

THE TRESTLE BOARD

May 2010

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WESTERN STAR LODGE #26
A.F. & A.M.

Greetings Brothers,

I wish to thank all who helped throughout the day and the brothers who took the time to attend the Sheriff's Pancake Breakfast, You all helped in making it a successful event.

We have good news. At our next meeting, May 13th, we will be conferring the First Degree on two fine young candidates. Anton Grove and Jeremiah Mickelson have been childhood friends of Brother Mike Hill and were recommended by him and Brother Bob Hill. They will be welcome additions to our fraternity. I ask for everyone that can attend, please do. We need to give our future brothers a proper greeting into this world of ours.

This will be last letter before we go dark so I wish to thank everyone in advance, those that attended as well those involved in bringing these men into the light, Thank You!

Don't forget our May pancake breakfast will be on the 3rd Sunday instead of the second, due to Mother's Day. Treat all the Mothers in your family to a joy filled day.

James Sousa, WM



ALBERT LEA CHAPTER #30 R.A.M.

Companions,

The winter is past and most of the snowbirds have returned to enjoy the summer. We have enough Companions to open in full form and hold one last meeting before summer. Please make an effort to show up on the 5th

The Secretary speaks out:

For the last 2 months I have been attending Masonic meetings all over and I've been getting a message. The Grand Lodge was held in St. Cloud in March and the message there was to "mentor" our new members. Early April saw a special seminar on membership retention put on at the Grand Lodge offices in Burnsville. Again it was pointed out the importance of personal attention to not only each other but to the families. In a visit to the Northwood Lodge in Iowa, I watched a new Brother being raised and the attention given to him by Brothers gathered from 4 different Lodges. A week later, third degree in Austin had attendees from Stewartville, Owatonna, Albert Lea and Kansas. Now we have 2 new petitioners and we will be doing the work in our Lodge. It means a lot to a new brother to see and know that there are Brothers waiting, watching and willing to befriend, guide and share a bond. After all isn't that what a fraternity is?

Sec. Steve Claybourne, P.M.

**Seek to mentor a Brother Mason:
It's good for him, it's good for you, and it's good for
Freemasonry!**



ALBERT LEA AREA
SHRINE CLUB

Nobles,

The Albert Lea Shrine Club met at the American Legion in Albert Lea on April 21. We had 30 in attendance. The Illustrious Sir Potentate Michael Awada and two members of the Divan, Michael Nehm and Anders Haugen along with 20 nobles and 7 ladies.

The meeting was called to order after the Pledge of Allegiance and table prayer from Lars Anderson. We received the treasurer's and secretary's reports along with the parade report from VP Jack Brown. He tells us, "There are several parades confirmed and there are many more out there." Remember we need your help. If you can drive please contact Jack @ 641-390-0498, or email pmjdbrown@hotmail.com. Thanks, to all for the great job you always do.

On Saturday, May 8, we will be working on cars out at Ronnie Remackle's farm. Come out and lend a hand. If you need directions contact me at 507-438-3690.

May 19th is our annual Steak Fry. This year it will be out at the Sons of Norway in Albert Lea. Please call me if you would like to attend. We need a head count to order accurately.

May 21st is our Hospital Visitation Day, mark your calendars and come see what we are all about. Meet the staff and tour the hospital.

At the meeting we had Installation of Officers with Anders Haugen presiding over the installation. Our Illustrious Potentate gave us updates on the Shrine Hospital and he spoke about the Potentate trip in June 9-13, which will be at Ruttger's Bay. It was very nice to have the Potentate and members of the Divan come to our meeting. The door is always open for more like it.

May God Bless,

Jerry Pineau, President
507-438-3690

Email: jandttreasure@yahoo.com

Our next PANCAKE BREAKFAST

At the Lodge on the 3rd Sunday

Sunday, May 16th

8:00 – 1:00

3 shifts available

7:00 to 10:00

10:00 to 1:00

Clean up from 1 to 2:30

We always need workers !

The High School Band members will serve the tables once again. The public likes to see the youth working on such projects and we surely enjoy the help. Not to mention the fact they are earning money for non-budgeted school field trips.

This month the breakfast will be on the 3rd Sunday, a week later, as the second Sunday is Mother's Day.

We have seen some new faces helping and we welcome those Brothers. The more who help, the easier and shorter the shifts will be.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Wednesday Mornings	COFFEE CLUB	7:00am
1st Wednesday	May 5th R.A.M. Chapter 30 (All York Rite business is being addressed here for convenience)	7:30
Monday May 10	<u>Practice</u> for 1 st degree	6:00
2nd Thursday	May 13th Western Star #26 Entered Apprentice Degree work	7:30
3rd Sunday	May 16th Pancake Breakfast	8:00am
3rd Wednesday	May 19th Shrine Club - Social Annual Steak Fry at the Sons Of Norway	6:00 7:00
3rd Thursday	May 20th (Official meeting date) Apollo Commandery K T and Southgate Council (see first Wed for business)	
4th Thursday	May 27th	7:30

Dinner Menu and activities to be announced.

“It takes two men to make a Brother.” Israel Zangwill

“Members of groups that do not meet regularly together usually do not feel a strong sense of belonging and do not take ownership for the success of the group.” Unknown

Reality and Ritual

By Fred C. Klienknecht

"There just isn't time in the world today for Ritual." A Brother said recently, "I wish it were different, but we just don't use ritual in our lives any more. It just doesn't relate to reality."

He then shook my hand, picked up his coat and hat, and left my office. I glanced out the window as he left, and noticed him putting his hat on as soon as he left the building. Then he reached the sidewalk, pausing to let a woman pedestrian pass, waved his hand to hail a cab, and disappeared down the street.

Of course, shaking hands, not wearing a hat inside, giving the right of way to a woman, hailing a cab by waving, all are rituals. Four acts in less than a minute - not bad for someone who has no time for ritual in his life!

Ritual in some form is a central part of our lives. In our Order, as everywhere, ritual is the oldest and most powerful means of teaching. It is even more than teaching! It is a major source of identification with any group. Each family has ritual ways, or certain ways to celebrate certain days. All cultures have rituals. Ritual is a primary way of telling "us" from "them." Anthropologists inform us that when rituals break down, our civilization is in trouble. All important moments in our lives are marked by ritual - birth, coming of age, joining a community of faith, marriage, death - they are all marked by rituals.

As Masons, the ritualistic experience binds us into a special community, and unites us with men who might be very different in income, education, social status, race, creed, language, occupation, or experience. Yet, however we may differ; the Ritual experience of becoming a Mason is a bond stronger than all those differences.

The performance of the Ritual, the conferring of Degrees, is the only real business of Masonry. All the rest, such as charities, educational programs, fun and fellowship, are outgrowths of the lessons taught in those Rituals.

If you haven't been to a Degree ritual for some time, make it a point to visit a lodge and experience it again. If you approach it with an open heart and mind, you will find new lessons and fresh insights every time. Reality and Ritual are closely related as the oak and the acorn. They are what we, as Masons, are all about.