

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

Trestleboard

July, 2010

W.: David L. Rose
Worshipful Master, 2010

5903 Maple Street
Omaha, NE 68104

Upcoming Calendar for Florence Lodge #281

- July 5— Lodge closed in observance of Independence Day
- July 12— Informal gathering at Crescent Room Tangier Shrine @ 7:00 p.m.
- July 19— Regular Business Meeting Florence Lodge @ 7:30 p.m.
Potluck dinner prior to meeting @ 6 pm
- July 26— Master Mason degree Florence Lodge @ 7:00 p.m.

July Birthdays

Virgil E Boyd
John A Graffeo
Randall A McFarland
Fred Moshier Jr
Thomas L Perrigo
Bernhard R Peterson
Charles M Robinson
Robert D Rossell
James J Wilson



Masonic Birthdays

(men raised as Master Masons in July)

Dean A Cook
Kenneth L Gaiser

Congratulations!

Please congratulate our Brethren for earning their proficiency cards for the current year:

W.B. Doyle Berg
W.B. David Kipp
W.B. Jeffrey Merriman

These Brothers make us proud with letter perfect ritual, and we congratulate their achievement!



From the East

Brethren—

Six months ago, I was looking forward to my year as Worshipful Master, and now in July, I find half the year gone already!

I won't look backward. The glass is always half-full, not half empty. We still have a great six months ahead of us, including our tour of the **Omaha Home for Boys** this fall and the **OHB Maintenance Campaign**. As we get closer to that campaign, I hope you will make an effort to make a generous philanthropic contribution in support of Florence Lodge (Team J). Since the 1920s, Freemasons have supported the home and it is an organization near and dear to my heart. Money raised helps fill a backpack with school supplies, buys a young man a pair of sneakers, or purchases a baseball glove to help a deserving athlete stay on the school baseball team. These boys have already faced difficult situations and surmounted great obstacles, and I want to be there to help them on the path to responsibility and independence. Please join me and provide support for our boys.

I have often noted that since I joined Florence Lodge #281, Freemasonry has been an integral part of my life. I wear a Masonic pin and I love talking about who we are and what we do. All the people who say Masonry is a "secret organization" haven't met me yet!

Is Masonry a part of your lives? Whether you are retired and living out of Nebraska or you still live in Omaha, whether you are active in the Scottish Rite or Shrine and not Blue Lodge, or you haven't been to a Masonic event in 25 years or more, I am urging you to get involved. You are paying dues each year for a reason, and I'd like you to experience what your dues pay for—go to a Hot Sands at Tangier Shrine, come to a parade, a Reunion at Scottish Rite, or come to Florence on the 1st Monday of any given month. Masons are getting active and involved in the community in ways we haven't seen for a long time, and now is the best time to see what's going on at **YOUR** Lodge. I hope to see you this year!

Fraternally,

David Rose, Worshipful Master

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What do Masons Do?

From the Installation Speech given by Mitch Halpern, Master of Palo Alto Roller Lodge No. 346, in December 1998.

What do Masons do, anyway?

One can see how this question would be difficult to answer for non-Masons, but shouldn't the answer be trivial for Masons? No one has yet come up with an accurate but succinct answer.

Think about it. I'm sure you are thinking: Masons in the U.S. contribute well over a million dollars a day to charities ranging from Shrine Hospitals, RiteCare Clinics, Lodge scholarships and so much more. Even more important, almost all of this charity is dispensed without regard to Masonic affiliation.

This is all well and good and something of which we can justifiably be proud, but I submit to you that these activities do not present a satisfactory answer to the question *What do Masons do?* Masons believe in philanthropy, but we do not consider ourselves to be a philanthropic organization. Some of you may be thinking: "Well, we take care of our widows, orphans, and impoverished brethren by supporting the Masonic Homes." And, again, we should justifiably be proud of these efforts, but - strictly speaking - Freemasonry is not a benevolence or insurance society either.

"Aha", you might be thinking, "Masonry takes good men and makes them better". True, but the phrase is cliché at best and jingoistic at worst and raises more questions (How? Where? When?) than it answers. However, the sentiment behind this statement does provide the germ of an answer to the deceptively simple question.

I submit to you that the most succinct answer to the question "What do Masons do?" is simply that Masons Do! Whether we are talking about huge efforts like the Shrine Bowl or local fundraising efforts, degree work, or just practicing for one, Masons continually prove that it is possible - and desirable - for men with perhaps little in common to work together to build something greater than themselves or their own self-interests. Masons - even by their smallest actions - demonstrate that the concept of true brotherhood is not just an ephemeral concept and that building is not just a term that can be applied to contractors. This is the essence of the fraternity and the thing of which all Masons should be the most proud.

Adapted from <http://www.calodges.org/no712/la-what.html>

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Please Help!



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