

COBIA LODGE #631 A.F. & A.M.

Trestle Board

Volume 5, Issue 1

130 So. 6th St. Council Bluffs, IA

April 2013

Words from the Master....

(Pictured at the Installation of Officers L-R Father -Mike Coulter PM Jackson Lodge #42 Centerville, Mother - Connie Coulter PGM Iowa Grand Chapter Order of the Eastern Star , Chuck Coulter WM Cobia Lodge and brother Tom Coulter who is also a Mason.)



Breathing New Life Into a Lodge

New life? You might ask... We are doing wonderful! Our Biscuits and Gravy monthly fund-raiser is doing great. Our annual Hog Roast always does very well. Our friendship dinners almost always yield new members, and we have raised some forty-odd members in the past four years alone! But I ask you, where are they now? What is it that has led so many brothers away from our doors? We know that Work and Family are always to come first. We know that some members will inevitably move on into other masonic organizations that may take up the only time they have to invest fraternally. These are not the instances I am dwelling on. I want to pull the members back in who were simply bored with watching the same degrees and practices over and over. I submit to you, my brothers, that we have a problem. How do we get more of our members interested in returning to Lodge on a somewhat regular basis?

The plan of action with which I am hoping to move forward has three basic parts which can be simultaneously implemented. Those parts are Education, Recognition and Re-invigoration.

Education

Over the last century, our beloved institution has undergone some dramatic changes that have somewhat streamlined the process for prospective brothers to enter our fraternity. There is no longer a mandatory waiting period either for entry into or between the degrees of Freemasonry. The Masonic Enlightenment course has taken the place of proving ones knowledge and retention of the information contained in the degrees. Many of the long and beautiful lectures of all three degrees have been cut short as a result of this streamlining. I fear that some of the newer members might even feel somewhat list if they are not properly mentored and helped to find the real life lessons and true meaning behind the lectures. This is where adding an education section to our Business Meeting will be not only informative, but also keep us in the hunt for a Lodge of the Year Award, and we have already begun to use the report of the Masonic Education Committee section of our stated communications for just that purpose. Just ten or fifteen minutes of explanation and discussion about the true meaning behind some of the less obvious sections of various lectures. This may even give us all something new to discuss and weigh our opinions on after the business meeting over refreshments.

Recognition

As I covered in the Senior Warden's section of the last newsletter, seeking of further light through achievement of awards can be a powerful tool to keep the interest of some brothers who might fall by the wayside. Grand Lodge Awards as well as our own coveted Brother of the Year are something we should encourage everyone to pursue.

Re-invigoration

This part of the plan could prove to be most difficult, but equally the most rewarding of the three. We need to try to improve our brotherly ties and find ways to make each other truly want to be here. Some suggestions we have received have been planning monthly, bi-monthly or quarterly fun activities either in or outside of the temple. These could include outings with each other or even including our spouses and or families. Ball games, hockey games, bowling, billiards or darts could work. I have heard of an organization that attends a different local High School's sporting event every quarter of the year, cheering for the "home team" and thereby making others wonder just what those crazy people are up to. Having a recurring "fun night" with trivial pursuit or categories or other such activities along with refreshments and fellowship could be a possibility. We could start having picnics and bonfire parties more often. I think we even know a brother who could suggest a place to go ride go-carts. The point of this part of the plan is to get together for some fun activities, enjoy being together and improve our interactions with each other. The Lodge

as a whole could do nothing but benefit from these kind of activities. Sometimes our own Lodge's scheduling can get a little tight, but in my opinion we need to try and make time throughout the year for several such activities and try to attend when someone has gone through the trouble of planning one.

Hopefully, this plan can succeed in strengthening our membership and, if not return brothers who have distanced themselves for whatever reason, at least keep the newer members and future brothers returning to their Lodge.

Thank you, Brothers! - Charles (Brother Tank) Coulter 2013 Worshipful Master Cobia Lodge #631

Friendship Dinner - A Masonic Friendship dinner is planned for Monday April 29 at the Council Bluffs Masonic Temple. The evening begins with social time at 6:30 PM with dinner at 7:00 PM. Come enjoy fun and fellowship with your brothers. It is also an excellent opportunity to share Masonry with a friend you always known would make a good Mason. Information about our values, history, charities and the appendant bodies will be provided. Make your reservations with Brother John Hauser, (712-325-0812) or email webmaster@cobia631.org If you bring a prospect your meal is free otherwise the price is \$5.00. The dinner is free for prospective members and their spouses.



Brother of the Lodge - Brother Chuck Richey was selected from those nominated as Cobia Lodge's first Mason of the Year. Brother Chuck took charge of the Biscuits and Gravy Breakfast for the past two years. This award was presented at the installation of officers. Any brother from Cobia Lodge is eligible for this award.

Biscuits & Gravy Breakfast

Join us for Breakfast on April 21 from 8 AM till 1 PM. The price: Adults \$5, Kids \$2 and Kids 5 and under are free. Help us serve others and enjoy a good meal at the same time. Remember each breakfast is served the third Sunday of every month except in May we will be serving on Mother's Day.

Friend of the Lodge – Vicki Overly was presented the first Cobia Lodge's "Masonic Friend of the Year" award. Vicki has been preparing the baked goods for the Biscuits and Gravy Breakfast since it started three years ago. She bakes the treat the day and night before and then sees that they are delivered in time for breakfast. She has asked for nothing in return. This annual award can be given to any Cobia lodge member or someone outside the lodge who has helped the lodge. (Pictured: Brothers from Cobia Lodge presenting Vicki the award in appreciation of her assistance.)



COBIA Lodge Calendar - (Subject to change - check the website for up to date schedule)

Monday, April 1 7:00pm FIRST DEGREES
Tuesday, April 2 7:00pm THIRD Degree
Tuesday, April 9 7:30pm Business Meeting
Sunday, April 14 7:00am Helping Hands Joined Pancake Feed

Tuesday, April 16 TBA - Degree Work
 Sunday, April 21 8:00am BISCUITS, GRAVY & MORE BREAKFAST
 Tuesday, April 23 TBD DEGREE WORK
 Friday, April 26 4:30pm CB 441 SPAGHETTI DINNER
 Monday, April 29 6:00pm Masonic Friendship Dinner
 Tuesday, May 7 TBA - Degree Work
 Sunday, May 12 8:00am MOTHER'S DAY BISCUITS, GRAVY & MORE BREAKFAST
 Tuesday, May 14 7:30pm Business Meeting
 Tuesday, May 21 TBA - Degree Work
 Friday, May 24 4:30pm CB 441 SPAGHETTI DINNER
 Tuesday, May 28 TBD DEGREE WORK
 Tuesday, June 4 TBA - Degree Work
 Tuesday, June 11 7:30pm Business Meeting
 Sunday, June 16 8:00am BISCUITS, GRAVY & MORE BREAKFAST
 Tuesday, June 18 TBA - Degree Work
 Tuesday, June 25 All day TBD DEGREE WORK

Helping Hands Joined – Helping Hands Joined Pancake Feed is to be held on April 14, 2013 from 7 AM to 1 PM. This is a joint venture of all three Masonic Lodges and the Council Bluffs Police Department. All proceeds are used to for the Christmas Basket Project which provides funds for needy family to purchase food at Christmas Time. The Eastern Star Chapter provide gloves, mittens, hats and stuff animals for the children. This year the Council Bluffs Chapter is hosting a bake sale during the pancake feed with all proceed to go this project. All are invited to bring bake goods that can be sold and/or purchase bake goods to enjoy. For questions regarding the bake sale or to let them know that you will be bringing treats, contact Max Henderson maxcbia@cox.net or John Hauser webmaster@cobia631.org

PANCAKE FEED



April 14th, 2013
7:00 A.M. To 1:00 P.M.

Masonic Temple
130 South 6th - Council Bluffs, Iowa

Bluff City – Excelsior – Cobia Masonic Lodges
In conjunction with the
Council Bluffs Police Department

“HELPING HANDS JOINED”



Christmas Basket Project
DONATION \$6.00

Printing courtesy of Holy-Ethiopi Funeral Home & Crematory

Dear Brothers;

COBIA Lodge, your lodge, has been working hard to raise much needed funds and live out our Masonic principles by helping those in our community. We want to continue doing this glorious work and are asking for your help in doing so. This year we want to take our little monthly fundraiser, the Biscuits and Gravy breakfast, to a whole new level. We want to increase our monthly meal sales to 200 or more people consistently and we want to continue serving those free hot meals on Sundays to the needy families at the Micah House. Will you help us meet this goal? I bet you will and because I know you will the following list is what we need and how you can help us help others.

1. We need members to help at the breakfast. Whether for an hour, two, half a day or even all day. We need you. Please come down, bring your partner, have some great food and fellowship while helping us be more successful.
2. We need your financial support. We need you to come and grab a breakfast with us, maybe invite your family or a few friends and make a morning out of it. The \$5 will go a long way towards meeting our goals and the breakfast is fantastic. If you cannot come, as many of you cannot, we fully understand and ask that you send in your \$5 as a donation to this worthy effort. Better yet buy a "gift meal" for someone who really needs it or as an anonymous gift to anyone who is in need. You send in your \$5 and we will give you a "gift meal" card for each \$5 donation you make. Then you can either pass these out yourself or we can give them to worthy and needy persons who could benefit from a hot meal and your kindness. It's a win-win for everyone.
3. Spread the word! Please tell everyone you can think of to come down and enjoy this great feast; it is only \$5 for adults and is an all you can eat affair. Not a bad deal in the current economy.
4. We are seeking Sponsors for each month of the Biscuits and Gravy fundraiser. We would like either individuals or businesses to cover the expenses for each of the next 12 months of this event. You will make a one-time donation that will cover all related expenses and in exchange you or your business or even your other worthy cause will get exposure in our newsletter, to all of our guests and their families as well as in any other publications or materials relating to this event. A year's worth of exposure and the chance to make a tax deductible contribution for less than \$500. Contact Brother John F. Thomsen @ JohnnieT39@gmail.com or by calling 402-515-5113 for more details on how you could help with this and what benefits are available to those who do.

Thank you to everyone who continues to support us and the work we do; we look forward to seeing you at this month's breakfast and as always, it will be the third Sunday of the month between the hours of 8am and 1pm. Hope to see you there.

Fraternally;

Brother John F Thomsen

COBIA Lodge #631

Check us out on the Web at www.Cobia631.org or find us on Facebook.

MAKE A NOTE FOR MOTHER'S DAY: In May we will be serving Biscuits and Gravy on May 12th - Mother's Day. Treat your Mother or that special lady in your life to something special. Let the Cobia Boys do the cooking....

Please keep us up to date. Send Changes to Email, Mailing address, phone numbers etc. to secretary@cobia631.org

NEW MASTER MASONS – Please join us in welcoming the following Master Masons: Clarence Seale, Travis Nordyke, Micah Bret, Jeremiah Lamb.

LAI D DOWN HIS WORKING TOOLS – On November 23, 2012 Brother Harold Absalom McCoy has laid down his working tools and has reported to the Grand Architect of the Universe. Please keep his family in your prayers.