

THE TRESTLEBOARD

VOLUME 2006, ISSUE 1

MARCH 1, 2006

SPAGHETTI SUPPER TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE!

Our biggest fundraiser of the year—the Spaghetti Supper to raise money for Special Olympic athletes—will be held on Saturday, March 25th, in the Staunton Grange Hall, 1530 North Market Street, Troy from 4:00pm to 7:00pm. Tickets are now available, and the cost is \$6.00 each (dine-in or carry-out).

Brother David Leytze, Senior Warden, is the 2006 Chairman of the Spaghetti Supper, and Brother John Chang will once again work his magic in the kitchen, preparing the special sauce. In addition to spaghetti with sauce,

slaw, bread and your choice of a beverage will also be on the menu. Cooking the spaghetti, readying the side dishes, serving, bussing, and washing dishes will be a team effort, as in years past. Anyone wishing to assist is welcome. Brother Leytze will be setting the work schedule of volunteers, so please contact him with your preferred time to assist.

Franklin Lodge #14 was able to donate a total of \$3,400 last year to Special Olympics, with \$1,500 going to the Grand Lodge to support the State Special Olympic Games, and \$1,900 going to Miami County

Special Olympics to assist in getting our local athletes to these games. Franklin was among the top ten Masonic Lodges (out of Ohio's 500 plus lodges) in funds raised for Special Olympics in 2005. Let's do it again in 2006. These special Olympians are counting on us!



FROM THE EAST

Brethren, I would like to thank all of you for the support provided to the officers so far this year. Our Inspection on January 17th in the Master Mason Degree was a great success. The delivery of the lecture by Brother JW Larry Britton was excellent, and the Charge and Bible Presentation by WB Tim Ray were very commendable.

The lodge activities are also proceeding: we have held a Community Breakfast, are planning for the Spaghetti Supper (March 25, 2006), a Past Master's Night, Awards and Friends Night, and many other activities.

All activities will be announced, usually by postcard and email, and in open Lodge. Additionally, please make sure we have your updated postal and email addresses, as well as your telephone number. We look forward to seeing you at Lodge.

Fraternally,

Josh Gearhardt, Worshipful Master

GRAND LODGE FOOD DRIVE

The Grand Master of Masons in Ohio, MWB James Williamson has asked, as part of his program this year, that each Lodge collect canned and other non perishable food items. The Grand Lodge has provided a box for each Lodge, and asked

that when full, the Lodge deliver the contents to local charities and needy individuals. In accordance with this program, I would like to ask each of you, when you come up to Lodge, to bring a food item. Once the donation box is full, we

will distribute the contents. The Lodge will also be accepting monetary donations. All monies collected will also be distributed to worthwhile charities, And remember, "...the greatest of these is Charity"

2006 OFFICER LINE

Franklin Lodge is extremely proud of its 2006 officer line. While many of the officers have been Masons only a very short time, they have nonetheless displayed a zeal for the institution that clearly shows the future of the lodge is in caring hands. The officer line includes:



Josh Gearhardt

Worshipful Master Josh Gearhardt has been an active member of Franklin Lodge since April 2002, entering the officer line as Senior Deacon in November of 2002. A native of Miami County, he graduated from Miami East High School in 1997, and received a Bachelor in Arts in Political Science from Wabash College, Crawfordsville Indiana in 2001. He is currently employed by the Miami County Commissioners Office as the Director of Public Transit. He resides outside of Piqua with his wife, Jennie, and beagle, Reggie. Josh is also the grandson of our current Chaplain, Robert Counts.

Senior Warden David Leytze has been an active member of Franklin Lodge since 2002. A native of Troy, he is a graduate of Troy High School and possesses a Bachelor's Degree in Music Theory and Composition from Northwestern University. David returned to Troy after pursuing diverse career opportunities, including many years of performing and composing music, sound design, advertising copywriting, journalism, and Japanese language interpretation. He applies experience gained during years of living in Japan in his current position at local General Motors and ISUZU joint venture, DMAX, Ltd., where he manages business processes for the building of the Duramax Diesel engine. In their free time, when not touring the country on their motorcycle, David and his wife Vickie enjoy reenacting the French regime of 18th-century North America.



David Leytze



Larry Britton

Junior Warden Larry Britton has been an active member of Franklin Lodge since May 2003. Originally from Cuba, Missouri, he relocated to Ohio in 1988, finally settling in Troy in 1994. He holds a Bachelors Degree in Computer Science from the University of Missouri at Rolla and a Masters Degree in Computer Science from Wright State University and is currently employed at The Standard Register Company as a Senior Software Engineer. In his spare time, he enjoys traveling, genealogy, and computer games. He is also the webmaster for the Lodge's website: <http://www.franklin-lodge.org>

Residing in Troy since 1991 with Deborah, his wife of 31 years, Tim Ray now serves Franklin #14 as Lodge Secretary. He assumed these duties in December 2005, following WB Charles O. Spicer, who had served as Lodge Secretary until a move to Bainbridge, OH, made it increasingly difficult to attend all Lodge functions. WB Ray is a Past Master (2005) of Franklin Lodge, employed by the City of Troy as Chief Operator of the Water Plant, and is a veteran of the USAF. He graduated cum laude from Wittenberg University in Springfield, OH, with a degree in mathematics with a minor in business administration. Hobbies include woodworking, gardening, and spending time with their four children and eight grandchildren.



Tim Ray

Robert Spiller is currently Treasurer of Franklin Lodge, a position he assumed in 2005. He has been active in Franklin Lodge since May of 1999 and was Worshipful Master in 2004. He is also the Marshal of the Third Masonic District Officers Association. Originally from Dayton Ohio, Bob now resides in Tipp City with Sheila, his wife of 44 years. They have two children and four very beautiful granddaughters. WB Spiller enjoys being active in Masonic functions and during the summer, he enjoys relaxing at Brookville Lake, Indiana with his family and friends.



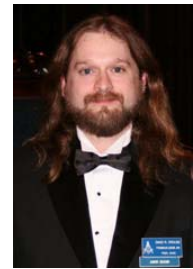
Bob Spiller



Senior Deacon Michael Wilkinson has been an active member of Franklin Lodge for almost a year. However, he had been interested in Masonry for many years before joining. He graduated from Troy High School and went on to receive a degree in Communications from the International College of Broadcasting in Dayton. When not working at Around About Books, where he is co-owner, he enjoys collecting movies, books and music and has a large collection of comic books.

Michael Wilkinson

David Crouse, our Junior Deacon, has been a Mason for almost one year. He has, however, been the "dairy guy" at Kroger's for the past decade, leaving him just enough spare time to co-own Around About Books and wishing he had more spare time to do something relaxing like listening to music, reading, or watching movies. Originally from Lebanon, OH he moved to in Troy 1992. He also holds an Associates Degree in Broadcasting from the International College of Broadcasting.



David Crouse



Bill Cusick

For the past 40 years, Bill Cusick has faithfully served as Tyler for Franklin Lodge. Born at Republic, Ohio, Bill moved to Miami County when he was one year old. Bill became a Master Mason in 1950. That same year, he married his wife Mary Ann and they have spent 55 happy years together. They have four children, five grandchildren and one great grandson. Bill and Mary Ann have received numerous community service awards and have been heavily involved with 4-H. As a boy, Bill was a member of 4-H. As an adult, he served as a 4-H advisor for 40 years. Bill is also involved in recycling and participates in the Highway Cleanup Program. If there is an event at the Lodge, Bill can usually be found helping the Stewards with their duties.

Charles Hormel is currently serving as Marshal. A native of Troy, he graduated from Troy High School in 1968 and immediately joined the United States Marine Corps and was trained as an Ammunition Tech. He served in Vietnam at An Hoa and Da Nang. After returning to Troy, he eventually received training as an HVAC technician and had a successful 22 year career as a service and repair tech. He became active in Franklin Lodge in 1986, and served as Worshipful Master in 1992 and again in 2002. His hobbies include woodworking, stained glass, and pottery. He also enjoys grilling and baking cheesecake and breads. Charles and Donna, his wife 29 years, reside in Troy.



Charles Hormel

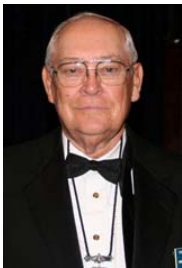
2006 OFFICERS CONTINUED

Tim Locke, our Senior Steward, joined Franklin Lodge in 2005. He is currently a service manager/vice president at Reliable Electrical Mechanical Services. Tim and his wife of 27 years, Pam, have three children ages 18, 22, and 23. Tim and Pam are avid NASCAR/racing fans and enjoy motorcycle riding and camping with friends.

David Hathaway, our Junior Steward, joined Franklin Lodge in 2005. He was born and raised in Troy. After graduating from Troy High School, he served two years in the United States Army and is a Vietnam Veteran. For the past 12 1/2 years, he has been employed by the City of Troy and currently holds the position of Senior Water Distribution Serviceman. He is also a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Troy and has served as Trustee, Deacon and Elder. In his spare time, David likes to travel.



David Hathaway



Robert Counts

Our Chaplain, WB Robert Counts, was born and raised in Troy. Retired now, he was employed by the Troy Fire Department for forty seven years, serving as Fire Chief for thirty three of those years. He was Worshipful Master of Franklin Lodge in 1984 and is proud to serve as Chaplain for his grandson, Josh Gearhardt. WB Counts is one of two Lodge Brothers distinguished with the Scottish Rite 33rd degree.

RWB Steven Adams, our current Lodge Education Officer, has a long and proud history with Masonry. He became a Master Mason in 1982 at Pleasant Hill Lodge # 361 F&AM (raised in Doric Lodge in Ridgeville, IN by dispensation) and was Master of Pleasant Hill Lodge in 1987, 1988, and 1989. He served as District Education Officer for the Third Masonic District from 1990 through 1992 and as District Deputy Grand Master from 1993 through 1995. He also served as Master of Franklin Lodge #14 in 1997. He is currently the Great Third District Officers Association Secretary / Treasurer, a position he has held since 1996. He also holds the position of Secretary for Franklin Chapter #24 RAM and Deputy Master for Franklin Council #14 RSM.

He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Chemistry and Mathematics from Augustana College, Sioux Falls, SD which he earned in 1970. A veteran of the US Navy, he served as an instructor at the Polaris/Poseidon FBM missile school in Dam Neck, Virginia.



Steve Adams

Steve is currently the Director of Finance at McGregor and Associates, Inc. Located in Brookville, OH, McGregor is a contract electronics assembly company that employs about 110 people. He also runs his own business, Advanced Data Management, Ltd., which develops small business database applications for single users and custom programming for accounting and business processes.

AWARDS NIGHT/FRIENDSHIP NIGHT

Mark your calendars and set aside the evening of Thursday, April 20th. Franklin #14 will hold an Awards and Friendship Night at 6:30 pm in the dining room, to be followed by the presentation of 25, 50, 60 and 65 year service awards. The dinner is complimentary for members and spouses, but reservations are needed in order to know how much food to prepare. The menu will be announced at a later date.

In conjunction with the dinner, a few men who have expressed an interest in becoming Masons (and their wives) have been invited as "friends" to join us. They will enjoy dinner with us, listen to the memories shared by the awardees, and then attend a brief meeting (with their wives) where RWB Steve Adams will explain the Masonic fraternity to them.

Plan now to join us. Phone the Lodge Secretary, WB Tim Ray at 339-8393 to reserve a spot, or email him at timray48@yahoo.com.

If you know of a man interested in learning about Masonry, invite him and his wife to join us! Simply inform WB Ray that you will have guests attending.

COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

Plan to join us in the Lodge dining room on Saturday, March 11th, for a homemade breakfast of scrambled eggs, biscuits and sausage gravy, baked sausage, and hash browns along with juice and coffee. We'll be serving from 7:30 am to 10:00 am. Our breakfasts are open to the public and are scheduled for the second Saturday of every month throughout the year. The purpose of the breakfasts is to raise funds for the scholarship program of the Blue Lodge. In 2005, the Lodge gave three \$500 scholarships to graduating seniors at Troy High School.

As a special treat, you might have the opportunity to meet some of your favorite authors at the breakfast. The Troy Book Lover's Festival is taking place at the Community Room just above Around About Books, 8 West Main Street. Many of authors will be joining us for breakfast.

So, come on up and enjoy a homemade breakfast. Your donations will be greatly appreciated, and the food will be delicious.

PAST MASTERS NIGHT

Hold onto your hats! Franklin Lodge will be holding a Past Masters Night on April 4th at 7:30 pm. This is a stated meeting and all of the officer's chairs will be occupied by Past Masters. They will be conferring the Fellow Craft degree on a candidate. The officer line up for the evening will be as follows (subject to change): Worshipful Master- Robert Counts, Chaplain - Richard Colley, Secretary - Tim Ray, Treasurer - Robert Spiller, Marshal - Charles Hormel III, Senior Warden - Louis Knife, Junior Warden - Richard Ovenshire, Senior Deacon - Jim Anderson, Junior Deacon - Joe Simpson, Senior Steward - Don McCaslin, Junior Steward - William Christie, Tyler - Jay Kessler. The Lecture will be given by Steve Adams. The Charge will be given by Tim Ray.

Please plan on attending this very special Lodge meeting and show your support for these fine Masons!

Calendar of Franklin #14 and Masonic Events

March 24 - 4:00 pm - Spaghetti Supper Fundraiser
 7:00 pm - Stanton Grange
 March 27 - 7:30 pm - MV Court Amaranth #53
 Stated Meeting
 March 28 - 7:00 pm - Franklin Council #14 Stated Meeting
 7:30 pm - Franklin Chapter #24 Stated Meeting
 April 4 - 7:30 pm - Franklin Council #14 Stated Meeting:
 Past Masters Night
 April 10 - 7:30 pm - Franklin Chapter #24 Stated Meeting
 April 11 - 7:00 pm - Coleman Commandery #17
 Stated Meeting
 April 13 - 7:30 pm - Order of Easter Star State Meeting
 April 18 - 6:30 pm - Potluck Dinner
 7:30 pm - Franklin #14 Stated Meeting
 April 20 - 6:30 pm - Awards/Friends Night

March 7 - 7:30 pm - Franklin #14 Stated Meeting
 March 8 - 7:30 pm - Tipp City Inspection (MM)
 March 9 - 7:30 pm - Order of Easter Star Stated Meeting
 March 11 - 7:30 am - Community Breakfast Fundraiser
 10:00 am - Temple dining room
 March 14 - 7:00 pm - Coleman Commandery #17
 Stated Meeting
 March 16 - 5:30 pm - Miami County Shrine Club
 Piqa Eagles, 301 Kienle Dr, Piqa
 March 17 - 7:00 pm - Grand Master's Reception UVJVS
 St. Patrick's Day
 March 20 - 7:30 pm - Warren Inspection (MM)
 March 21 - 6:30 pm - Potluck Dinner
 7:30 pm - Franklin #14 Stated Meeting
 March 22 - 7:30 pm - Jackson Center Inspection (EA)

Franklin Lodge #14 F. & A. M.

P. O. Box 501

Troy, OH 45373

MARCH 2006

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