



THE FREEMASON

**NORMAL MASONIC LODGE #673
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER**

January 2017 – Edition

Tuesday 3rd – Valley of Bloomington Scottish Rite 7pm Stated Meeting

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

Saturday 7th – Lodge Officer Installation @ 2pm. Bloomington Temple – Public Welcome

Monday 9th – Normal Lodge Stated Meeting 7pm Dinner & Fellowship 6pm

Saturday 14th – NO LODGE SCHOOL OF INSTRUCTION - Grand Lecturer School in Springfield

Saturday 21st – Lodge School of Instruction 7am – 9am Normal Lodge Room

Monday 23rd – Normal Lodge Stated Meeting 7pm
Officer Meeting 6pm – Conference Room

Wednesday 25th – District Lodge Officer School Basics Workshop – Bloomington Temple 7-9pm

Saturday 28th – Lodge School of Instruction 7am -9am Normal Lodge Room

Sunday 29th – Masonic Discussion Group at Bloomington #43 @ 7pm

Monday 30th – District Education Session @ Wade Barney Lodge #512 7pm-9pm

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

February 18th – Academic Bowl Sectionals - More info to follow



THE MASTERS TRESTLE BOARD



My brothers,

On behalf of the officers and brethren of Normal lodge let me wish each of you a happy and healthy new year. I am extremely excited about the upcoming masonic year and the challenges and opportunities that the new year provides for our lodge.

We have a lot that we can accomplish, but we must work together to accomplish these goals. Many hands make the job much easier. Consider this your personal invitation to come back and join us at lodge. If it's been a little while since you made it to a meeting and you're not sure that you remember all of the "secrets", contact me directly and we'll make arrangements to meet a few minutes early and refresh your memory.

Remember, we're a fraternity, a family. Together we can accomplish anything. Like any family, we're not perfect, but with forgiveness, brotherly love and a renewed commitment to our beloved fraternity, we can do great things. The new year is often a time of resolutions. How about a resolution to call a brother that you haven't talked to recently? Make it to dinner before a lodge meeting? Resolve to make it to at least one stated meeting a month? We're asking you to recommit my brother. Will you do it? We're looking forward to seeing you at lodge again soon.

Fraternally,

Worshipful Master Al Abbott

You Voted



The annual election of officers took place at our December 12th stated meeting. Please take a moment and welcome your 2017 Dais Officers.

- Worshipful Master: Al Abbott
- Senior Warden: Tim Longfellow
- Jr. Warden: Mathew Knapp
- Treasurer: Barry Carney
- Secretary: John Dorner

2017 Board of Control:

- Michael Tutter
- Bryan Gaddy
- John Hulett

Join us on January 7th for our officer installation at the Bloomington Temple.



Let's get Digital

Normal Lodge now offers its members the option to receive their monthly newsletter via EMAIL, instead of the more traditional way, snail mail.

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 your request. Members may continue to receive their monthly newsletter each month via mail carrier. Receiving your newsletter in digital form is currently optional.

It's Always Available – NOW

Can't remember where you put our 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 will be added to the top of the page on the nav. bar. (called – NEWS)



Cub Scout Pack 3915 & 3991

We would once again like to thank Normal Lodge for all your support in 2016, and look forward to another great year in 2017. Your commitment to serving youth in our community is outstanding. Your support helps ensure the boys will have another exciting year in scouting. --Thank You – Pack Leadership & Committee Members--



How did you get the Black eye?
The wife was giving me a lecture and I corrected her three times.



"You know, the new line of officers isn't half bad."



Freemasonry Facts:

1. The 14 U.S. presidents known to be Freemasons are: George Washington, James Monroe, Andrew Jackson, James Polk, James Buchanan, Andrew Johnson, James Garfield, William McKinley, Theodore Roosevelt, Howard Taft, Warren Harding, Franklin Roosevelt, Harry Truman, Gerald Ford.
2. Our founding father and first president, George Washington, was a Freemason.
3. It's estimated that there are six million Masons in the world today.
4. 8 of the people who signed the Declaration of Independence were Freemasons.
5. Polar explorers Richard E. Byrd and Bernt Balchen dropped Masonic flags on the North and South poles.
6. 89% of The Supreme Court Justices belonged to Masonic lodges in 1952.

Famous Masons:

- William "Bud" Abbott (1895–1974) (Abbott & Costello comedy team)
- Richard Pryor – Comedian
- George Washington – U.S. President
- Clark Gable – American Actor
- Don Rickles – Comedian
- Oscar Wilde – European Poem & Journalist
- Andrew Jackson – U.S. Politician
- John Wayne – American Actor
- Harry Houdini – Pilot & Stunt Performer
- Ernest Borgnine – U.S. Navy (Gunner's Mate – First Class) & Actor
- Mel Blanc – Coedian & Voice Actor
 - The Flintstones, The Bugs Bunny/Looney Tunes Comedy Hour
- Charles Lindbergh – Pilot & Inventor
- Count Basie – Songwriter & Jazz Pianist
- Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart – Pianist, Composer, Music Writer
- Glenn Ford – Canadian & American Actor
- Will Rogers – Comedian & Actor
- Sugar Ray Robinson – Professional Boxer U.S.A
- Arnold Palmer – Professional Golfer & Designer