

A Poem to Contemplate

Last Night I Knelt Where Hiram Knelt

Last night I knelt where Hiram knelt
and took an obligation.

Today I'm closer to my God
for I'm a Master Mason.

Though heretofore my fellow men
seemed each one like the other,
today I search each one apart.
I'm looking for my brother.

And as I feel his friendly grip
it fills my heart with pride.
I know while I am on the square
that he is by my side.

His footsteps on my errand go
if I should such require.
His prayers will lead in my behalf
if I should so desire.

My words are safe within his breast
as though within my own,
his hand forever at my back
to help me safely home.

Good counsel whispers in my ear
and warns of any danger.
By square and compass, Brother now
who once would call me stranger.

I might have lived a moral life
and risen to distinction
without my Brothers helping hand
and the fellowship of Masons.

But God, who knows how hard it is
to resist life's temptations,
knows why I knelt where Hiram knelt
and took that obligation.

Calendar of Events

STATED MEETING

- 1st Tuesday each month at 7:30 p.m. Eat at 6:30pm (Eat at 6pm & Meeting at 7pm if Bylaws are approved.)
- Called Meetings for degrees will be: Eat at 6pm and Work at 7pm. Dates to be announced.

OCTOBER 2013

- October 5 - Shrine Club Car Show
- October 12 - Shop with a Cop Breakfast
- October 16 - Lodge Open House
- October 26 - Shrine Club Trap & Still Board Shoot

NOVEMBER 2013

- November 9 - Child ID Program YMCA

DECEMBER 2013

- December 14 - Breakfast with Santa
- December 10 - Shrine Club Christmas Party
- December 27 - Feast of Saint John

CANDIDATE STUDY NIGHT

Every Monday Night at 6pm
Mentors and candidates should attend.

DEGREE WORK

Every attempt will be made to conduct degrees on Tuesdays and Thursdays. We will Eat at 6pm and conduct the degree at 7pm. Much work is being conducted and we can foresee much work in the months ahead. It will be a good time to come and enjoy the fellowship and refresh your memory as to what you may have forgotten. We always have plenty of help in bestowing the degrees, so don't worry that you will have to perform a part.

COMPUTER USERS!

Email saves the Lodge money and improves our communication with you. Please email Secretary Buzz King at nashville135@sbcglobal.net to get your copy via email. Check out our home page at www.nashville135.org and Facebook Group at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/nashville135>

The Trestleboard

NASHVILLE #135 F. & A. M.

A Proud and Lawfully
Chartered Lodge of the Indiana
Free Masons



Fall 2013

www.nashville135.org

MASTER'S MESSAGE

Brethren, we have been busy this year. We have read 16 petitions. As you are reading this, we have made 3 new Master Masons. We have 3 Fellow Craft and 5 EA's in process and next year looks very promising. This activity is due to an active program of public events and the hard work of the Membership Committee. We have busy months ahead of us making new Masons and enjoying fellowship. Our EA's ran our last Child ID Program on the August 6th and it was the most successful ever. On July 17th we held a **Rusty Nail** degree where we welcomed 6 brothers back to lodge who had been absent for many years. At the last degree night we had two members come who had not been to Lodge in many years. We are going to continue to work and improve our communications with our existing members as well as to attract worthy petitioners. The fellowship and food is great at the Lodge. Don't worry that you may have forgotten a Sign, Token or a Word. We will welcome you back and help you remember. Come back to Lodge, enjoy the fellowship and see what you have been missing.

SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

The Dues Cards have arrived. You will receive your Grand Lodge statement soon. **Please pay early!** Dues must be paid by December 31, 2013 not to be considered late. When dues are not paid on time it causes extra expense for the Lodge. Please be prompt.

It is with deep regret that we announce the following Brethren have been called home by the Grand Architect since our last communication:

Harry Emil Poling
Thomas Larry Nichols, SR
Billy Lee McDonald

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families of these fine Brethren.

LODGE BYLAWS

I am happy to report that the Lodge Bylaws were amended to have 12 monthly stated meetings and we have met in July and August this year and accomplished considerable worthwhile business.

Now it is time to consider replacing our Bylaws with several changes to better enable us to keep pace with the times. At the September Stated Meeting a newly revised set of Bylaws were discussed and amended. A motion and seconded to accept the new Bylaws. Our current set of Bylaws were dated 1969 with amendments over the years which mostly pertained to

dues increases. A synopsis of the changes is below. We will vote to accept them at the October Stated Meeting so if you want a vote please be there.

Stated Meetings will be changed to [7:00 p.m.]

It was added to the Secretary, Treasure and Trustee officer descriptions: [It is deemed a Masonic offense for any Brother to sign a blank check.]

It was added to the Stewards description: [In Addition, they will assist the Junior Warden in preparing the meals and making sure the kitchen and dining area is clean and orderly. In the absence of the Junior Warden the Senior Steward will assume the responsibilities for meals and refreshment with the assistance of the Junior Steward.]

Clearly define how Trustees are elected and the duties of Trustees. They will be tasked with managing rentals of the Lodge not to include the Lodge Room. A spending Limit will be set for the Trustees of \$200 for repairs without consent of the Lodge. One of the Trustees will be appointed by the Master to include signatory authority on the Lodge depository accounts and will require that Trustee to provide his signature to the depository institutions. Also, guidance for what is acceptable for rental uses was added to their job description.

It was added to the Masonic Education Committees Duties that they will establish weekly study periods for candidates and create a program to improve the ritual skills of the officers and members of the Lodge.

Since we are experiencing a rush of new members largely due to the efforts of the Membership Committee, it is prudent to defined a new mandatory Committee known as the Membership Committee and define the program as it now exists and is being executed with success with hope that future Masters will keep the program going so as to insure a steady stream of worthy petitioners to keep our Lodge healthy and growing.

A section was added to define how the Lodge will treat a Petition for Reinstatement for one who has been suspended for non-payment of dues.

Sec. 4. (Reg. 40.030). The fee for reinstatement for charges of non-payment of dues and assessments of this Lodge shall be the dues and assessments for the year in which suspended. Which fee must

accompany the Petition for Reinstatement and be deposited with the Secretary at the time the petition is presented. Once read and if approved at a subsequent Stated Meeting then the petitioner must pay the current years dues to be considered re-admitted.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Brothers part of the task to the Membership committee is to help us improve attendance and to keep up with our current membership. We are finding this one of the more difficult tasks as our calling and mailing lists are not as complete and accurate as they need to be. Please provide your current phone number, email and mailing address to the Lodge. It is the intent of the Membership committee to designate members to call to make sure that our events are known to all our members and to assist you in attending should that be your desire. Please call, mail or email the secretary at:

Charles B. King
PO Box 1040
Nashville, IN 47448-1040
nashville135@sbcglobal.net
(812) 988-4294

We are finding that almost everything impacts on the ability to attract worthy men to our Fraternity. Many discussions at the Membership committee meetings are helping us focus on improvements in practices and the Lodge property to make the Masonic experience more appealing to prospective candidates and satisfying for our existing members.

Your Lodge building and grounds are in need of restoration, modernization and repair. Some things have been done to improve the appearance of the outside of the building. The roof has been replaced this year. Thanks to a hail storm and the insurance company we did not have to tap into much of the Lodge's savings to do that. Trees have been removed and minor landscaping has been done in the front of the Temple. There is much left to be done provided we can find the will and the means to do so. We need your participation and ideas to help us to make our Temple home a showplace in the community.

Please contact our Lodge **Membership Chairman Harry Bond at (812) 988-6128** with the name and phone number of the good man that you think would be interested in our Fraternity. The Membership Committee will invite him to our public events and make him feel welcome.