

ON THE LEVEL

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CORNERSTONE LODGE # 19 NEWSLETTER

MAY 2006

MAY TO SEE FIVE NEW INITIATIONS

Isn't life interesting! Back in March I reported that it had been a long time since Cornerstone had initiated five new brothers in a single month, and yet here we are at it again. At our May meeting Ben Harries, Bill Holmes, Paul Ripley, Gordon Reed and Duncan Underwood will be our newest Cornerstone members. As a Lodge, we have been working hard over the past number of years to do the kinds of things that men would find meaningful. When you have the framework of Freemasonry to start from such efforts are naturally fruitful, as we are now seeing. It is also good to see the newer brethren in the Lodge stepping up to fill officer chairs and sit on the growing committees that we have started and are working on. We welcome these fine men to our great fraternity.

CORNERSTONE BIO

This month we visit with a tireless and committed Cornerstone member – Bro. Bill Quinn. Since joining our Lodge in 2000 Bill has always been there working behind the scenes in so many ways. It is a real pleasure to highlight his life in this issue.

Born, raised and educated in Kenora, Ont., Bill moved to Thompson, Man. in his early 20's to work for the Bank of Nova Scotia. After three years in the north country Bill was "bushed out" and moved to Vancouver. It was here that he started his lifelong accounting career. Edmonton was next on the list where he lived for 25 years before moving to High River in 1998. Bill now enjoys being semi-retired but stays very active.

Bill is the proud father of three children; Paul who is a teacher in Japan, and Amy and Laura who call Edmonton home. Bill tries to get up to see them as often as he can.

After joining Freemasonry in 2000 Bill has been an active member of our Lodge, currently serving as our secretary/treasurer. Whenever a job needs to be done you can count on Bill stepping up to the plate. He is also an active member of Golden West RAM and Zadok Council Cryptic Rite Masons and part of the Cornerstone 1765 group; a huge Masonic commitment in a short period of time.

In addition to his Masonic commitments Bill is an active volunteer in the community. He sits on the Museum Board, Shepherd Family Park Board, and is a member of Citizens on Patrol and the Optimist International Club. It is obvious that he takes seriously the admonition to Masons to be active and involved in the communities in which they live. Make sure to get to know Bill.

FELLOWCRAFT DEGREE

Granite Lodge in Blackie was the scene of a Fellow Craft degree at their May 3 meeting. Both brothers, Christo Rabie and Jared Abbott, are new Cornerstone EAs. Since they are going "overseas" next year for an extended time it was decided to let them go forward at this time. We certainly appreciate Granite's help.

CORNERSTONE EDUCATION

There are a number of things happening with Education at Cornerstone right now. At the last meeting we handed out the first phase of material for our new Masons. Patterned after the California model, our brethren will embark on a course of instruction designed to teach them the basic components of Freemasonry. We wish them good luck in their efforts.

Thanks to our worshipful master for an excellent presentation at our last meeting on Masonic history and influence. It was well received. Also, since our last meeting Cornerstone members have given presentations at the Scottish Rite Easter Breakfast and at the Masonic Spring Workshop.

June 15	Cornerstone Regular Meeting To be determined
Sept. 21	Cornerstone Regular Meeting We will have two presentations by Bros. John Zryd and Jordie York. Details to follow.

DID YOU KNOW?

In Australia, and other lodges south of the Tropic of Capricorn, the sun is in the North at its meridian height, and therefore the South is a place of darkness.

In their Rituals, however, the midday sun is assumed to be in the South for the purpose of Lodge layout and the text of the original Rituals has been kept. It is considered no more significant that the "East" of a lodge always being where the master sits, whichever way the Lodge room is built. Just another interesting fact from the world of Freemasonry.

Out of the Minutes

Regular Communication of Cornerstone Lodge #19

Thursday, Apr. 20, 2006

- Lodge tyled at 7:35 with WM Mark Toon in the East
- Visitors welcomed from St. Andrews #53, Corinthian #22, Vulcan #74 and Glenbow #184
- JW demonstrated step and sign of MM and FC. Lodge was lowered to EA and JW then demonstrated step and sign of EA.
- Memoriam was held for Bro. Bill Riehs who was called to the GL above 21 March 2006.
- Petitions for initiation were received from Gordon Refuel Reed and Duncan Alastair Underwood as well as a petition for affiliation from James Clifford Humble.
- Bills and accounts indicated that Cornerstone is in good financial condition.
- Bro. Quinn indicated that we still need to have some brothers commit to staffing for the Heritage Park Lodge July 19-23.
- Committee reports: Jazz night to be held in the fall; Temple Board AGM was a success though the numbers of attendees were few; Membership Committee reported on contacts from the COMELY program; Finance Committee is working on some longer range forecast to bring before the Lodge.
- Education: W Bro Abbott introduced the new EA study program; W Bro Mark Toon talked about the history of the Craft; V Wor Bro Norm Ingram informed the brethren about the Alberta Foundation and its efforts. He also indicated that Cornerstone has a program in for approval
- Lodge closed in harmony at 10:30 pm

A STEP BACK IN TIME

100 YEARS AGO – May 1906

Cornerstone Lodge donated \$50.00 to the Grand Secretary for the relief of Masonic sufferers in the San Francisco disaster (earthquake and fire).

50 YEARS AGO – May 1956

It was suggested that brethren pay for lunch. Brethren expressed their views and tabled a motion to that effect. After refreshment, W. Bro Ole Nevra explained the wonders of “The Magic Barrel”. The wonders of this barrel were almost out of this world.
Attendance: 20

25 YEARS AGO - May 1981

W. Bro. Mickey Gang spoke on “The Great Light”. Attendance 20.

The Open Book

I have enjoyed the recent books that have offered new insights, and speculations into the history of Freemasonry. The light that has shone on the Craft through these books has encouraged many men to know more as a result of them. But I do hope we do not forget some of the older texts that have been with us for many years.

One such book, *Freemasonry and Its Etiquette*, William Preston Campbell-Everden, was written in 1932 but is as meaningful today as it was when written. I don't think there is a better book out there that talks about the workings of a lodge and how each one of us fits into the overall equation.

Campbell-Everden's book covers a range of topics dealing with history, ritual, officer duties, and so on. It is very readable and motivational in its own right. As a Lodge that is committed to excellence in these areas I would highly recommend it to anyone. It will also be one of the first books for our book club.

WANT TO ORGANIZE A SOCIAL EVENT?

Some members feel that we could use a few more social events to “liven up” the year. In the past Cornerstone has hosted curling bonspiels, golf tournaments, picnics and barbeques. Such events often were held for families, our ladies, or Lodge members. We often invited other Lodges and concordant bodies into the mix. With so many younger men joining maybe we should revisit “the past”. Any ideas?

NOTICE OF MOTION

At our last meeting we asked the opinion of the brethren as to whether or not they would approve of Cornerstone applying for a Casino to raise funds for replacing regalia and for charitable work. There was good discussion both for and against the notion. It was determined by the Worshipful Master that we have a vote on this at our regular meeting in June. We encourage all brethren who have a decided opinion on the matter to make sure they come out. The democratic process is a vital part of our Masonic heritage and we look forward to your views on the matter.