

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

Trestle Board

2013 Iowa Lodge of the Year – Gold Award Winner

Volume 6, Issue 1

130 So. 6th St. Council Bluffs, IA

February 2014

Words from the Master.... Greetings brethren all, as the masters before me, I hope to continue to improve this great lodge of ours. We have hit the ground running this year with an abundance of candidates eager to join our ranks. With the potential of many more candidates as the year goes on we have a lot to do, but with our can do attitude we will accomplish all of our goals and tasks together.

In order to accomplish all we have planned, I would like to remind all my brothers that from the Worshipful Masters chair in the east to the seat of the youngest apprentice in the northeast corner of the lodge, all are of equal voice. Without working together we can accomplish little. Remember to always meet on the level my friends.

If our goals and task are the stones in which we will continue to build Cobia this year, fellowship will be the mortar that binds us. There are plans beginning to take shape for some fun events to take place this year. We will do our best to inform you of these as they come to light. Everyone has their busy schedules, but it's always fun to get together with brothers and relax.

It would be great to see some of you that haven't been to a meeting or function at lodge sometime throughout this year. Your voices are missed. I'd also like to extend a thank you in advance for everyone's help in making this year the best it can be. - Wade Ridout, W.M. 2014

Masonic Friendship Dinner – A Masonic Friendship dinner is scheduled for March 4 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 whom would like to join and show them what Masonry is all about. Reservation Deadline is February 28. You can make reservations by calling John Hauser at 712-325-0812 or e-mail: secretary@cobia631.org

Awards - (By Rob Brownback)

Brother of the Lodge - Over 90 years ago Geo Sparks was one of the founding brothers of Cobia Lodge and served as its first Worshipful Master. For several years after our founding he also served as our Lodge's secretary. Each year the brothers of the lodge nominate a member of the lodge that they feel has exemplified what it means to be a Mason. It is not based on attendance, monetary donations or position within the lodge. It is based upon the spirit in which the worthy brother approaches his masonic obligation. The ability to inspire his brothers to follow his example of service to others is also considered. The Cobia Lodge Mason of the year award has been named in honor of Cobia's first Worshipful Master. This year the Geo Sparks Compass Award for Mason of the year was presented to Charles Rodrigues. Brother Charles is a gentleman whose quiet demeanor is well known to all of us. He is the first to volunteer his help for projects, has traveled to other lodges on our behalf to help fellow brothers whenever he could. He is also one of our newest Masonic Instructors. (Pictured: Charles Coulter, PM, Charles Rodrigues-Award



Recipient and Rob Brownback.)

Friend of the Lodge – The “Friend of the Lodge” award honors the cheerful, unselfish donation of time and effort of a non-member of the lodge in the lodge's behalf. This year the award was presented to Brother Bob Stender, PM Excelsior Lodge. Bob has always been there to help our lodge whenever we have needed assistance. Awards Committee member Rob Brownback noted that this year we have truly been graced with a number of nominations for each award. He recognized the nominees. Each of them has displayed a special spirit. This year we had two husband and wife couples that were nominated, Max and Dorothy Henderson and Johnny and Trudy Thomsen. Past Master Ron Payne and last year's recipient, Chuck Richey were also nominated as well as our ever diligent Secretary, John Hauser. (Pictured: Charles Coulter, PM, Bob Stender-Award Recipient and Rob Brownback.)



Biscuits & Gravy Breakfast

Join us for Breakfast on the third Sunday of each month from 8 AM till 11 AM. The price: Adults \$5, Kids \$2 and Kids 5 and under are free. We will prepare food for the MICA House in April but will not serve to the public as this is Easter Sunday. We will be promoting the Helping Hands pancake breakfast which will be held on April 13.

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

Friday, February 28 RSVP FOR MARCH 4 FRIENDSHIP DINNER
Friday, February 28 4:30pm – 6:30pm SPAGHETTI DINNER
Monday, March 3 7:00pm EXCELSIOR 3rd DEGREE
Tuesday, March 4 6:30pm FRIENDSHIP DINNER
Tuesday, March 11 7:30pm BUSINESS MEETING
Sunday, March 16 8:00am – 11am BISCUITS, GRAVY BREAKFAST
Tuesday, March 18 7pm DEGREE WORK
Tuesday, March 25 7pm DEGREE WORK
Friday, March 28 4:30pm – 6:30 PM SPAGHETTI DINNER
Tuesday, April 1 7:00pm DEGREE WORK

Tuesday, April 8 7:30pm BUSINESS MEETING
Sunday, April 13 HELPING HANDS PANCAKE BREAKFAST
Tuesday, April 15 7pm DEGREE WORK
Tuesday, April 22 7pm DEGREE WORK
Friday, April 25 4:30pm – 6:30pm SPAGHETTI DINNER
Tuesday, April 29 7pm DEGREE WORK
Tuesday, May 6 7pm Degree Work
Tuesday, May 13 7:30pm Business Meeting
Sunday, May 18 8:00am – 11am BISCUITS, GRAVY BREAKFAST
Friday, May 23 4:30pm – 6:30pm SPAGHETTI DINNER

Helping Hands Joined – The Helping Hands Joined Pancake feed is scheduled to take place on Sunday April 13. 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 let the secretary know.

SOUPER BOWL EVENT - Joppa Council #15 will be hosting the "Select Masters Chef Souper Bowl event at the Council Bluffs Masonic Temple, 130 South 6th St., Council Bluffs, Iowa on March 27th from 4:30 – 8:00 PM. The cost is \$7 which includes bread and coffee or tea. If you would like to enter your favorite soup and compete against some of Council Bluffs finest soup chefs contact Forrest Peck - 402-850-6896 / grumppeck@aol.com or Scott Ehlers – 402-707-9617. If nothing else plan on coming and being a part of selecting the "Souper Bowl" winner.

NEW MASTER MASONS – The following brothers were raise to the sublime degree of a Master Mason since our last newsletter: Brent Ray Leaders, David Leon Mullen, Connor Yax and Alexander Thomas Franz.

NEW MEMBERS - We welcome Jimmie Eric Arnold who has joined Cobia Lodge as a joined our lodge. Brother Jimmie is also a member of Mt Pleasant Lodge #8 in Mt Pleasant Iowa.

ACACIA MEMORIAL - (By Ron Payne) In Cedar Lawn Cemetery, Council Bluffs three is a large marble 3 column memorial with a broken column in the center. This Masonic Memorial sits in an area with approaches from the South, West, and North – the symbolic eastern end of the masonic journey.

The memorial is approached on a series of steps consisting of three, five and seven steps. There on one finds three columns, with a broken column in the center. Symbols of the Masonic order, Scottish Rite & York Rite adorn the edges of the supported dome. It is a beautiful memorial any mason can enjoy.

Disease has swept through the acreage of the memorial and destroyed the trees. We can replace these trees with blue spruces, an acacia (evergreen) that is resistant to the disease that has affected the current trees. The current plan is to purchase and plan twenty trees. Each tree will cost around \$200 and this will cover the cost of planting & recognizing each donor. Your tree can be personalized in memory of someone of your choice. We hope to be planting in the spring of 2014. We plan on placing a plaque recognizing donors at the Masonic Temple. Sent your tree donations to John Hauser, Cobia Lodge #631 Secretary 130 South 6th Street Council Bluffs, IA 51503 Mark them "Acacia Memorial."



DUE PAYABLE NOW – 2014 dues are payable January 1. Those not remitting 2014 dues by July 8, 2014 will be suspended for nonpayment of dues. Please remit your dues now if you have not done so.

"I hope I shall always possess firmness and virtue enough to maintain what I consider the most enviable of all titles, the character of an honest man." — George Washington – US President & Freemason

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