

THE 142 EXPRESS

**The Newsletter of Newton Lodge #142
Newton, Kansas**

February 2012 email edition

**Mike Williamson- Worshipful Master
Gary Dix- Secretary**

ANNUAL SWEETHEART BANQUET

Our annual Sweetheart Banquet was held on February 4th with 61 in attendance. The Lodge ladies were presented with roses. Bros. Jack Bliss and Bobby Beardsley were in charge of the meal. The tables were decorated with favors--embroidered hearts that contained candy. Sedgwick Boy Scout Troop # 487 volunteered to serve the meal and to provide cleanup. The boys participating were Kade Resnik, Judston Agee, Gannon Resnik and Cody Stephenson. The leaders were Tony Resnik and Mindy Stephenson. Worshipful Mike Williamson presented each of them with a special lapel pin that features both the fleur de lis and the square and compasses.

Our guest of honor was Cheyenne Garrison, a senior at Newton High School. Cheyenne and Logan Harpoll from Valley Center won the Grand Lodge essay contest at the Lodge level. Our Lodge presented them with \$50 each to be applied to college. Cheyenne went on to win 2nd place at the Grand Lodge level and was presented with a check for \$3000 at the banquet. She won for her essay on Gordon Parks and read it before all of the banquet attendees. Cheyenne is planning to attend Pittsburg State and study graphic arts.

Also present were Cheyenne's family and her grandfather Glen Smith, who is currently Master at Devon Lodge #92 and is a past Master with Bourbon Lodge at Bronson, Kansas.

The Newton Railaires provided the evening's entertainment, directed by Donna Woolery. Their songs included two madrigals, two jazz numbers, an arrangement of "Somewhere Over the Rainbow", and a medley that included a spiritual.

Grand Lodge

We are quickly coming up on the 156th Annual Grand Lodge Communication. Past Grand Master Clifford Knauss wants to remind everyone that it will be held March 15, 16, and 17 at the Masonic Center in Salina. Any Master Mason can attend. Registration is \$25. The ladies banquet, men's luncheon and all Masonic banquets are extra. For more information contact the Grand Lodge or call our secretary Gary Dix at the Lodge – 316-283-1199. It is an excellent chance to learn more about Kansas Masonry and a great chance to meet with other Kansas Masons.

Masonic License Plates

District Deputy Guy Wright wants everyone to know that there is currently legislation in Topeka to allow Masonic License Plates. Up to this point the only Masonic plates available were for the Shrine. One goal in the Grand Lodge Strategic Plan concerns our image and visibility to the public. With that goal in mind, a bill permitting a Masonic personalized license plate was introduced in the Kansas House of Representatives Transportation Committee on February 1st. Support for this bill needs to come from fellow masons. You are urged to contact your state legislator to let them know you are in favor. If you don't know who to contact here is a web site. <http://www.ipsr.ku.edu/ksdata/vote/>

Mark your calendars

We have a few upcoming events that provide the opportunity to show our support by attending them. On February 25th at 2pm we will be holding our 25 year, 50 year and 60 year presentations. There are 7 members who qualify for emblems this year. Light refreshments will be served immediately afterwards. It would also be a good opportunity to talk with the brothers that have accumulated a lot of experience.

Sickness & Distress

We have several brothers who need to be kept in your thoughts and prayers. Bro. Ron Robinson recently had his second leg amputated. He is currently undergoing rehab. W.: Myron Chaffee's son was recently in a car wreck. He is not critical but is in a hospital in California. W.: Rodney Willaby, Past Master from Sedgwick, recently had a stroke and is at home. If you need addresses, please contact W.: Gary Dix at the Lodge – 316-283-1199.

Unity

For those of you who don't know, the Masonic Unity Council meets once a quarter on the 5th Monday of the month at the Wichita Scottish Rite. These meetings bring together all of the area Lodges as well as those from the York Rite, Scottish Rite, and Shrine. Our goal is to keep everyone informed as to what is going on in the area and to try to coordinate our efforts towards one goal--to encourage the growth of Masonry, especially through the Blue Lodges. Without Blue Lodge Masons there would be no appendant bodies. One of the programs to help achieve that goal is to schedule some open houses and Masonic information nights. The next event coming up is the open house at the Scottish Rite, March 15th at 7pm. Area Lodges and the Shrine will be hosting similar nights later this year and they will be posted here.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Please remember the box on the 1st floor by the elevator is for canned and boxed food items for the Agape Center and Salvation Army food Bank. Donations would be appreciated.

If you know of a Brother not receiving this newsletter please contact Tony Nelzen @ 316-772-0874 or tknelzen@hotmail.com .

The following is a list of officers for the 2012 year

Worshipful Master:	Mike Williamson	316-772-0136	mrwillie@prodigy.net
Senior Warden:	Jack Bliss	316-209-2412	info@blissful-travels.com
Junior Warden:	Bobby Beardsley	316-744-2552	bs2ucu@iwon.com
Treasurer:	Rex Graham	316-284-2086	rgraham3@cox.net
Secretary:	Gary Dix	316-283-1199	gdix25630@gmail.com
Chaplain:	John Heckman	316-282-2824	heckmans@swbell.net
Senior Deacon:	Jeff Reed	316-992-2354	more_bass1987@yahoo.net
Junior Deacon:	Dennis Blickenstaff	316-304-5908	dblick@poncaproducts.com
Senior Steward:	Bryan Stewart	316-727-4141	stewwb@gmail.com
Junior Steward:	Chris Koch	316-680-3734	chriskoch22@yahoo.com
Tyler:	Tony Nelzen	316-772-0874	tknelzen@hotmail.com