



FROM THE EAST



Greetings, Brethren. I hope this October edition of the Florence Lodge #281 trestleboard finds you and your loved ones in good health. We have had an interesting year at Florence Lodge #281, and I wanted to take this opportunity to reflect back on the year and look forward to the coming years.

As many Brethren know, we've updated our By-Laws, which mostly involves updating the language, committees, and putting our practices in-line with Grand Lodge. The By-Laws also included a dues increase. I know dues increases are never popular, but it puts Florence Lodge on a sound financial standing which will keep us financially solvent in the coming years. Really, when you think of it, it comes to barely \$2/week. Being a Mason is worth \$2/week to me, and I spend more than that at lunch every day! Florence Lodge hosted two Lodge picnics this summer at the Omaha Home for Boys Cooper Farm, which were well deserved opportunities to enjoy a relaxed evening with our families. We've allocated funds for a Florence Lodge scholarship, which will help defray the ever-increasing tuition expenses for two students with a proven commitment to being active in their community. And we're looking forward to our Past Masters dinner later this year, when we'll honor our Past Masters as well as members who have practiced the gentle craft of Masonry for 50 years or more!

But looking backward is like looking at the rearview mirror in your car. The rearview mirror comprises barely 10% of the driver's total view. The rest of our view should always look forward at where we're going. Yes, Florence Lodge's membership has decreased over the past 50 years, but all of our last 10 candidates have been under the age of 40. Slowly, but surely, Masonry is seeing more and more young men who have a thirst to get involved with their community. Other Lodges are seeing extraordinary growth in younger men and Florence Lodge needs to tap into their need to get involved and active within the community.

Many Lodges have merged or closed over the years. Throughout the difficult years, Florence Lodge #281 continues to meet regularly each month. Now is the perfect time to get re-energized and involved with **YOUR** Lodge. Help us shape our growth in the 21st Century. Come to the November elections and vote, come to Lodge picnics, use your voice and your passion for Masonry to help grow our Lodge. Wear your Masonic pins and be a mentor and an advocate for Masonry. Help explain Masonry to a new generation of young men who need an outlet for their passions.

The New Year is barely 2 months away. Help Florence Lodge make 2009 our best year ever!

Fraternally,

Micah Evans

Worshipful Master



Place
Stamp
Here

FLORENCE LODGE # 281 AF&AM

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Were on the web!
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2008 Masonic Family Calendar

2008

- OCT 23 Visitation at Trinity OES WOT
 - OCT 24-26 York Rite North Central Conference place??
 - OCT 24 4th Friday Spaghetti Dinner by CB #441 4:30-6:30pm Council Bluffs
 - OCT 24 Friendship Dinner at Fremont
 - OCT 24 Scotch Tasting 6:30pm SRMC
 - OCT 24 Haunted House by AkSarBen OES 6-9pm Shi-Omaha
 - OCT 25 Haunted House by AkSarBen OES 5-9pm Shi-Oma
 - OCT 26 Haunted House by AkSarBen OES 5-7 pm Shi Oma
 - OCT 22-25 Iowa Grand Chapter Des Moines Marriot
 - OCT 25 Colonial Ladies at the Table by Sojourners Papillion CANCELLED
 - NOV 1 COTS 8am Papillion
 - NOV 1 Council & Commandery Degrees (YR) at Papillion (change of location)
 - NOV 2 York Rite Brunch Omaha Country Club 11am Reservations required
 - NOV 8 Turkey Dinner and Craft show by Narcissus OES Benson Center 3-7pm
 - NOV 8 Council and Commandery Degrees Papillion
- CORRECTION

- NOV 9 Fall Dinner by NILE at Tangier 11am-2pm
- NOV 9 Pancake Breakfast by Trinity OES 8am-1pm WOT
- NOV 9 City wide Job's Daughter Initiation Noon
- NOV 9 Broadway series—Rat Pack-Live at the Sands 2pm
- Orpheum See SRMC for tickets
- NOV 14 Membership Dinner 6:00pm SRMC
- NOV 17 Bloodmobile at Tangier
- NOV 18 VAMFLONT at Omaha Home for Boys 6pm
- NOV 19 The 5 Browns at the Holland center 8PM see SRMC for tickets
- NOV 19 CHIP Event at D. C. West Middle School--Waterloo 12 noon-8:00pm
- NOV 19 Chili Feed Centennial Lodge 11:00am-2:00pm West Omaha
- NOV 21-22 Fall Reunion—Scottish Rite SRMC
- NOV 20 CHIP Event at D. C. West Middle School-- Valley 12noon-8:00pm
- NOV 20 Visitation at Papillion 7:30pm
- NOV 28 4th Friday Spaghetti Dinner by CB #441 4:30-6:30pm Council Bluffs

2008 OFFICERS

- Worshipful Master W.B. Micah I. Evans
- Senior Warden W.B. Randall A. McFarland
- Junior Warden Daniel L. Mize
- Treasurer W.B. Paul L. Welsch
- Secretary W.B David A. Kipp
- Chaplain W.B. Dale E. Wagner
- Senior Deacon David L. Rose
- Junior Deacon Michael Cunningham
- Senior Steward Benjamin Steiner
- Junior Steward William Steiner
- Marshall W.B. Doyle E. Berg
- Tyler W.B. F. Edward LaBreck
- Trestleboard David L. Rose

MEETINGS:

- 1st Monday of the month-Business meeting**
- 2nd Monday of the month-Dark**
- 3rd Monday of the month- Practice**
- 4th Monday of the month- Practice**



Florence Lodge # 281