

March 2009

The Craftsman

The Official Publication of North Star Lodge No.23 AF&AM and Appendant St. Cloud Masonic Bodies

North Star Lodge
No. 23 AF & AM

PO Box 23
St. Cloud, MN
56302-0023

320-251-1014

www.nsl23.org

e-mail:
northstar23@charter.net

Wor. Bruce Bowers
Master
320-253-5168
drcas@charter.net

Wor. Dick McNary
Secretary
320-253-3552
the.mcnary@hotmail.com



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Master's Musings...

Should North Star Lodge allow the serving of alcohol or more broadly, does alcohol have a place in our Lodge at all?

It is my opinion is that liquor and Masonry can mix in moderation. The history of alcohol and Freemasonry can be seen from the earliest beginnings as an integral part of the Masonic experience. When the United Grand Lodge of England was formed in 1717, its meeting place was at The Goose and Gridiron Ale House. The early Lodges met in taverns including those Lodges that ultimately formed the United Grand Lodge of England.

Masonic Lodges in the Americas continued the tradition of meeting in taverns. This included the first lodge in the new world in Boston meeting at the Grapes of Wrath Tavern. Many Lodges participated in table lodges or festive boards (and many still continue the practice, including North Star Lodge) which involve many toasts.

Many Brothers in North Star believe that Grand Lodge regulations forbid the use of alcohol in the Lodge unless for ceremonial reasons. This is untrue. The use of alcohol is only forbidden in the actual Lodge Room. Alcohol use in the building or other Lodge events is only governed by the laws of the State of Minnesota and the County and / or City of the location of the Lodge.

The following excerpt is from the Grand Lodge of Minnesota release"

"Lodges have attempted to reinvigorate and reinvent themselves to be relevant to a new generation of Masons. Whether it is Gameboys and Wiis taking the place of pool tables and cribbage, or cigars and scotch in place of oyster stew and coffee, lodges are trying to distinguish themselves from other organizations and present themselves as attractive to a perceived cadre of prospects.

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Master's Musings...

Continued from page 1

.A conversation is desperately needed to determine whether these types of changes do appeal to prospective members. "Traditional" members need to be open to the thought that Masonic philosophy and tradition can be carried on in different manners that appeal to a new generation. And "innovative" members need to examine their new projects with a critical eye to find out if they really are necessary or even helpful in recruiting and retaining new brothers. We simply don't have the data needed now to make an educated guess."

I believe that the face of the Craft is changing. Change always brings with it a certain amount of trials and tribulations. Change will always involve the evolution of some functions and events into others. A generation of Masons is coming many of our Brothers are unable or unwilling to accept it. The old guard will often resent being replaced by the new.

Changes in the Craft have included the "One Day To Masonry" and the "dumbing down", as I have heard it called, of our ritual and rites of initiation. While these changes may have been, and still are to some, unacceptable to many in our Fraternity, they represent a change that has been beneficial to the Craft as a whole as shown in the increased numbers of new members.

There are many members of the Lodge that have stated that the reason that they do not support the Social Nights and various other functions is because we allow the consumption of alcohol at the events. What I do not understand is that when events are planned that are well publicized to be alcohol free, these members, save two, were not to be found while a flock of our regulars were conspicuously absent as well.

Let us not forget that the duties of the Junior Warden is to see that brothers don't "convert the hours of refreshment into intemperance and excess," which makes no sense unless it's expected that during refreshment, Brothers will be consuming alcohol. Surely that doesn't mean the Junior Warden should be policing the overindulgence of lutefisk, brats, or Jello.

Continued in next column

We have had alcohol served at our Table Lodges here at North Star for years without incident. The same can be said about the Social Nights we have once a month. There are compromises available that will not have the Lodge divided.

I know that this is a passionate issue for many of us. I would like the Lodge to move ahead and have the Temple Board procure the necessary permits to allow alcohol consumption at North Star. I want to have a discussion on this subject at the April 13th, 2009 regular communication. I hope to see you all then!

Thanks to all the officers who have really stepped up to handle the work we have done this term so far. Roger Nordean has been outstanding. Nick Van Vleet has been a great worker as well. Hats off to Curt Richter and Mark Kennedy for helping out in the kitchen. I would also like to thank WB Mark Timpane for his due diligence in the performance of his duties. Thanks also to WB Dick McNary... you are a real help!

Remember to support YOUR Lodge by attending!

Fraternally,
WB Bruce Bowers

Granite Chapter #5
invites you to celebrate
St. Patrick's Day
CORNER BEEF
CABBAGE
Dinner
Monday
March 16, 2009
6:00 p.m. \$5 donation
Masonic Lodge Hall
518 1/2 W. St. Germain Street



ATTENTION

The Casino bus trip is still on BUT WITH THESE CHANGES...

Effective March 1st, Grand Casino Mill Lacs withdrew their offer of giving away the \$20.00 refund on bus trips. This decision by them will affect our trip. I have changed the Casino trip from Grand Casino Mill Lacs to Grand Casino Hinckley.

Come join us for a day of fun on March 14, 2009. The cost of the bus trip will be \$23.00 per person. You will receive \$10.00 from the Casino upon arrival. This is an open event for all Masons and Shriners. You may also invite your relatives, friends, and neighbors.

This event is a fundraiser for the St. Cloud Zagalas Car Club. If we have 30 or more people attending this event, the bus company will donate \$50.00 to our club. If we have over 40 people attending the bus company will then donate \$100.00 to our club, **so lets fill up the bus!**

We will be loading the bus at 9:15am from Shopko East parking lot. We will depart at 9:30am. If necessary, the bus will be stopping in Foley to pick up any additional passengers. We will be stopping at the City Parking Lot south of Casey's gas station in Foley. Arrive time at the Casino will be approximately 10:45am. We will load the bus at 3:30pm and depart at 3:45pm arriving home at approximately 5:00pm.

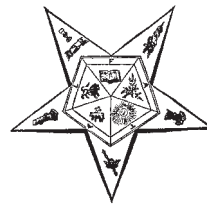
I will need the following information:
Name and Player Card #

If you do not have a Player Card, I will then need:
Name, Date of Birth and Address

The Casino is requesting this information in advance to help expedite the \$10.00 return per person on the day of arrival.

You may call this information to Wayne Longwell
320-252-0840

Please make every effort to support this event



Dear Sisters, Brothers, and friends of Eastern Star,

March... doesn't that sound like spring is just around the corner? Well, maybe, maybe not. What it does say is that another Eastern Star chapter year is about to end. And another will begin.

On Monday, March 2, we will Celebrate Mardis Gras with the meeting at 7:30 p.m. It is at this meeting that we will be electing new officers for the next term and hearing the annual reports. This is an important meeting as the chapter will be choosing those who be leading the chapter during the next term.

On Monday, March 16, we will Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with a Corned Beef and Cabbage dinner at 6 p.m. and meeting at 7:30 p.m. We are asking a \$5 contribution for the dinner. We would welcome friends from the Masonic family to join us for dinner. Please call me at 251-9115 to let us know to set another place at the table. The menu will include corned beef, cabbage, carrots, potatoes, onions, soda bread, and grasshopper pie for dessert (especially for those who also celebrate St. Urho's Day on March 16).

Granite Chapter will again be hosting breakfasts on Friday and Saturday of Eastern Star Grand Chapter, May 1-2, which is held at the St. Cloud Civic Center. These breakfasts have become a great way for our chapter to raise money for Grand Chapter projects. Again we welcome members of the Masonic family to join us. It's a special time to visit with Eastern Star friends from around the state.

If you would like to know more about the Order of the Eastern Star, please contact me or any other member for information.

Until next month, remember: "Every day is a day to celebrate!"

For the good of the Order,
Bobbie Lampi, Worthy Matron
320-251-9115



I want to thank Noble Mike Yankovec, Vice President for stepping up to the plate and running the February meeting. I don't recall what the temperature was here in St. Cloud, but in Honolulu it was in the high 70s and low 80s! Speaking of Hawaii, I met several Nobles from all over the US and Canada. It is always nice to know that you are welcome when in unfamiliar areas.

There really isn't much to report except the Osman Shrine Circus which will run April 2 through April 5th. Again this year St. Cloud has been tasked with running the cotton candy production. Last year we had several local Nobles who spent several days helping out and other local Nobles who were able to work a performance or two. We will need lots of help again this year and I will have a sign up sheet in the production area so that anyone who helps will get credit for the their club or unit. It doesn't matter if you can work one performance or work the entire week, we need your help. Please call Jerry Payne @ 651-457-7576 and he will schedule you. We need help early Monday morning March 30th setting up, help on Tuesday and Wednesday the 31st & 1st producing, and then help during the actual performances selling or producing. Call me for the particulars.

Nobles, you and your family missed a truly great evening on February 13th. Illustrious Sir Jim Berg was honored at Temple Aaron and it was an awesome night I couldn't believe all the Fezzes in attendance. I want to give huge thank you to Noble Bruce Christofferson and his lady Judy for attending, and a special thanks to Emily and Alex for helping make it a family night. We all felt welcomed and a part of the service. The Temple also has quite a museum with many ancient artifacts. I hope to visit again when I spend more time in the museum.

Our next meeting is Tuesday, March 3, 2008 at 6:00 pm at Michael's. Hope to see you there.

Yours in the faith:
Marv Felderman, President.

**SUPPORT
YOUR LODGE
BY ATTENDING**



December 31st, 2008 was a cold blustery night, which was our Chapter and York Rite Night. Where were you? It seems that the conditions were a lot better in St. Paul than in St. Cloud, as the High Priest was all alone, with business to take care of and no help to do it with. We had several petitions to read and vote on and other items to take care of. It was planned to take six candidates to St. Peter for Chapter Degrees on January 10th, 2009, but we had Lodge Installation on that day with several of the candidates and myself being installed as Officers for 2009. You know where we were and none could be in two places at the same time.

The Grand High Priest, James Turner, was called January 16th along with the District Rep, Loren Schroeder, to arrange a Festival for February 21st stand give us dispensation. He will get back to us. No answer as of yet.

It was expected that St. Cloud Chapter #10 might be interested in a few fund raisers to increase their revenues due to a ruling by the Temple Board to assess fees for the use of the building.

As you know these are tough times for all Masonic Bodies and the revenues collected could alleviate the burden on the bodies and constituent members, otherwise, some functions will have to be moved elsewhere, for the benefit of the members, such as the February 21st Chapter Festival (lunch), March 21st Council Festival (lunch), April 25th KYCH-YRC (lunch), and May 16th (lunch) for AMD-VCC of E. The April 25th event has already been outsourced due to the lack of commitment. These are not tough jobs and the revenue can be significant, as most of these are for 35 to 55 constituents.

Our next meeting will be March 31st at 7:00 PM. Will you be there? We need your help. We will have a full form opening, we have work to do, petitions to read, vote on candidates, etc. We need active members, this is your Chapter, not just card carriers. What did you do for the improvement of the Chapter? What part did you do or learn? Can you do your part in opening and closing? Do you know your job? Consider this, it is very important. All organizations are only as good as it's members. This is a good organization and deserves your help and assistance. Examine yourself and think about this. We hope to see a good turnout at the next meeting. Your input is requested.

Peter Kloskowski
High Priest 2009



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2009 Craftsman Donations

Thank you to following people and groups that are dedicated to the Craftsman. If you would like to use it as wonderful opportunity to honor someone or a group please, send \$10.00 or more to:

The Craftsman
PO Box 23
St. Cloud, MN 56302-0023

Charles P. Linnell

Gerald and Harriet Butner

Wayne Longwell
in memory of Jerry Longwell

Lois Buelow

St. Cloud Chapter #10 R.A.M.

Your Name Here

*Thank
You!*

March

2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Jobs Daughters Bethel 11	2 Granite Chapter O.E.S.	3 St. Cloud Shrine Club	4	5	6	7
8	9 Lodge Meeting <small>Stated Communication - Speaker</small>	10	11	12	13 CIPHER Club <small>7:30 PM Mark Timpane's House</small>	14 Social Night <small>Rum Runners Comedy Club</small>
<small>Bowling - 5:00 PM Granite Bowl</small>	15 Jobs Daughters Bethel 11	16 Granite Chapter O.E.S.	17	18	19 St. Cloud Shrine Go Karts	20
22	23 Lodge Meeting <small>Stated Communication Trivia Contest</small>	24	25	26 GrandLodgeConvention <small>Saint Cloud</small>	27	28
<small>Bowling - 5:00 PM Granite Bowl</small>	29	30 Past Masters Club	31 St. Cloud Chapter <small>Royal Arch</small>			

SUPPORT YOUR LODGE BY ATTENDING

3/23 - Regular Communication

Regular Communication
Dinner: 6:30 PM
Goulash / Salad
After Meeting Program
Trivia Contest / Fellowship

3/09 - Regular Communication

Regular Communication
Dinner: 6:30 PM
Soup / Sandwiches
After Meeting Program
Mark Timpane - Mortgages For Dummies

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