

THE TROWEL

"Spreading the Cement"

Trestleboard of Illinoistown-Clay Lodge No. 51, Colfax, California

CHARTERED MAY 6, 1854, STATED MEETING FIRST FRIDAY

From the East

Brothers, first I would like to thank all who attended our 164th Installation of Officers. My family and I had a wonderful time. I would like to send out heartfelt thanks to the installing team; Worshipful brother Dan Hacker, Past Master of Illinoistown-Clay No.51, and former Inspector of the 234th Masonic District was Installing Chaplin. The Worshipful Eric Chilson, Past Master of Eureka #16 and current Inspector of the 234th Masonic District, Master of Ceremonies and, last but not least my friend and Masonic mentor, The Worshipful Brother Mike Edwards, Past Master of Enterprise #70 and Assistant Grand Lecturer of the Grand Lodge of the great state of California. Thank you all for making the day so meaningful for myself and our families. If the warmth and good fellowship that was felt by all at the lunch and installation is any indication of what is to come this year, I encourage all brothers to come and witness the splendid display of brotherly love and affection that emulates this Lodge. Again I am honored to serve you, my Brethren, as Master of our Illinoistown-Clay Lodge No. 51, my home and family.

Fraternally yours,

Donnie B. McGregor, P.M.

February Schedule

Feb. 2nd -- Potluck Dinner at 6:30

Stated Meeting at 7:30.

Feb. 21st - DSI at our Lodge at 7 pm

From the West

The three of us, your new pedestal officers, Donnie, Robert and I yesterday just remembered that our Trowel articles were due on the 15th. I was promptly told what not to write about but I did promise to put something together. Always a hard decision as we have no direction other than something happening at the lodge and of interest. I got it this morning. I will bring up a wonderful addition to the lodge and one that is not spoken of very often. It is the wonderful ladies that seem to be so attracted to coming to our dinners. Some of them have gone one step further and call themselves the Masonic Chicks. This is wonderful, because they bring out the best in us and of course we in them. Donnie and I spoke a few weeks ago that maybe certain items that we routinely mention in lodge can be mentioned in the dinning room beforehand. It may help towards making our meetings just a little bit shorter as everyone can hear some basic communications including the ladies. We all benefit and the ladies feel included. One of them, who I know very well has volunteered to do a detailed cleaning of the lodge. I am sure that an impulse like that could go to really polishing up the old building. Maybe we can take it one step further and include them if they desire to be able to reach us all via our own valuable tool: the lodge app. Remember, the app was created by Grandlodge and paid for by them also. It's purpose is to facilitate communication amongst ourselves. Really, when you think about it there is nothing on it to hide? and we have the control on who can have access. Should we allow them access? We should examine its use and purpose again and have a constructive conversation. The use of the app has no limits other than our imagination on what Illinoistown-Clay Lodge really means.

Respectively,

Gregg Novotny, Senior Warden

From the South

As your newly elected Junior Warden I would like to say that I am pleased that the direction our lodge is going is in a positive direction of growth. This year we hope to step up efforts to support more ritual and cipher work to be done in Lodge or out of the Lodge. Brothers need to step up if they need assistance, we are here to help! Brother Gifford completed his 3rd degree in December and Brother Hazard will be doing his 2nd degree in February, and also is planning his 3rd to be done sometime in March. Brothers we are moving forward. We have a full line this year but we still need strong support from all brothers to step up, assist with training, join the oriental line and support our Lodge in anyway possible. We need to get proficiencies done and continue in this strong direction of growth. Thank you.

Fraternally,

Robert Henning, Junior Warden

Secretary's Desk . . .

Great attendance at our Installation of Officers. Thirty guests and family members, and eighteen Masons were present. Installing officers did a great job, Bro. Eric Chilson with precise, classic floor work, and Bro. Mike Edwards with a clear explanation of each officer's duty.

Living Past Masters in our Lodge

Joseph D. Hacker, Jr. 1974 & 1977
Clifford D. Dulcich 1975 & 1981
Donnie McGregor 5 6 7 9 10 14 15 16 17 18
Ronald Murray 1961, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98
Robert Murray 1960
Douglas Nickell 2011, 12, 13
Thomas O'Niell 2002, 03, 04, 05, 07, 08
David Thompson 2006