

MIZPAH BULLETIN

April 2019




Mizpah Lodge #302
A.F. & A.M.
Omaha, Nebraska

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 Mizpah Lodge #302

Instituted November 12th, 1918
Chartered June 4th, 1919

Stated communication on the first
Wednesday of every month

Mizpah Benediction

“May the Lord watch between me and
thee when we are absent one from an-
other”

-Genesis 31:29-

May the Lord Watch
MIZPAH
302
Between Me and Thee

From the East

Greetings Brethren,

March was an interesting month with a blizzard in one half the state and flooding in the other. We know of one brother who was impacted by the flooding and reached out to him. If you know of any member or member's family impacted by the flooding let us know. If you have not heard the Masonic Home in Plattsmouth is impacted by the water restrictions in Plattsmouth and the Fremont Home is providing space for volunteers helping with Fremont's recovery efforts.

We are practicing for proficiency and will continue our history of being proficient in opening, closing and conferring degrees. The officers want to prove up in their parts and we are working towards that goal. Thank you for your efforts.

We need candidates and with the proficiency change the process will take longer, so lets get started. This is our 100th anniversary. The afternoon of June 2 we will have a rededication ceremony and a dinner following the ceremony at the Scottish Rite.

This month is Grand York Rite in Columbus and if you are a York Rite member come out and watch the Grand sessions.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,
Jeffrey Coleman
Worshipful Master



What do you do?

Ben Zaayer

3/20/2019

Wednesday, April 3

Potluck Dinner 6:30pm

Business Meeting 7:00pm

Wednesday, April 10

EA Practice 6:30pm

JW Jeremiah Jones in charge

Current officers required

Wednesday, April 17

FC Practice 6:30pm

SW Tom Gibbs in charge

Current officers required

Saturday, April 20

Mizpah Easter Egg Hunt

Wednesday, April 24

MM Practice 6:30pm

WM Jeffrey Coleman in charge

Current officers required

Thursday April 25

Grand Lodge Area Meeting 7 PM

Current officers required

Dress code enforced

Wednesday, May 1

Potluck Dinner 6:30pm

Business Meeting 7:00pm

Whenever I hear a potential candidate for Masonry approach a brother about the fraternity, the first question they ask is,

“What do you do?”

A simple question with a simple answer. We take good men and make them better. What this potential candidate really intends to ask is,

“How will Masonry make me a better person?”

The answer here really should be more straight-forward, but many brothers struggle with the answer. Think for a moment and answer the question honestly to yourself. How does your lodge take good men and make them better? When I asked the signers of my petition, two great men with whom I'd been close since grade school, the answer was comical; they said,

“We initiate new members.”

I asked them what they did when they weren't initiating new members. They answered that they practiced initiating new members. I still smile when I think about these statements, but I will say that they were totally honest.

The fact is that the men I've met through Masonry have made me a better man simply by knowing them. I can enumerate at least one trait from each brother in my lodge that I try to emulate in my daily life. In addition, I've spent a fair amount of time studying and learning ritual which has enriched my life and supplied tools that I use on a daily basis as I make decisions, seeking to subdue my passions, act upon the square, and practice charity. This action of studying ritual was something I took upon myself because I sought to be certified proficient, not necessarily because I was seeking to improve myself. The impact of learning ritual, however, was so much more than memorization.

As I advance in my ritual work, what I feel my lodge is missing is the opportunity for brothers to share the lessons they learn in Masonry; the work I believe is required to take good men and make them better. We have a monthly Masonic education piece, both in our monthly Trestle as well as in our monthly business meeting, but these efforts feel perfunctory and forced. I felt I had advanced in knowledge, that I had insights to share with brothers, and that, perhaps, for those brothers that didn't want to memorize lectures, we could as an organization, impart the wisdom required to take a good man and make him better.

2019 Officers

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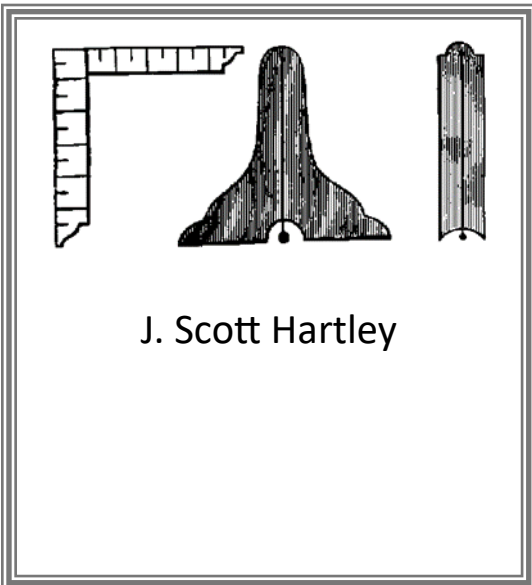
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8702 S. 17th St.
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When I speak with potential candidates, I always tell them that they will get out what they put into Masonry. This is true, and we are reminded in the Entered Apprentice degree to seek, and ye shall find. We have brothers coming through our doors, we initiate, pass, and raise them to the sublime degree of a Master Mason; clearly, they are seeking, but what do they find? Do they find a lackluster business meeting with perfunctory votes to pay the bills? Do they find a Mason-mill with brothers leaving through the west door as fast as they are raised? Do they find a well thought out plan to initiate, mentor, and teach them about Masonry, advancing them when they are ready? I think these questions are relevant to the future of Masonry.

New brothers are looking for substance. The younger crowds are eating up self-improvement books like crazy and we have one of the oldest systems for self-improvement around, tried and true for hundreds of years, rich with content, steeped in history, and applicable to nearly any man walking today. Couple the content of our fraternity with the social functions and built-in support group (our dedicated brothers), and you have a real recipe for success. Our new brethren aren't looking for a supper club or a place to simply unwind after work. They are looking for self-growth, which we are well-suited to deliver.

The content is there, brethren, in our ritual work. You don't need to memorize lectures to understand the teachings of Masonry. You don't need to be certified proficient in order to mentor a brother. All you need to do is reach out. Reach out to a new brother, a visitor, a potential candidate, or even just the brother seated next to you at the next business meeting. Talk about how Masonry has impacted your life. How its teachings have enriched your life. What Masonry means to you. Share that brotherly love and friendship that we are known for and the membership numbers will take care of themselves.



Mizpah Lodge No. 302 A. F. & A. M.
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From the Secretary's Table

Brethren,

This is the last call for 2019 dues. If you have already paid your dues, you should have received your dues card in the mail and thank you very much for your prompt payment. If you have not paid your dues yet, you will be suspended as of April 30th, 2019 unless your dues are received.

If you are having trouble paying your dues, please reach out to one of the lodge officers. We have contingencies in place to assist brethren who are unable to pay.

If you paid, but have not received your dues card, please let me know and I can help straighten out the situation.

Fraternally,
Ben Zaayer
Secretary