



Allocution of the Worshipful Master

Delivered by WBro.: Stan Weidner
at the Regular Communication of Long Pine Lodge No. 136
December 20, 2016

My reign as Master of Long Pine Lodge #136 began in the year 2015. Installing officers from Nebraska Grand Lodge were MWBro. Joe McBride as Installing Officer, WBro. Bob Moninger as Installing Marshal, and WBro. Kevin Lindly as Installing Chaplain. WBro. Chet Wales from Custer lodge No. 148 in Broken Bow sat as Installing Secretary. Also present from the Nebraska Grand Lodge was WBro. John Ferguson.

Long Pine Lodge has assisted several area lodges during my term by providing a degree team or supplementing their degree team in the degrees of Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft and Master Mason. The Lodges included Ainsworth, Broken Bow, Burwell, O'Neill, Wood Lake and Wausa.

For the very first time ever, Long Pine Lodge No. 136 was honored to be presented the Gold Pan Award at Annual Communication in February 2016. The Gold Pan Award is awarded each year by the Grand Lodge of Nebraska to that Nebraska lodge which, in the opinion of the Grand Lodge Awards Committee, has contributed extraordinary service to or advancement of Freemasonry in Nebraska, or has shown the greatest improvement or innovation in its activities.

This was the result of our Masonic Day in September 19, 2015 when we Celebrated our 130th Anniversary. We started the day by having a luncheon at the American Legion followed by the formal reception of the Grand Master of Masons of Nebraska at the Lodge. A Masonic procession followed on Main Street of the City of Long Pine, with the approval of the City Council and appropriate police escort, to the Long Pine Fire Hall where the Cornerstone was laid by the officers of Grand Lodge. The public was then invited and repaired to The Palace for our 130th Anniversary Celebration. A roast beef meal was served. MWBro. John Maxell, Grand Master of Masons of Nebraska was in hand to present WBro. Murray Mellor the Bronze Jordan Medal for being the most senior Mason of our Lodge. Toasting and frivolity was capped with a Magic Show.

At Grand Lodge this year Lodge also received a certificate of recognition for having all elected officers present.

Our ladies were honored at a Ladies at the Table ceremony at the Bassett American Legion club on April 16, 2016. Several visiting dignitaries were present for the evening. Deputy Grand Master - RWBro. Richard Myers of Fremont, RWBro. Bob Moninger and his lady, Pam, of Burwell and Kevin Lindly and his lady, Marilyn from Broken Bow represented the Nebraska Grand Lodge. From South Dakota was Sovereign Grand Inspector General Jeff Larson and his lady Susan of Mitchell, Past Grand Master Virgil Anderson and his lady, Vi of Sioux Falls, and Dick Foltz of Vermillion, Personal Representative to the SGIG.

In March 2016, the Lodge did opening and closing proficiency for the first time in many, many years with all officers sitting in their respective chairs.

Long Pine Lodge assisted with raising and lowering flags at the Long Pine Cemetery in honor of Memorial Day.

I was pleased to be Worshipful Master when my son, Garrett Weidner, was raised as a Master Mason. Also raised was Anthony Greer. While doing the Master Mason degree for Brother Weidner and Brother Greer it was used as practice for upcoming ritual competition in Fremont.

In October of 2016 a group traveled to Fremont and placed second in the annual ritual competition this year being first section of the Master Mason degree. Team consisted of Worshipful Brother Scott Emmett as Worshipful Master, Worshipful Brother Stan Weidner as Senior Warden, Worshipful Brother Phil Brown as Junior Warden, Worshipful Brother Barry Frerichs as Senior Deacon, Brother Garrett Weidner as Junior Deacon, Worshipful Brother Terry Foxworthy as Senior Steward, Brother Jeremiah Schartz as Junior Steward, and Brother Matt Sheehan as Chaplain.

As usual, in August, Long Pine Lodge Brothers and spouses assisted with the Freemason Child Identification Program at the Nebraska State Fair in Grand Island and in November of 2016 joined members of Ainsworth Silver Cord Lodge in hosting a two-day program at Ainsworth Public schools.

As my term is completed, I will continue my Masonic work and wish upcoming Master of Long Pine Lodge, WBro. Phil Brown, much success.

(SGD)Stan Weidner
Worshipful Master