



The Corinthian Courier

Corinthian Lodge No. 67, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons

Mar-Apr 2013

Master's Corner

By Rick Vance (WM 2013)



Fraternal and warm greetings brothers and friends of Corinthian Lodge No. 67,

Best wishes to all of you as we enjoy spring after what seemed to me like a long cold winter. All things are going extremely well at Corinthian Lodge now.

We have six fine men, Clinton Christensen, Collin Dahl, Mark Kujawa, Max McCullough, Jim Niehoff, and Tyrone Patterson going through the degrees now. We are looking forward to having them raised and join us as Master Masons in our gentle craft on April 16th.

Corinthian Lodge has been active and raising awareness for Masonry in the community. We have a slate of future activities planned to build the brotherhood and continue to grow positive awareness of Masonry which will result in keeping Corinthian Lodge growing and strong.

In January we once again exhibited at the Farmington Expo at the high school. This year we started something new by having an Open House at the lodge the following Thursday January 31 which we promoted at the Expo. We had seven prospective candidates and four young men from Rosemount

High School attend the Open House which we viewed as a very solid outcome for this new initiative. Several of these men are the brothers going through the degrees now named above.

The Special Olympics Polar Bear Plunge was another new initiative by the lodge this year and was captained by past master Nick Johnson. Nick named our team the Stonecutters. Special Olympics means a lot to me since my 20 year old son Jack who has autism is a Special Olympics athlete. Five brothers from the lodge including Nick, PM Joel Wolfe, SS Steve Schendel, Tyler Gray, myself and my daughter Katie raised \$2855 in our first year in this event which is also sponsored by the Grand Lodge of Minnesota. We participated in the South Metro Plunge into ice cold Crystal Lake in Burnsville on February 23rd. We'd like to thank the eighteen brothers of the lodge who either plunged and or contributed to this new initiative. We hope we can more than double the number of brothers participating next year. As Nick so aptly put it, the Stonecutters of Corinthian Lodge were "Freezin' for a Reason!"

March 22nd was our Festive Board Table Lodge. This year's theme was "America, Minnesota, and Freemasonry in the 1860's, About the times and as it was". The presentation, paper, and toasts centered around the time Corinthian Lodge was chartered in 1867. This is the third year in a row in which the table lodge theme was historically time based starting with the Revolutionary War period

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Corinthian Lodge was established in 1867 and is located at 326 3rd Street, in downtown Farmington Minnesota.

Corinthian Lodge meets the first and third Tuesdays of every month, but is dark in June, July, and August.

Please join us for fellowship and meals at 6:30pm, with meetings starting at 7:30pm.

Visit our website at www.corinthian67.org

Master's Corner Continued

two years ago and just after the War of 1812 last year. This year we packed the lodge hall with record attendance of 72 people. Our Guest Speaker was Most Worshipful Deputy Grand Master Dave Olson who tradition prevailing will be Grand Master in April. We had several awards for years of Masonry and attendance. This year's Mason of the Year Award was presented to WB Jim Henderson who has been instrumental with Jerry Zierdt and Secretary WB Joe Kivens getting our lodge finances together as the lodge Treasurer and initiated and been the leader of this very successful Table Lodge series. As always, a great time was had by all.

April, May, and June, are already packed with important and new events. At our April 2 meeting, representatives of the annual Support Our Troops Haunted House will be at lodge at 7 PM to discuss how the brothers of Corinthian Lodge can haunt a new room this year the first two weekends in October. This helps raise money to send care packages to the men and women deployed overseas serving our country in the military. This Support Our Troops Haunted House is held at the Dakota County Fairgrounds. This is a new initiative that will be a lot of work and fun for the lodge and we hope you choose to help out in. Come to the meeting to learn more. This project is being led by JD Jerry Zierdt. April 12 & 13 is the Grand Lodge Communication in Brooklyn Park. Please read the resolutions in the January February Minnesota Mason newspaper for the resolutions and contact your officers if you want to provide your input.

May 7 we have a very special guest and Mason, Peter Vodenka, who will be presenting on his book Journey to Freedom. You will hear his story about defecting with his family from totalitarian communist Czechoslovakia in 1983. The presentation will start at 7 PM and is open to the public. I encourage you to bring your family members and friends to hear a firsthand account of a family risking their lives to escape government oppression seeking freedom in the United States.

Saturday June 15 will be Corinthian Lodge's fourth annual Farmington High School College Scholarship Fundraiser breakfast during Farmington's Dew Days festival. We appreciate all of you selling your tickets we send you for this important event which allows us to help the young people in the community while also increasing the awareness of Corinthian Lodge and Masonry in Farmington. We have a new initiative to raise funds for our scholarship program. When you buy Kwik Trip gift cards from us you get full value of what you pay for but the scholarship fund gets 10%. Talk to our Secretary WB Joe Kivens to get yours. It's a win win for all.

Corinthian Lodge has a need to upgrade our electric service into the building for safety and for our waffle breakfast. This project will cost over \$10,000. Please let me know if you would like to contribute to this important capital upgrade project.

Our Master Mason degree is April 16. We are having excellent and stimulating Masonic Education, brotherhood, and fun at every meeting. Our theme this year is "Mentorship plus Education equals Membership". Our ritual work is always improving and we have a goal of earning Gold Lodge recognition from Grand Lodge this year.

A big THANK YOU to all the brothers who are active with plans on your trestle boards and labors in the quarries to make Corinthian Lodge No. 67 a great place to be a Mason.

Please let me know if I can help you in any way. I wish all you brothers well and look forward to seeing you at our next meeting.

Fraternally,

Rick Vance
Master, Corinthian Lodge No. 67, Farmington, MN
Mark Master Mason, Roman Eagle Lodge No. 160, Edinburgh, Scotland

Join Our Monthly Travels



Back in the days of operative Masonry, it can be assumed that the craft were often itinerant workers looking for labor. Their education freed them from the constraint of local low wages, and their wandering associations with other freemasons is what led to the establishment of trade groups, soon to be known as Lodges, that we speculative Masons enjoy today.

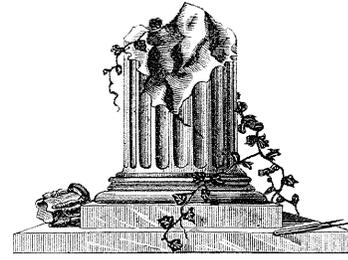
In the month of April, we have already traveled and claimed the BFG from Anoka. The Big Fraternal Gavel is one of many traveling trophies in the state of Minnesota. Our hope is to soon claim the Fari-bault Proficiency Sword after Grand Lodge.

The big event in the month of April is the Annual Communication for the Grand Lodge of Minnesota, A.F.&A.M. on 4/12 and 4/13. Grand Lodge will be held at the Minneapolis Marriott Northwest in Brooklin Park. All Master Masons are invited to attend. You can visit all the Masonic body booths, buy some cool Masonic bling, and jaw with some great brothers that you know and may not know.

Finally, Red Wing will be hosting its annual Table Lodge at the St. James Hotel May 17th. Please mark your calendars now. It is a wonderful table lodge and always well attended.

Please consider joining in our monthly travels, and feel free to suggest lodges that you would like to visit. Contact WB Steve or WB Nick for further information or to rideshare.

Lodge of Sorrow



There have been no deaths since the last newsletter.

Photos from Corinthian #67 Table Lodge

Photos courtesy of WB Joe Gonzalez



Our GM and brothers of Perfect Ashlar No. 4



WM Rick and JW Art

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Paul Vodenka—Journey For Freedom



We are fortunate to be having Brother Peter Vodenka make a presentation on his and his family's escape from Communist Czechoslovakia. He will be making his presentation at 7pm at the Farmington Masonic Temple. This event is open to the public.

This is the fascinating story of what Peter and his family endured living under Communist rule. The transitions that took place in his life, giving him the determination to spend ten years planning his defection with his wife and two small children from Czechoslovakia. How a desire for a better life gave him the dedication to keep their plans of defection secret, and protect their families from the wrath of the government if they were successful. It describes the trials and tribulations, in vivid detail, that took place during their Journey For Freedom.

Peter's presentation is filled with heart wrenching emotions and intense suspense, making it a presentation you don't want to miss. Peter describes his surroundings, emotions, and plans of defection in graphic detail.

You can find more information on Brother Vodenka at his site, <http://www.journeyforfreedom.com/>.

Invite anyone you know to this very informative and inspiring presentation.

Photos from Corinthian #67 Table Lodge Continued



WB Jim awarded Mason of the Year



JD Jerry receives an award



WB Joel and Bro. Mike

York Rite Corner

By Nick Johnson



Companions and Sir Knights,

We have now completed, for most of our new Companions and Sir Knights, the work of the York Rite. We are still catching up some of our candidates. The first meeting will be the Illustrious Order of Red Cross on Monday, 4/15. The sword drops at 7pm.

The Order serves as a bridge between the Antient Craft Masonry and the future Orders. From the York Rite bodies of Saint Paul's website:

This order consists of two sections: (1) Zerubbabel's (the candidate) admission to the Jewish Council at Jerusalem, in which he is granted permission and authority to travel to Babylon to obtain leave from King Darius to stop the enemies of the Jews from hindering their progress in building the Temple... 2) At the court of Darius, Zerubbabel renews his earlier friendship with the King, and is granted a position in the royal household. He then participates in a friendly contest with other nobles regarding the question: "Which is greater? The strength of wine? The power of the King? Or the influence of woman?"

Interested? Contact me at njohnson@farmingtonyorkrite.org. You can also visit our website at farmingtonyorkrite.org.

Nick Johnson (PHP, PCW, SK)

Matron's Corner

By Veronica Harper, Worthy Matron



Greetings to our Masonic brothers from the members and officers of Myrtle Chapter #13 OES.

Our chapter is installing the 2013 – 2014 officers on April 6th, 2013 at 10:30am. It is an open installation and we hope to greet you on this important day for our chapter beginning a new year with a new corps of officers.

As Billie Errico wrote in the last newsletter, Eastern Star is open to all Master Masons, and female members of their families. We just had the pleasure of initiating Bruce Jenson into our Chapter in February, and initiated his wife Ann last year. They are both officers this year. If you are interested in becoming a member, please feel free to contact me at veronmharper@q.com or anyone else who is a Star member.

On May 28th at 6:00pm you are invited you to join us at Feed My Starving Children in Eagan. Please let us know if you can join us, as we need to let them know how many of us will take part. I have been told the Lodge has several brothers taking part in the 3rd degree in April, and look forward to serving dinner for you.

The Chapter will be having a potluck picnic June 25th at Rambling River Park in Farmington at 6pm and you and your families are invited. Please bring a dish to share. More information will follow.

Sincerely,

Veronica Harper, WM

Bethel News



Job's Daughters was by Ethel T. Wead Mick.

From Wikipedia:

Ethel Theresa Wead Mick (March 9, 1881 – February 21, 1957) is the founder of the Masonic girls' organization The International Order of Job's Daughters (now known as Job's Daughters International) and served as its first Supreme Guardian.

She was born in Atlantic, Iowa to William Henry Wead and Elizabeth Delight Hutchinson Wead, the youngest of four siblings. She was brought up in a close-knit, very religious family. Her mother read stories from the Bible every evening and often made reference to the Book of Job, hoping that her daughters would become "as fair as the daughters of Job". This influence eventually resulted in the founding of the Order of Job's Daughters in 1920, so named in honor of her mother. The group became International in 1931 when a Bethel opened in British Columbia, Canada.

Wead met William Mick while attending Creighton Medical College in Omaha, Nebraska. They were married in May 1904 and had two daughters, Ethel and Ruth. She enjoyed a variety of hobbies including oil painting, singing, reading, traveling and participating in several different fraternal organizations and civic clubs. She died in Cleveland, Ohio, and is buried in Omaha.

Cemetery Report



Brothers,

One of the most famous members of Corinthian Lodge buried in our cemetery is Billy Nixon.

Here is the poem on the bottom of the plaque on his headstone:

The 1st Minn. repelled Pickett's charge at Gettysburg, July 3, 1863, lost 85 per cent of their men and saved the Union. 262, all that were here of them then 262, fearless, unfaltering men, 262, they held the mad thousands at bay—met them and baffled and broke them turning the tide of the day. 262, when the sun hung low in the heaven—but, Oho! when the stars looked over—they numbered but forty-seven dead on the field or wounded, the rest of The Old First lay for they bore the banner of freedom, on Gettysburg hill that day so this great union's youngest state her best blood freely gave, and thought more courage to the strong, more daring to the brave may Minnesota's oldest feat e'er be her newest pride, forever may those heroes' names deepcut in stone abide, and let eternal stone and bronze, when all have passed away, tell how at Bloody Gettysburg, The Old First saved the day.

We have many options for burials and interments, including a columbarium. If you are interested in purchasing any one of our interment options or if you have questions or concerns about a particular site, please call Ehler Services at 651-463-4046.

Nick Johnson, Vice President

Exploring Masonry In Pictures

We are interested in the Lodges and Masonic monuments around us. If you find yourself near a lodge or anything else Masonic, please take a picture and share it with us! Please submit to editor@corinthiant67.org



Exterior of Quarry Lodge No. 148 in Pipestone MN.



A picture of Past Grand Master, Verne Long.



Master's Chair, Interior of Quarry Lodge No. 148 in Pipestone MN

**Masonic building, exterior and interior, in Pipestone
(submitted by Bro. Rick Johnson)**

Upcoming Events



Order of Red Cross and Malta, Faribault Cmty No 8
Monday, April 15th at 7:00pm

3rd Degree, Corinthian Lodge No. 67
Tuesday, April 16th at 7:30pm

Honor Jr. PM and PP, Myrtle Chapter No. 13
Tuesday, April 23 at 7:30 pm

Journey to Freedom, Corinthian Lodge No. 67
Tuesday, May 7th at 7:30 pm

Stated Meeting, Myrtle Chapter No. 13
Tuesday, May 14th at 7:30 pm

Order of Malta, Faribault Cmdy No. 8
Monday, May 20th at 7:00pm

KC/Lions/Mason Dinner, Corinthian Lodge No. 67
Tuesday, May 21st at 6:30pm, Benchwarmers

Dew Days Scholarship Breakfast, Farmington
June 15th at 8:30am

Need to change your mailing address or update your contact information with the Lodge?

Want to go to Lodge meetings or events, but need help finding a ride?

Medical or health issues preventing you from attending, but want to catch up on happenings?

Living somewhere much warmer than Farmington in May, but need help with something?

Please email the Secretary at secretary@corinthian67.org and tell us how we can help.

About the Corinthian Courier

The Corinthian Courier is published bimonthly (except during the months of July and August)

Article Deadlines are: 2/1, 4/1, 6/1, 10/1, 12/1

What have you been up to, your friends want to know.

Changed jobs, retired, moved had children/grandchildren?

Earned York, Scottish, or Shrine degrees or honors?

Currently in the military or a veteran?

Got an idea for a news story you'd like to see?

Email the editor and we'll put it in the Courier

Ad space is available, email editor@corinthian67.org