

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

Trestle Board

2013 Lodge of the Year - Gold Award Winner & 2014 Lodge of the Year - Silver Award Winner

Volume 7, Issue 1

130 So. 6th St. Council Bluffs, IA

April 2015

Words from the Master.... 2015 is starting out right, we are raising two additional brothers as this goes out - continuing the work with several in the wings. A Friendship dinner is scheduled for April 21st, discussed later, and though we are no longer having the third Sunday breakfast monthly, we find added opportunities and ideas being put forth to fill that gap in lodge activity.

Building membership into our annual plan is a vital concern for the health of the lodge. Remember, we lose almost ten percent of our members per year on average, so with 130 members we do want to raise at least 13 to continue to remain healthy. For each brother to have the same experience we did, we will continue drilling for proficiency, and presenting showcase degree work.

From the instructive tongue to the attentive ear, we are blessed to have among our numbers no less than four masonic instructors - how many lodges can say that? As your Master, it is my intention to pursue that status as well, so we can finally let Max retire - well, a little more. We thank you all for your service.

Challenges this year, to continue Masonic Education, encourage Ashlar completion within fourteen months of being raised, institute stronger mentorship, encourage several Master Builders, and find an activity to continue to build the treasury and charity giving ability of the lodge. 2015 promises to be yet another great year for Cobia Lodge 631.

AWARDS –

Brother of the Lodge- John Hauser



Brother John Hauser was named this year's recipient of the 2015 Brother of the Year. As Cobia's Secretary, he has often been the first person our new members meet, and has long been a positive role model in introducing our Lodge with cheerfulness and friendship. His organization skills and energy have also played a role in virtually every one of our events, often being one of the first to arrive and last to leave. We deeply appreciate everything John does to Cobia keep Lodge thriving!

Friend of the Lodge- Frank Barrett



Brother Frank Barrett was named the 2015 Friend of the Lodge. His time and effort spent helping with various activities and even with individual brothers was generous and greatly appreciated; he assisted at almost any hour of the day, and would volunteer whenever the need was there for a helping hand. We are happy that he is still active in Masonry, now on Wednesday nights in Bluff City Lodge, and that we still get to interact with his positive attitude and energy.

Helping Hands Joined – The Helping Hands Joined Pancake feed is scheduled to take place on Sunday April 13. Cobia Lodge's Shift is 10 AM to 1 PM. All three Council Bluffs Lodges in conjunction with the Council Bluffs Police Department will be working to make this year's event a success. The proceeds go toward providing funds for families in need at Christmas time to purchase food. This past year we were able to help over 40 families. The Eastern Star Chapters and White Shrine provided mittens scarfs and stuffed animals. This year like last the Jobs Daughter Bethel in conjunction with the Eastern Star chapters will be hosting a bake sale during the event with all proceeds to the project. Cobia lodge members will be working the kitchen – cooking, serving and cleaning during the event. If you can help or you would like to donate baked goods for the baked sale or just donate monies to the project- let the secretary know.

Lodge Officers for 2015 –

Pictured for Left to Right:

Scott A. Ehlers - Junior Warden
Charles M. Richey - Treasurer
John M. Hauser - Secretary
Robert Brownback - Chaplain
Ronald S. Payne, P.M. - Worshipful Master
Lawrence E. Clare - Junior Deacon
Charles A. Rodrigues - Senior Warden
James P. Beck - Junior Steward
Not pictured:
Jason W. LeMaster - Senior Deacon
Christopher A. Hopper - Tyler



Masonic Friendship Dinner – a Masonic Friendship dinner is scheduled for April 21 at the Council Bluffs Masonic Temple. Social time is at 6:30 PM dinner served at 7 PM. Cobia Lodge will be hosting this event. It is a great opportunity to bring a friend who and show them what Masonry is all about. There is no cost if you bring a prospect otherwise the cost is \$5. Reservation Deadline is April 17. You can make reservations by calling John Hauser at 712-325-0812 or e-mail: secretary@cobia631.org

NEW MASTER MASONS & NEW MEMBERS – The following brothers were raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason since our last newsletter: Rory P. Curtis, Frank Dicolandrea, Arjen G Snow, Jacob Jones and Tim Duval. John Dimon joined Cobia Lodge as a dual member.

Cobia Lodge Calendar – (Subject to change - check the website at www.cobia631.org for current schedule)

Tuesday, April 7 -7:00 PM First Degree Practice
Saturday, April 11 4:30pm – 6:30pm JOBS DAUGHTER POTATO AND SOUP FUNDRAISER
Sunday, April 12 8:00am 1:00 PM HELPING HANDS PANCAKE BREAKFAST -10:00am – 1:00 PM COBIA LODGE SHIFT
Tuesday, April 14 7:30pm STATED COMMUNICATION - BUSINESS MEETING
Tuesday, April 21 6:00pm FRIENDSHIP DINNER
Friday, April 24 4:30pm – 6:30pm SPAGHETTI DINNER
Tuesday, April 28 7:00pm Possible FIRST DEGREE
Tuesday, May 5 TBA - Degree Work
Tuesday, May 12 7:30pm STATED COMMUNICATION - BUSINESS MEETING
Tuesday, May 19 TBD - DEGREE WORK
Friday, May 22 4:30pm – 6:30pm SPAGHETTI DINNER
Tuesday, May 26 TBD DEGREE WORK
Tuesday, June 2 TBA - Degree Work
Tuesday, June 9 7:30pm STATED COMMUNICATION - BUSINESS MEETING
Tuesday, June 16 TBD - DEGREE WORK
Tuesday, June 23 TBD DEGREE WORK
Friday, June 26 4:30pm – 6:30pm SPAGHETTI DINNER
Tuesday, June 30 TBD - POSSIBLE DEGREE WORK
Tuesday, July 7, 2015 TBA - Degree Work
Tuesday, July 14, 2015 7:30pm STATED COMMUNICATION - BUSINESS MEETING
Tuesday, July 21, 2015 TBD - DEGREE WORK
Friday, July 24, 2015 4:30pm – 6:30pm SPAGHETTI DINNER

POTATO AND SOUP SUPPER FUNDRAISER - Job's Daughters Bethel #1 Council Bluffs will be hosting a Potato Bake on April 11 4:30 – 6:30pm. This event is one the girls planned for the year and is a fundraiser for our philanthropic project HIKE – “Hearing Impaired Kids Endowment.” The girls will be attending a four state HIKE event on May 2 in Kansas. Please help the girls by supporting this event. If you are not able to attend and would like to make a donation we would be happy to accept your gift. Checks may be made out to “The HIKE Fund, Inc.” and this is tax deductible. Thanks again for all of your support to the Job's Daughters! Donations checks should be made out to “The HIKE Fund, Inc. and can be sent to: Claudia Hauser, Bethel Guardian 530 Elliott St. Council Bluffs, IA 51503-0202.

DUE PAYABLE NOW – 2015 dues are payable January 1. Those not remitting 2015 dues by July 7, 2015 will be suspended for nonpayment of dues. Please remit your dues now if you have not done so.

(Newsletter printed compliments of Cutler-O'Neill-Meyer-Woodring Funeral Home)