

THE FREEMASON

NORMAL MASONIC LODGE #673 MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

"LUX FIAT ET LUX FIT"

December 2017 – Edition

Tuesday 5th – Valley of Bloomington Scottish Rite Stated Meeting - 7:00pm

Saturday 09th – Lodge School of Instruction 7am – 9am Normal Lodge Room

Monday 11th – Normal Lodge Stated Meeting 7:00pm Dinner & Fellowship 6:00pm
Annual Christmas Dinner – Hosted by Brother Michael Tutter
Annual Election of Officers – Annual Year End Meeting

Saturday 16th – Lodge School of Instruction 7am – 9am Normal Lodge Room

Saturday 23rd – **NO LODGE SCHOOL OF INSTRUCTION** – Holiday Week-end

Monday 25th – **NO STATED LODGE MEETING**

Saturday 30th – **NO LODGE SCHOOL OF INSTRUCTION** – Holiday Week-end

A LOOK AHEAD:

January 6th – Normal Lodge Installation of Officers. 1pm - Normal Lodge Room
This is an open installation and all are welcome to attend.

January 8th - Normal Lodge Stated Meeting 7:00pm Dinner & Fellowship 6:00pm

January 22nd – Normal Lodge Stated Meeting 7:00pm

February 15th – Reception of the MWGM Greg Clark @ Bloomington #43.

"NO MAN STANDS SO TALL, AS WHEN HE STOOPS TO HELP A CHILD"

--- North Dakota Grand Lodge & Shriners



THE MASTERS TRESTLE BOARD

Brethren,

As we wrap up the Masonic year, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the officers and brethren who were so active in supporting our lodge. Not only did we raise and welcome 9 new Master Masons into the fraternity, we also saw a noticeable increase in participation and attendance at stated meetings and lodge events throughout the year. The support provided by you my brothers not only allowed us to resolve several issues that had persisted for some time, but we were able to continue and grow several important programs as well.

We increased our support of the Illinois Masonic Academic Bowl and continued to provide Thanksgiving food baskets. We performed degree work at 18 of our stated meetings as well as the special meeting on July 4th. We added social events to our program to assist us in strengthening our masonic ties. In short, my brothers, we had a truly memorable year. Thank you, these things happen because of the support and dedication of you my brothers. What is truly remarkable is that fact that we're not done yet! There is still work to be accomplished and fellowship to be enjoyed. With your continued support of our new officers, next year will be even better. Come out, renew your Masonic obligations and the mystic ties of our fraternity and be a part of our continued success.

Fraternally,

Worshipful Master

Al Abbott

Annual Thanksgiving Food Baskets



Normal Lodge #673 and Felicity Chapter #87 OES purchased 18 food baskets for needy family Tuesday November 21st & 22nd. The total cost of the food baskets was just over \$600. Thank you to all that support this project in donations, help shopping and putting the baskets together for distribution. The Families that receive them really appreciate the help during the holiday season.

Fraternally,

Normal Lodge Treasurer

Barry Carney

The Master's Last Prayer

The day's labors done
My journey's end has come.
A new guide, now lead us on.
The path may be the same,
But the style, is his own:
A new post, will soon pass,
Another mark, will be reached.
Let us all pray, he will lead us,
To an even brighter day.



Our Brother – Who Art in Heaven

Brother Victor C. "Spud" Sylvester:

was initiated as an Entered Apprentice on May 18th, 1970, passed to the degree of Fellowcraft on December 16th, 1974 and raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason on January 27th, 1975. He passed to the Grand Lodge above on November 3rd, 2017. He was a just an upright Mason for 35 years.

Brother Sylvester was a United States Army and Army National Guard Veteran, serving in Japan. He was a firefighter from 1952 – 1976 and served at the Fire Chief from 1968 – 1976. He was a member of Laborer's Local 362, Moose Lodge 745, Bloomington Shriner's Club, a 50-year member of the Carl S. Martin American Legion Post 635, and Mason with Bloomington/Normal Lodges.

Another Masonic Journey – Has started



Normal Masonic Lodge #673 would like to welcome our newest Entered Apprentice: Joseph David Johnson

Congratulations Joseph. The Brethren from Normal Lodge look forward to assisting you on your Masonic journey through your Fellowcraft degree and becoming a Master Mason.

The next time you're in lodge and you see Joseph, stop and say hello and introduce yourself to our newest Brother.

Dec. 9 th	Ceremonies – Labor to Refreshment, Refreshment to Labor, DDGM
Dec. 16 th	Members Choice
Dec. 23 rd	No Practice – Christmas Weekend
Dec. 30 th	No Practice – New Years Weekend

Lodge School of Instruction

There's still plenty of time to come out and visit the weekly held classes. Not been to lodge in a while? Maybe you're looking at sitting in a chair next year in lodge? Whatever your goals are, the Lodge School of Instruction is there to help.

School is open most weekends from 7am – 9am in the lodge room of Normal Lodge. Class is instructed by Grand Lodge of Illinois certified instructors.



PARK YOUR CAPS PROGRAM

Our friend and Worshipful Master from Marseilles Lodge Ron Swon, has a son who uses a motorized wheelchair to get around. While visiting the lodges summer picnic, I sat down and talked with him about the caps program he is running.

Plastic caps that are collected, washed, sent to the factory and are turned into new plastic handicap accessible park benches, picnic tables, recycle bins, and trash cans.

Over the next few months, Brethren from Normal Lodge are asked to set aside the following plastic caps and

containers. Bring those collected items with you to our stated meetings and Brother Mike Tutter will make sure they are sent to the collection agency in Marseilles. Can't make a stated meeting, but would like to collect tops for the cause? No problem, contact Brother Tutter (mtutter@comcast.net 309-706-2816) and he will make sure they are picked up for the collection period.

The following list of items are NOT ACCEPTABLE for this collection.

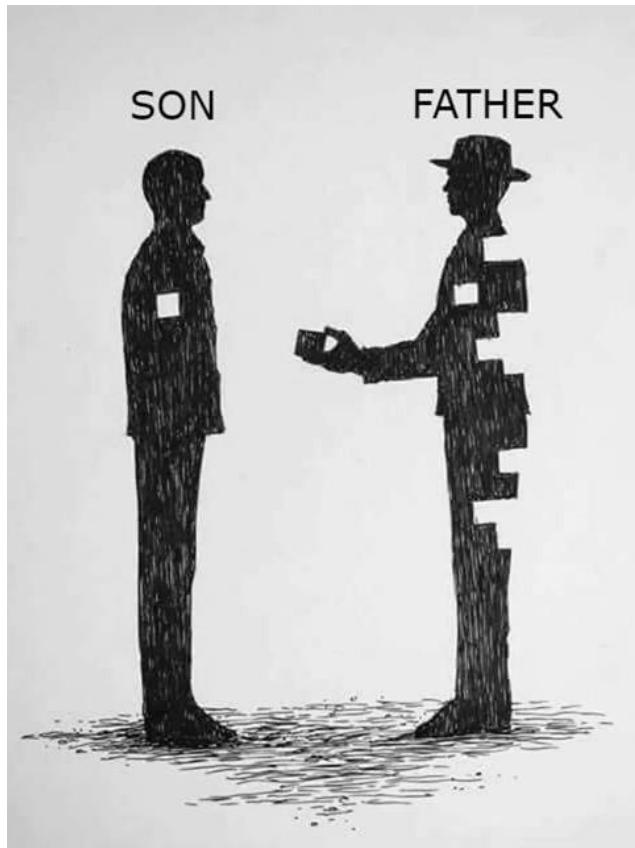
- ❖ Drink Bottles
- ❖ Plastic Ziplock type Bags
- ❖ Trigger Sprayers
- ❖ Fast Food Drink Lids
- ❖ No plastic pieces or parts – no plastic that is not a cap
- ❖ No Soap pumps or Lotion Pumps
- ❖ No plastic grocery bags

The following list of items are ACCEPTABLE for this collection.

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| ➤ Medicine bottle caps | * Drink Bottle Caps |
| ➤ Milk jug caps | * Flip Top Caps (ketchup & Mustard...etc) |
| ➤ Detergent caps | * Spout Caps (ketchup & Mustard...etc) |
| ➤ Hair spray caps | * Ointment Tube Caps |
| ➤ Toothpaste tube caps | |
| ➤ Deodorant caps | |

Other lids & Caps that are ACCEPTABLE for this collection.

- ✓ Cottage cheese container lids
- ✓ Mayonnaise jar lids
- ✓ Yogurt lids
- ✓ Peanut butter jar lids
- ✓ Ice cream bucket lids – under 8"
- ✓ Cool whip container lids
- ✓ Coffee container lids
- ✓ Cream cheese container lids
- ✓ Butter tub container lids
- ✓ Prescription bottles – All colors and sizes - remove the prescription label first



A Stunning Sight?

What's the saying, "A picture is worth a thousand words." After seeing this photo, I'm not sure it's worth any. With little to no words one can simply tell what the artist was trying to convey. How powerful is this picture? So powerful that I wanted to share it with you. It's such a simple drawing of a father handing over another part of himself to continue molding his son into a well-structured individual.

I'd like to think this is what we do every time we raise a man to an Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft, and finally a Master Mason. The son represents our candidate, the father figure in this instance are those Brethren who have taken the time to sit down and teach this new candidate who we are, what we do, and how becoming a Mason can change his life, forever. Every time you attend a stated meeting with degree work, you are essentially part of the "father" figure. It doesn't matter if you're the Worshipful Master, the Senior Deacon, or an individual sitting on the sidelines watching this man take another step to becoming a member of our great fraternity. They say that in today's Freemasonry, there are no secrets. You know as well as

I do that this statement is false. Masonry always has had secrets and always will to an extent, it's part of our history and heritage. However, in today's world Masonry continues to do one very fundamental and core thing, "Make Good Men Better." We are just and upright Masons and we try to take those principles that we are taught during those 3 degrees and use them in every day life, in everything we do, what we say and how we act.

There is still so much hate, evil, and anger in this world. We hear about it every day we read the paper or turn on the tv. It's hard to think that a photo so powerful as this one, could help change anything. All we can do is make sure that we have our morals, virtues, and our minds centered on who we are and who we want to continue being. Freemasonry is another one of those things in life were you "get back, what you put into it". Some are simply ok with becoming a Master Mason and attending a few lodge meetings a year, others may seek to become Master of his lodge, while yet others may use the lodge as a stepping stone as they continue to better themselves and further learn what Masonry is by joining other Masonic Bodies. Whatever your ambitions were in becoming a Master Mason, you will continue to grow and learn from each other. We are constantly stretching out our arms and giving those new members a piece of each of us. I hope one day that I can stand with my arm outstretched and hand over to each of my son's a piece of what I have learned as a Mason, until then, I will continue to do what each of us do every time we meet, act, or part, to help make Freemasonry a place that "Makes Good Men BETTER."

Fraternally,

Brother: Michael Tutter



Thanksgiving Dinner

On Monday November 6th, Brethren from Normal Lodge were treated to a Thanksgiving dinner cooked by Secretary John Dorner. Thanks to all the Brethren that came out to celebrate this annual event and to Brother Dorner for cooking such a yummy dinner. After dinner, Brethren took part in an Entered Apprentice degree.

Annual Christmas Holiday Dinner

Monday December 11, 2017
6:00pm – Normal Lodge Dining Hall

This year's dinner is open to all Lodge Members & Family Members. So, bring the entire family to this annual event. A traditional Christmas dinner will be served along with desserts. A GOOD-WILL offering will be collected to help cover the cost of dinner, any additional monies collected will be given to the "Coins for kids" program we collect for each month.

After dinner, Brethren are asked to stay and join us for our December stated meeting. This is the only meeting for the month and we will also be holding our annual Election of Officers this night.

Please RSVP Brother Mike Tutter By: Saturday December 9th – (309) 706-2816



ILOR – LIBRARY OPEN

The Illinois Lodge of Research Library is now open every week for those who would like to stop by Normal lodge and check out what they have to offer Masonry. The library is open Monday nights from 6pm – 8pm and again every Saturday from 7am – 9am. Other hours are available upon request. Visit the library website for more info.

<http://illinoislodgeofresearch.org/ilor-library/>



2018 Lodge Officer Installation

Saturday January 6th, 2018
Normal Masonic Lodge

Installation begins at 1pm

This ceremony is open to the public and all are invited to attend.