

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

Trestle Board

Volume 4, Issue 3

130 So. 6th St, Council Bluffs, IA

October 2012

Words from the Master.... Words from the Master - Rockin' Out the year –

Wow, this year is flying by, we have recently come back from Grand Lodge with a load of awards, including a Plus One award for the lodge this year, two Ashlar awards, and it isn't over – we still have three awards to give out, possibly more by years' end. Great things are coming up, with the Past Master's dinner on election day, November 6, followed by the Hog Roast, featuring Max's famous bean dish, ooh, can't wait for that one! November 10 at the Temple.

It looks like we will be raising another three brothers to the sublime degree of Master Mason yet this calendar year, with two or three more soon to follow, so if you'd like to watch some great ritual or even get involved, come on down to lodge, heck come on down anyway, we are doing some great fellowship things, Biscuits and Gravy is a wonderful friendship activity, and we have it monthly! So much to do, so little time.

We have begun an education program at the monthly business meeting, and a number of brothers have said they are interested in presenting, which is great since they are also working on their Master Builder awards, and it also fits with our quest for Lodge of the Year, which we came so close to this year, and will achieve next year for sure.

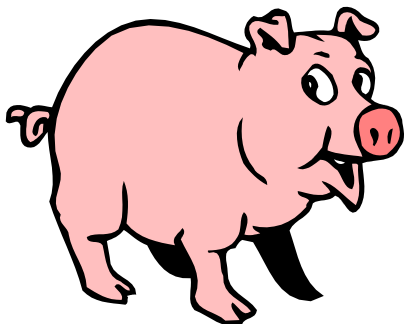
Although the next article may be from a different Worshipful Master, I'd like to say that I am so thankful to have served the lodge this year. Like many who are new, I thought I might bring something special to the office, and instead have learned that being Worshipful Master brings much more to the individual than any individual could ever bring to the office, so Thank You brothers, it has been a humbling experience, looking forward to next year, see you at lodge!!!

Ron Payne, WM

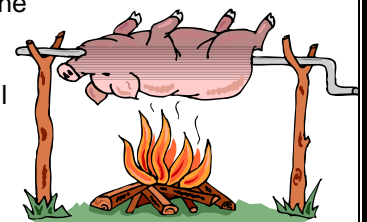
Past Masters Dinner November 6 at 6:00 PM Location TBD

The Past Masters Dinner is scheduled for November 6 at 6PM. The details are still being ironed out so watch the website, your email and for those who are not wired the US Mail for details. Since this is Election Day and the temple is now used as a polling place the event will be held at another location. The committee is making arrangements. Everyone including spouses and significant others are invited to join in honoring those who have served as Masters of the Lodge.

7th Annual Hog Roast – November 10



The date has been set and the boys are busy fattening the hogs for the roast. Chris Stowell P.M. and Brother Chuck Richey are ready to fire up the grill. This year's hog roast will be held on November 10th from 4:30 PM till 9:00 PM at the Council Bluffs Masonic Temple, 130 South 6th St. Max and Dorothy Henderson are whipping up another batch of their famous backed beans for the event. **We have included two tickets with this mailing.** We would love to have you, your family and friends to join use. We ask that you send in a donation of \$16 for the tickets if you cannot attend. Some tickets will be available at the door. Contact Mike Petry at 712-310-6554 is you need more tickets. Yawl come now...



Ashlar Awards

Check Rodrigues and Steve Marshall were presented with the Ashlar Award by the Grand Lodge of Iowa. John Thomson's application was submitted for consideration. The Ashlar Award program provides recognition and is a guide for newly initiated Brothers as they start down the path to Masonic education and enrollment. They must meet the criteria during the first fourteen months from the day they are Initiated to complete the Ashlar Award program.

New Master Masons

Welcome to our new Brothers Scott Ehlers and Aldo Escobedo who have been raised as Master Masons since our last report.

Help the Secretary help you!

We want to make sure we have the most current information on our members. Let us know of any address changes. If you would like to get your newsletter fast – give us your email address. Let us know if your email or mailing address has changed. John Hauser, Secretary 712-325-0812 or email Secretary@cobia631.org

New Masonic Instructor

Brother Jim Cline was presented with his Masonic Instructor's certificate. Dennis Heflin WM Parian Lodge #321 in Harlan did the presentation at the October state meeting. Brother Jim is also a member of Bluffs City Lodge.

Important Dates – take note!

November 13 7:30 PM Business Meeting and Election of Officers **January 5, 2013 1:00 PM** Installation of Officers

Biscuits & Gravy Breakfast continues help the MICAH House

Cobia Lodge continues to put on the Biscuits and Gravy Breakfast on the third Sunday of each month. The cooking begins at 6 AM with scrambling the eggs making the gravy and cooking the hash browns so 85 meals can be delivered to the MICAH House. The MICAH House is local shelter that serves families in need. The usual Sunday Breakfast consists of cereal, toast, milk and juice so the hot meal is a change from the routine. As of October 21 we have provided 2125 meals have been provided. After the meals have been prepared for the MICAH the kitchen crew is working on the meals for the public. The meals are served from 8 AM till 1 PM. Brother Mathew Spout and Vicky Overly deliver the tasty baked goods which some consider desserts. 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.

MICAH House Facts

MICAH stands for Mission in Community Assistance and Housing. MICAH House is a 23 room, 90 capacity emergency shelter serving single women and families. We were founded in 1986. Its Mission is to provide a safe, secure and nurturing environment for families and single women who are experiencing the crisis of homelessness. The average length of stay at MICAH House is 42 days. Each family has a private room with a locking door. In 2011, MICAH House sheltered 761 individuals (47% of whom were children), provided 22,229 nights of shelter and served 29,600 meals. MICAH House turns away an average of 106 people every month because we do not have room to shelter them. MICAH House always has a waiting list.

COBIA Lodge Calendar

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

Sunday, October 21 - 8:00AM- 1:00PM BISCUITS, GRAVY & MORE BREAKFAST

Tuesday, October 23 – 7:00 PM Second Degree Practice

Friday, October 26 - 4:30PM -6:30PM - OES #441 SPAGHETTI DINNER

Tuesday, October 30 - 7:00 PM Two Second Degrees

Tuesday, November 6 - Past Master Dinner (Election Day)

Saturday, November 10 - 4:30 PM – 9:00 PM - HOG ROAST

Tuesday, November 13 - 7:30PM Business Meeting ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Sunday, November 18 - 8:00AM BISCUITS, GRAVY & MORE BREAKFAST

Tuesday, November 20 - Possible Third Degree

Thursday, November 22 – Thanksgiving.

Friday, November 23 - 4:30PM OES #441 SPAGHETTI DINNER

Tuesday, November 27 - Possible Third Degree

Tuesday, December 4 - TBD - Degree Work

Tuesday, December 11 - 7:30PM Business Meeting

Sunday, December 16 - 8:00AM – 1:00 PM BISCUITS, GRAVY & MORE BREAKFAST

Tuesday, December 18 - TBA - Degree Work

Tuesday, December 25 - Christmas

Friday, December 28 - 4:30PM 6:30PM - OES #441 SPAGHETTI DINNER

Tuesday, January 1, 2013 - New Years Day

Sat, January 5, 2013, 1:00PM - Installation of Officers

Tuesday, January 8, 2013 - 7:30PM - Business Meeting

Jobs Daughters

Bethel #1 is looking for new members – the organization is for girls ages 10 and older. Girls must be related to a Mason and can be a daughter, granddaughter or niece. For more information contact Claudia Hauser, Bethel Guardian – 712-325-0812 or John Hauser Associate Bethel Guardian.

Promote lodge and show

Cobia Lodge baseball caps are now on sale for \$10 each. There are two styles. One style is vented on the back half of the cap with a plastic headband adjuster (Good for Summer) and the other is non-vented with a Velcro headband adjuster (Just right for winter) . Both styles are embroidered with the Masonic Emblem and our lodge info. They are available during lodge meetings and at our breakfasts. We will also ship one two you for \$1.00 extra. Contact the Secretary to order or for more information.

Seeking Further Light

My Brothers,

Seeking further light in Masonry can be somewhat of a daunting task with which to move forward. “Where do I start?” and “What information should I seek?” are only two of the many questions that seem to arise at the thought of continuing one’s quest.

There are several awards given out annually by the Grand Lodge of Iowa that could provide the opportunities and guidance to begin that noble quest. Seeking recognition and self-affirmation through Grand Lodge awards may just give some the drive needed to go further and do more within both the fraternity and the community, thereby realizing the true meaning of “making good men better”. I think we should try to encourage new members to immediately begin the journey to achieve their Ashlar Awards, particularly because they must be completed within the first fourteen months after their initiation as an entered apprentice. Some of the requirements must be met within 90 days of being raised. This award really is quite an accomplishment and aside from the recognition of the Grand Lodge and one’s own Lodge, the pride and self-confidence gained by the recipient’s accomplishments and improvement of their masonic knowledge should be more than sufficient reward.

Next is the Master Builder Award. The steps involved in achieving it are more difficult and time consuming, but the recognition from the Grand Lodge, and one’s own Lodge as well as the pride of completion are, and should be even more satisfying. There is no requirement of having completed the Ashlar Award in order to begin the journey of achieving the Master Builder Award, so those of us for whom it is too late to try for the Ashlar should aspire to complete the Master Builder Award anyway.

Then there’s the Golden Trowel Award. A cursory glance at the requirements of this award might seem a bit intimidating. It should take three years to complete, and must be done within a time frame of four years. The requirements are even more time consuming than the previous awards, but the recognition and, more importantly, the self-reward should be exponentially greater.

Finally, there is the T.S. Parvin award, given by the Grand Lodge annually to the Iowa mason who has conspicuously contributed to the betterment of the fraternity without expectation of fee or reward. I can think of no better place to find anyone more deserving of a nomination for such an award than in a lodge full of Ashlar, Master Builder and Golden Trowel Award winners!

These awards, aside from being a credit to our lodge and receiving recognition from the Grand Lodge for every award given, are all designed to keep brothers more active in the fraternity, and assist us in making ourselves and each other “better men.”

Respectfully submitted,
Charles Coulter
2012 Senior Warden
Cobia Lodge #631