



The Masonic News



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November 2020

Lancaster Lodge #54

Adam Thayer

Wow, another month has flown by! I'm not sure how your experience of the year has been, but outside of lodge the only people I see are my wife and daughter, and as much as I absolutely adore them both, I find myself looking forward to lodge more and more just to see other adults!

Lancaster Lodge had a busy business meeting this month! Our partnership with Norwood Park Elementary was definitely a highlight, and we are making fantastic progress! We are working with them to source new books for their library; if you saw the photos of the current state of this library, you would understand how well used these books have been, and how sorely needed new books are!

Of course, the topic on everyone's mind this month is the election, and I would be remiss if I didn't discuss it at least a little bit. So, to avoid keeping you wondering any further, yes the election of lodge officers was held, and as is our custom there was no controversy or disharmony regarding the results. The 2021 officers are all excited to start getting to work, and next month I will have more information regarding how 2021 will look for events, projects, and goals.

We were also finally able to hold our Past Master's Remembrance Ceremony! I know that this was very high on WM Matt's priority list, and

we are all thankful that he was able to hold it to honor the Worshipful Masters of the lodge.

As I write this, we have yet to hold our 2020 Tribute To American Veterans, however I've seen enough of the planning and ideas going into it to know that this will be the best year we've held yet, even with the challenges we've all had to face!

While the year is definitely winding down, WM Matt does still have a few upcoming events, and we're looking forward to seeing you there!



Starcraft Chapter #307

Terri Sherman

Hello friends. Due to the high Covid numbers in Lincoln, Starcraft Chapter decided they would not meet in November. We didn't want to take the chance of any virus transmissions. But we sure hope December looks better so we can spread some nice joy around.

All is well with us and just holding on until we are free to meet again.

Good and Welfare: For our members who have December birthdays we hope they have a special day.

November Birthdays

November 1	Sharon Rabel
November 7	Bev Ryba
November 13	Cathy Holloway
November 16	Mary Kay Retzlaff
November 20	Donna Pritchett
November 22	Rita Imlay
November 26	Carol Anderson

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The Masonic News

USPS-332-880

Volume 158 · November 2020 · No. 11

Published Monthly · Lincoln, Nebraska
By The Masonic News Inc., 1635 L St. 68508

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Periodicals postage paid at Lincoln, Nebraska
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Masonic News, 1635 L Street, Lincoln, NE 68508

The Masonic News has been publishing news of the Lincoln Masonic Community since 1921.



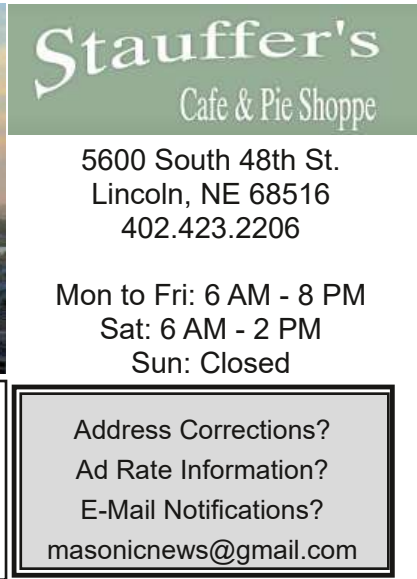
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The Masonic News Inc. was founded in 1921.
The subscriber base of The Masonic News is around 2500.
The Masonic News has been online since October, 2006, at www.masonicnews.org



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George Washington Lodge #250

Mark Poston

As the month of November began, we were so pleased that we could continue to have our Lodge meetings! WM Roger Warnke presided over our meeting and all of our business was conducted in a timely manner. The time-honored tradition of Election of Officers was held. We have successfully elected a new slate of Officers for the 2021 year as well as appointed our Lodge Representatives to the Temple Board! We also enjoyed having two Brothers from Cotner Lodge #297 as our visitors

for the evening....we were able to enjoy some socially-distanced fellowship together.

Annual Roast Beef Dinner
The Brothers of Geo. Washington Lodge #250 supported the Annual Roast Beef Dinner of Martha Washington Chapter #153 O. E. S. on Sunday, November 8th. Many of the Brothers helped with a new format for the dinner this year: A "Drive-Thru" event! As always, the food was delicious and we had a good time working together!



Photo Credit: WB Andy Martin

Challenging Times
Covid-19 continues to change the way we meet in our Lodge. As our number of new positive cases continues to rise in Lincoln, we hope and pray that all of our Masonic Brothers stay healthy and safe. We practice the

mandates of socially-distancing at our meetings and wearing masks is mandatory; Grand Lodge of Nebraska has supported our Lodge meetings by providing guidelines that will see us through these challenging times.

George Washington Trivia
Although several universities and other educational institutions bear his name, Washington did not attend college. He is the only major founding father without a college education. He left school at the age of 15 because his

family could not afford his college education. As a result, he was self-taught in many fields.

In closing...as we journey through this season of Thanksgiving, I leave you with these thoughts of gratitude by Ralph Waldo Emerson:
"For each new morning with its light,
For rest and shelter of the night,
For health and food,
For love and friends,
For everything Thy Goodness sends."

North Star Lodge #227

Bob Tooker

A Special Communication of North Star Lodge was called by WM Bruce Watkins, October 28 for the purpose of examination of the Lodge for proficiency in the Fellowcraft Degree. The examination was conducted by our Deputy Grand Custodian WB Carl Plants. The examination was successful. We are preparing to complete the Master's Degree examination this week so by the time you read this it should be in the bag for another year.

announced, we can get back to normal early in the year 2021.

I am glad the 2020 election is mostly over. The most divisive and expensive election in history. Don't know what the answer is. Seems many took the old nineteenth century tongue in cheek line "vote early and vote often" seriously. We can send people to space but we haven't devised a rule or method to count quickly or accurately.

The November 4th Business Meeting was largely uneventful even though it was election of officers for 2021. WM Watkins agreed to take Master again and WB Steven Flader was advanced to Sr Warden and Bro. Adam English was elected to Jr Warden. Since Bro. Adam is starting grad school, it will give him time to finish that project and serve as Master when he is finished. All other officers both elected or appointed will get another shot. Hopefully with the vaccine that was recently

Well enough rambling for this month. Eat plenty of turkey and punkin pie.

Congratulations Liberty Lodge - fully proficient for another year! Thursday, October 29th we completed our final Master Mason degree for proficiency. With the challenges of working with a condensed schedule to complete proficiency, what has been encouraging is how many Brothers have extended their assistance with performing parts. With conflicting work schedules and last minute changes everyone was flexible to fill in new roles. Thank you for all your hard work.

During the November business meeting Brothers elected their officers for the 2021 year. The incoming elected officers will be Justin Williamson (Worshipful Master), Lynn Friesen (Senior Warden), Jake Hedden (Junior Warden) and Brent Myers (Treasurer/Secretary). Justin is already hard at work planning for his year leading our Lodge.

As the Holiday Season is upon us it always brings a time to remember all the

Liberty Lodge #300

Lynn Friesen

things we are thankful for, a time to reflect on the year and a time for excitement for what lies ahead. Reflecting on 2020 we would probably prefer to forget it ever happened, but there have been several things to be thankful for. Thank you Worshipful Master Dennis Hecht for your leadership this year. You kept us on track to complete our proficiency, conferred an EA degree and learned to use technological resources you probably never in your wildest dreams would have considered would be a part of your year (Zoom meetings). Your hard work studying the last several years to be able to confer all the degrees for our proficiency paid off. Thank you!

Thank you to all the Brothers that haven't been as active the last couple of years and participated this year. Whether it was attending Zoom meetings during the Summer months or assisting with proficiency your engagement was greatly

appreciated.

Thank you, in a year of political turmoil, for a group of Brothers that have an attentive ear, an instructive tongue and a faithful breast.

Even with the challenges in 2020, what has the Craft taught you to be thankful for? What do you look forward to in the year ahead? Share with your brothers as you gather this Holiday Season. Regardless of the unknown in the New Year there are many reasons to be excited.

Electa Chapter #8

Michael Lagueux



In the middle of all this madness; COVID, the election, civil unrest, and all the other "stuff" that has been making us crazy for the last few months, I would like to thank all the people who came out to participate in the "drive by" for the Food Bank of Lincoln. Your participation in this event helped us to gather in three completely full barrels of supplies for the people who are hurting the most right now. Through your generosity families will have what they need as we come into the holidays. Watching cars come into our parking lot to deliver these necessities meant so much. THANK YOU!!! I feel like just thanking you seems so inadequate for what you have done for others you do not even know, but it's what I can offer. God bless you all.

Worthy Matron Denise announced that the chocolate fantasy mail in contributions have gone exceptionally well in lieu of actually having this fund raising event. Although I am very glad it has brought in a good sum of money for the Chapter, I have to admit...I miss the taste of the REAL chocolate! Being one of those people who are "sugar challenged" it's probably better for my health that this is sort of a virtual event. But I still want some!!! Hopefully in the future we will be able to have the real thing, but for right now thank you to all who have contributed so far.

At our stated meeting this past Saturday a new slate of officers were chosen to lead Electa in 2021. We all extend our heartfelt congratulations to Worthy Matron Elect (PM) Illah Anderson and Worthy Patron Elect (PP) Bruce Anderson. While new to the coming year and all the challenges associated with our current world situation, both are hardly newcomers to the positions they have been

elected to. It is my hope that all of Electa will give them the same support and assistance that has been the tradition in past years. I can't imagine it would go any other way.

I am always amazed at Nebraska's weather. A short couple weeks ago we were wearing short sleeved shirts, and wondering about what to do about the record breaking 80 degree weather we were having. In a few short days the new prediction is for rain turning to light snow! My trees have almost lost all their leaves, the garden is finished for the season, and the water hoses are put up for the year. Looking back it seems like only yesterday that we were getting ready to plant the garden, wondering when we could start putting away winter ware, and watching the buds form on the trees. Don't get me wrong, I have seen many wonderful things this summer and fall. But now I have to watch more closely to catch all the things going on around me that are worth seeing.

Most recently my granddaughter turned 20 years old. No big deal right? Kids turn 20 every day of the year...but it seemed like this one I was only holding in my arms at the hospital, yesterday maybe? I had to go back and refresh myself by looking at all those adorable pictures of her as she was growing up to be sure it was real. It is, of that I assure you. She is a Junior in college majoring in Biochemical genetic engineering. I would like to be able to tell you exactly what that is, but every time she starts to tell my wife and daughter about her field of study I watch their eyes widen and begin to sparkle

as mine begin to haze over and I get lost! Time. It goes quickly and we have to grab on to the events that are happening with a tenaciousness that reminds us that we have not yet reached that level of understanding we wish we could.

I hope in the coming days, weeks, and months that we can once again get together and discuss what has happened in this time that has somewhat stood still for us while still moving forward. What I wish for you as we await that period of time is good health, God's blessings, and great memories.



Martha Washington Chapter #153

Betty Kirby

By the time you are reading this article, we will have already had our Drive-Up Roast Beef Dinner, held on November 8. A big thank you to all of you who supported our fund-raising project. We hope everyone who ordered our "to-go" meals enjoyed them.

very different type of Thanksgiving celebration; COVID is changing so many of our traditions, our pleasures, and our expectations. However, we all still have so much to be grateful for this Thanksgiving.

Speaking of meals, we want to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving Day. We know that for many, this will be a

Following Phase 1 protocol, we had our in-person meeting for November. Elections were done and thanks to our officers for all

agreeing to stay in their positions for another year. Hopefully, 2021 will be a better year and one where plans can be made and kept.

We would like to close this article with these words from Candy Paull's "Art of Abundance." "Celebrating abundance is the best antidote I know for fear; fear that whispers there won't be enough tomorrow, fear that hisses "things will never

improve", fear that dominates and tortures, telling you that you're helpless and God has forgotten you. Don't believe it. Start looking at what you already have. Start with the basics, like "I'm still breathing." Make a game of seeing how many positives there are in your life. Then start counting the little things, the tiny joys that a moment can bring. Open your eyes to see the wonder of the world you live in...warm hands on a

cold winter day, blue jays fighting over birdseed in the bird feeder, the snapping of a crisp sugar cookie, a flock of geese winging their way south on a fall day, a cat basking in the sun, the sharp smell of fallen pine needles, Abundance is a thankful heart."

Wishing you all a very Happy Thanksgiving.

Grand Order of The Eastern Star

November 2020

Dear Sisters and Brothers of Nebraska Eastern Star,

As we prepare our hearts and minds to celebrate Thanksgiving 2020 may we pause and offer our prayers.

☞ Prayers for the health of our Nation and all citizens of earth as we continue to battle and endure the invisible public health crisis that surrounds us and the widespread and varied impacts that are being revealed.

☞ Prayers for our Order, members and our ability to lead with charity, truth and loving kindness as we serve each other and our world.

☞ Prayers of gratitude for all the blessings of life that surround us. May we offer our thanks for comfort, safety, companionship, relationships and our abundance.

☞ May our prayers of gratitude come to life through our acts of service and generosity.

During the coming holidays let us as Chapters and individually remember the great gifts of love and life that are created in our Masonic Eastern Star Home for Children in Fremont and the Nebraska Masonic Home in Plattsmouth. May we honor our Homes with an ingathering donation of prayer and our financial gifts. The residents in Fremont and Plattsmouth deserve our love and care. Let us be found faithful.

The prayers of the Enduring Hope Grand Family continue to cover you. It is our honor and privilege to serve with you and lift high the values and mission of our Order through our service to Grand Chapter and to you. May gratitude and generosity be your reality and our legacy.

Star love and with great expectations,

Karan Birdsell
Worthy Grand Matron

Bruce A. Baker
Worthy Grand Patron

and the Officers and Companions of the
Enduring Hope Grand Family



COMING EVENTS IN MASONRY

EDITOR'S NOTE: As we are just starting to re-open the various bodies in the Masonic Family, no events have been reported yet. Please contact the appropriate Masonic body leadership prior to attending any event or meeting to verify any restrictions in place.

Open with restrictions: All lodges under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Nebraska, all York Rite chapters and councils, all chapters under the jurisdiction of the Grand Order Of The Eastern Star of Nebraska, Job's Daughters (alternating Zoom meetings and in-person meetings)

Not yet open: All York Rite commanderies (closed until further notice).

Current status unknown: Scottish Rite, Shrine, all other youth groups.

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.

Annual Meetings & Elections 2020

As we continue with our Crazy 2020, let's remember that we can and will get through all of this! It's frustrating on the unknown; that we can't all meet in-person and do as we normally have done...

As a Master, Worthy Matron, Unit President, Potentate, Queen, Commander, High Priest, Worthy Advisor, Honored Queen, Master Councilor, Dean, or President, we are at our wits end this year in heading our Masonic groups... Nothing in the fault of our members or ourselves as the heads of bodies, but this pandemic has thrown us for an unexpected loop. As we had to stop, and some have slow started back up, for our in-

person meetings, we all have had to learn more on the technology side. Zoom meetings have been the "norm" lately, which on the bright side has shown us that we can reach our out-of-state and shut-in members. It's always great to reconnect. Even when we can't really do ritual over Zoom or Teams or other virtual platforms, we can at least do some business and socialization over these virtual means.

Here in North Dakota, I've been Unit President for the past two years for El Zagal Shriners – Oilers Unit out of Bismarck. We've had a few Zoom meetings for our Unit Meetings during the last few months. November each year is our Annual Elections per our Unit By-Laws, so we did have to hold elections via Zoom this year. It went fairly well, with our newly elected secretary-treasurer not being able to make the Zoom meeting, but accepted on that condition that our 2019-2020 secretary-treasurer who was Unit President before me, and myself, agreed to help the Unit Officers as At-Large Executive Committee members (as already established in our By-Laws).

Anyways, didn't mean to bore you with details, but shown that we can get business done via these virtual means. I'm

looking forward to taking a step back from the head of the Unit... Being a Masonic Lodge Secretary and a Scottish Rite Valley Secretary as well as a DeMolay Advisor is enough leadership rolls as I can do for now. Sometimes taking a step back from too many things can really re-energize them for the passionate focus of a few things.

Lastly, here is a shout out to the Secretaries of our Masonic family. Trying to keep communications together, setting up said Zoom meetings, sharing documents via email or Teams, sending out reminders, dispersing Grand Master's edicts and Grand edicts from other Masonic related bodies. For those who are Secretaries currently during 2020, I understand and am with you, as we do our part to make sure those who need assistance are communicated with and receive questions from our membership in these uncertain times. Have you thanked your secretaries/recorders/scribes/editors/office managers yet? (Thank you, WBs Steve, Bruce, Adam, and each of you that crossed my path and ran the groups in my homeland of Lincoln, Nebraska!)

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

East Lincoln Lodge #210

Bill Hayes



15 New Acacia Fraternity Initiates at East Lincoln 210 last week.

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