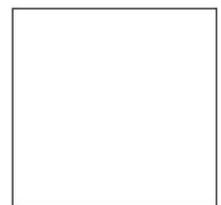


Escorial Lodge No. 7  **F. & A.M., 1864**
"The Masons on the Mountain"
Box 997, Virginia City, Nevada 89440

Meeting First Saturday of every month
Masonic breakfast 9:00AM Lodge Meeting 10:00 AM

Escorial Lodge No. 7
Box 997
Virginia City, NV 89440



Third Quarter 2012 Trestleboard

Perspective

With a major part of the financial restructuring of Escorial Lodge accomplished, the membership is turning their attention to the main business of Masonry – bringing more good men to light, constructive participation in our community, and Masonic fellowship. The future trestleboards will try to include more information on our members, social events, articles on the philosophy of Freemasonry, and our work in the local community.

Recent Lodge Events

The lodge did not participate in the 4th of July parade this year due to the entry cost of \$25. We also did not hold the hot dog and drink event, as the lodge can no longer afford to hold such events at a financial loss. Instead, several dedicated members collected parking fees from the public for use of the lot. A total of \$90 was collected for the building fund.

The joint Escorial/Argenta picnic was held August 5 at the home of Bart and Joanie Jacka. This was the largest showing of Escorial members in years, and a good time was enjoyed by all.

The Comstock Cemetery Foundation has succeeded in acquiring a grant of \$14 thousand that will be used to replace fences, remove combustibles, and restore selected graves in the Masonic portion of the Virginia City Cemetery. Brother Jim Clark, our representative on the board of the Foundation participated in the monument replacement ceremony for the Jones boys at the Gold Hill Cemetery.

Congratulations to Kurt Lynch, VCHS graduate and recipient of the \$1000 scholarship, entering UNR this year.

Upcoming Events

Sept. 1 stated meeting – vote on dues increase

Sept. 22 work party to help Comstock Cemetery Foundation replace fence around Masonic cemetery

October 27 (tentative date) Escorial/Argenta annual firemen's appreciation cook out.

November 17, 6:00 PM Frank Fisher memorial spaghetti feed by brother Bob Del Carlo.

Sickness & Distress

Brother Ralph Covington is finding it more difficult to get around and has indicated he will withdraw from several groups. However, he indicates that he is eager to participate in any degree work that we conduct. We all hope his health improves.

Milestones

Leroy R. Bergstrom marked his 60th year in Masonry in 2011. Unfortunately this event was missed last year, but we will see that he is awarded his pin and recognition this year. Many thanks to Brother Le for his dedication and support of Freemasonry, and Escorial Lodge over all these years.

Degrees

Stephen Musser, a realtor in Virginia City, was elected to take the three degrees of Masonry and helps start the turn-around of membership in the Lodge. He was initiated on July 26th. Several visiting Masons have requested plural membership applications this quarter.

Lodge Finances

When the Frank Fisher Masonic temple building was completed in 1983, over \$100 thousand was left from construction costs. However, these funds were not invested so as to provide an income stream to support the building. After 35 years depletion, a little over \$40 thousand remained in one CD. The downward financial spiral had to be reversed if the building was to be preserved. Under the new finance committee transparency policy, there is no longer a "general fund" controlled by just two individuals. Every individual bill to be paid will be brought before the lodge for a vote of approval by the members.

Upon maturity of the remaining CD, the funds were placed in the control of the building trustees, and a more productive investment approach was adopted. With approval of the members, the Escorial finance committee selected *Waddel & Reed* to manage the building fund investments. The fund selections, cash allocations, and monthly fund performance statements will be available in a ring binder at the front of the Lodge room for any member to examine at any time. If future political and economic conditions are favorable, a sufficient revenue stream will be generated to insure the Frank Fisher Masonic Temple will finally be self-supporting and will continue to be the home of Escorial and Argenta, and a source of pride for future generations of Masons.

The lodge operating account now contains \$4522. Escorial Lodge is grateful to our many friends for their generous donations to the Lodge Recovery fund. We are over half way toward our goal of replacing the \$1200 the lodge was forced to pay one of our former officers.

Resolutions

The two resolutions passed earlier were found to be in conflict with the Nevada Masonic Code and are not valid in their present form. These are now under revision and will be presented at Grand Lodge for consideration as modifications to the Nevada Masonic Code.

Reminder

The average age of members of Escorial Lodge is in the mid to late 60's. The day eventually comes when we must all plan the disposition of our estates. One of the possibilities for distributing a portion of your estate is to consider giving to a non-profit charitable fraternal organization. A 501(c)10 organization such as Escorial Lodge may provide the means for you to leave behind a lasting memory and monument to your life. As Masons, we are reminded that charity lives beyond the grave. By following the example of brother Frank Fisher, we are given the means to continue building, even beyond our mortal journey.

Argenta Chapter 7

The Chapter will resume meetings on September 10th (Argenta meets every 2nd & 4th Monday). Bart Jacka will be installed as Grand Patron for the coming year. The Chapter has been a constant friend and supporter of the Lodge and the changes we have implemented to insure the survival of our shared home.

Comstock Masonic History

On October 13th, 1864, a charter was granted by the Grand Lodge of California to the Masons in Gold Hill to form Silver Star Lodge 165. This same date, the Grand Lodge of California also granted a charter to Escorial Lodge 171. When the Grand Lodge of Nevada was formed, Silver Star 165 became Silver Star No. 5. By 1875, Silver Star Lodge had a membership of 188 Masons. By 1919, with the decline in mining and population in Gold Hill, membership in Silver Star had dropped to 17, and Silver Star consolidated with Escorial 7. The former site of the Lodge building is directly across the road from the Gold Hill Hotel and is marked by a metal plaque. The legacy of Silver Star lives on in Escorial 7, where the beautifully engraved silver square and compasses with the Silver Star name are still on the altar and used at every meeting.

The Gold Hill cemetery below the hotel and west of the highway is easily accessible. Within it rest the remains of a number of Masons. The 19th century stones in the cemetery were fashioned by true operative stone masons and many reference events of local history. This type of craftsmanship is no longer practiced, and like handwritten script, is an artifact of a period when taking time to produce a quality product by hand was a reflection of a person's internal values.

Tyranny is threatened wherever a Masonic Temple exists.

Final Note to Members: In order to reduce Lodge mailing expenses, henceforth, paper copies of the Trestleboard will only be sent to those members who do not have an e-mail address and do not own a personal computer. All other members will receive their copies by e-mail. Members may also access the Trestleboard through the Escorial Lodge web site. Your understanding on behalf of the Lodge is appreciated. Keep us informed of accurate contact information.