

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

Trestleboard

June, 2010

W.: David L. Rose
Worshipful Master, 2010

5903 Maple Street
Omaha, NE 68104

Upcoming Calendar for Florence Lodge #281

- May 29— Past Masters Dinner
@Cooper Village at 4:00 p.m.
- May 31— Dark for Memorial Day
- June 7— Regular Business Meeting
@ Florence Lodge #281 at 7:30 p.m.
- June 14— Degree
@ Florence Lodge #281 at 7:00 p.m.
- June 21— Informal Gathering
@ Florence Lodge #281 at 7:00 p.m.
- June 28— Degree Practice
@ Florence Lodge #281 at 7:00 p.m.

June Birthdays

Charles W Amidon
Carl H Moum
Dennis R Shannon Jr

Masonic Birthdays

(men raised as Master Masons in June)

Charles W Amidon
Lanny M Bisbee
Chris E Boughter
Frank R Fahland
Randall A McFarland
Arthur R Milow Jr
Bracston L Olds
Walter E Wilson
Harlan R Zwiebel



In Memoriam

It is with great regret that we announce the passing of
Brother Russell P. Ernst

Born: December 27, 1917
EA: May 10, 1954
FC: June 21, 1954
MM: September 27, 1954



From the East

Brethren—

You've heard this story before.

Once upon a time, the Lodges were growing and growing, and Masonry could simply sit on their haunches and watch men join in droves. By the 1960s, the Lodges began to see a decline in membership, but with so many members still joining and participating, Masons could afford to sit still.

As women entered the workplace, as time became more precious with men doing more around the house or working longer hours, and as technology afforded more things to do at home—television, video games, the internet—less men joined Masonry. Somewhere around 1980, membership peaked and began to decline ever since.

Well, this story has a happy ending. Turns out that men are reconnecting with Freemasonry, including older men of “the greatest generation” as well as younger men who wish to reconnect with the traditions of the past. In fact, many young men joining Masonry fondly talk about a beloved grandfather who was a Mason, and joining carries on a tradition of which he would have been proud.

This generation, born after 1980, is often called the Millennial Generation, coming of age in the 21st century. They thirst to get involved in the community, to make a difference in society, and to do what we have long talked about: **to be relevant**. These young men are apt to create the Lodge Facebook page and Lodge webpage. They don't just talk about hosting a Lodge benefit—they go out and do it! It's changing the face of Masonry in new and exciting ways!

So when I look back over various Masonic activities over the past few years: Lodge dinners, Past Master dinners, CHIPs events, the “Initiated Eye” exhibit at the Joslyn, lectures, concerts, discussions, and panels, I see that not only are we relevant, but we're **interesting!**

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From the East, continued

Nowadays, if you can't find anything to do in Masonry, you're just not trying!

I've said this before, and it's worth repeating. **Now is a great time to be a Mason.** Sure, we don't have the numbers we did 50 years ago, but I'm willing to argue that we have never had this passion for Masonry in our new and active members that we have now.

Members don't join because they think they'll get ahead in business. They join because they want to. They join to reconnect with the traditions of the past—to connect with a relative who embodied the traits of honesty, thoughtfulness, a strong work ethic, charity, and common decency. They join because we have something to offer society. They join because Masonry invites any man who wants to be relevant the chance to learn the skills of leadership. We're getting the cream of the crop in our new members, and my friends, it's changing the face of modern Freemasonry. **Now is a great time to be a Mason!**

I have been deeply honored that several members have returned to Lodge after long absences, due to family, work, or the demands of life. I am equally honored that my Masonic brethren are taking the initiative of recommending the fraternity to sons, grandsons, co-workers, and other potential leaders. If you haven't spoken to a man you think would be a great Mason, please do so. Tell them about the opportunities available in Masonry—getting involved, being relevant, learning leadership, and supporting charities. I promise you, they'll thank you for sharing your love of Masonry and you'll be helping us continue our traditions well into the future.

Fraternally,

David L. Rose
Worshipful Master

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Please Help!



We need your e-mail address! The newsletter is one of the biggest expenses, and we'd like to get to a point when we can e-mail the Trestleboard to as many members as possible. Please send your e-mail to Dale Wagner, Secretary at dewagner@cox.net to add to our database. Thank you!