

Tidings from the East Brethren,

April was once again another excellent month for the lodge, and all the good work that we do for our Masonic family. I am extremely proud of the Brothers who give so much of themselves in time and talent. These are truly the Brothers that make a positive difference!

WBro. John Tuttle again provided us with an excellent meal, Sloppy Joes and the trimmings. Thank you Brother Tuttle! Our stated meeting was opened in form on the Fellow Craft degree. The minutes were read and approved.

A petition for membership was read and an investigating committee of WBro. John Tuttle, Adam Wagner and Art Percy Jr. was assigned.

Committee reports were given on the: Masonic Home, Charity, Fund Raising and Bylaws.

Masonic Education was provided by WBro. James Bishop regarding facts and proper etiquette of a Masonic funeral.

Under new business, the lodge voted to purchase a new Square and Compass to be used upon the Alter during our meetings. This represents a nice upgrade and special thanks need to go out to Brother Mike Doxsee who made financial contribution towards the purchase so that the lodge need not bear the entire burden of the purchase. Thank you Brother Mike!

WBro. James Bishop and Brother Edward Snyder let the lodge know that they had prepared a Coat Rack for jackets and suits, in the Highland Lodge secretary's office for all the members to use.

The lodge launched the use of our automated calling tree. Initial use was a success, and we look forward to using it to keep the Brothers of the lodge informed as to the events and activities that the lodge has scheduled.

Communication with WBro. Dave Trindel of Wayne Lodge #25 has secured our plans for joining with them at the Annual Master Mason degree at the Old Fort. Highland will be bringing two FC's to be raised the sublime degree of a Master Mason, and we look very much forward to sharing in their adventure.

Bro. Andy Holman has been doing an excellent job of heading up the Family committee. Planning for the Open House and Ladies night has been completed. The Committee has continued to follow-up with help and support to our adopted family of Tara and baby Xander. Significant progress continues to be made with helping this family in need.

Sickness and Distress: we give our prayers and thoughts to Bro. Clayton Mance as he recovers from illness and his lady Katherine for a quick recovery of her back surgery. Also for Bro. Roger Swisher Sr. who will be having surgery on April 12, we wish him a speedy recovery.

The meeting was closed, with peace and harmony prevailing.

On Saturday, April 6, Highland Lodge benefitted tremendously by the planning, diligence and hard work of the Brethren and Family Committee. At 2pm the building was opened for our Open House, several tours of the building were conducted and we were able to introduce some new faces to Masonry and the good work that Free Masons accomplish.

Not to be outdone, but the Ladies Night was INCREDIBLE! Many thanks to Bro. Andy Holman and the Family Committee for their excellent planning. There were 37 RSVP's for the evening, including 13 of our ladies and two of the Highland Lodge widows. The night was especially prepared for and dedicated to the ladies of our lives, that have given us everything we have to be thankful for.

The guests were greeted at the door by Bros. Cade and Paul Buckles, entered into the ballroom where the ladies were given a rose by the Family Committee, and music was played over the sound system supplied by Bros. Tim and Brice Herald. The dinner of chicken cordon bleu and roast beef with all the trimmings was excellent, and no one went away from this dinner hungry.

After dinner the ladies were entertained by two incredible performances. First, WBro. Pat Pedden delighted the audience with his poetic skits of adventure and wisdom. During the transition periods of the skits, he also addressed the audience with the true meaning of the evening, and what our ladies mean to us. He did a great job, and we were very lucky to have him for this portion of the evening.

Then we moved to the 5th floor, where Bro. Paul Martin played three wonderful songs for the ladies and Lodge on the Estey 2525 pipe organ. As a wonderful addition to the evening, Bro. Jason Miller and his wife became "Friends of the Organ" with a financial donation to secure its future.

All in all, for our first attempt at delivering a Ladies Night was hugely successful. The Family Committee did a splendid job of planning and coordinating, and most important of all, all the Ladies had a great time. The only problem is trying to figure out a way to make this event better next year. Good luck Family Committee!

Here are the events that are currently planned on the calendar, check back for updates:

May 1 – Stated Meeting
May 11 – MM Degree at the Old Fort
May 21 & 22 – Grand Communication

Be Great! Lux ex Tenebris!
Respectfully and Fraternally,

Kurt A. Begue PM
Worshipful Master