

1872-2012

Operative Lodge No. 308, A.F. & A.M.

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TRESTLE BOARD

STATED MEETING – 2nd MONDAY AT 7:30 PM

Lane Shaver, PM, Senior Warden
Keith Gordon, Junior Warden
Robert Koss, PM, Treasurer

Christian Millhollin, Chaplain
Mike Miller, Senior Deacon
Lon A. Laffey, Junior Deacon

Zachary Cretsinger, Junior Steward
Bryan D. Bever, Tyler

Lee Preuninger, PM, Trustee
Larry Epley, PM, Trustee
Jack Matthews, PM, Trustee

January 2012

Greetings Brethren: The New Year has come and with it the transfer of leadership for what is now the 140th time at Operative Lodge. I am honored to serve as Master for 2012 and the officer line at Operative is stronger than ever and will continue to be such as the lodge continues to attract members that are worthy and well qualified masons.

When I look at the list of Past Masters of Operative Lodge, the long line of family involvement is evident and reviewing the recent history is inspiring. To know that the lodge has sustained two fires, built the present building in 1926 and added the front addition in 1971 proves to me that this lodge is strong in building and staying power. Membership numbers have fluctuated over the years, but never did the lodge succumb, as many have, to moving or closing. There is a great sense of pride in the membership of Operative Lodge and I want to build on that sense of pride in 2012.

The plan I offer to the officers and members of Operative Lodge is to build on that pride through a sustainable lodge program that can be continued for many years into our future as we move closer to celebrating our 150th Anniversary in 2022. The program has both short term objectives and long term goals:

- Long term goal: create a strategic program plan for the lodge with terms of 5 and 10 years
- Long term goal: explore revenue generation opportunities to bolster the building fund
- Long term goal: develop a building maintenance/replacement plan for major systems
- Short term objective: increase masonic knowledge through planned educational activity
- Short term objective: increase community service activities and awareness
- Short term objective: increase communication with all lodge members via multiple methods
- Short term objective: restore lodge room: floor, furniture, lighting, drapery and paint scheme
- Short term objective: remodel entry area that will allow for artifacts, awards and historical displays and storage
- Short term objective: remove items from the lodge that no longer have a use or are broken
- Short term objective: refresh the paint and flooring on the lower level

The name for this plan is more of a slogan Operative Lodge No. 308 should adopt. You may have heard someone reply to you when you ask how they are doing and the reply by them is “I’m just living the Dream”. I would offer that when someone asks what Operative Lodge does or how it is doing, our member’s will answer “Operative Lodge is living the Fraternity”. You see that as we increase our masonic knowledge in our craft, when we increase community service and awareness as we take pride in how our facility looks on the inside and outside, as we begin “Living the Fraternity”, we will attract interest, we will attract membership, and we will attract recognition by the masonic community and the community at large. The citizens of Polk City will look at the Masonic Lodge on the Square and have a sense of pride with it as well. More about the program and beginning the adoption process will be communicated over the next few months.

I invite you all to the Installation of Officers on January 7th at 7:00 PM. This is an open installation so please bring your family. A calendar is also provided as part of this communication and is updated monthly. You should check for updates on the lodge website and also feel free to contact me anytime. May God bless you in 2012.

Fraternally, Darrell G. Fremont - Worshipful Master, Operative Lodge No. 308 A.F. & A.M. Polk City, Iowa