
THE TRESTLE BOARD

Volume 1, Issue 4 May 2007

Greetings from the East

Greetings from the East. We have been working on some important issues in Lodge and want to share them with you so that you know what's happening.

During the February meeting we discussed the financial situation of the Lodge. We need to determine what amount we as a lodge could afford to pay if we needed to finance any part of the new Lodge. Let me share some statistics with you. Tipton Lodge currently has 365 members. We have lost some to death, demit, transfer to other lodges and non-payment of dues. We have currently 99 fifty year members. Under current practice fifty year members do not pay dues. This accounts for almost 1/3 of our membership. We will be awarding an additional 11 fifty year awards this year.

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As far as new membership, we are losing far more members than we are adding. The Lodge functions off of dues paid by its members. When we lose a dues paying member to death, demit, transfer, suspension or fifty year award of gold it decreases our funds. We also have around 19 brothers whom we remit their dues due to financial hardship. That translates into a dues paying base of 247 members.

Our cash reserves are approximately \$245,000. We intend to use a portion of this money for a Lodge but I personally would like not to use more than half. Though we could probably pay cash, I feel spending our entire cash reserves doesn't make good financial sense.

We have been looking for suitable land and property. It has been brought to my attention that we have had several properties in the past that we could have acted on but failed to do so. Some have expressed their anger and frustration with what they see as a lack of action on the part of the leadership of Tipton Lodge over the last few years. My intention is not to debate the issue or defend the leadership. Instead I need support from our membership to make my goal of securing land or a building a reality.

You would think that there is lots of affordable land available in Logansport. However, we have found that the cost for land is high and many of the buildings that are for sale are old and

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in need of repair. The last thing we need is a building that will be expensive to repair and maintain.

I like the thought of building a new lodge. We have been researching steel buildings as a possibility. However, we need to find land first that's affordable and in a good location. Ideally, a Lodge would fit on 2 acres. If a member has land they would like to donate to the Lodge, we will create a permanent memorial for them so that future Masons know your generosity. If we could get the land donated it would allow us to build without financing.

We need your help and ideas. I know that many of you work fulltime, have families and other activities. However, your Officers are no different than you. We also work fulltime and have families. If every one helps a little we can accomplish a lot. We have a great membership. We can make a new Lodge a reality.

Assistant Secretary

We are also looking for a member who would like to earn a little extra money each month. We need an assistant secretary. This person would assist the Secretary and only work a few hours a week. The salary is \$100.00 monthly. If you would like to know more, you can contact me at 765-438-8919 or by e-mail at worshipful_master@tiptonlodge33.org.

Fraternally,

Barry Taylor

The Philosophy of Freemasonry

By Barry Taylor

A common statement made to men seeking admission into our fraternity is that you get out of Freemasonry what you put into Freemasonry. When asked "What is a Freemason and what do they do?" Many brothers would be hard pressed to express in words an accurate explanation of our fraternity.

What does Freemasonry have to offer to a young man in our modern hectic world? Would the teachings of our Lodge benefit the youth of our nation? I believe yes, however, we as Masons must ourselves never forget the teachings and meanings of our rituals and symbols.

The operative stone masons of the past were builders of King Solomon's Temple, the Pyramids and the grand cathedrals of Europe. These men through the hand of the Great Architect of the Universe created great monuments to God through the hands of man.

As Masonry shifted from operative to speculative the belief for divine inspired and guided perfection was translated into viewing our own bodies as living stones. The building of a speculative Mason is the construction of an inner temple. A search for perfection within ourselves. Ever mindful that we must work our whole lives to improve our inner moral edifice.

It seems the young of today have no moral compass. These men contain within them the materials



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

STATED MEETING MAY 2ND, 2007

PLACE MASONIC LODGE

TIME: MEAL AT LODGE 6:30PM

STATED MEETING 7:30PM

CRAFT CLUB MAY 2ND, 2007

PLACE: MASONIC LODGE

TIME: AFTER STATED MEETING

We will be covering EA Degree

Logansport Shrine Club Meeting May 8th, 2007

Place: Logansport Shrine Club

Time: Board Meeting 6:30PM Stated meeting 7:00PM

2007 Officers

Worshipful Master – Barry Taylor P.M.

Senior Warden – Tom Sadler P.M.

Junior Warden – James Kerns P.M.

Secretary – John Heckard P.M.

Treasurer – John W. Fisher P.M.

Senior Deacon – Jim Huff

Junior Deacon – Ernest Gasho

Senior Steward – Chad Geer

Junior Steward – Kevin Hedger

Chaplin – John McMahan

Tyler – Clyde Wilkinson P.M.

but lack the tools and knowledge to use them. Every Mason holds the key to help teach and unlock within a man the potential he possesses.

At times I feel we forget the true goal of Freemasonry. To take a good man and make him better. We do this by teaching and putting into practice the lessons of our Fraternity. You never here within the walls of most Lodges a discussion of architecture, science, the arts the foundations of our order. If a man walks away from a meeting without feeling he has grown, then that same man will at some point not attend.

Our fraternity as a whole has many challenges as we move forward into the future. I have no doubt that the issues we face today have been faced by Brothers in the past. We belong to an organization with a long and glorious history that is worth sharing with a potential member. Don't keep Freemasonry a secret. You may now approach potential members and ask if they would like to join. We all have a duty to spread the good word to others and help a good man find an organization where he can fit his body and mind like living stones to create his own inner temple.

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Tipton Masonic Lodge # 33
F&AM
400 North Street
Logansport, IN 46947

ADDRESS CORRECTION
REQUESTED

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|------------|
| BUILD RATE |
| US POSTAGE |
| PAID |
| PERMIT NO. |
| 00000 |

To be on the e-mail list, go to the website and enter your e-mail address

WWW.tiptonlodge33.org