



South Denver #93 Trestleboard



Stated communications the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month September–May

CALENDAR – March 2016

1st Meeting is March 1st.

2nd Meeting is March 15th

Greetings from the East...

May brotherly love prevail, and every moral and social virtue cement us.....
Blame it on Daylight Savings Time

Brothers,

Daylight saving time begins in the wee hours of Sunday, March 13th, this year. And once again we will lose an hour of sleep so that we can enjoy longer days throughout the spring and summer. Sure, the sudden time switch can disrupt our “inner clocks,” whether we move forward (as we do this month) or backward (which we will all do in the fall). But before you complain too much about inconvenience, consider the imposition that daylight saving time made for these folks.

Take Laura Cirioli of North Carolina, for instance. In November 2007, she gave birth first to her son Peter at 1:32 a.m., and 34 minutes later, to her daughter Allison. However, because daylight saving time ended at 2:00 a.m. and all the hospital’s clocks were moved back an hour, Allison was officially born before her older brother, at 1:06 a.m.

In March 2007, phone records not accounting for the time change mistakenly identified a Pennsylvania honor student as the main suspect for a late-night bomb-threat. He merely called an automated line for class schedule information – the real culprit actually called an hour later. In 1997, over 1,000 students at Ohio University were obviously taken by surprise by the time change when the local bars closed an hour early. So they rioted, leading to 47 arrests. Much to the students’ dismay, the time change happened again in 1998. Bars closed. Students rioted. More arrests.

And sometimes the time change can work in one’s favor. A man born just after midnight on the day of the time change was able to avoid being drafted into the Vietnam War. His argument: In the year of his birth, his home state of Delaware only used standard time. Under the official standard time he was actually born just after 11 p.m. on the previous day – a day with a much higher and, most importantly, different draft lottery number.

So, after a great day of participating with your brothers in the St. Patrick’s Day parade and the Bethel 40 Chili Cook Off, don’t forget to move your clocks forward one hour before you go to bed on March 12th. Who knows, maybe something good will come of it.

And take that opportunity to check the batteries in your home’s smoke detectors, too.

Fraternally,

Ed White

Message from the West...

Greetings from the West,

Brethren as March approaches I wanted to take the time to remind all of the upcoming St. Patrick's Day parade on March 12th. We will be beginning the morning at the lodge for a wonderful pancake breakfast put on by the Bethel. Join us in the morning for the breakfast, followed by the parade in the afternoon. It's a great opportunity to show off Freemasonry to the general public and to engage in fellowship with our brethren.

This month we'll also be putting on a second degree for some of our new entered apprentices. Congratulations to these new brethren who are progressing through the degrees on their journey to more and perfect light in Masonry. If you haven't been back to lodge for some time, because of scheduling conflicts during our regularly scheduled Tuesday meetings, take advantage of a rare Saturday morning to confer the second degree to these young Masons this month. I know they would appreciate a full lodge to support them.

And to our new entered apprentices, I encourage you all to diligently continue your work and proficiency. The lodge needs your dedication and efforts. And it is my sincere wish that you discover that you need the lodge's support just the same. I have found this to be one of the most fulfilling aspects of Freemasonry . . . to depend on your Lodge and be depended on by your Lodge.

Fraternally,
Andrew Schnackenberg
Senior Warden

From the South

Brethren,

If the saying, "You get what you pay for," is true, then what do you get from Masonry? For many of us it is an annual dues card and the ability to answer the question: "Are you a Mason?" with, "I am". Is that enough?

I believe that it is important to spend money as wisely as possible and that includes what I spend on Masonry. Truth be told: I was so excited when I joined, I paid for a perpetual membership and am relieved when dues notices come out in November. On balance, I believe that I got (and continue to get) far more out than I have put into Masonry.

What do Lodge dues support?

According to the Worshipful Master's budget, Lodge dues support Grand Lodge, the Temple Building, office supplies for running Lodge (printing, postage, etc, the paid officers (Secretary, Treasurer and Tyler), Lodge education and entertainment as well as some important ceremonies, including the Widows' and Wives' Tea. All-in-all, there is much to support on a small amount of dues.

Is that enough?

Over the course of this Masonic Year, I plan to help the Lodge decide what is the right amount of dues. Is the Lodge doing enough for the Brothers? Is the Lodge doing enough for the community? Should we cut back or do more? The answers to these questions will help guide the debate forward into what kind of Lodge South Denver No. 93 wants to be: a very inexpensive Lodge that does as little as possible, a moderate Lodge that does a few things well, or a Lodge that is in pursuit of excellence but is a bit more expensive.

The future of the Lodge.

The last piece of this puzzle is what state we want to leave South Denver for our future Brothers. About one-fifth of the income for the Lodge comes from the Endowment Fund. This fund was set up by past Brothers for us: to ease the burden of dues today. We have scholarship funds to help in the community, left to the Lodge by caring past Brothers. If we get what we pay for, what are we willing to pay for? That is real question behind how much dues the Lodge should charge. As long as there is Masonry, we need to be aware of the Lodge we are building for our future Masons. I look forward to the debate in Lodge. Please join in and express your voice on these important questions.