



THE FREEMASON

NORMAL MASONIC LODGE #673 MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

February 2017 – Edition
Volume: V Issue: II

Saturday 4th – Lodge School of Instruction 7am – 9am Normal Lodge Room – Confer 1

Saturday 4th – Cub Scout Pack 15/91 Pinewood Derby Day – NOON – Normal Lodge

Monday 6th – District Education Session @ Gipson City #733 on Mentoring 7pm-9pm

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

Saturday 11th – Lodge School of Instruction 7am – 9am Normal Lodge Room – Confer 1

Monday 13th – Normal Lodge Stated Meeting 7pm Dinner & Fellowship 6pm

*** Degree Work Scheduled ***

Thursday 16th – DDGM Annual Visit to Bloomington Lodge #43

Saturday 18th – Lodge School of Instruction 7am – 9am Normal Lodge Room – Confer 1

Saturday 18th – Academic Bowl Sectionals <http://www.masonicbowl.org/>

Thursday 23rd – DDGM Annual Visit to El Paso Lodge #246

Saturday 25th – Lodge School of Instruction 7am – 9am Normal Lodge Room – Members Choice

Monday 27th – Normal Lodge Stated Meeting 7pm - Officer Meeting 6:15pm – Conference Room

*** Degree Work Scheduled ***

DDGM Annual Visit to Normal Lodge #673

March 4th – Scottish Rite Spring Reunion

March 4th – Academic Bowl State Finals – Bloomington High School

March 6th – DDGM Annual Visit to Gipson City #733

March 9th – DDGM Annual Visit to Wade Barney #512

March 29th – Lodge Officers School @ Normal Lodge 7pm – 9pm

October 14th – Pork Chop Sales in El Paso

THE MASTERS TRESTLE BOARD



Brethren:

We are going to work extremely hard this year to communicate more effectively with you our brothers. Have you checked out the Normal lodge web page yet (<http://www.normal673.org/>)? Check it out and let us know what you think. We try to make sure that everything that you need to stay informed is on the website. Make especially sure to check out the calendar. Brother Mike Tutter works extremely hard to make sure it is up to date with the latest information. You can even opt to receive an electronic copy of this newsletter on the website.

We've also got a Facebook page that is always buzzing with the latest conversations and photos about what is happening in the lodge.

Drop us a request to join and we'll add you as a member of the group. If computers don't work for you, drop us a line or give us a call. We want to stay in touch and make sure you know what we're doing. It looks like it's going to be a very busy year and we want to make sure you can be a part of it. We'll be conferring degrees at both of our February meetings and March and April look like busy months as well. Come on out and join the fun, and help us spread the light of Masonry. See you soon my brothers.

Fraternally,

Worshipful Master: Al Abbott

CONGRATULATIONS – 2017 OFFICER LINE

On Saturday January 7th, Normal Lodge installed its 2017 Officer line. CONGRATULATIONS!!

Worshipful Master: Al Abbott

Senior Warden: Tim Longfellow

Jr. Warden: Mathew Knapp

Treasurer: Barry Carney

Secretary: John Dorner

Senior Deacon: Chris Hathaway

Junior Deacon: Darron Newbill

Chaplin: Jeff Estes

Senior Steward: Jeremy Vinson

Junior Steward: Brian Dixon

MA: Brendan Andres

2017 Board of Control:

Michael Tutter

Bryan Gaddy

John Hulett

Let's get Digital

Normal Lodge now offers its members the option to receive its monthly newsletter via EMAIL. To receive your newsletter via email: Visit the lodge website, a link will appear on the right side of the page, fill out the form and submit the request. You may continue to receive the monthly newsletter each month via mail. Receiving your newsletter in digital form is currently optional.

It's Always Available – NOW

Can't remember where you put your copy of the monthly newsletter? Did the kids spill your coffee on it? Maybe the dog ate it? Fear not my Brethren, starting with the January 2017 issue, we will upload a copy of the newsletter in PDF form to the website. A link was added to the top of the page on the nav. bar. (called – NEWS)



ITS DERBY TIME

Saturday February 4th 2017 – Normal Masonic Lodge

Join us for our annual PINEWOOD DERBY RACES.

Boys and their families design, build, paint, and decorate derby cars and bring them to race against each other. Trophies are awarded to the fastest cars. Cake & Ice Cream will be served.

Show your support and stop by to cheer on the boys & have a good time.

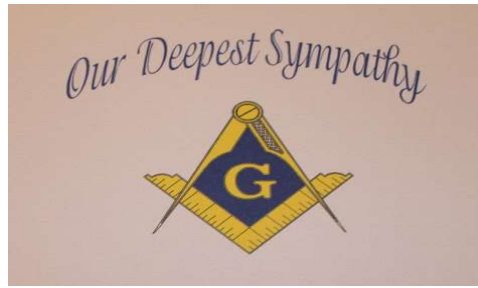
Other Lodge News & Information:

Annual Reports:

- The Treasurer presented his annual report. The report was accepted and filed.
- The Secretary presented his annual report. The report was accepted and filed.
- The Board of Control's annual report was reviewed, accepted and placed on file.
- The annual audit for 2016 was conducted on January 2nd, 2017. No irregularities were found and the report was placed on file.
- The 2017 annual budget was presented to the membership. On a motion the budget was approved and filed.

Food Basket Program:

Further discussion is needed on the future of the program, and the ability to maintain a successful program. Ideas on the program range from stopping the program altogether to partnering with other local lodges.



We take a moment to reflect on our Brethren who have laid down their working tools and passed to the Grand Lodge Above. May the Grand Architect of the Universe watch over you and guide you forever more.

- Brother Harry Rhys Lovell: was initiated as an Entered Apprentice August 4, 1969, passed to the degree of Fellowcraft on August 18, 1969 and raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason of September 15, 1969. He passed to the Grand Lodge above on December 25, 2016. **Brother Lovell was a 47 year member.**
- W. Brother Orvid Vernel Lancaster: was initiated an Entered Apprentice in McLean Lodge #469 on March 14, 1949, passed to the degree of Fellowcraft on May 4, 1949 and raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason on June 10, 1949. He affiliated with Arts and Crafts Lodge #1017 on April 27, 1959. He served Arts and Crafts Lodge as Worshipful Master in 1963. He plural affiliated with Normal Lodge #673 on April 13, 1981. He merged into Bloomington Lodge #43 on October 21, 1997 from #1017. He passed to the Grand Lodge above on December 25, 2016. **Brother Lancaster was a 67 year member.**
- Brother Richard Eugene Spearman: was initiated an Entered Apprentice in Leroy Lodge #221 on February 21, 1950, passed to the degree of Fellowcraft on February 28, 1950, and raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason on March 4, 1950. He merged into Normal Lodge #673 on March 7, 2016. He passed to the Grand Lodge above on September 28, 2016. **Brother Spearman was a 66 year member.**
- Brother Robert Allen Shaffer: was initiated an Entered Apprentice in Danvers Lodge #742 on July 23, 1978, passed to the degree of Fellowcraft on September 7, 1978, and raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason on December 15, 1978. He merged into Normal Lodge #673 on January 5, 2006. He passed to the Grand Lodge above on May 1, 2016. **Brother Shaffer was a 38 year member.**
- W. Brother Jean Darnall @ the passing of his father, **Brother Darrell Jua Darnall Sr.** He passed to the Grand Lodge above on January 4th, 2017. He was a member of Bloomington Lodge #43, Bloomington Scottish Rite and Mohammed Temple Shrine, Peoria. He had been involved with the American Passion Play. He devoted his life to his wife Mary and his family.