

Birmingham Masonic News

PILLARS OF PATRONAGE

Subscriptions are renewed December 1st

BIRMINGHAM 44

BIRMINGHAM LODGE NO. 44 F&AM
37357 WOODWARD AVE
BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MI 48304-5003

STAMP

TRESTLE BOARD

BIRMINGHAM LODGE #44

In Memory of Joseph M. Briggs, Sr — from Steven R. Briggs

In Honor of Robert E. Meshew, PM — from E B. and Jean Ray

In Memory of PM's Tom, George, and Tom Jr Paterson and Jim Grant— from Gerald Quinn, PM

In Loving Memory of A. Ray Swartz, PM — from Walter J and Ruby A. Thome

In Memory of Robbie Kilpatrick, PM — from Dave, Ray, and Donna Husk

In Memory of my Grandfather and Member Gordon Percy Deneau — from WM Matt Wilde

In Loving Memory of John H. Milroy, PM

Please send your check for \$30.00 payable to Birmingham #44 Lodge marked "Pillars of Patronage". This is an opportunity to make a contribution "In Honor Of" or "In Loving Memory of". Please let us know how you would like your name to appear. These subscriptions help to offset the cost of mailing the monthly Trestle Board. If you wish to make a larger donation, the Birmingham Masonic Temple Endowment Fund would



BOB AND BOB AT BURGER NIGHT
(Voorhees —seated; Hall, PM—standing)

We're trying a new format. The printer allows us to use 11X20" sheets for the same price as 11X17". I'm playing with the design, and it will continue to evolve. This is in the print format. This is page 4; page 1 is to the right; page 2 below left; page 3 below right.

The Secretary's Pen

Happy October, Brethren! Dues notices will be going out this month, so please send yours in before January, as this is primarily the only income we take in as the Lodge (any rental income on the building goes to the Temple Board who has a long list of expenses). 2019 dues will still be \$127.50, of which \$44.50 goes to Grand Lodge to pay per capita. As WM Tom states on page 1 we will be looking to increase dues after 2019. The dues have been the same since 1996, and you know which direction expenses have gone. WM Tom did an interesting thing at the September Regular: He asked the five EA's present how they felt about raising the dues. To a man, they all said they would pay significantly more to belong to Birmingham #44 — several



said many times more would be acceptable. There was no dissention amongst the Brethren present, and \$250 was agreed to. Additionally, the Degree fees were voted to be increased. A formal vote will take place this Thursday.

Our October fellowship night is at the end of the month this time so keep an eye on your email for an announcement. These have been very successful the last two years with a lot of participation.

Fraternally,
Steve Skrzycki, PM, Secretary
secretary@birmingham44.com

MONTHLY CALENDAR — All Lodge Events at 7:30 unless otherwise stated

OCTOBER 2018

- OCT 2 — TEMPLE BOARD
- OCT 4 — BUSINESS MEETING (REGULAR)
- OCT 11 — FELLOWCRAFT DEGREE
- OCT 18 — MASTER MASON DEGREE AND DINNER—6:30 PM
- OCT 25 — FELLOWSHIP NIGHT

NOVEMBER 2018

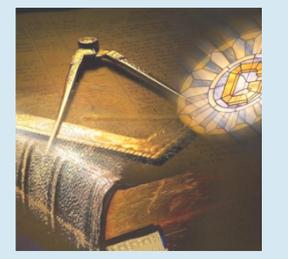
- NOV 1 — BUSINESS MEETING (REGULAR)
- NOV 6 — TEMPLE BOARD
- NOV 8 — ENTERED APPRENTICE DEGREE
- NOV 15 — FELLOWSHIP NIGHT (TBD)
- NOV 22 — THANKSGIVING (DARK)
- NOV 29 — ENTERED APPRENTICE DEGREE

2018 CALENDAR

Nov 1 — Annual Election of Officers
Dec 4 — Annual Meeting for Temple Board
Dec 8 — Kids Christmas Party
Dec 15 — 2019 Installation of Officers

NOTE TO BRETHREN of #44:
This Lodge is yours — if you have an idea for an event, please recommend it to the WM or bring it up in open Lodge. We love volunteers!
All Lodge events start at 7:30, unless noted

Greetings from the East — October 2018



Brothers;

On our return to Labor in September from our summer refreshment, Birmingham #44 conferred six Degrees to four worthy Brothers. Four new Fellowcrafts and two Master Masons were added to our rolls during the month. The Lodge also held its annual Corn Roast and held a Fellowship evening at Ambassador Cigar and Spirits, where many of us learned the 101's of cigar manufacturing and history of the cigar industry. Quite a busy month as you can see. For those that were unable to attend in September, October has shaped up to be just as busy. We have another four Degrees scheduled to be conferred, so as always, your Lodge can use your help. Plan on attending and joining us, to support your Lodge and your Brothers!

At our October Regular, the finalized changes to the Lodge By-Laws will be entered into the minutes and will then need to lay over until Novembers Regular Communication for vote and adoption if passed.

The proposed changes recommended by the By-Law's Committee which was appointed in February 2018 has reviewed in particular the Degree fees and yearly dues of Birmingham #44. This was in response to Birmingham #44's current financial situation and to insure Birmingham #44's future.

Following the formation of the By-Law's Committee in February the floor was opened for debate and discussion at every regular communication. The debates, concerns and input from a wide swath of our membership has allowed the committee to make its recommendations for the proposed changes. These items will be published following our October regular and will then layover for one month. At Novembers Regular these items will be put to the vote of the membership.

The proposed changes are as follows;

Article V – Degree Fees. The lodge currently charges \$250 dollars for all 3 Degrees. The proposed change is to increase the Degree Fees to \$400.

Article VI – Annual Dues. Currently the annual dues to membership are \$83.00 and an additional \$44.50 per capita levied by Grand Lodge are added for a total of \$127.50. The proposed changes would increase annual dues to \$205.50 and that each following three-year period the US Consumer Price Index will be referenced for inflation. The CPI for the prior three years would then either increase or decrease the annual dues. Any capita levied by Grand Lodge will be added. With the current Grand Lodge per capita charge of \$44.50 and Birmingham #44's dues of \$205.50 our dues would increase in total to \$250.00.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

Thomas C. Baranowski W.M.



While the occasion admonishes us to consider the uncertainty of human life and the unremittable certainty of death, with equal urgency it graciously invites us to regard death as the open door, through which man passes from his labors on earth to the nobler service of life in the world to come

Alexander Campbell	Raised: September 20, 1945	Deceased: November 15, 2002*
William Gillespie	Raised: June 24, 1960	Deceased: August 22, 2018
Bradley C. Ledbetter	Raised: May 20, 1975	Deceased: December 13, 2015*
Robert Clifford Schwalm	Raised: March 27, 1953	Deceased: February 23, 2017*
Sylvester B. Vanhorn	Raised: November 28, 1949	Deceased: January 1, 2007*

And when at last their weary feet shall have reached the end of their toilsome journey and from their nerveless grasp shall forever drop the working tools of life, may it be their lot to hear from Him who sitteth there as Judge Supreme the welcome words, "Well done, good and faithful servant, enter thou into the Joy of thy Lord."

* We are not always notified when a Brother passes on, so some we have had to discover online, by other investigations, or are reported by the Grand Lodge of MI.

Importance of Small Things

Let it never be forgotten that glamor is not greatness; applause is not fame; noise is not influence; prominence is not eminence. The man of the hour is not apt to be the man of the ages.

A stone may sparkle, but that does not make it a diamond; a man may have money, but that does not make him a success; a student may be clever, but that does not make him a philosopher. It is what the unimportant do that really counts and determines the course of history.

The greatest forces in the universe are never spectacular. Summer showers are more effective than hurricanes, but they get no publicity. The world would soon die but for the fidelity, loyalty and consecration of those whose names are unsung. There is, therefore, no life, however humble, but may take its place in the building of a graver and better tomorrow. It is so easy to exaggerate the importance of the important and to underestimate the importance of the unimportant.



THE CHAPLAIN'S MEANDERING PATH MASONRY AT IT'S BEST

It's quite obvious that Masonry is many things to many people. Some see it as a pure social experience that is an additional area of human experience. Others view it as a strict code of conduct and reaction to that human experience. Still others view it as a theater of allegories and entertainment. In brief, many views and analysis of its purpose and content exist in the human experience and relate to us in an abundant display of every day hope and moral direction. All of these areas of thought and guidance are character building and purposeful in our daily lives. It is quite frequently interesting to take a moment to analyze, just what is the purpose of Masonry in my life or need there be a purpose?

Looking back, Friendship, Morality and Brotherly Love really seem to stand out in my mind. Mistakes have been made, interpretations have been skewed, and assumptions have been misguided, but the search goes on. Friendship, Morality, and Brotherly Love seem to intercept many of those inaccuracies, and understanding appears out of the clouds or mists to give off the correct aura or answer that has been needed. Brotherhood seems to evolve as a rare gift borne of concept and reality. Men from different backgrounds, beliefs, religions and moral compass seem to come together in a united band of serious explorers. In exploring together, it is found that there may be more roads to the avenue we seek. A cause becomes an idea and that idea a goal to which serious contemplation provides a solution. We become a team working together to win. Not just win, but to agree and be appreciative of another's accomplishments. There are so many unwritten accomplishments in the paths of Masonry, that many go unwitnessed or invisible to the majority of Brethren who attend the Signs together. As we share the Grip, we fail at times to realize the tremendous Friendship we are engendering. And when we pass the Word, we sometimes forget that we are truly sharing a bond that truly tells us that we are one to another of great import to each other and to those around us.

These are some of the meaningful thoughts that have come to mind as Masonry becomes more and more meaningful in my life as I travel those pathways of Masonry. I Hope that they are some of yours and that you join us frequently in our Masonic endeavors to share these thoughts and wonderful experiences. YOU are so important in broadcasting these ideas by your presence and lifestyle, that each of YOU has the ability to help Masonry grow and prosper. Grow and prosper not by bombastic hyperbole, but by true and direct living!

Hope to see you soon, your Lodge needs you,

Robert C. Hall, P. M., Chaplain



HAROLD LANNING A FINE MAN AND A MASON

If you've been in Lodge recently you would have had the fine pleasure of spending time and speaking with our distinguished and respected Brother Harold Lanning. Harold goes to every meeting, and I believe I have seen him at every fellowship event this year. He is 92 years young, a WWII veteran, and 70 years a Mason! He is also a wonderful vocalist, and in addition to signing the National Anthem at Tigers' games for many years, he sings it at the opening of every one of our meetings. His powerful voice fills our rather large Lodge room with ease.

Harold is being honored with The Victory Award by the Michigan WWII Legacy Memorial during the Victory Gala on October 25th at the GM Heritage Center in Sterling Heights. This is an annual fundraising event and celebration that will include live and silent auctions, a strolling dinner and a rare chance to view cars in the GM Heritage Collection. It will be hosted by Paul W. Smith of WJR radio. Information on the event and tickets can be purchased at:
www.thevictorygala.org