

Amity Lodge # 472

Constituted 1866

November 2010

Officers

Worshipful Master: Peter Santoro
Senior Warden: John MacNerland
Junior Warden: James McCulloch
Treasurer: Paul Woodward
Secretary: Robert Meyer
Senior Deacon: Jonathan Voigt
Junior Deacon: Kevin Clarke
Senior Steward: Larry Bowman
Junior Steward: Brian Franse
Marshall: Ralph Perry
Chaplin: Richard Reitz
Tyler: Ernest Reitz

Amity Lodge #472 AF&AM

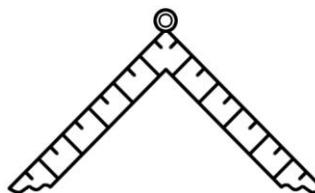
181 W. Washington St.
 West Chicago, IL 60185
 (630) 231 – 9551
 Email: amitylodge@att.net

Stated meetings held at 7 pm on the 1st and 3rd
 Wednesday of each month

Contributors: Ruben A. Moreno (Editor)
 Pete Santoro
 James McCulloch
 Jonathan Voigt

The content expressed in this
 newsletter does not speak for
 Freemasonry as a whole or the
 Grand Lodge of Illinois.

From the East



Welcome to our new brothers,
 Stephen Baynes and Derrick
 Warnicke.

Amity performed a First Degree on the 13th for Stephen Baynes. Steve attended the First Degree for Derrick Warnicke on the 21st. In between we had a Stated meeting. As you can see we have been quite busy. Adding to this we will have a First Degree on Oct. 27th. Plan to attend if you can as Amity is starting to heat up for Winter.

Jim Mc Culloch and I attended Grand Lodge earlier this month. The usual pomp and ceremony was carried out and business was conducted in an orderly manor. On display was General La Fayette 's sword which he donated to Kaskaskia Lodge. Jim and I were given an opportunity to hold it and it is difficult to describe the feeling you get when you actually touch an artifact with such historical significancy . To say it was a thing of beauty would be somewhat understated.

Amity will be hold practice every Saturday morning. We will practice the necessary ritual for upcoming events, such as degree work or Lodge floor work. Come on up and have coffee and donuts anyway. Bring a friend or neighbor along. Who knows we might have some fun.

Is anyone interested in a card tournament? If you have any ideas on what you would like to see happen with Lodge let someone know. We will try to accommodate as many good ideas as possible.

See you at Lodge

Brother Peter Santoro
 Worshipful Master, Amity Lodge

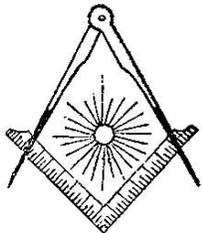


From the South

Just a note on the Past Masters' Dinner... the night started out really nice and there was a very good turnout. Brother Tom Grisham gave a good speech then our wonderful Master got his turn. He surprised us all with his version of awards. Mine was very straight-forward. You see, I shot from the hip, which still pains me – my hip, that is.

The lodge knows I'm pretty forward about most anything which brings me to the fact that we need all our members to come back to lodge. We're on the move with getting new, young members. But understand, the heart still lies in you, the older members, to help the young ones to move along. So, I'm asking you all to come back and impart your experience.

Brother Jim McCulloch
Junior Warden, Amity Lodge



From the Right Hand of the WM, in East

People have asked me from time to time, what I get from being a Mason. What is it that I learned, or discovered in Lodge that makes it so interesting or valuable to me? Why do I keep going back to Lodge, paying Dues, serving as an Officer, spend so much time on the Internet researching and discussing Masonry? I don't think anyone really learns anything new in Masonry. I know I didn't, though I really expected to. Much to my surprise I was, and continue to be, reminded of several principles and virtues that I had already instilled as my own long before I became a Mason. Most, if not all, Masons it has been my pleasure to meet also accept these principles and Virtues as valid and true in their lives. What are these Virtues? What are these Principles? I will enumerate and describe them, as best I can, one at a time.

Brotherly Love: This Virtue admonishes us to regard the entire human race as family. We were, after all, created by the same Creator, and the tie that binds us is stronger than we sometimes think. In all that we do, we should consider our family, known and unknown. What is best for them, and for ourselves?

Relief: Whenever we encounter a fellow creature in need, particularly at times when we are in abundance (but even when we are not), we should never fail to do what we are able to relieve their distress.

Truth: This should always have the highest priority, above personal agendas and disagreements. We must be always ready, not only to seek, find and speak the Truth. However, we must be prepared to hear it as well. This is not always easy. In fact, hearing an unwelcome Truth is usually difficult. Still, hear it we sometimes must, and accept it as well.

Faith: When we believe in something bigger than ourselves, something greater than we can even aspire to becoming, we are humbled. Humility inspires us to do our best. Not because we can equal the Creator, but to imitate Him and make something of Beauty ourselves. Beauty gives both pleasure and brings the following Virtue.

Hope: A better world awaits us. Even in this life, we may look forward to an improved existence. Educating our Children will insure that they will be able to make good decisions when it is their time to do so. Here I speak not of an empty Hope, but a Hope based on the secure knowledge that we have all done our best to make the world of tomorrow better than it is today

Charity: Beyond Relief (above), we should always work hard to improve the condition of those around us. Where Relief leaves off, Charity begins. Going beyond soothing an affliction or satisfying a need, Charity is the act or acts designed to prevent those needs from ever existing again. Preventing distress, not for the recognition, thanks or acclaim, but because it improves some part of the world, is the highest form of Charity.

Tolerance: By this principle of life and conduct we are reminded that it is seldom necessary to prove someone else wrong for us to be right. We do not have to cause another to fail in order to succeed. In the 60s, there was a term called win - win. Both sides of almost every conflict can find a "middle ground" in which satisfaction may be a shared commodity, if both sides are willing to allow the other to win also

Temperance: Doing almost anything to excess is harmful. Charity, given to excess, can leave one impoverished.

Continued on next page...

Love, given to excess, may be smothering. The effects of drugs and alcohol, when used to excess, are well known. However, consider the effect of too much Truth. Truth without tact (the knowledge of when NOT to say things) can hurt feelings and even destroy friendships.

Fortitude: Without fortitude, no one can succeed. Everything gets difficult sometimes, there is always the temptation to give in or give up. When we show Fortitude, we learn to "stick it out" and overcome obstacles to accomplish goals.

Prudence: The mark of a Polite person is knowing when to speak and when not to. What to say and what not to. "To everything, there is a season." This is not only a quotation from Scripture, and a popular song of a previous decade, but good advice as well.

Justice: Everyone deserves to have their fair due, whatever that may be. Like Truth, we must be prepared not only to dispense Justice, but to have it dispensed to us. We must be able to put aside our own wants and sometimes needs in order to insure that Justice is served.

All these Principles and Virtues are bigger than ourselves, greater than our personal desires. Observing and practicing them, we are making this a better world, not only for ourselves, but for all who inhabit it.

This is what I get from Masonry. This is why I keep coming back: to be reminded of these principles, and learn more about them.

**Brother Jonathan Voigt
Senior Deacon, Amity Lodge**



Others Among Us

Whether you've recently been made a Mason, or have been one for years and years, you should always keep in mind that there are others that walk among you. At times, your Brethren will make themselves known... while other times, you'll never know they're there. But remember, you are never alone; a Brother is never too far away.

In my short time as a Mason, I've been privileged enough to have found Brothers in places I never would have imagined. Recently, I was in Milwaukee on a fishing trip. On the way back, road construction forced me to take a detour through some fairly rough areas. While stuck at a red light, a suspicious looking bunch of characters approached my car and blocked my path. Instinctively, I thought the worst and expected a nasty confrontation but what transpired was nothing short of shocking. They knew me to be a Master Mason because of my license plates, and in unison, they made themselves known to be Master Masons. I couldn't believe it. There I was, thinking that these were trouble makers and that we were about to have a problem, yet in reality, nothing could be further from the truth. Each of them addressed me as "Brother" before we bid each other farewell and parted ways. It was surreal and I couldn't stop thinking about it the entire drive home.

Since then, there have been two other instances where fellow Masons have introduced themselves and each time I felt privileged to have made their acquaintance. It has left enough of an impression to make me introduce myself to people I know to be Masons. And as a result, I continue to build bonds with my Brothers.

Now I know that for some, this is not a big deal. I get that. But think about this for a minute: You took the time to become a Mason for a reason – a reason that could either be sacred to you or completely insignificant. Regardless, you did it. And in doing so, you aligned yourself with a certain set of principles and ideas. Principles that teach us to be men of character and integrity; ideas that help us become better members of our community. On top of all that, think about the idea of being a part of a Brotherhood that spans the globe... the idea that there are so many others among us... others that know the obligation... that know the ritual... that believe in the same principles... that see me as their Brother.

To me, *that* is a big deal. A very big deal, indeed.

**Brother Ruben A. Moreno
Amity Lodge**

Calendar of Events for November 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 Stated meeting 7 pm	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13 Blue Lightning Amity Lodge
14	15	16	17 Stated meeting 7 pm	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

AMITY LODGE # 472

181 W. Washington St.
West Chicago, IL 60185



Address Correction Requested