

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

Well Brethren — I am at the close of my career as Secretary, as WB Tom Baranowski takes over in a few weeks. It has been a lot of work, but a lot of reward. Thank you to all the Brothers who have shown me support and encouragement for these past three years. Tom will do a fine job, so please show him the same as well as patience, as he learns the ins and outs of this demanding role in the Lodge. I will be sending out my final communication right before Installation. Everything after that — from secretary@birmingham44 — will be from Tom, or his assistant. WB Jack Palmer. We will be presenting the gifts to Lynn's family on December 22nd. Any Brother that wants to attend is welcome, but note we will all be wearing our Aprons. Details will be sent out by email prior to the event.

Please get in your dues payments before January 1st, if possible. The part dues payment option, by the way, is meant for Brothers who have financial difficulties paying the full amount at one time. Note that it is extra work for the Secretary to process, but is certainly available for Brothers in need.

Thanks again, and I hope to see you in Lodge.

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

BIRMINGHAM 44

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



SANTA AND A CUTE BALLERINA AT THE ANNUAL KIDS CHRISTMAS PARTY THIS YEAR.

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

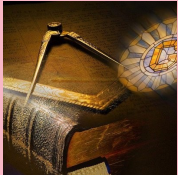
www.birmingham44.net

STAMP

TRESTLE BOARD

BIRMINGHAM LODGE #44

Greetings from the East — December 2019



Brethren,

The year has flown by and my time in the East has almost ended. There has been so many things that I have learned over the past year and so many people to thank.

Being in the East has been an extreme honor for me. I have had the opportunity to work with some incredibly dedicated Brothers as well as many outside the Craft. I have found great pleasure working with Brothers on the endeavors they are passionate about. I have watched some of our newest members find their passion for our craft as well as some of our older members rekindle the fire. We have newly Raised Brothers who have also joined the officer line for next year. I am proud of all they have done and excited for all they will do.

I thought this would be a quick thank you letter but I have realized there are too many people I would need to thank. Masonry is a journey that starts when you first ask to be one and never really ends. If you are lucky you meet some people to walk with along the way. These fellow travelers act as mentors, teachers, friends, colleagues but all are Brothers. On my travels so far I have met people near and far but all had an impact on my journey. I have met some incredible people from our brother lodge in Guelph and other lodges across Michigan.

I wanted to mention a few people that have guided me on my journey, this is only a small list but I wanted to point them out. Our Chaplin Bob Hall, watched me go through the officer line and honored me by sitting by my side as my Chaplin. Both Ray Husk and his son Dave Husk, for when I first started I would sit with Ray and listen to him tell stories of the trips to Guelph or his days as a firefighter. Dave has been my friend, always giving me guidance when I need it. Carl Censoni who showed me what a strong work ethic in Masonry can accomplish. Frank Dascenza who showed me that it's not your age but your character that matters in the end. John Pauluk who taught me to never let one's limitations stop you, hard work and determination will get you through. And finally Tom Baranowski, as I have followed Tom through the officer line. Tom exemplifies what Masonry is and has set the bar very high for all others.

This list is by far not inclusive of everyone. It doesn't name the members who inspired me by the hard work they put in working on learning their lines, or the Brothers who when called to help are always there. I have been blessed by having the Brothers of Birmingham #44 as companions as I travel on my journey.

Thank you for being with me on my journey in Masonry and thank you for being my Brothers and for being my Friends. My life is so much better by simply knowing all of you. God Bless You All.

Fraternally,
Jack Palmer, WM

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

DECEMBER 2019

- DEC 3

DEC 5

DEC 7

DEC 12

DEC 14

DEC 22
- TEMPLE BOARD AND ANNUAL MEETING

— REGULAR

— CHRISTMAS PARTY FOR KIDS (3PM)

— INSTALLATION PRACTICE

— 2020 INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS—6 PM

— PRESENTATION OF GIFTS TO LYNN'S FAMILY

DARK UNTIL JANUARY 2 HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!

JANUARY 2020

- JAN 2

JAN 7

JAN 9

JAN 16

JAN 23

JAN 30
- REGULAR

— TEMPLE BOARD

— MASONIC TEMPLE VISIT

— TBD

— TBD

— TBD

2020 CALENDAR

- June 25 — BURGER NIGHT

July-August — Dark (Golf League)

TBD — Corn Roast

Nov 5 — Annual Meeting and Election of Officers

Dec 1 — Annual Meeting for Temple Board

Dec 5 — Kids Christmas Party

Dec 12 — 2021 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



Go Team!!!



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I have heard said in the last couple years, “Raising Masons is not our primary function”, usually (ironically) after we have had several degrees in a row. In fact, as a blue lodge, by definition, that is our primary function. Is it our only one? No. Charity, Masonic education, and fellowship are just as important – but raising Masons is our main job. Without it, just through mortal attrition, all blue lodges, appendant bodies, Grand Lodges the world over would eventually cease to exist. They all start with getting Raised in a blue lodge. Masonry hasn’t traditionally been a sport for the young, by the way – nearly sixty percent of our members are over seventy. If we don’t replace Masons at least at the same rate we are losing them, then the grim statistics above will be inevitable. When someone says, “We should cut back on the number of Degrees we do”, I want to climb to the top of our building, lion cub in hand, and sing “Circle of Life”. And before everyone jumps on me about focusing on “keeping members”, *yes – that is critical* – and I covered that in my article I wrote in June (“How ya gonna keep ‘em down on the Farm”). We always have to work hard at continual improvement regarding retention.

But that’s not what I want to talk about. Regarding our primary job, we have been very good at it. In the last three years, we have raised twenty-two Masons. We have also been very good at retaining them, as most of those men have been very active and many have joined our officer ranks. *What are we doing right?* A lot of things, including regular fellowship nights – but I think it has mainly been the cohesiveness and the connections we have made with each other.

Past Master Matt Wilde – who played football for that school in Ann Arbor – said once he now viewed the members of our Lodge as “his team”. I think that is an excellent analogy. We are a team, and as long as you don’t diminish or disparage any other lodge in the process, I see no issue with promoting your lodge, your team. We are all on the level and we should always support all the lodges around us (and we do), but taking pride in our Lodge and its successes is a healthy and essential practice. We have a great brand at Birmingham #44, and while we cannot implicitly recruit members, when interested men visit us, they see a very active, close, and enthusiastic lodge, and they want to become a part of us. (Ferndale #506, by the way – our friends and renters – has also done a fantastic job at this, as they have had an impressive increase in membership recently.)

We now very likely will have to find a new home in the next six months. It is stressful, but remember we have been around for 168 years and have moved many times – and survived and thrived. It will be a new adventure, but as long as we stick together, support each other, and regard each of our Brethren as friends and teammates, we will continue to be a thriving and successful lodge. Go Team!

— Steve Skrzycki, PM, Secretary

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THE CHAPLAIN’S MEANDERING PATH

TIS THE SEASON

Thinking of friends, remembering family both times gone by and current ruminations, preparing for something special and remembering the special deity being celebrated are all part of this special time of year. As we prepare for the installation of our new Lodge officers, check all those precious Christmas lists, greet all of the friends and neighbors on our address lists, we take a moment to say thank you to everyone we hold in high regard. Not only do we wish every one of them well but we also count each and every one of them as blessings from the Grand Architect of the Universe.

It’s been a great year for Birmingham #44 and there is plenty of good cheer for all the Brethren who have so unselfishly donated their time and efforts to the up building of our fraternity and our Lodge! We are so fortunate to have so many hard working and unselfish Brethren who work for us all and ask nothing in return. It is my personal hope that each of YOU take a few moments to be grateful and respectful to each and every Brother who has so given of his time and resources that we ALL may share in the joys of Masonry and the binding ties of Brotherhood. Yes it’s a time for gifts and celebration and also a time for grateful reflection. As you review those precious Christmas lists, please don’t forget your Lodge and the Brethren who have so earnestly tried to make your time and investment in Masonry a valuable and cherished experience, a truly memorable and enjoyable lifetime pursuit.

As we think of Christmas and the Holiday Season it is hoped that each and every Brother of this Lodge will give the gift of support and participation to your new line of officers. May we all reflect on the many past wonderful and meaningful Masonic endeavors and look forward to a bright and Brotherly friendship in the days and years to come.

As many of you already know, this is my last year as Lodge Chaplain. There are many personal and gratifying memories in serving my Brethren over the years and I will continue to serve and participate to the best of my ability. It is my sincere hope that the new officers of your Lodge are welcomed with open arms and Masonic affection!

We hope that you celebrate this season with joy and respect, never forgetting that you are a pillar of the community and a Man and a Mason!

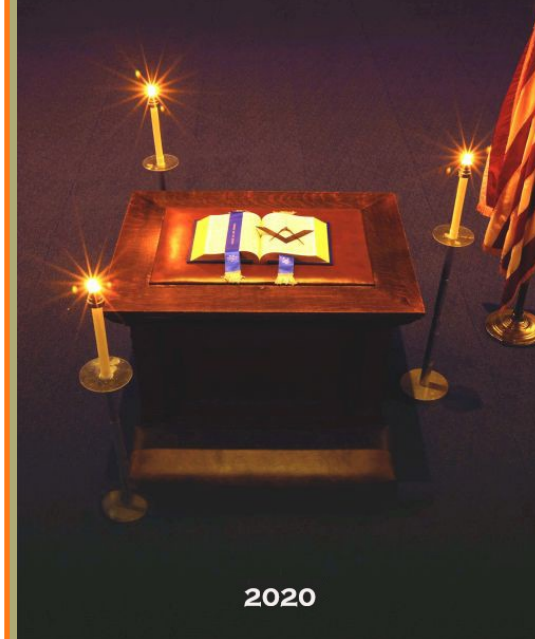
A very Merry Christmas and humble wishes that you share in His greatest gift to the world.

May we often meet on the Level!

Robert C. Hall, P.M., Chaplain, 2019



BIRMINGHAM LODGE #44
THE INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS



**INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS
FOR 2020
CEREMONY AND CELEBRATION**

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14
6 PM**

**SPOUSES AND FRIENDS
WELCOME**

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR
NEW OFFICERS AND HERE’S
TO HAVING A GREAT YEAR
IN 2020**