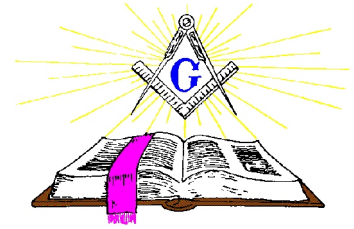




THE EDWARD J WILDBLOOD JR VERMONT LODGE OF RESEARCH #110

JUNE 2008



www.vermontlodgeofresearch.com

NEXT :

JUNE 24TH

ST JOHN BAPTIST FESTIVE BOARD

SOUTH STATION RESTAURANT
170 SOUTH MAIN RUTLAND
ACROSS FROM FAIR GROUNDS
6:30PM SOCIAL HOUR
7:30PM SUPPER

Each Brother will order from the menu
rather than a fixed entree
PLEASE RSVP IMMEDIATELY
aieon@fairpoint.net

Brothers: try not to miss this new type of meeting for our Lodge. If you haven't been to a real Masonic Festive Board before well don't feel bad because neither have I. However, some of you might remember that the "premier" Grand Lodge of London was formed in 1717 not to rule Masonry but to ensure proper preparations for the St John Festive Boards! This is an old, old tradition of Freemasonry I see no reason to abandon. And besides, aren't Masonic meetings supposed to be fun? I am sure this one will be.

So what is a Festive Board anyway? It is something for Masons, so this is not open to Ladies, kids, etc. And, it is something for us, that is for members of our Lodge, although you are welcome to bring a guest. The Lodge will not be opened, as is

done with a "Table Lodge", but there will be semi-formal toasting. A paper on St. John the Baptist will be read, since we are a research Lodge. I would ask the brothers to maintain the tradition of wearing black tie to this event, or a dark suit if you lack this. And bring something to share in the form of a toast, song or story appropriate to the event. We would like our Lodge to exemplify just how much fun the Lodge experience can be, and feel returning to the ancient tradition of the Masonic Festive Board an excellent beginning. Attend and support your Lodge!

ANNUAL MEETING OF #110

The Annual meeting was not well attended. I am concerned about the declining attendance at our meetings and see no reason this trend needs to continue. Our Lodge is a jewel of Masonry in Vermont with no other Lodge experience like it. But it needs the participation of our members to succeed.

The "business" part of this meeting was mostly the passing of changes to our By-Laws, since most officers retained their positions for their second year. The notable change was clarification of the two types of membership in our Lodge. The first, "corresponding" is severely mis-named, since it really means "non-writing"! The second, a Full member, means those who have two papers a year submitted and accepted by the Lodge. Full members pay no dues, and are also admitted free to our functions, such as the Festive Boards. It is hoped this will spur

members to pick up the pen. Papers need to be neither long nor on any particular subject. If it interests you, it will interest the Lodge. Remember our purpose is to Learn and Improve ourselves in Masonry and to have Fun. Isn't that what Freemasonry is really all about?

OUR WRITING CONTEST

I do not have anything to report on this project. The rules, very simple, went out with my last mailing. This is an excellent chance for outreach of Masonic research into our Blue Lodges, and a chance for our Brothers to gain some recognition for their Masonic research. However, as of now I have not had any nibbles at this line. Please bring this contest before your Lodge meeting and see if we can interest some of our new Master Masons in exploring the wonderful world of Masonic research.

PRESENTATIONS COMING UP

On September 16th we will be meeting as the guests of Marble Lodge #76 in Danby, VT. This is an excellent opportunity for you to introduce your Lodge brothers in the south of our State to the Lodge of Research, and I hope we will have a good turn out from area Blue Lodges that evening.

The main presentation I know of at this time is a slide show by Mason Pratt on Masonic Humor. Brother Mason is a long time collector of humorous Masonic postcards and other graphics, and his collection will open your eyes to this aspect of our Fraternity. Besides keeping you laughing, it will expand your understanding about how others see us, and the light-hearted way we view ourselves. This will be a not to be missed show!

WE SIGN UP NEW MEMBERS

Following up on the suggestion from Brother Joe Dion we set up a table outside the meeting room of the Grand Lodge at the Annual meeting at the Sheraton in Burlington on June 11th. Brother Kevin Newton used his father's large printer to produce a beautiful copy of our new Lodge logo which gave our display a

snappy presence. We had our new petitions at hand which are also visually dynamic- visit our website and take a look at them. All this helped to attract the attention of the stream of passing Masons. Eight Brothers filled out the petitions and became new members, and many more carried them away with new knowledge about us and our role in the Vermont Masonic scene.

Why don't you look around your Lodge room and think about Brothers who would profit from learning more about Masonry and have insights to share with us? Bring them to a meeting of our Lodge. Together we can light the way to Masonic excellence in Vermont. And a big Thanks to Joe and to Rich Hildebrand, our secretary, for their work at this table.

Thank you my Brothers:
Eric Ginette, WM

