



TRESTLE BOARD

MARCH 2015

MIDLAND LODGE 144

1st and 3rd Thursday
fam144@earthlink.net
www.fam144.com



www.instagram.com/
midlandlodge144

MESSAGE FROM THE EAST

Big Shoes to Fill

As I sat in the West last year, it became very apparent that I had some HUGE shoes to fill. As you travel around our area and meet another Mason for the first time, you hear things like; “you guys from Midland have some great things going on”, “Midland has been on a roll for a long time now”, “You guys at Midland do an incredible job with degree work”, “I wish we were supported by our community like Midland is” and the list could go on and on. I take a great deal of pride and honor being a member of Midland Lodge # 144.

As I approached my year in the East, I can honestly tell you that I was petrified with the thought of how I would continue the traditions that were started long before me. Midland has been lodge of the year for our sub-district for four of the past five years. The degree work performed by WB Keith Simmons, WB Bob Lyon, WB Dan Dawson and WB Bruce Simmons is second to none. The work-ethic of WB George Payne was inspiring. The dedication to the lodge and the fraternity shown by WB Ken Wakefield and WB Bill Block is incredible. The leadership roles that WB Paul Wells holds in our fraternity and its adjunct bodies are astounding. How could I possibly fill the shoes of those before me?

After a lot of thought and prayer, I reached the conclusion that there was no possible way to fill those shoes and that attempting to do so would result in failure. I decided to take another route. The common thread of those before me was that they were “trail-blazers” in our fraternity. They took chances, made decisions and adapted



to the situations that they were faced with. To honor those before me, I decided to take their route but that I would do so wearing my own shoes.

By now, you’ve probably already noticed some of the new things we’re trying. We’re going to use technology in an attempt to reduce cost and reach more people. We’re going to use social media in ways we’ve never attempted to ensure that our Brethren and our community are kept abreast of what we’re doing. We’re going to reach out to members who have not been engaged to see how we can help them with their search for more light. We’re going to do things outside the lodge as a family and where our wives and children can be involved and have fun. We’re going to do more to help those that need our help.

Along the way, we will make some mistakes and we will learn some things that don’t work. We will adapt. We have a very diverse group of officers this year that have an incredible work-ethic and enthusiasm for our lodge and this fraternity. We have new members joining our

lodge that are making a tremendous impact from the side-line in areas such as technology, building maintenance and even degree work. We are barely three months into the year and I am overwhelmed by the support and dedication shown by our Brethren. I am no longer petrified.

If you have not been to lodge in a while, expect a phone call or a visit. I encourage you to come back and see what we're doing and help us blaze this new trail. We may not be able to fill the shoes that came before us, but a whole lot of little shoes can make as big of an impact as a couple of large shoes. Help us continue our traditions!

Fraternally,
Worshipful Master
Clyde Hill

MESSAGE FROM THE WEST

I am really humbled and proud to serve Midland Lodge and the brothers of this lodge. I want to thank you for entrusting in me the honor of serving you as your Senior Warden. My promise to you and the lodge is that I will do my best not to let you down. I look forward to a highly exciting year at Midland Lodge. We have hit the ground running with at least 8 petitions for masonry so far this year plus an affiliation. Midland is growing in the right direction. It takes ALL of us to make this lodge function as well as it does. Let's keep up the great work and have a blessed year. If there is anything I can do to help you as a brother feel free to contact me whenever you need me.

Yours in faith,
Brother Senior Warden
Howard A. Eubanks



**WHO DOESN'T LOVE
PANCAKES?**



JOIN US NEXT TIME

Country Breakfast
Dates:

April 18, 2015

July 18, 2015

September 12, 2015

Midland BBQ
sandwich sale:
June 6, 2015

Midland Murder
Mystery Dinner
Theater:

May 1st, 2nd, 8th,
9th 2015

October 23rd, 24th
30th, 31st, 2015



MESSAGE FROM THE SOUTH



I wanted to take a moment to thank the brethren of Midland Lodge #144 F&AM for their confidence in me and allowing me to serve you as the Junior Warden for 2015. This is a huge honor for me and I ensure you that I will work hard to fulfill this position to the best of my ability. With the line of officers that we have at Midland Lodge, I know we will enjoy many successful years to come. There are some great Masons with servant hearts coming through the officer line.

This year we will be introducing a lot of new ideas. Albert Einstein once said that “the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results.” As a fraternity we must be prepared to evolve. We must change with the times to stay relevant and desirable to good men within our communities.

We are going to bring family and fellowship back to the lodge. We are going to do more than just show up and vote on paying the bills. Look for more family activities out of the lodge. Many ideas have been kicked around such as bowling, cook outs, hockey games, etc. We are looking at any and all opportunities to bring us together as a family.

We are also introducing a lot more technological advances to the lodge. Ways of getting our beliefs and values out into the community. We are working together with other lodges to promote our fraternity. Finding the delicate mix of tradition and innovation is our goal. We must find a way to bring good future brothers into our fraternity. There is an old saying that if you do what you have always done, you will always get the same results. We are looking for new and greater results for this year and years to come.

We want you to join with us on this journey. Please don't be satisfied by merely sitting on the sidelines or not being active in the lodge. Let's make this a fun and profitable year for all of us. To seek further light in Masonry is to seek further understanding, of ourselves, of our brothers, of our society, of our place in the universe, and last, but certainly not least, in our God. Let's all seek more light together this year.

Woodrow Wilson said “If you want to make enemies, try to change something.” Our goal is not to make enemies, but to guide the lodge into the future. The officers of the lodge are asking that the brethren open their hearts and minds and give the changes an opportunity. Just remember if nothing ever changed, there wouldn't be any butterflies.

Fraternally,

Brother Junior Warden
Bill Miller

2015 OFFICERS



Worshipful Master Clyde Hill
Senior Warden Howard Eubanks
Junior Warden Bill Miller
Secretary Danny Dawson PM
Treasurer Bob Lyon PM
Chaplain Jon Roberts

Senior Deacon Anthony McCool
Junior Deacon Nomar Tejera
Senior Steward Gilbert Morelion
Junior Steward Hoyle Cook
Tyler Russell Ward

FROM THE SECRETARY'S OFFICE

Ten years ago as the calendar approached December, I decided that I didn't want to move up to Senior Steward of Midland Lodge. Oh, I had nothing against being a steward or performing the duties that went with it. I just felt that I was needed somewhere else in the lodge. WB Roger Buterbaugh, the secretary at the time, attended the same church (Midland United Methodist) as did other Midland members: WB Logan and WB Roger Buterbaugh, Bro. Bob Whitmore, and the late WB Bill Miller and WB Bob Pavey. Throughout the history of our lodge a number of key members also attended that church just a few hundred yards away – this was no coincidence, but that's a story for another time.

WB Roger Buterbaugh (PM 2000) told me on several occasions that he was going to step down because the demands at his job were increasing each year. He sensed my interest and somehow I was elected that December to the office of Secretary. WB Roger thanks me for that nearly every time we see each other (which isn't often enough) – he has recently moved to Huntsville, Alabama to accept a new job, so hopefully he can come see us soon.

I must have been crazy at the time, to leave a comfortable steward's chair to one of the hottest seats in the lodge, but the trial by fire was short-lived. I proved that I was a quick learner and after a few mistakes I eventually became an asset to the lodge. I started keeping records on a computer and set up our lodge website. I like to think that in some way I made the lodge better than I found it when I was raised. This is my challenge to you: find something that you are good at and apply it somewhere in the lodge. It doesn't have to be anything big. Just do something – you won't be sorry!

With that being said let me make my annual appeal to the 30% of you who haven't paid your annual dues yet for 2015. "Membership dues are an obligation" and I know you took your obligation seriously the night you were raised. Please contact me with whatever problem you may have in this regard: financial or personal. I vow that we can come up with a solution.

Fraternally,

WB Danny L. Dawson

Secretary

Past Master 2010

ANDY'S CORNER

Hidden treasure discovered beneath Midland Lodge!

In other news, hidden treasure was discovered today beneath Midland Lodge #144.

While effecting repairs and improvements to ensure the ongoing and future success of the lodge, hard working Brothers discovered treasure in the very foundations of the 100+ year old structure. "We recognized the treasure the moment we saw it! There it was all along, in the foundations of the lodge," reported several excited Brothers! "We should have known our predecessors would have constructed this lodge with loving care and true craftsmanship; with value beyond measure! And here it was for us to discover -- all along -- hidden in plain sight -- for all to see and experience: treasure! The treasure of true brotherhood found in each Masonic heart at Midland Lodge!"

Brother Andy Bourke

COUNTRY BREAKFAST REPORT

The first country breakfast fund raiser exceeded our goal. Normally the first country breakfast is the lowest earning breakfast fundraiser. This year Junior Warden, Bill Miller, used social media to promote the breakfast which made a huge difference in the turn out. We had 39 or more brothers, family members, and petitioners show up to work at the breakfast and served approximately 263 people. Thanks to all who participated for making this fund raiser breakfast a success. There was a real sense of community in the lodge that day where people from the local area came and supported the lodge by eating breakfast and many lingered to visit with each other as well as brothers in the lodge. A good time was had by all.

**Columbus Georgia Masonic Bodies
Family Picnic Saturday April 4th starting
at 1:00 P.M. at the Columbus Ft Benning
Shrine Club. Please come and join us for
food, fun, and fellowship. RVSP Link
below:**

<http://goo.gl/forms/66BmWFPlg8>

NEW MEMBER PERSPECTIVE

By: Brother Russell Ward

I had been thinking about becoming a Mason for a few years before I actually became one. My brother was a Shriner and when I asked him how I could become a Shriner I learned that first you had to be a Mason. I finally came to the conclusion that I wanted to become a Mason so I could do more to help people, children especially. I am not sure what I really expected when I joined Midland Lodge to become a Mason but what I learned once I did is that there are many caring brothers in my lodge and more throughout Columbus.

I appreciate the warm reception that I received as a newly initiated Entered Apprentice, and as a Fellowcraft, and now as a Master Mason. I hope to give more than I have received and follow your example to help new brothers feel welcome as new brothers join our lodge. I look forward to serving all of you at the lodge as we all work together in freemasonry.

I close with this, no matter where I go everyone speaks highly of Midland Lodge and hearing that makes me proud for a moment but then I realize I have to do my part to make sure I uphold that tradition, so now I say to us all, let's keep up the traditions of the past and be a warm and welcoming lodge of Master Mason's.

LINKS:

Please update your personal information using the following link.

<http://goo.gl/forms/hkTrkQddNJ>

To find the link listed above and more to include the most recent calendar of events please visit Midland lodge website at:

<http://www.fam144.com>

Please use the following link for prayer requests:

<http://goo.gl/forms/Jybni139FB>

Note: If any page fails to load copy and paste the link in your browser.

A BROTHER'S STORY

It was a sunny day in the first week of February. I was walking 'tenderly' in Lowes when I spied WB Paul Wells. He was at the paint counter looking distinguished as always - despite paint all over his work shirt. We shared a firm, brotherly grip and a big hug. We're brothers. We looked at each other hard in the eyes and both asked, "How are you?" seeking a true and just accounting. We sought and received each other's recent health and medical trials. Some were described in gruesome detail; all were acknowledged with heartfelt compassion and understanding. We confessed our increasing limitations and our individual realigning of day-to-day priorities. No excuses - just explanations. We expressed our mutual love of Freemasonry and the cherished fellowship with our brothers in the Craft. We thanked God for our many blessings. It was a great day in early February, in the year of our Lord 2015.

Brother Andy Bourke

NOTE FROM HI-JINX SHRINE CLOWN UNIT

As the first part of the year gets underway the clowns are getting ready for a busy and productive year. We will be assisting with the bed race on February 28th. March 7th is family day where all our clowns and their families can come together and become a family. We will be going to play putt putt at Hollywood Connection at 1:00 pm. Our schedule meetings are the second Thursday of every month. Upcoming events are:

The Shrine Spring Ceremonial, March 28th,
Feed the Temple's stated meeting, April 1st,
Children's Easter Egg Hunt at the Temple April 7th,
Children's Fishing Rodeo at the Temple March 14th.

We have many more local events being scheduled in the near future. If you want to know more of what Clown Shriners do please contact me.

Fraternally,

**Noble Howard "Doc" Eubanks
Hi-Jinx Shrine Clown Unit President 2015**

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**This edition produced and edited
by Russell Ward**