

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

April, 2010

W.: David L. Rose
Worshipful Master, 2010

5903 Maple Street
Omaha, NE 68104

Upcoming Calendar for Florence Lodge #281

- Monday, April 5—Regular Business Meeting
@ Plattsmouth Masonic Home—7:30 pm
- April 12— Informal gathering
@ Florence Lodge—7:00 pm
- April 19— Degree Practice
@Florence Lodge—7:00 pm
- April 26— Degree Practice
@ Florence Lodge #281— 7:00 p.m.
- May 3— Regular Business Meeting
@ Florence Lodge #281 at 7:30 p.m.
- May 8— Florence Days parade
Additional information TBD
- March 10— Informal gathering
@ Florence Lodge #281 at 7:00 p.m.

Please remit your **2010 dues** by **April 30** to remain current. E-mail Secretary Dale Wagner at dewagner@cox.net if you have questions about your current standing.

April Birthdays

Homer R Baldwin
Lanny M Bisbee
John A Dowding
Micah I Evans
Edwin D Kerr
Donald B Keyser
Jeffrey A
Merriman
C B Nisley
James D Ochsner
James E Westcott



Plenty

In the second degree, we hear of the significance of the word 'plenty'. We symbolize it in Freemasonry by an ear of corn, or sheaf of wheat. Mackey informs us that in ancient symbolism, the goddess was depicted as a young nymph crowned with flowers and holding in her right hand the horn of Amalthea, the goat that suckled Jupiter; and in her left a bundle of wheat sheaves.

Oxford defines the word 'plenty' as 'Abundance, as much as one could desire . . .'. In the second degree we are told of how the craftsmen were paid their wages and of their pleasant employment at the temple. I wish to juxtapose that image of well employed and well cared for workmen with the images in the first degree where we learn much of the Masonic art of charity.

Benevolence has formed an important part of the teachings and organization of our craft and the committees of benevolence at Lodge and Grand Lodge levels have an important role to play. We have all been reminded poignantly, in the first degree, of the role that this virtue is to play in our lives and in our Masonic character. Perhaps it is fitting to look at it in light of to how much 'plenty' we enjoy. A number of years ago, my neighbors helped me to erect a garden shed. When we finished, we congratulated ourselves on how weather-proof and snug it was, and that night I found myself reflecting gloomily that a very great portion of the world's people would thrill to have that small shed as their principal dwelling.

A provocative statistic came to me a year or so ago: that the very poorest earning American, he who has the very lowest annual income of welfare, is still in the top 10% of the world's wage earners. Plenty indeed! We have it!

Let us not forget either, that the principal analogy of our gentle craft is that of work. Our talents are many. I look about our Lodge room and see an awesome array of abilities, skills, knowledge and influence. Do we share these? I know of a good number of Masons whose interests and involvements extend far beyond the walls of the Lodge and who contribute their talents with great vigor and energy to others in this world. There are others whose outreach is less extensive but who, through Masonic Art, extend knowledge of this philosophy to their younger brethren, influencing them to make contributions in the community and the world at large outside our portals.

What should a man do with the plenty that is his? I think that our brothers know that answer.

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From the East

Once again we blink, and the month is nearly over. And what a busy month we've had, with the Schools of Instruction. If you have never attended a School of Instruction, it's worth dedicating a few evenings to attend, where you can see each Lodge perform letter-perfect ritual under the guidance of the Grand Custodian.

We have a busy April coming up, and I want to remind you about our April 5 business meeting, which will be held at the **Plattsmouth Masonic Home** (1300 Avenue D, Plattsmouth, NE 68048). We will meet at 6:00 and join the residents for dinner, followed by Lodge attended by our Masonic Brethren who live at the Masonic Home. This is a special occasion for us, and I urge you not to miss it! Let's remind our Brethren at the Plattsmouth Masonic Home how important they are to us by having a great turnout!

On May 8, Florence Lodge will join in the **Florence Days Parade**. At the moment, I am working with the owners of our old home on North 30th Street for permission to sell hotdogs and soda, which will raise money for the Scholarship Fund. The details are being worked out, but I'll share more information as it becomes available.

On May 15, there will be a **spaghetti feed** at Florence Lodge #281, in support of our Relief Fund. This will be from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at the Benson Masonic Center, 5903 Maple Street. Plates are \$5 with carry out plates available.

Finally, on May 29, we'll host our Past Masters dinner at Cooper Village, beginning at 4:00 p.m. The cost will be \$10, and we'll be grilling steak!

From the East, continued . . .

2010 Officers

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. . . From the East, continued

It will be a busy couple of weeks, Brethren, but I hope you plan to join us for Fraternity and Fun! This is **YOUR** Lodge, and I hope to see you soon.

Fraternally,

David Rose, Worshipful Master