

Tidings from the East Brethren!

The incredible month of October has come and gone. The lodge continues to be busy in our worthy endeavors, and harmony is in abundance. Thank you Brothers for making this year such a gratifying one.

Our October stated meeting was another example of how Masonic meetings should be run, I thank the Officers and Committee Chairs of Highland for doing an exemplary job.

Chef Tim Herald delighted us with a "Triple Treat Jambalaya", made with sausage, chicken, shrimp, green peppers, onions, special spices and quite a few others healthy ingredients that I can't remember. Regardless it was delicious. Thank you Tim!

Also at our dinner, several of the Brothers presented gifts to the Worshipful Master as a show of appreciation for the work done over the year. Bro. Jim Gentry presented a beautiful walking cane with hand carved square and compass, which was appropriate as the next day was the WM's birthday, and he is getting older. Bro. Art Percy III presented the WM with his sailors belt cinch that he wore while operating on the USS Hartford ssn 768. I want to thank these Brothers for the gifts and for the kind words of approval of how the Lodge has been operated this year.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, the Lodge was opened on the Entered Apprentice degree, with one EA in attendance.

A petition was received and an investigating committee assigned of: Bros. Mike Doxsee, Art Percy III and Jason Miller. Their report will be presented at the November stated meeting. In addition, we received a petition to transfer in Highland Lodge and assigned the same Bros. as before mentioned.

Masonic education was an original presentation by our own Bro. Mike Doxsee, about the history of the Dwight L. Smith Lodge of Research UD.

One of the big projects for the Family Committee was for the Worshipful Master to personally contact each of the Brothers of Highland for no other purpose but that of checking in on them and to see how things were going. I am very pleased to report that the project has been completed. I talked to most of the members of the lodge, if you did not receive a phone call, it is because the lodge does not have your phone number or email address to make contact. So if you are reading this, and did not receive a call, please contact me and let me know how to get ahold of you. The calling took a lot longer than I thought it would, but the conversations that I had with the Brothers were incredible. I would definitely encourage the Family Committee to continue this calling program at least twice per year and let our Brothers know that they are not forgotten.

Sickness and Distress: Good news! Brother Clark Hill has returned from the convalescence facility and was able to attend our Oct stated meeting. It was great seeing you back in action Bro. Hill! Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. David Sherer's wife as she continues to battle health issues. Bro. Clayton Mance's lady Katherine underwent surgery on Oct 17 and we wish her a speedy recovery. Bro. Jack Glass and his lady Sharis continue to battle health issues, and our thoughts and prayers are with them. Bro. Art Percy III is recovering from a broken foot, cards and small ponies are requested. Finally, travel mercy be bestowed upon Bro. Robert Cross and his lady Patricia as they snowbird to AZ for the Winter.

Brothers life can be tough, especially when health fails us. Please keep all these Brothers and Sisters in your heart and mind. Please feel free to give them a call and/or an email, and let them know that you are thinking about them.

Bro Brice Herald is leading up a program for the Lodge that takes handwritten letters of support to our troops and mails them overseas to their current location. This is a great way to support our troops as we continue to welcome them back from overseas deployment. Thank you to Bro. Brice for bringing this to our attention and leading the charge.

The meeting was closed in form on the Entered Apprentice degree, peace and harmony prevailing.

On October 10th, several of the officers and members of Highland attended the Grand Master's District Celebration. We thank the Brothers of Waynedale Lodge #739 for their hospitality.

October 15th was our Lodge of Instruction. I am especially proud of all the Officers of Highland that did such an exemplary job. This night showed that the Officers have really done an excellent job of preparing for their roles. Thank you to all the Officers and Members who attended and helped the lodge receive such high marks for the year. Specifically I would like to single out WBro. Jim Bishop and Bro. Ed Snyder (Secretary and Treasurer) for their hard work in preparing for the LOI. Both men have done an extremely good job of straightening out the books of the lodge, and they truly are the most under-appreciated Officers of the Lodge. Thank you Brothers!

October 18th was a very special night for the Fathers and Sons of Highland Lodge. The Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Mason's came to Highland to bestow the Lewis Award upon five sets of Fathers and Sons of Highland. Awards were presented to the: Bros. Paul and Cade Buckles, John and Gregg Conser, Tim and Brice Herald, Bill and Bob Hollenberg, and Art Jr. and Art Percy III. In front of their families and friends, the awards were bestowed, and it was the most excellent of nights. A special thank you to Most Excellent Grand High Priest David Wood and the rest of the Grand Chapter Officers who attended.

October 19th the lodge families went out to the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo in celebration of Halloween. The kids were all dressed up in their costumes and we about the zoo trick-or-treating. The weather was nice and the kids had a great time.

October 22nd the lodge attended the Past Master Workshop.

October 23rd many of the Officers attended the EA Workshop hosted by Wayne Lodge #25. Thank you to the Brothers of Wayne #25 for their hospitality.

October 24th we had two meetings. The first was a meeting for all Officers and members hoping to become officers. We talked about the requirements of each position and what it takes to be an effective officer for the Lodge. Later that evening we had the Masonic Preparedness meeting. WBro. Jim Bishop again did an excellent job of bringing good quality information and mentoring to all the Brothers. Each and every month the attendees are getting a good dose of knowledge and information that really does present itself anywhere else. Hopefully you will join us this month: November 21st at 6:49pm!

Masonic Officers Preparedness:

Brothers of Highland and ALL lodges in the area, you are warmly and cordially invited to partake in Masonic Officers Preparedness hosted by Highland Lodge. This is a program started a couple of years ago by WBro James Bishop to help lodge officers as well as any member of a lodge, better understand the inner workings of a lodge and many interesting Masonic facts. Anyone interested in knowing more about Masonry and the inner workings of a lodge is encouraged to attend. And for anyone who is in an Officers line in blue lodge, this is an absolute must!

Oct 26 – Our Senior Warden, Bro. Mark Goebel attended the Worshipful Master preparation class at Swan Lake Resort in Plymouth, IN. Topics of discussion were the: Past Master's degree and other topics you will face as a WM. Some of the topics are: motions, how they made, amended, and stopped. Remits and demits plus suspensions. The workshop was put on by WBro. Dan Barenie, the Deputy Grand Master. We thank our Brother for continuing to do his diligence as he learns the important duties required of a Worshipful Master.

Upcoming Dates:

Nov 6 – Past Masters Banquet in honor of WBro. Lester Nehls. At 6:30pm on November 6th, Highland Lodge will host a Past Masters Banquet in honor of WBro. Lester Nehls, who was Worshipful Master in 1991 and 1992. All Past Masters and Members along with their families are encouraged to attend.

Nov 6 – Stated Meeting – 7:30pm

Nov 21 – Masonic Preparedness Education – 6:49pm

Nov 29 – Polar Express Train Ride – Family Event – Connersville, IN. Join with us in the celebration of Christmas and experience the Polar Express Train straight from the Tom Hanks movie of the same name. Tickets are available online ONLY and in limited quantities, so if you are interested, purchase them quickly. The web address is: <http://tickets.whitewatervalleyrr.org/events/>

Dec 4 – Stated Meeting – Dinner 6:30pm – Meeting 7:30pm

Dec 15 – Wagon Wheel Theatre – Family Event “The Sound of Music” – Warsaw, IN.

As always, continue to check the Highland Lodge calendar on the website for details on all the upcoming events.

Brothers, if you have any questions on how to participate in these activities, please do not hesitate to contact me. The Lodge has worked diligently to bring activities that will be of interest to you, so please do not miss out!

Be Great! Lux ex tenebris!
Respectfully and Fraternally,
Kurt A. Begue PM
Worshipful Master