



TRIANGULAR



FOREST LAKE LODGE #344

May 2017

Forest Lake Masonic Lodge #344

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The Masters Column

This year's theme "Grow and Glow"

We are raising three new brothers (Growing) and making our lodge glow.

What a wonderful time to be a brother in our lodge. I see so many good things happening. We just completed our first ever Smoked Turkey Booyah and for a first event, it was well attended and we had many good comments. People loved the drive through to pick up. The taste and flavor with the smokiness and individual to go containers. There was a lot of work done ahead of the event with special support from Rodney and Mike S. The day of the event so many people worked without a break for the three-hour event. Here is the big revelation using social media really works. Luke helped us with that effort. It is so easy, all you have to do is go to the Facebook page you will see the event and then push two buttons "Like" and "share" then all your friends will see the event on their Facebook page, then they can share it also. We had many that found us that way. We had many more walk-ins that day than we do for a Pancake Breakfast and that is with the many signs we put around town. You will also be sent a reminder to do this for our next pancake breakfast. If you do not have a Facebook account have a friend or family member do the like and share. It is free and effective. Here is the link to Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/forestlakemasons/> If you have not bookmarked the lodge Facebook page yet you should do it now.

We have a pancake breakfast coming up which takes more manpower. The pancake breakfast is what we need to do to just survive as a lodge. The three events make the money to pay the bills and taxes, insurance of maintaining the building and other costs associated. So, for those we do not see in lodge as often I ask that you keep these dates open. 4/30, 6/04, and 9/24. They are only three days which are so important to keep us solvent and viable, generally you are only here for a few hours and brothers I contend that it is your duty to be available. It is a great inconvenience to your brothers if you are on the roster and you do not show up. If you are not on the roster come we can always fit you in and your brothers will appreciate you stepping

Senior Wardens Article

up.

One more thing we all need to understand that there are so many ways brothers support the lodge and events. If we do not see someone at an event they may be contributing in other ways so don't be too quick to judge people's participation. Generally, the Master, Wardens and God knows.

The last event there were people that conceived, planned and organized the event, purchased the food-three trips, helped set up the room on Saturday, helped prepare and smoke turkeys the day before, send out tickets and mailing, do emails, send out press releases, make posters, post the event on Facebook, arrive by 6:00 am to start cooking and I am probably missing something. All of these activities took the effort of almost a dozen people. Their activities were not visible, but essential. That day of many worked hard and cleaned up.

My point is that the events we do takes the support of many. Much of the work is not seen by everyone. When you are listed on a work roster, keep in mind several brothers have already put effort into the event. It is your duty to come and support the effort and your brothers. Many of our brothers that you do not see as much are organizing other activities like Saints Baseball outing this summer and other activities. Then there are two people that are mentoring on a weekly basis. How about the person that stops nearly daily to check on the lodge and helps maintain it. What about the secretary which has perhaps the most difficult job in the lodge and the treasurer that pays out bills. Well, there are lots more.

I just get concerned when people don't see all, the work that is being done and judging without full knowledge of the hard work being done by others. My hope is that more of you step up and get involved and learn what it takes to make our lodge great and getting better. There are other things that I could talk about like Grand Lodge but I will leave it to the Wardens there is nothing more important than the health of our brothers and our lodge.

Then there are the people that have commitments to family, God and their job. All of these activities that come before the lodge, and good reasons if they are elsewhere. I just ask you to plan in advance three days for the year. If you are in need ask for your brother to help. That is definitely our obligation.

The pancake breakfast pays our bills, the Smoked Turkey Booyah will help us update and maintain the lodge. We are on track to achieve Gold Status as a lodge.

*From the East
Your devoted brother and Master
WB Michael Perreault*

Brethren,

We have just finished with our Grand Lodge Annual Communications and we have a few things to report from this years session. We voted on 2 resolutions; the first one making it mandatory to have a background check anyone affiliating with your lodge or a new candidate. The vote for the this was NO. The second resolution was to raise the per capita from \$29 to \$40 and the vote for this was YES. For more details on these resolutions, please come to our next Stated Meeting or I believe the information will be on the Grand Lodge website for those of you that do not live in MN. I'm not sure if you realize it or not, but these annual communications are open to all Master Masons and I think anyone interested in Masonry in MN would benefit by attending. There is a lot of information you can get by attending, plus you will meet Masons from all over the state and the country. They also have some great educational break out sessions. Think about it. You joined Masonry for a reason and by attending an event like this, it could open your eyes for an opportunity to discover many things in Masonry.

After the Grand Lodge Communications Patty took a couple days off work and we took a short vacation to Iowa. I know what your are saying, why would you go to Iowa? We have taken a couple of short vacations there and have found some interesting things. I grew up in the Estherville, Okoboji area. On this vacation our first stop was Clear Lake. This the home of the infamous Surf Club and the last place Buddy Holly played before he died in a horrific plane crash. There was also a great supper club there called the Half Moon. We then went to the presidential library of Herbert Hoover. I have never been to a presidential library before and it was quite interesting. From there we went to Le Claire. This the home of the American Pickers that you see on TV. Looks just like it does on TV. Le Claire is near the quad cities. We then went to the John Deere Pavilion. We then started our trip home we had to stop at the worlds largest truck stop on I 80. In Cedar Rapids we stopped at the Grand Lodge of IA and the Scottish Rite Temple just a few blocks away. What a nice getaway.

It seems like every time I write my article there has been more improvements made to the Lodge. The most recent is the repair of the shed by WB Dave Scott. Apparently, the woodpeckers have been taking a liking to our shed and done some damage. He also put in some air vents. The bathrooms have gotten a new coat of paint thanks Br. Bob Shoberg. Thank you guys for the pride you take in our Lodge to make it look its best.

On Saturday May 6th, we will be caravanning to the Ronald McDonald House to deliver over 600 boxes of

cookies. For those of you that would like to join us we will meet at the Lodge at 9:30 am. Thank you again for all of you that made this possible.

I would also like to mention that WB Roy Truax was in the hospital for a couple of days for the flu and dehydration. With his therapy he is starting to recover. Roy is a tough ole bird.

On a sadder note; WB Howard Ruggles has passed away and his funeral was on April 13th, 2017. Alas my Brother.

Stay healthy and stay in touch
SW Mike Schultz

Junior Wardens Article

The House of 1,000 Mirrors

Long ago in a faraway village there was a place known as the House of 1,000 Mirrors.

A happy little dog learned of this place and decided to visit. When he arrived, he bounced happily up the stairs to the doorway of the house. He looked through the doorway with his ears lifted high and his tail wagging as fast as it could. To his great surprise, he found himself staring at 1,000 other happy little dogs with their tails wagging just as fast as his. As he left the house, he thought to himself, "This is a wonderful place. I will come back and visit it often."

Another little dog, not happy like the first one, decided to visit the House too. He slowly climbed the stairs, his head hung low as he looked through the doorway. When he saw the 1,000 unfriendly looking dogs staring back at him he barked loudly. He was horrified to see 1,000 barking back him in the echo. As he quickly backed away from the door, he thought to himself, "This is a horrible place and I will never go back there again."

One of the things it is easy to forget is how we influence those around us by something as simple as a smile and welcoming handshake. It makes them feel good about themselves and in turn makes our hearts feel lighter. This is something to remember as

we visit other lodges and welcome brethren to our lodge for degrees and other events. And, of course, as we meet prospective candidates so they feel welcome and open to learn more about our great fraternity...

Speaking of upcoming activities please join us at:

05/04 6:00 PM
Stated Mtg with a Widows & Widower's Program.

05/18 5:30 PM
East Central Shrine Club with Ladies Invited at the Oak Inn, North Branch

05/20 9:00 AM
Shriners Hospital Day – Families Welcome with Lunch.
Call Lauren Elm (612) 596-6119.

05/21 7:00 – 1:00 PM
Helios Lodge – Pancake Breakfast.

06/04 8:00 - 12:30 PM
Forest Lake Lodge – Pancake Breakfast.

06/08 5:00 PM
Forest Lake Lodge – 3rd Degree with a Dinner.

Fraternally,

Mike Hill
Jr. Warden

WB Howard Ruggles

Initiated, 10/13/1959

Passed, 11/3/1959

Raised, 11/20/1959

Died, 4/9/2017

Alas, my Brother

Passed within the Unseen Temple they have not died: They have but quietly passed from mortal contact with those who held their hand in fraternal love; they have but changed the shadows for the Light. To them, as it will be to all, the grave was but a portal to a fuller life- the entrance to the Divine Chapter where, with HIM who is symbolized there is joy and peace forever.

So Mote It Be.



Forrest and Mark Sexson



Luke Ulstad, Mike Perreault, and Mike Schultz

May 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Happy Birthday Br Jack Peterson WB Forrest Sexson	2	3	4 6:00pm Widow and Widowers Chicken Pot Pie Dinner 7:30 Stated Meeting	5	6 9:30am Meet at Lodge to bring cookies to the Ronald McDonald House
7	8 Happy Birthday Eric Schell	9	10	11 HI 12 6pm Officers Meeting	12	13
14 Happy Birthday WB Gary Wettschreck Br Norman Hendershot	15	16	17	18 5:30 pm ECS at the Oak Inn in North Branch	19 Happy Birthday WB Butch Hurd Br Jesse Tomford	20 Shriners Hospital Day Open House
21	22 6pm MM Degree Practice	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	Notes:		

June 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Happy Birthday WB David Schuman 6:00pm Chicken Fettucine Dinner 7:30pm Stated Meeting	2 Happy Birthday WB John Coy Br Richard Moody	3 8am Pancake Breakfast Set up
4 Happy Birthday Br Loren Lex 8am to 12:30pm Pancake Breakfast	5	6	7	8 Hi 12 5pm Master Mason Degree	9	10 Happy Birthday Br Dallas Berggren
11	12	13	14	15 5:30pm EC Shrine	16	17
18	19	20	21 Happy Birthday Br Justin Thunstrom	22	23	24
25 Happy Birthday WB Richard Anderson	26	27 Happy Birthday Br Marc Asch	28	29	30	Notes: