

Huntertown Lodge #689  
16830 Lima Rd.  
Huntertown, IN 46748

Meetings: First Thursday, 7:30 PM.

Kurt Begue  
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Tidings from the East Brothers!

So much time has passed since our last communication, however I assure you that Huntertown Lodge has not ceased in its efforts to continue to do good and square work that benefits all in the family of our Fraternity.

In late May, Huntertown was contact by Gloria Mundt-Wood, the wife of late Jack Wood. She informed me that Jack had passed away April 23<sup>rd</sup>, and she was in possession of Masonic Table and Crystal Goblets, which she kindly donated to Huntertown Lodge to showcase and remember Jack's legacy in Masonry. We kindly accepted the donation and found a perfect, safe location for these treasures. After careful inspection of the beautiful handmade table, it was found to be made in 1908! For a closer look at this treasure, come visit us at Huntertown Lodge.

Here is a short summary of Jack's life that I requested of Gloria and she so kindly obliged:

Jack Wood was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on May 26, 1924. His parents were Rayburn and Amelia Wood. His mother died in a house fire when Jack was 6 months old. He was raised by his father and two separate stepmothers. His childhood was not very pleasant, living no longer than possibly two years in any one place as his father was a salesman and moved often. He finally spent his last two years of high school living in Crestline, Ohio with a stepmother who he thought was his real mother for many years. After graduating from high school he enlisted in the United States Navy for six years and served during World War II as Pharmacists Mate First Class. He was an Independent Insurance Agent and retired from his own Wood Insurance Agency in 1989. His legacy is one of helping and caring for his insurance customers. Even after retirement many called him for advice about their insurance needs. He was an avid golfer until health prevented it and was a regular contributor voicing his views in Letters to the Editor. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Eileen and son Mark. He is survived by his wife, Gloria. He was a member of Trinity English Lutheran Church, Elks Lodge No. 155 and over a 50 year member of Sol Bayless Masonic Lodge No. 359, Scottish Rite Valley of Fort Wayne and Mizpah Shrine of Fort Wayne. The Rev. Dr. Kathleen Haller officiated at his funeral and burial was in Lindenwood Cemetery.

In June, we had a good month. We initiated Brother Adam Wagner into Masonry and he was passed to the degree of Fellow Craft on August 10<sup>th</sup>. His Master Mason will be scheduled for Thursday, September 16<sup>th</sup>.

Our lodge trip to the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo was a blast, I know that all that attended had a great time and the weather could not have been better for this. We definitely look forward to do this again next year!

The Saint John Observance on Sunday, June 27<sup>th</sup> was also a very inspirational event at Trinity Episcopal. Several members attended and we felt very much at home and welcomed into this beautiful church. For those of you who have not had the pleasure of attending a service at this church, you truly are missing out! I counted at least a dozen different lodges that attended the service, a very good Masonic showing.

As if June wasn't good enough, July really picked up the pace. Brother Rick Eby was presented with an Honorary Membership to Huntertown Lodge for his services to lodge.

We performed a lodge clean-up day and really hit the building hard. Bobby Wade and Andy Holman cleaned the entire basement and sanitized the entire kitchen area in preparation for our upcoming cooking duties at the Fair. Greg Burns took it upon himself to vacuum every square foot of carpet that is in the building. And I, fitting of a WM, was assigned toilet duty. Which as all Past Masters can attest, you deal with a lot of crap during your year in the East!

The 4H Fair at the Allen County Fair Grounds was just a huge week for everyone in the lodge. Huntertown brought out for display our new vending trailer and put it through its courses, it performed wonderfully. Special thanks goes out to Phil Thomas, Kevin Thomas and Mark Goebel for their oversight of the refurbishment and upgrade of this trailer to facilitate our needs.

Our annual Swiss Steak Dinner was a big success this year. Aided by good weather and attendance at the fair, we were able to sell over 175 meals this year, up from just over 100 last year. Thanks go out to Phil Thomas for coordinating the dinner, as well as Greg Burns, Mark Goebel, Cary Ragan, Teresa Wade and all the members that assisted for their help. The breakfast wasn't so great this year due to the weather and people leaving the fairgrounds early. We were only able to muster about 85 breakfasts sold. But in any event, we did have some good camaraderie, did a valuable service to the community and raised over \$1,200.00 to add to our Treasury.

August, which we thought would be a nice slow down, proved to be an even greater opportunity for challenges and successes. Due to scheduling of certain candidates and members, we did all three degrees in one week, complete with lectures, for three different Brothers. The work was exemplary and I was very proud of all who participated. Members from the following lodges were present and assisted during the degree work: Wayne, Highland, Three Rivers, Sol D Bayless, New Haven and Waynedale Lodges. We made a definite impact on the: initiated, passed and raised members!

We also had a great time at the Huntertown Heritage Days Parade. Thanks to Kevin Thomas for coordinated the breakfast that morning! And also thanks to Cary Ragan, who did an excellent job of coordinating the parade activities and bringing in Brothers from area lodges to participate. Every lodge within a 40-mile radius of Huntertown was contacted and asked to participate with us in the parade. Many lodges took us up on the offer including: Wayne, Highland, Three Rivers and Saint Mary's. We handed out over 100 Masonic pamphlets and DVD's to men along the parade route, hoping that the invitation might spark some interests in membership.

August 28<sup>th</sup>, we will hold our Family Picnic and Appreciation day from 10:00am until 2:00pm. We invite all the area lodges to come out and share in some fun family entertainment. And don't worry about the weather, come rain or shine as we have a huge basement to entertain in. We will be playing a family movie on our big screen TV and I am sure everyone will have a great time.

I would say that I am looking forward to a slow down in September, but the simply truth is that it isn't going to happen, we have a lot of great things to look forward to:

Important September Dates:

2<sup>nd</sup> Regular Stated

9<sup>th</sup> Fellow Craft Degree for Robert J Thompson II at 7:30pm

16<sup>th</sup> Master Mason Degree for Adam Wagner at 7:30pm, dinner at 6:30pm

19<sup>th</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Huntertown Lodge Golf Outing, visit our lodge website for more info:  
[http://www.huntertown689.org/Golf\\_Outting.pdf](http://www.huntertown689.org/Golf_Outting.pdf)

23<sup>rd</sup> Lodge of Instruction with Leo #224, Dinner at 6:30pm, LOI at 7:30pm

Brothers, a special plea was made to all the officers and attendees of May's regular stated meeting. Each of us received two petitions and we were challenged to see if we knew of gentlemen who are worthy and well qualified, and to ask them if they would be interested in our Fraternity. Please help the lodge by giving them a petition and a personal invitation to join with us in this great and good work.

Fraternally,

Kurt Begue WM