

Florence Lodge #281 A.F. & A.M.

Trestleboard

October, 2009

W.. Randall A. McFarland
Worshipful Master, 2009

5903 Maple Street
Omaha, NE 68104

Upcoming Calendar for Florence Lodge #281

- Monday, November 2—Business meeting at 7:30
ELECTIONS & 2010 Budget
@ Florence Lodge #281
- Monday, November 9—informal gathering at 7:00
@ Tangier Shrine Crescent Room
- Monday, November 16—degree practice at 7:00
@ Florence Lodge #281
- Monday, November 23—informal gathering at 7:00 to
discuss 2010 year
@ Florence Lodge #281
- Monday, November 30—degree practice at 7:00
@ Florence Lodge #281

From the East

Can you believe that we've had our first snow? The leaves are falling, and the year is nearly over? Before we know it, we're celebrating Thanksgiving, Chanukah, and Christmas.

Our business meeting will be on **Monday, November 2 at 7:30**. This is an important meeting, and I encourage you to come. We will be voting on our 2010 officers and reviewing our 2010 budget.

Please plan to join us to vote for **YOUR** Lodge officers. Now is the time to look at our planned revenue and expense for the coming year.

My Brother, Florence Lodge is at a crossroads. We have been blessed with an economic windfall, an inheritance from a Brother who remembered us in his will. But while we enjoy good fortune, our membership is hurting. The average age of our membership is 70. Of our approximately 120 members, 82 live in Nebraska. We are lucky to have between 8 and 10 members to open Lodge. If we continue down this road, some unfortunate Worshipful Master a few years hence will be sitting down with the Grand Master, with the sad duty of signing the papers to merge or close our Lodge.

Lets face it, getting to Lodge every month isn't easy. The weather is cold, we've got other meetings or events, and after a few years, it becomes really easy to just write a check each year for your dues. But you didn't become a Mason just to pay dues, did you? Being a Mason means you made a commitment to be there for your Brethren and to be there for your Lodge. Now is the time, my Brother, that your Lodge needs you.

I hope we'll see you on November 2. Help us turn around Florence Lodge and demonstrate that our active membership wants to be involved in the community. This is **YOUR** Lodge, and I hope you will be there for Florence #281, just as Florence #281 has been here for you.

Happy Birthday!

September

Donald Anderson
Doyle Berg
Chris Boughter
Richard Burgess
John Carter
Donald Engdahl
Karl Hoffmann
James Johnson III
Richard Lewis
William Nary
Paul Nerz
Wilson Schollman
Dennis Shannon, IV
Robert Whipple, Jr.

October

John Anderson
Charles Brown
Victor Brown
Merl Core
William Deppe
Craig Dunn
Ronald Jacobson
William March



In Memoriam

It is with great regret that we announce the passing of
Brother Theodore Perry II

Born: April 12, 1937
EA: May 12, 1975
FC: June 9, 1975
MM: September 22, 1975

Florence Lodge #281 E. J. & E. H.
 5903 Maple Street
 Omaha, NE 68104
 (402) 455-0106
<http://www.florence lodge.com>

The Masonic Funeral

A new Worshipful Master in a small town spent the first four days making personal visits to each of the members, inviting them to come to his first Lodge meeting. The following Monday, the Lodge was all but empty.

Accordingly, the Worshipful Master placed a notice in the local newspapers stating that because the Lodge was dead, it was everyone's duty to give it a decent Masonic burial. The funeral would be held the following Monday evening, the notice said.

Morbidly curious, a large crowd turned out for the "funeral." In front of the Altar, they saw a closed coffin, smothered in flowers. After the Chaplain delivered the eulogy, he opened the coffin and invited his Brethren to come forward and pay their final respects to their dead Lodge. Filled with curiosity as to what would represent the corpse of a "dead Lodge," all the Brethren eagerly lined up to look in the coffin. Each mourner peeped into the coffin then quickly turned away with a guilty, sheepish look.

In the coffin, tilted at the correct angle, was a large mirror.

Remember the obligation we all took my brethren attend and support your Lodge!



2009 Officers

W.. Randall A. McFarland.....Worshipful Master/ rmcfar@cox.net
 David L. Rose.....Senior Warden/ dlrose@cox.net
 W.. James E. Westcott.....Junior Warden/ jewestcott@cox.net
 W.. Paul L. Welsch.....Treasurer/ plwelsch@up.com
 W.. Dale E. WagnerSecretary/ dewagner@cox.net
 W.. Micah I. Evans.....Chaplain /mevans0424@cox.net
 Carl H. Moum.....Senior Deacon/ carlmoum2@hotmail.com
 Brian W. Saathoff.....Junior Deacon
 Sean T. Kesterson.....Senior Steward
 W.. Jeffrey A. Merriman.....Jr. Steward/ frostymerriman@cox.net
 W.. F. Edward LaBreck.....Tyler/ alabreck@cox.net
 W.. Doyle E. Berg.....Marshal

The Lodge PR Officer

Dan Brown recently released his new book *The Solomon Code*. Like *The Da Vinci Code*, his new book promises to be an excellent read and a great thriller. Of course, there is a tablespoon of truth mixed with a gallon of exaggeration.

That's why it is your job to remind the public about the ideals Masonry stands for: fraternity, philanthropy, truth, and integrity. Our job is to remind our co-workers, family members, and friends that Masonry is truly about men who strive to improve themselves as well as their communities.

Of course, uninformed or mean-spirited people will choose to believe popular fiction. It is always more fun to believe the legends rather than the facts.

Remember, **YOU** are the Lodge public relations officer. If we are to promote our Craft, all of us have to take a proactive role and represent all that is best about Masonry.