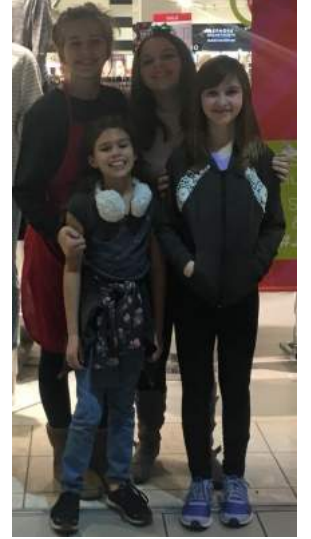
**Kristi Thornburg**

**Upcoming Events**

- January 12 – Paint Yourself Silly
- January 26 – Laser Tag & DQ
- February 3 – Ice Skating
- February 13 – Valentine's Day Dinner & Movie
- February 25 – Bowling

\*If you're interested in joining us for an upcoming event, please contact our Bethel Guardian Dyana Burton or Associate Bethel Guardian Brent Warwick! Their information can be found on the trestleboard page!

- Happy Birthday!**
- January 3 – Cyndi
  - February 19 – Tiana
  - February 28 – Bethel 63



**Fiesta Feed for HIKE**

Bethel 63's third annual Fiesta Feed for HIKE was held on September 30th. Our members put a great deal of work into this event, and we are happy to announce that we raised over \$3000 for HIKE! Thank you to all of our guests, families, friends, and Masonic Family for supporting the Hearing Impaired Kids Endowment! Mark your calendars for our FOURTH ANNUAL FIESTA FEED for HIKE which will be held on Saturday, April 28!



Members and families went to Kansas City, Missouri for World's of Fun's Winterfest event which we LOVED! We were extremely lucky as the weather was in the high 40's! The Winterfest event is full of lights and decorations, different musical groups performing at various times, rollercoasters and rides, characters walking around the park, seasonal foods and drinks, and so much more! After the park closed, we went to the Waffle House! We woke up early Sunday morning and headed back to Lincoln! This is one trip we will do again!



**Service**

Members of Bethel 63 participated in multiple service activities during our fall term. Members participated in Safe Quarters in October, rang bells for the Salvation Army in December, had a dine-out night for HIKE, and much more! We look forward to continuing our monthly service projects this next term.



**Initiation**

Members of Bethel 63 initiated TWO new members at our regular meeting on December 7! We are so excited to welcome Harper, Mylee, and their families into our Bethel and to share Job's Daughters with them! Congratulations, Harper and Mylee! Let the fun begin!



**Installation**

Installation of Officers was held on Thursday, January 4. This term will be a little different as we did not install an Honored Queen. Therefore, our line officers will work together to plan activities and service projects while our Past Honored Queen's preside at the meetings. We are extremely lucky to have a great group of girls that take pride in their leadership and continue to be involved in our beautiful organization! We look forward to a fun and successful term!



**Christmas Weekend**

Bethel 63 kicked off our Christmas weekend celebration by having a sleepover at PGG Trudi's! We are always entertained during our sleepovers, which consisted of hot tubing, watching Elf and Trolls, making and decorating Christmas sugar cookies, grilled cheese sandwiches, good conversation and laughter, and even a little bit of sleep! We were excited for Saturday and therefore, couldn't sleep very long.



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## Columbia Chapter #275

Kaylene Martin



### Christmas Brunch

Sisters of Columbia Chapter attended Bethel 63's Christmas Brunch on Saturday, December 9. The Job's Daughters served brunch, performed Let There Be Peace on Earth, and organized a cute craft where we had the opportunity to make an ornament to take home. Our Sisters truly enjoy attending this event and spending time with the Job's Daughters in our temple. Thank you to Bethel 63 for inviting us to your lovely brunch!

### Regular Meeting

Sisters and Brothers gathered together on Tuesday, January 2 for the last meeting of our term. WM Kristi welcomed those in attendance. It was a quick meeting due to the cold weather but the bills were paid, business was discussed, and WM Kristi gave her end of the year report. We look forward to Installation of Officers on Tuesday, January 16th!

## Starcraft Chapter #307

Cora Redwine

The January stated meeting was held on Wednesday, January 3rd, at 7:30 p.m. Worthy Matron Julie, welcomed all and thanked all for coming out on such a cold evening. She opened with some New Years trivia. Worthy Patron Don welcomed all and thanked the Chapter for the gift presented to him at our Christmas dinner. The Chapter performed an exemplification of initiation and the Worthy Matron thanked our candidate, Glee Warnke, for once again, filling the roll of our candidate.

We were deeply saddened at the loss of Bro. Frank Mook, Jr. The Eastern Star Service was performed by the members of Starcraft Chapter.

The Charter was draped in honor of the sisters and brothers that left us in 2017; Sis. Evelyn Bittenbaugh, Marian E Simmons, Bonnie Kalkwarf, Bro. Robert C Ellis and Frank Mook, Jr. We did not have an illness report, but we thank Sis. Ruth Beach for her continued devotion to the

members of the Chapter, for visiting those that are not able to get to our meetings.

December 17th, was the chapter's annual Christmas pot luck. Those that wished to participate, brought a gift of up to \$5.00 for the gift exchange. Sis. Doris Foust had the pleasure of being named Star of the Year. Congratulations, Sis. Doris. You are very deserving of this honor.

Worthy Matron Julie thanked all for being at the meeting and thanked Sis. Glee for assisting during our meeting. Worthy Patron Don invited all downstairs for refreshments, provided by Sis. Amy Eidenmiller.

Bro. Jim Banister and I would enjoy your presence at the installation of the 2018 Starcraft Chapter Installation of officers, Wednesday, January 17th, at 7:30 p.m.

Next stated meeting will be Wednesday, February 7th, 2018 at 7:30 p.m.

Happy Birthday to our February members:

February 5 Christopher Rosenthal  
February 9 Ward Svoboda  
February 13 Mary Randolph  
February 15 Judy L Gonnerman  
February 17 Elwin Donahoo  
February 23 Julie Fowler

## North Star Lodge #227

Bob Tooker

### EVENTS

On December 20, the Druids of North Star Lodge celebrated the winter solstice by holding a Table Lodge. Copious amounts of smoked prime rib, spud casserole and other goodies graced the festive board. Toasts were made and wassail was consumed. A good time was had by all.

### BUSINESS

The January Business Meeting Dinner was prepared by WB Dennis Mundt with ham and bean soup, (more ham than bean) and corn bread. Twas a meal fit for a king. The 2018 North Star Officers were installed for the year with WB Harry Storz as Master, Bro. Daniel Chesnut as SW, WB Paul G. Carpenter as JW. Bro. Allen Plucknet was reinstated as Treasure and WB Steve Wetzel as Secretary. WB Bob Tooker was installed as SD, WB Steven Flader as JD, WB Keith Brocksmith as SS, Bro. Rush Storz as JS, Bro. Glen Durham as Tyler and WB David Sierks as Marshal.

The bills were paid and the new stair lift was discussed as it had been newly installed.

We want to thank all that

contributed to the stair lift project. The next project will be the modification of the electrical system for the building. Another time consuming project.

We would also like to congratulate Miss Shelby Chesnut the newly installed HQ of Bethel 27 and her line. Your term will go fast and I hope it will be enjoyable and fruitful.

### LESSON FOR THE MONTH

Aphorism is a statement of truth or opinion expressed in a concise and witty manner. The term is often applied to philosophical, moral and literary principles.

I read that 4,153,237 people got married last year. Not to cause any trouble, but shouldn't that be an even number?

America is a country which produces citizens who will cross the ocean to fight for democracy but won't cross the street to vote.

You know that tingly little feeling you get when you love someone? That's your common sense leaving your body.

My therapist says I have a preoccupation with vengeance. We'll see about that.

I think my neighbor is stalking me as she's been Googling my name on her computer. I saw it through my telescope last night.

They say money talks ... but all mine ever says is good-bye.

You're not fat, you're just easier to see.

Denny's has a slogan, "If it's your birthday, the meal is on us." If you're in Denny's and it's your birthday, your life is pretty dull!

The location of your mailbox shows you how far away from your house you can go in a robe before you start looking like a mental patient.

Money can't buy happiness, but it keeps the kids in touch!

The reason Mayberry was so peaceful and quiet was because nobody was married. Andy, Aunt Bea, Barney, Floyd, Howard, Goober, Gomer, Sam, Earnest T Bass, Helen, Thelma Lou, Clara and, of course, Opie were all single. The only married person was Otis, and he stayed drunk.

Now, don't you feel better knowing what an aphorism is?

Till Next Month

## The 24 Inch Gauge

WB Robert E. Jackson - Midnight Freemason

I was on a business trip, first one I've taken in a long time. Taking advantage of the 'free' time I had, I decided to catch up on some reading. There was a specific article that needed to be shared with my wife...an article entitled "It's not Masonry, he's just an (expletive)-hole." Her immediate response was "Is this for you or me?" I thought that was a good question, and I was thankful to this article for helping initiate a very difficult conversation...was I risking too much? How out of whack was my 24" gauge? As happens from time to time, my wife helped me view my situation from a different angle.

Throughout the discussion, I was trying to explain that I was trying to balance my responsibilities, but I felt that as Master, I needed to support each event on our

calendar. Most frustrating was the fact that only a very few Brothers really stepped forward to help with the various endeavors. When they don't show up, my internal demons start theorizing...do they care? Is the latest episode of 'Dance Moms' really more important to them than our Lodge? What I didn't see, without her help, is that it is entirely possible that those men are active in their own way...being coaches, colleagues, fathers, husbands. Could it simply be possible that these men have a better handle of their 24 inch gauge?

I still joke, on occasion, about that working tool in our repertoire. Yes, we know of the even 24 divisions, but any further divisions aren't claimed to be divided evenly! As a self diagnosed workaholic, this lesson really

resonated with me, and resurfaces every time I work late or find myself wasting time. Much like our political persuasions, or spiritual beliefs, a major strength of our Fraternity is our diversity. This includes the diversification of our priorities. For many of our Brothers, their family does come first. For others, their jobs come first. It isn't our position to judge, but it is our position to learn. The management of our time is a life skill, one that we must continue to hone each and every day.

For more articles like this, visit the Midnight Freemasons at [www.midnightfreemasons.org](http://www.midnightfreemasons.org) or on Facebook at Midnight Freemasons.

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## COMING EVENTS IN MASONRY

For installation schedules, please see us at [www.MasonicNews.org](http://www.MasonicNews.org)  
 Congratulations to all newly installed 2018 officers!

- Sat. Jan 27: Robert Burns Night - Lincoln Scottish Rite - \$35 per person - 6:30 PM  
 Wed. Jan 31 - Sun. Feb 4: Annual Communication, Grand Lodge of Nebraska, Kearney  
 Sat. Feb 10: Creamed Chicken Dinner - George Washington Lodge and Martha Washington Chapter - 4430 N. 70th Street - 402-466-2482 - Creamed Chicken over Biscuits, or Homemade Bunzas, Mashed Potatoes, Veggies, Coffee, Tea, or Water. Pop and Desserts are also Available - \$7 per person - 4:30 PM to 7:00 PM  
 Sat. Apr 28: Fiesta Feed for HIKE

## Tales From The North (Dakota)

**Tyler T. Hall**

Greetings from Bismarck/Mandan, North Dakota, from Brother Tyler, a perpetual member of North Star Lodge No. 227 in Lincoln, Nebraska, and dual member of Mandan Lodge No. 8 in Mandan, North Dakota.

I bring you news and experiences from my travels from DeMolay to Masonry to other appendant bodies in Lincoln, Nebraska, to the Twin Cities of Minnesota, and finally to western North Dakota.

Hope you enjoy each month as we go on a trip together in search for that which may not have been too lost.

### REFLECTIONS ON A YEAR IN THE EAST

As discussed in previous article issues, I have served as Worshipful Master of Mandan Masonic Lodge #8 in Mandan, North Dakota, for the 2017 year. It has been a tradition of Mandan Lodge to have a two year service of Masters, as well as one Past Master, Ross Mushik, who's been Secretary/Treasurer for over 20 years. However, we are fortunate over the last few years to grow in both new members and transfers of membership. At our Annual Meeting in December, we voted in a new Master, and myself as Secretary, and WB Ross as Treasurer. It will be good to be secretary in order to serve the Lodge in that capacity, along with continuing Valley Secretary of Bismarck Valley Scottish Rite.

Overall, it wasn't a bad year in the East. One thing I brought from my home Lodge of North Star Lodge

#227, is to have a meal prior to Lodge meeting. When the officers were able to be there, our Junior Warden and his Stewards made some great meals and were reimbursed from the free-will offering.

The meetings themselves were uneventful, but as anyone that isn't accustomed to public speaking can attest, it's not so easy to facilitate discussions sometimes when you don't get feedback piling in. That's the beauty of being Master as I've noticed this past year in that you need to be quick on your toes and direct on what you're asking and to whom. It just makes for a very short business portion of the meeting anyways.

Another focus that I brought to our Lodge meetings besides meals was Lodge Education. I'm one to agree that the LEO and the Lodge Program is very important to a meeting. (EDITOR'S NOTE: in many other jurisdictions, the Lodge Education Officer, or LEO, is an officially appointed lodge officer, and every lodge is required to have one.) It is good to have some great Past Masters in our Lodge who are passionate about mentoring and teaching new members. Why not utilize those gifts within the Lodge room and at meetings? A couple of our Past Masters teamed up and did a 3-5 month series on Masonic Etiquette including the modes of recognition, lessons and meanings of some symbols, and the proper way to do floor work. We do have some great members in the Craft, and I'm so grateful that they are willing to share

their gifts with our Lodge.

In final reflection, I'm grateful to have lead a good, fun Lodge. I'm so lucky to be a part of great, active, fulfilling Lodges in both Lincoln, Nebraska, and Mandan, North Dakota. The real work, business, running of a Lodge, as I understand, is in the Lodge Secretary (that's why the Grand Lodge of North Dakota holds the Lodge Secretaries as a voting member at Grand Lodge Annual Communications but they can't have a proxy vote for them as is an option for the Master or Wardens). Being the Master for a year may seem like ten years at times, but it was an honor to serve a group of men in humbleness and on the Level.

Lots of stories in between, but more articles yet to come...Thanks for listening.



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