



Trestle Board



Equality Lodge #497 Newsletter -- Vol. 2 -- April 1, 2002

From the Master

Being Worshipful Master of this Lodge has been a thrilling, enriching (as well as humbling) experience of a lifetime for me and one made possible only by the hard work of our loyal and dedicated officers, advancing line and faithful brethren. I was truly fortunate to have our DDGM serving as Chaplain and our DDGL serving as Secretary this year. Their help and support were readily available and freely given, thereby, making my job much easier.

I am pleased to report the addition of 2 new Master Masons this year and the reinstatement of 3 brothers. Lodge attendance has been good but we still need more of our Past Masters to attend and share their knowledge and experience with us. Our new Fellowship Hall has hosted several activities and has been well received in the Community (see Lodge News).

Our Building Associations' NEWBURG DAY fund raiser is vital in maintaining its financial health and we solicit your help and support with donations of time and/or money this year. We

expect to have both set up and clean up crews and ask for your help.

One of our long-term needs is access to our upstairs meeting hall by permanent or temporarily handicapped brethren. While funds for a chair lift seem out of reach at this time, with the help of our members it may just happen. Some of the ways it could be possible is for a brother to make a donation as a memorial in the name of a past brother or as a future bequest to the lodge in their will.

In my opinion, our lodge is on solid ground, growing, and I see nothing but positive results for the future.

W.M. Shelby Chism



Lodge News 2001-02 lodge year:

Rt. Wor. Bro. William C. Woolsey is District Deputy Grand Master and Rt. Wor. Bro. George E. Ornsbey is District Deputy Grand Lecturer of the 29th Masonic District.

Since Equality Lodge has opened its new Fellowship Hall in the downstairs of the building we have been decorating for each of the holidays. The brothers have had several community events including a Halloween Party for the community; served Hot Chocolate, Coffee and Cookies during the Newburg Day Christmas Parade; and held an Easter Egg Hunt at the Newburg Gazebo for the neighborhood children.

The lodge is hoping to host a Past Masters night and dinner afterwards as a fundraiser for the Building Association. Family, Masonic widows and friends are all welcome.

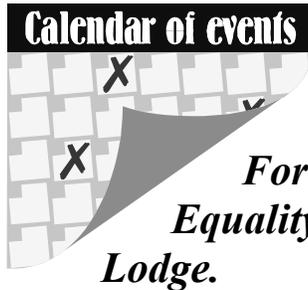
On April 27th Equality will participate in a civic clean up project at the creek that runs through Newburg. Any brothers that wish to help be at the Lodge at 7:30 am. Hope to see you there.

We have done more community service projects this year than any year in past memory.

We have been trying to become more visible in the community, so people will know who and what the Masonic lodge is all about.



Lodge News



April 27, 2002 – Creek clean up at Newburg Creek. Meet at the Lodge at 7:30 am.

June 8, 2002 – Newburg Day Fund Raiser lasts all day. Setup begins at 6:00 am. Next shift will be 10:00 – 2:00pm. Clean up 2:00 – 4:00pm. We need **workers** for **all shifts**. Please sign up.

June 28, 2002 – Election of Officers will be at 7:30pm

July & August – Will be working on Fellowship Hall. See George Ornsbey and Willie Woolsey for work schedule and job assignments. All members, family, and friends are welcome to come help.

September 13, 2002 – Open Installation of Officers will be at 6:30pm. Dinner in Fellowship Hall to follow.

September 23 –24, 2002 – 181st Grand Lodge Session at Columbia, MO.



Awards

Equality Lodge has won the Grand Lodge Bronze award and is working toward their Sliver award.

The Bronze award is opening on all three degrees, balloting, and closing the lodge with less than 10 mistakes by all officers. Supervised by the DDGL.

WM Shelby Chism will have completed all the necessary requirements for the Grand Lodge Achievement Award for the 2002 Lodge year.

This will be the 9th consecutive Grand Lodge Achievement Award won by Equality Lodge.

Brother Andrew Chism will be the 10th consecutive winner of the GL Achievement Award so everyone turn out and help him meet his requirement for the award.

This will qualify us for the Grand Lodge's Ten Year award for the Lodge. Brother Earnest Ray, Sr. will begin our run for the Twenty year award.



Commentary on the Pledge of Allegiance by *Red Skelton*

I -Me; an individual; a committee of one.

Pledge -Dedicate all of my worldly goods to give without self-pity.

Allegiance -My love and my devotion.

To the Flag -Our standard; *Old Glory*; a symbol of Freedom; wherever she waves there is respect, because your loyalty has given her a dignity that shouts, Freedom is everybody's job.

United -That means that we have all come together.

States -Individual communities that have united into forty-eight great states. Forty-eight individual communities with pride and dignity and purpose. All divided with imaginary boundaries, yet united to a common purpose, and that is love for country.

And to the Republic -a state in which sovereign power is invested in representatives chosen by the people to govern. And government is the people; and it's from the people to the leaders, not from the leaders to the people.

For which it stands One Nation - meaning, so blessed by God.

Indivisible -Incapable of being divided.

With Liberty -Which is Freedom; the right of power to live one's own life, without threats, fear, or some sort of retaliation.

And Justice -The principle, or qualities, of dealing fairly with others.

For All -which means, boys & girls, it's as much your country as it is mine. Now, boys and girls, let me hear you recite the Pledge of Allegiance:

Since I was a small boy, two states have been added to our country, and two words have been added to the Pledge of Allegiance: **Under God**.
.....Red Skelton

See our Web Page for lodge updates and Pictures:

www.geocities.com/equalitylodge/