



Allocation of the Worshipful Master

Delivered by WBro.: Terry Foxworthy
at the Regular Communication of Long Pine Lodge No. 136
December 16, 2014

Hello to the Brethren of Long Pine Lodge #136.

After serving as your Worshipful Master for the past two years and soon to be one of the Lodges Past Masters, I would like to thank each of you for your support, especially this current year. I feel blessed, as the Master, that we as a Lodge accomplished so much.

In recounting the year, we started out, in January, with a closed Installation. And want to thank the brothers from Ainsworth Silver Cord Lodge #224 for serving as the installing officers.

I was honored to be asked to help Garfield Lodge #95 at their installation serving as Installing Chaplin and Secretary.

In February, Long Pine Lodge was well represented at the Grand Lodge of Nebraska, held in Kearney, Nebraska. As a lodge we received a membership award.

Also in February, Brothers Phil, Barry, and Terry tore out, gutted and repaired the floor in the office space of Simple Solutions Computer business, located on the south side of the Lodge Hall.

In March, the Lodge hosted a CHIP Event at the West Holt High School. Nearly 270 children were processed and given CHIP Kits. For those of us that were there, it was a day that nearly worked us to a frazzle. But it comes with a big rewarding sense of accomplishment, knowing that these kids now have a notch in their belt, which may keep them out of harm's way. Many thanks to all the Brothers, their wives, and the volunteers for their donations of time and monetary considerations.

A hardy thank you to our Co-Chairmen of our CHIP committee, Barry and Jeremiah. The both of you do a spectacular job in putting these Events together.

Also in March, as a lodge, we traveled to Loup City to present the Sonny Eatmon Traveling Gavel to the Porter Lodge #106 of Loup City, Nebraska. Three of the Brothers we stopped for a 10-48 code violation and one of the Brothers' received a warning ticket (of some sort) from a friendly State Patrolman. No names mentioned here, however, Bill did a splendid job of driving that evening. Upon arriving back in Bassett, the group enjoyed some liquid refreshments, at Mary's Pub.

In April, some of the Brothers traveled to Ainsworth and helped Silver Cord Lodge #224 with the Entered Apprentice Degree of Whitley McBride.

Brother Matt Sheehan was able to acquire several banners for the lodge and I have intended to construct some wooden frames for these banners. As yet, this project is still on the Masters Trestle Board.

Also some of the Brothers attended the 143rd Spring Reunion of the Yankton Valley of the Scottish Rite, South Dakota and participated in several of the degrees presented that weekend.

In May, the Lodge assisted the Long Pine Legion on Saturday of displaying the flags at the cemetery for Memorial Day and also aided in the retiring of the flags on Monday evening.

In June, a used electric furnace was acquired by the Master by means of a five (5) finger discount of some sort. Remember brothers, murder and treason left to your own choice. As fall approached, brothers Stan and Barry removed the old fuel oil burner furnace and fitted the electric furnace in its place. At some point, hopefully next spring, the fuel tank will be removed.

Brothers, and Brothers of the Brotherhood, Worshipful Brother Gary and Brother Walt Wolfe as Brothers of Long Pine Lodge were called upon for their skills and acting as professional vascular surgeons were able to stop and repair the bleeding that was occurring from the fuel oil tank in the back of the lodge. Thus eliminating the disagreeable effluvial that arose from the storage room located in the back of the Lodge Hall.

Also a big thanks to Gary and Walt for taking some transit shots of the water drainage problem at the back of the Lodge. Hopefully, as Spring and Summer arrives we can address this challenge.

In July, the Tangier Shrine Divan visited in Ainsworth for an evening meal and meeting at the Elks Lodge and was attended by many Brothers from up and down High way 20. Thanks to Brother Jeremiah for serving as the Sandhills Shrine Club President.

August 2, brought a rather warm day, and many brothers attended the Master Mason Degree put on by the Grand Lodge Officers of Nebraska. This was an outdoor Degree, taking place at the Mike Hitchcock's ranch, located near a Water Ford. A Bumble Bee nest, near the Junior Stewards place had some of the Brothers a little nervous. Most Worshipful Grand Master Joe hadn't raised the Lodge yet, but some of the Brothers were up, moving most hastily.

August 7th found the Lodge putting on an Entered Apprentice Degree for Pat Kellogg.

August 23rd and 24th Long Pine Lodge Brothers traveled to Grand Island to help with the CHIP event being put on at the State Fair.

September 10, the Lodge met in force at the Stuart High School Gym and sponsored a second CHIP Event of the year, for students, preschoolers and toddlers of that community. It was well received and very much appreciated by all those in attendance and the volunteers lending a helping hand. Many thanks to all.

September 20, found the Lodge traveling to North Platte, Nebraska to compete in the Entered Apprentice Degree team competition sponsored by the Grand Lodge of Nebraska. It was a beautiful, warm, fall day and I was very pleased that enough men from this Lodge took the time, from their busy schedules, to sit in all of the chairs required to perform this Degree, in a competitive spirit.

We are a small lodge by comparison, but we went head to head with the big Lodges. Because of the commitment, by the members of Long Pine Lodge, other Lodges throughout the State, are sitting up and taking notice. We came away with 4th place honors. Other people with pessimistic attitudes, might say it another way. Long Pine Lodge came in second, from last place. I rather enjoyed the comment, that Brother Phil made, at least we beat someone. However, an individual may want to say it, out of the 140 some lodges in Nebraska, we all came away with a great sense of accomplishment.

October 3rd and 4th some of the brethren were again traveling to the Valley of Yankton of the Scottish Rite for the 144th reunion. These are held bi-annually. Terry and Stan had sponsored Brother Randy Stolcpart to receive the 29 Degrees of the Scottish Rite. Brothers Barry, Stan, and Terry also participated in some of the Scottish Rite Degrees presented that weekend.

During our regular October meeting, Long Pine Lodge hosted the area meeting that is sponsored by the Grand Lodge. It was chaired by the Grand Junior Deacon, Bob Moninger, of Burwell, Nebraska.

November is the month when all lodges hold their elections for new officers. I'm excited and very proud to announce that Brother Stan Weidner was elected and accepted the Station in the East as Worshipful Master of Long Pine Lodge, for the year of 2015. As the Sun rises in the East to open and govern the day, I'm very confident that Stan will give us good and wholesome instructions.

As the outgoing Master, my only advice to you Brother Stan, as the new Worshipful Master Elect, ---- when you sit down for the first time in the Masters Station,---- be aware of that crease, in that old seat, it will pinch your back side.

During the course of the year several Brothers, Gary, Jack, Jay, Jeremiah and others (I've probably missed someone) escorted disabled children to the Shrine Hospital in Minneapolis. Thanks to the Brothers for your time and effort in this awesome charity.

December is the month where everything seems to happen at once.

We raised Brother Pat Kellogg to the sublime degree of a Master Mason on Saturday, December 13, 2014. Congratulations Pat.

On Saturday, December 20, we will be enjoying a ceremony at the Lodge Hall referred to as "Ladies at the Table" ceremony.

I want to thank Brother Barry for sitting as Chaplain, next to me so as to help me remember my lines, when my mind went blank.

As I'm standing on the shore of a vast and boundless ocean, I feel my own feet slipping, remember, Brothers, I'm retirement age.

I want to thank Brother Gerald and Brother Jack for all the fix it jobs they do at the Lodge and the last minute light bulb changes, the firing up of the pellet stove, and the list goes on and on.

I'd like to thank Brother Scott Emmett for always jumping into any of the chairs needing filled or lectures given to help facilitate the degree work. And also, for posting with me on more than one occasion.

Finally, I'd like to thank Brother Alvin as the Lodge Secretary for keeping me on track and all the behind the scene work he does. Pictures, E-Mails and Suggestions to help make the Lodge, as a whole, a much improved Lodge and a Lodge that many other lodges around Nebraska are setting up and taking notice of.

For Instance, when we as a group approached the Master Masons Degree location for Whitely McBride. We overheard several of the Grand Lodge Officers say: "Man you can always tell when that Long Pine Bunch shows up." Keep up the good work, Alvin, it is much appreciated.

Serving as Master of Long Pine Lodge has been Challenging, Humbling, & very, very Rewarding.

And a hearty thanks to Brethren All.

I am many times asked,---- what do Masons do?

Well,---- first of all,---- we need to put aside the Conspiracy Theory, that we have all seen on television.

So,---- what is it,---- that Masons do?

We, as Masons, when given the opportunity, take a Good Man and give him the tools to become a Better Man.

As Brothers, we hold each other accountable for our thoughts, words, and actions.

We offer a helping hand to members of our Order and fellow members of our human race. We prefer to give a lifting Hand-Up, rather than a Hand-out.

So,---- what is it,---- that Masons do?

Well,----- after all of you,----- have listened to this synopsis----- of this past year, for Long Pine Lodge, it would seem to this old Past Master that Masons have plenty to do.

Respectfully and Fraternaly Yours,

Terry Foxworthy
Worshipful Master