

Birmingham Masonic News

PILLARS OF PATRONAGE

Subscriptions are renewed December 1st

PLEASE
RENEW YOUR
PILLARS OF PATRONAGE

In Loving Memory of Layson White Voorhees

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 — Please see the margin on page 3 for the Child ID Program we are participating in on April 27. WM Jack needs at least 8 volunteers. Please sign up. This is a great community service project that we have been doing for many years. Thanks!

We don't have a plan yet for fellowship on the 18th, but it's guaranteed to be a great time. These nights have been essential in the growth and member participation of Birmingham Lodge #44. If you haven't been to one in a while, definitely plan on attending soon. We had nearly 30 guys at last month's cigar night fellowship. The location and event will be announced soon. Keep checking your email.

It has been a couple years since our last Awards night where we hand out years of service pins and certificates. We expect to decide on a night at

our Regular this month. It will likely be in September or early October. We want to have a Grand Officer present, and we want to make sure we catch our snowbirds before they fly south for the winter. If you live out of town or State, we will try to make arrangements for a local lodge in your area to present this to you.

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

BIRMINGHAM 44

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



PM's Carl Cenconi and Tim Fusco help a young boy with the Child ID Program from a few years ago

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

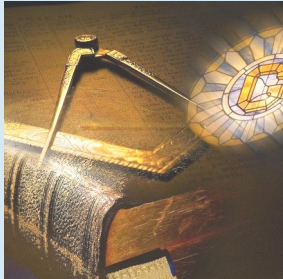
www.birmingham44.net

STAMP

TRESTLE BOARD

BIRMINGHAM LODGE #44

Greetings from the East — April 2019



Brethren;

I hope this finds everyone in good health and warm. I also hope the snow we saw at the end of March is the last of it. I know our snowbirds will be returning soon and I would hate for them to come back only to see snow.

Sitting in the East has been an incredible experience so far and it has given me a chance to reflect on the different Degrees and lectures and what they really mean. Our first Degree night in April will be a Fellowcraft Degree, and as I was re-reading the lecture something struck me. In the lecture it talks about an Attentive Ear an Instructive Tongue and a Faithful Breast. I was thinking about how newly made Brothers hear these words and feel comfort knowing that they are not alone on their journey — they have fellow travelers.

I then thought about how the lecture still pertains to myself as I sit in the East. I have our Chaplin and Treasurer on my right and our Secretary to the left. As I am conducting the Degrees I know I can count on these Past Masters to guide me through the meetings. They help with organization and their Instructive Tongue aids when the words go missing. I have the secretary outlining the business meetings and all of the Past Masters willing to sit and help me practice my lines.

Birmingham #44 is rich with experienced Past Masters who are always willing to sit with less experienced Masons to help. I have called on our Marshal, PM Dave Husk, several times to work with me on my lines. All of our officers work very hard trying to memorize our line because we want it to be special for the candidates, for they are our Brothers as well. For anyone who has been part of the officers line, they know it's a lot of work. Sometimes you need a Past Master to work with you to make it just right.

Freemasonry is a journey making good men better, but at no time have I ever thought I was alone. From my beginnings as an Entered Apprentice to now Sitting a Worshipful Master I know I can always count on my fellow Brothers to offer an Attentive Ear, an Instructive Tongue and a Faithful Breast.

Thank you and God Bless you my Brothers

Fraternally,

Jack Palmer, WM

THE MASONIC BEEHIVE

Spring is here, and soon the fields and gardens will be filled with the sounds of bees. The beehive is the repository for our important little pollinators, as well as an important symbol in Masonry, so today in Masonic History we discuss the Beehive.



The Beehive is a Masonic symbol that is quite often seen on collages of Masonic imagery. The Beehive often brings to mind a well organized group of insects working together for a common goal. The term generally associated with it is Industry. Not in the modern sense of massive machines working to stamp out multiple like items, but in the more ancient sense of a group of individuals working to create something.

To our ancient operative brothers who came from the guilds of the middle-ages, Industry in the old meaning was how things were accomplished without modern heavy machinery. Individuals were assigned specific tasks based on their skill level. Some might simply be carrying stone or other materials to the more experienced brothers who would then fashion the proper piece for the structure. Others still put their skills to planning how the structure would be put together and what tasks the afore mentioned experienced brothers would be doing to help complete the structure. No one group was the linchpin to the project or structure, yet all were critical to make the project a success.

Fast forward to the arrival of speculative masonry and you have a hive of a new kind. Still you have a structure that requires workers on all levels to make the hive (in this case hive is a synonym for lodge) function and be successful. More experienced Brothers in the craft share their knowledge with newer "workers" in the hive. All the while realizing that they have their own task in the hive to do their part to make the hive function properly and to succeed with the projects at hand. There is also the leader of the hive, in the case of a Masonic lodge the Worshipful Master, who reads the plans and guides the workers at all levels to a successful project.

Whether you are talking about our ancient operative brothers or the modern hive (lodge), the end goal is still the same. A group of individuals working together for a common goal, the success of any one individual is important since it helps the larger structure of the hive succeed. Even with that opportunity for individual success and growth we still see the need for the overall structure of the hive to succeed. The hive must succeed otherwise the individual accomplishment has a reduced meaning, possibly even making the individual success meaningless. The idea for the hive is to assemble those who can best work together and best agree on the common goal of the hive.

It is through this concept of Industry that our ancient operative brothers were able to create grand cathedrals and other enduring structures. It is also how modern Freemasonry makes successful lodges, some enduring for hundreds of years.



https://www.masonrytoday.com/index.php?new_month=11&new_day=11&new_year=2017

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THE CHAPLAIN'S MEANDERING PATH

IDLE THOUGHTS FOR THE IDES

It seems as though, as we progress in our attempts to strengthen Lodge activity and growth that we see a stronger and more proficient group of Brethren who very seriously take on their duties and responsibilities. Finance, ritual, dress, communication and competence all seem to play a most vital part in the proceedings and ongoing attempts to improve ourselves in Masonry. The question remains, do all of our Brethren equally take these responsibilities to heart? Do all of our Brethren attempt to set an example for not only our own membership but all of Masonry in its entirety? Do all of our officers strive to represent their Chairs and Ritual as it is written and given the solemn attention that was originally intended? These are just a few of the questions we should all be asking as this infamous time, “ the Ides of March” pass and Spring Time gives new birth to our proceedings and activities. There is always room for improvement in our personal demeanor and our Lodge respects! As we appreciate the competence of our Leadership, we pray that all those who follow and take direction from our Worshipful Master rejoice in compliance and effort to assist him in his duties and joy of leadership. It is hoped that every member of our Lodge feels and experiences this elation of compliance. It is also hoped that every Brother will put forth the same effort and positive energy that W. M. Jack does to enhance the pleasure and competence of our fraternity.

The “Ides” are past us and springtime is upon us. Please note and participate in all of the Lodge work and social activity as you can. W. M. Palmer and his J. W. Chris Dargin are planning an active and interesting year for us all. Let us all comply and enthusiastically try to help make it one of the best years in the history of Birmingham # 44. That will take some doing, because there have been many outstanding years gone by. If you as Brother Masons apply your vim and vigor to these efforts, it is impossible for us to fail!

The Degree work continues with the Lodge Officers showing great strides in proficiency and emotional connectivity. Please avail yourselves to their efforts and assist them in their attempts to improve and prosper as ritualists and Brothers of the Craft. It takes all of us to make and have a great Masonic experience.

Happy Spring and Meet you on the Level,

Robert C. Hall, P. M., Chaplain



National Child Identification Program

Masons to conduct a free Child ID Program in Royal Oak

On Saturday April 27th, Birmingham Masonic Lodge #44 will be providing a free child identification program. The event will be held between the hours of 10:00am and 2:00pm at the Meijer Store located at 5150 Coolidge Highway in Royal Oak. The program is being provided as a part of the Junior League of Birmingham's Touch a Truck event.

Each child that goes through the Child ID process will receive a dental impression kit as well as a flash drive containing a photo, video, digital fingerprints and their vital information. Parents or legal guardians of children who participate must be present and fill out a permission slip for the child to receive this service. Children who have already received the service are encouraged to repeat the process every two years to keep the information in the completed packets current.

The Michigan Child Identification Program provides the family with everything needed for the Amber Alert System. Over ninety three thousand Michigan children have received this valuable service. The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children considers the Michigan Child Identification Program to be one of the most comprehensive of its kind.

For questions or more information about the event you may call 269-612-7424 or consult the Michigan Child ID Web Site at

www.michiganchildid.org.

PLEASE SIGN UP BY CONTACTING WM JACK PALMER — doc1969@aol.com