

**NASHVILLE LODGE NO. 135, F.&A.M.
19 ARTIST DRIVE
NASHVILLE, INDIANA**

September 2010

Greetings Brethren!

Tidings from the East. It has almost been a year since our last newsletter so needless to say, this edition is way overdue. As Worshipful Master, this year has been very busy, very enlightening and seemingly very short. In what has been a fast paced year for me, the brethren have been extremely dedicated and busy orchestrating numerous projects in the community in addition to our normal activities from the Trestleboard. We are still in the midst of one project in particular and that is our food drive, with all proceeds going to the Sheriff's Department's TRIAD program. For those of you not familiar with this program, sheriffs department volunteers conduct welfare checks and visit the county's elderly who may be homebound, needy or sometimes just need a little conversation. We have been collecting non-perishable food items that will all be donated to TRIAD and distributed by the TRIAD volunteers. This project runs through the end of September. You can bring your donations to the September stated meeting or leave them at the lodge's south door anytime. Brother Secretary has volunteered to stop by the lodge on a daily basis to collect items left at our doorstep. The other upcoming project is our annual Shop with a Cop benefit breakfast. This will be our third year donating all proceeds to the Nashville Police Department for this very rewarding program. For those unfamiliar, our town and county police officers take the community's less fortunate children shopping for clothes and a few Christmas presents. These children are identified by our local school administration who then provide their list to the Town Marshal's office. If you know of a child who could benefit from this program, please contact the Town Marshal's office at 988-0341. Our benefit breakfast will be from 7-11am, Saturday, November 5th. We've been able to present the Town Marshal with \$1100 raised over the first two years of this program. Last year's breakfast was severely hampered by Mother nature's snow and ice so we moved the breakfast to November in hopes of avoiding the worst of the weather. Brethren, this is a most noble cause. We would really like to exceed last year's donation of \$600 and with your help, we can. If you are unable to make it for the breakfast, please consider a monetary donation. You can include your donation with your 2012 dues payment or for those fortunate enough not to have to pay annual dues, you may mail a separate check to the Secretary. Donations for shop with a cop need to be received no later than December 6th. I realize support to the Masonic Home and Foundation are both worthy causes, but Brethren, this money is 100% kept local, and for a great cause! Annual elections are only a few months which means my tenure as Master is fast approaching. We have had a busy year and I hope to stay just as busy through the end of my term. Our successes

this year have not been possible without the diligence, patience and brotherly love and friendship of the Craft; Thank You Brethren all.

From the Desk of the Secretary. Alas Brethren, it is annual dues time again! That's the 'bad' news; the 'good' news is our dues did not increase; still \$80. Some thought our dues increase last year was significant but keep in mind, the state average is \$100. We lost several members last year for non-payment; only one member demitted because of a dues increase. If the economy or other reasons create a financial burden, please contact any lodge member or the Secretary and request a remittance prior to *December 31 2011*; do not wait until after the first of the year. If you are a life or endowed member, your 2012 dues card is enclosed with this newsletter. For donations to the Shop w/a Cop benefit, just write it in on your dues statement when you mail it to the Secretary.

Welcome to our newest Master Masons... John Lucero, Dan Woodhouse, Joe Herner, Mike McDonald, Ed Morning, Danny Shafer, Charlie Crum and Kevin Tolle. Brothers Paul Cook, Jack Barkhimer, Wayne O'Hara and Rex Thompson, Jr. have transferred their respective memberships to Nashville #135; welcome one and all. We have several Brethren in the process of obtaining their Master Mason degrees and expect to raise them all in the very near future. As you can see, our Trestleboard has not been blank much this year. If you want to know what's on the Trestleboard, check our website for upcoming degree works and news - www.nashville135.org. We bid a fond farewell to Brother Oscar Ayers, Past Master. Bro. Oscar has relocated to South Carolina but will always retain his membership at Nashville #135. A dedicated Mason who occupied his reserved seat to the right of the Junior Warden in the South, he will be sorely missed but we all wish him safe journey and will always retain his same seat in the Lodge upon his return visits.

Called by the Grand Architect. Although we have added several new members, we have also lost several due to death. It is with deep sadness to report several of our senior members having been called home by the Grand Architect.: Raymond Seyfried, Marion Burkhart, Monte Logan, Bernard Roberts, Keith Moore, Howard Volland, Herb Ginger, Frank Arnold, Elmer Haase, Bob Hale, Tom McGuire, Brian Heller, Don Main and most recently, Marvin Cody. As you can see, we have lost many good members of our fraternity, nine who were 50+ year members (Bob Hale was months short of receiving his 50-year award).

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Membership. If not for the losses to death and suspensions for nonpayment of dues, we would have seen a net increase in our overall membership numbers; a rarity these past several years. Now, more than ever, we all must continue to recruit into our fraternity. As an 'old timer', I can remember when we couldn't ask a man to join but times have changed. If you need a petition, contact the Secretary or you can download a petition from the Grand Lodge's website (www.indianafreemasons.com). If you know

a good man and haven't asked him to join our fraternity, what are you waiting for? What if you never asked to join or had never been invited to join? Would your life have been less fulfilling? Look at your son, brother, nephew or co-worker. Aren't they worthy of joining the fraternity? Remember Brethren - Masonry takes a good man and makes him better.

50 Year Members. Since our last newsletter, our 50-year membership increased by five. Congratulations to Brothers Lee Waltman, Billie Burk, Jack Barkhimer, Winferd Henry and twice Past Master Bob Woods. A couple of the aforementioned are really old characters; we'll let you decide which ones they are! Based on Lodge records, we expect to bestow the 50-year Award of Gold to the following members in 2012: Thurman (Simmie) Harden, Eugene Marlett and Bill Pool. If you think you are eligible for your 50-year award this year and are not listed here, please contact the Secretary. In 2013 and 2014, our records indicate another nine members will receive their 50-year awards.

Parting shots. As you can see by the aforementioned numbers, our membership is aging Brethren. At the end of 2010, nearly 30% of our total membership were 50+ year members. For those of you who haven't been to Lodge in a while, we have many new, young and fresh faces amongst the Craft and some in appointed and elected positions. For the rest of us 'sideliners' we continue losing hair but adding wrinkles, pounds and aging. It is not unusual to have 18-23 members at our Stated Meetings; great numbers that area lodges would like to see in their own lodges. Years ago it seemed all Lodge officers were older gentlemen but today you will see baby boomers and senior citizens occupying their respective chairs. Stated Meetings are still held the first Tuesday of the month. We normally eat around 6:30-6:45pm and open lodge at 7:30pm. Don't think you'll be volunteered for anything if you show up (you won't); don't think you have to 'work' your way in (you won't); don't expect lodge to last all night (it won't); expect to enjoy great camaraderie (you will). On the other hand, if you have time on your hands and think you might want to get active in the Lodge, annual elections will be at our December Stated Meeting. If you don't want elected to an officer's position, come anyway; we always like to fill the sideline seats and you just might renew old friendships or make new ones and who knows...you may end up even enjoying yourself.

Fraternally,

Darell Bruce, Past Master
Worshipful Master

Worshipful Master
Senior Warden

Darell Bruce, Past Master
Charles "Buzz"

Senior Deacon	Jim McDonald
Senior Steward	Don Holley
Junior Warden	Martin Boch, PM
Junior Deacon	Bruce Tuxhorn
Junior Steward	Dave Weddle
Secretary	Rick White, PM
Chaplain	Clyce Hobbs, PM
Treasurer	Jim Gredy
Tyler	Dean Back

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