

Birmingham Masonic News

PILLARS OF PATRONAGE

Subscriptions are renewed December 1st

- PILLARS OF PATRONAGE
- In Loving Memory of Layson White Voorhees
— from Bob Voorhees

In Dedication to Jack and Marilyn Milroy
— from Ray Husk, PM

In Memory of Richard Pippin
— from Joseph Wilson

In Memory of PM's Tom, George, and Tom Jr Paterson and Jim Grant— from Gerald Quinn, PM

In Memory of Allen Parrish
— from Walter Ebling

Please send your check for \$30.00 payable to Birmingham #44 Lodge marked "Pillars of Patronage". This is an opportunity to make a contribution "In Honor Of" or "In Loving Memory of". Please let us know how you would like your name to appear. These subscriptions help to offset the cost of mailing the monthly Trestle Board. If you wish to make a larger donation, the Birmingham Masonic Temple Endowment Fund would welcome your contribution

The Secretary's Pen

Brethren : Thanks to everyone who has helped out at the last couple events. Without people stepping up and contributing their time and effort we would not be the lodge that we are. It takes a lot of hands to support and maintain a successful lodge and your assistance is greatly appreciated.

Dues notices will be going out this month. Because of the increase to \$250, we are likely going to allow members to pay their dues in a couple of installments, if they wish. All payments have to be completed prior to the June Regular, however, when we are required to report members who are in arrears . Remember that dues are our only income as a lodge, so we depend on this income to operate (the Temple Board is a

separate entity, controlling the building, and rental income pays to keep the utilities on , to pay property taxes, etc).

Our current candidates for Degrees have unpredictable schedules (one is an active Armed Services member) so sorry if Degrees get postponed and changed at the last minute. I will always let everyone know by email as soon as I know, so stay tuned.

Fraternally,
Steve Skrzycki, PM, Secretary
secretary@birmingham44.com

BIRMINGHAM 44

BIRMINGHAM LODGE NO. 44 F&AM
37357 WOODWARD AVE
BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MI 48304-5003



HAPPY HALLOWEEN!!!

See our website where you can check the calendar of upcoming events, read past trestle boards, and make online payments

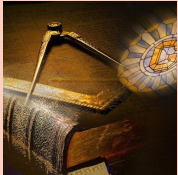
www.birmingham44.net

STAMP

TRESTLE BOARD

BIRMINGHAM LODGE #44

Greetings from the East — October 2019



Hello Brothers and friends of Birmingham #44. We see the temperatures getting cooler and the leaves are changing colors. This can only mean one thing: The annual Corn Roast was held. Junior Warden Chris Dargin, (with a little help from his wife Jenha) were able to put on a feast for all that attended. We had some incredible sweet corn purchased at the Royal Oak Farmers Market as well as hamburgers, hotdogs, chips, salad and a selection of beverages both for young and old. The weather resembled a beautiful SUMMER day rather than a crisp fall day but that didn't hamper the spirits of the event. We even enlisted the help of a few of our Past Masters for the traditional shucking of the corn. I have to admit that I enjoyed the corn so much that I brought some of the leftovers home to my family to enjoy.

As the seasons change I can't help but think how Birmingham #44 has changed over time. When I first started my journey I was taken under the wings of some of the older members, or as they like to be called, seasoned. I would sit and listen to their stories of years gone by when they would close down the streets in Guelph when the Brothers and their wives would come for visitation and have a parade. Or when our building was full of Brothers for a Master Mason Degree and the wives would help prepare the meal for the newly made Master Mason. Over the years I have learned to cherish those conversations. As we grow older and more seasoned I now have some of the younger members asking me what it was like when I joined. I tell them of the first time I had the privilege of meeting the Brethren in our Brother Lodge in Guelph, Speed Lodge #180, and how we were greeted by their family and friends. Even from the first visitation I went to, I was treated like an old friend. I tell them about the my first event that I attended before I joined, it was a Steak Night. I must say the steaks were good. I tell them about how it felt to walk into the lodge room for the first time and having the seats explained to me. As time goes by we have lost some of the seasoned members we once had, but the memories remain and each year we add a little seasoning to the recent Past Masters.

As Birmingham #44 has changed so has the way Masonry is passed down from Brother to Brother. I am told stories by some of the really seasoned members that they would have to remember the entire Degree for their proficiency prior to being allowed to move up. They would also have to learn all the words directly from their intender. Books weren't used back then. A new Brother would have to meet up with their intender for months sometimes before they were ready to take their proficiency in front of the rest of the lodge members. There is a line in the second section of the Master Mason degree that states that "What you are about to witness may well be one of the richest experiences in a mans life". While the manor in which we teach our Brothers may have changed over time the fact that it is one of the richest experiences in a man's life has not.

Change is not always bad. While we may change how we teach or where we meet, the heart of Masonry beats strong within us at Birmingham #44.

Fraternally,
Jack Palmer, WM

MONTHLY CALENDER — All Lodge Events at 7:30 unless otherwise stated

OCTOBER 2019

- OCT 1

OCT 3

OCT 10

OCT 17

OCT 24

OCT 31
- TEMPLE BOARD

— BUSINESS MEETING (REGULAR)

— TBD

— FELLOWSHIP

— MASTER MASON DEGREE AND DINNER—6:30 PM

— DARK — HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

NOVEMBER 2019

- NOV 5

NOV 7

NOV 14

NOV 21

NOV 28
- TEMPLE BOARD

— REGULAR AND ANNUAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS

— FELLOWCRAFT DEGREE

— FELLOWSHIP

— HAPPY THANKSGIVING

2019 CALENDAR

- Corn Roast — September 21—3pm

Nov 7 — Annual Election of Officers

Dec 3 — Annual Meeting for Temple Board

Dec 7 — Kids Christmas Party

Dec 14 — 2020 Installation of Officers

See www.birmingham44.net/calendar for schedule

NOTE TO BRETHREN of #44:

This Lodge is yours — if you have an idea for an event, please recommend it to the WM or bring it up in open Lodge. We love volunteers!

All Lodge events start at 7:30, unless noted





Brethren:

I want to inform our members I will be stepping down as Secretary at the end of this year. It is time to pass the crossed pens on to someone else. The Secretary position takes a lot of time and after three years I need to focus on some other parts of my life – both personal and professional. My company was just sold to a large European firm, and my job is going to get a lot busier, so any time I’ve been able to sneak in at work to get secretary stuff done is going to disappear. I also want to get involved in some other activities and focus on family some more.

They say a Worshipful Master leads a lodge, but a Secretary manages it. It is a job that is disproportionate in responsibilities to the other jobs in the lodge, and there is a reason his is the only paid position. His tasks are essential for the lodge to operate properly and to stay in compliance with Grand Lodge, and cannot be neglected or postponed. I have put a lot of myself -- a lot of sweat and effort -- into being secretary.

I know there are still things I didn’t do that maybe I could have done, however. For example, I just recently found out that past secretaries used to send out birthday wishes to all the members. Sorry -- I didn’t get to that. Happy belated birthday, by the way. If you add the list of things a secretary of a lodge is required to do with all the Grand Lodge suggested things he could do – well it could easily be a full time job. I have one of those (full time job), so I knew I needed to focus on what was required.

I did improve the communication within and without the Lodge – something I made an imperative for my tenure. I improved the E-media for the Lodge, building and managing a new website, and having a steady email campaign to keep the Brethren informed. Thank you to SW Scott Licavoli for managing the Facebook page — my bandwidth is only so large. I published a newsletter every month (except when we were dark). Thanks to WB Bob Hall for his consistent and creative submissions. While my filing skills leave a lot to be desired, I think I kept the candidates well organized and informed for upcoming Degrees, and helped the Masters set up the calendar for the upcoming months. (They will likely say, “told me what we were doing”. So, maybe I’m a little pushy.) I have been a constant cheerleader for this Lodge – again, both within and without -- championing the benefits of Masonry and specifically the benefits of joining and belonging to Birmingham #44.

It has been an honor serving the Brethren of Birmingham Lodge #44 for the past three years. It was also an honor working for the past three Masters – all three I proudly Raised as Master in 2012. They did a great job. I wish the best to the incoming WM Scott Licavoli, his Officers, and to the new Secretary, to whom I will help with the transition, and later be available for consultation, if needed. I will still be around, so I hope to see you in Lodge!

Fraternally,

Steve Skrzycki, PM
Secretary



THE CHAPLAIN’S MEANDERING PATH

Boo !

An unusual way to greet Brethren perhaps, but that time of year is fast approaching and all of the little ones are gleefully anticipating ghosts and goblins and the bags of candy attending these proceedings. It’s even within reason that some of the Big kids are anticipating the goodies their little ones bring home. With these thoughts in mind, hope you all have given some thought to your Lodge. We are at a crossroad of many decisions currently and really need our Brethren to come together to add constructive criticism, thought, suggestions, and planning to the many areas of contemplation and planning now before us. Are we getting fair value for our building and property? Where do we go? Does our leadership appear ready to surge forward? Do we have Brotherly commitment and support?

Most of you are aware of the important position Birmingham # 44 has held and still holds in this community. Many of its greatest leaders and participants have been active in city and state government, vital business men, advocates of social beneficence and community betterment for all. Over the last 160 + years, Birmingham No. 44 has led the way for positive change and compliance not only here in the Birmingham area but in our State and surrounding communities. We have assisted many improvements in our own fraternity as well as in social improvement, charity, education and legal enhancement throughout our great State. It’s time we all gave some deep and cogent thought to the survival and uplifting of our beloved and vital Lodge. Not only do we owe it to ourselves, but we also owe it to the many hard working Brethren who came before us and who worked so hard in establishing a beacon to our community. Join us often with your thoughts, insight and presence in these months ahead to perpetuate this fine Lodge and all those who came before us. A great example of competence and will for excellence can be found in the historic example of #44 sending eighty of our Brethren in 1927 to Lotus Lodge # 625 in Toledo, Ohio to confer the Master Mason Degree in the Commandery room of the temple there. That is just one example of many! Let’s all back up our Master and his line to make a successful transition for the future. We are counting on you and the Birmingham # 44 spirit.

So, BOO to you and yours. Have a happy Halloween and don’t forget us or those wonderful Brethren who came before us!

Can’t wait to meet you again on the Level, where all Masons meet.

Robert C. Hall, P.M., Chaplain



THE HOURGLASS

The Hourglass is an icon of Freemasonry with several different things represented. For Freemasons its two biggest representations are time and death. The Hourglass representing time can have many meanings in itself. One is that we are all moving forward in time, unable to move the sands backwards up the glass. No matter our station or position that we may hold in life, no matter how many riches we may acquire the sand continues to move from the top of the glass to the bottom. In this matter we are all equal, or on the level with each other.

Another allusion that the Hourglass has is death. Sometimes the Hourglass is represented with a scythe further enforcing the concept of death. The scythe has a long tradition, particularly in Europe and the Americas of representing the Grim Reaper or the Angel of Death. It also is associated with the mythical figure of father time. In this allusion, death the great leveler is referenced. Again regardless of station in life or wealth that we have gained, death comes for us in the end.

For Freemasonry, this is probably some of our more darker references. It can though be turned around, with the belief in the eternity of the soul. That time passes for us all and that death comes for us all is true. It is through the belief that leading a good, honest and true life that we will be able to one day turn the hourglass on its side, stopping the flow of time as our good works here on Earth are recognized.

—Abridged from masonrytoday.com