

Plinth

Issue 16-01

May 2016

Special points of interest:

- Blazing Star election
- Grand Lodge Session
- Kings Day 2016
- WM visitation to GL
- Gala Ball 2016
- Visitor from Boston!

Inside this issue:

Grand Lodge Session..... 2

WM visit to GL 3

I am the Brother 4

17 Ways to WYL 5

Kings Day 6

Gala Ball 2016 7

Lodge Picture 8

Rene Meeuwessen elected Worshipful Master



SW Randall Scott



JW Niclaas Soellaart

Blazing Star Lodge 26 held its annual election on the 19th of September 2015 in Amersfoort, the Netherlands

The results of the Election are as follows:

- Worshipful Master** Rene Meeuwessen
- Senior Warden** Randall Scott
- Junior Warden** Niclaas Soellaart
- Treasurer** Charles Beane
- Secretary** Dennis Griffin

GIVE THEM YOUR SUPPORT!!!!

The Lodge once more elected a totally new team in the top three positions. Deputy Grand Lecturer Ernest Allen Jr. presided over the elections and charged the newly elected officers to maintain the momentum of the last administration and make the Lodge even better than it has been in the past couple of years....

Worshipful Master Meeuwessen has a busy trestle-board and has two able assistants in Senior Warden Randall Scott and Junior Warden Niclaas Soellaart. There are plans to receive the Grand Master, hold and perfect the Gala Ball, increase charitable donations, and increase membership. We wish them great success in their efforts.



Deputy Grand Master
R.W. Yves R. Maignan



Most Worshipful Grand Master
Hon. Reuben H. Meade



Senior Grand Warden
R.W. Jeffery M. Coaston



Junior Grand Warden
R.W. Timothy R. Downes



Grand Treasurer
R.W. Joseph H. Catan



Grand Secretary
R.W. Gerald R. Thaxton III

224th Annual Grand Lodge Session

The 224th Annual Grand Lodge Session of the MWPB Grand Lodge was held in Boston, MA on 11-12-13-December 2015. Blazing Star Lodge #26 and the 7th Masonic District were represented by RW Bro. Charles Beane, Worshipful Bro. Denston Lyte, and Past Masters Dennis Griffin, Clyde Flowers, and John Horne. The Grand Lodge officers were re-elected for this Masonic Year and are presented above.



Worshipful Master's visit to the Most
Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge Jurisdiction Massachusetts

9-13th December 2015

I arrived Wednesday and was received with a warm welcome by Past master Thomas Allen and his wife. Together with Br. Beane and Br Griffin we stayed there for the duration of our visit to the grand lodge. I would like to take the opportunity to thank them for the accommodations and good meals. They went above and beyond to make me feel welcome to their house.

Thursday the 10th of December 2015. We received Bro John Horne at the airport who arrived in the afternoon. We visited the Grand Lodge that evenings were we met with the Most Worshipful Grand Master Hon. Reuben H. Meade. On which occasion the MWGM expressed his intention to visit Blazing Star during the coming year. And we took care of some business. The welcome by the grand master and other brothers in the lodge was warm and brotherly love prevailed.

The Grand Lodge was called to session on **Friday 11th December**. This time was reserved for reports from the various Districts and the reports of the Grand Lodge Officers and the various committees. A copy of the reports has been given to the Worshipful Master, Senior Warden, and Junior Warden. One of the most important reports was the audit report. All in all the financial situation was much improved in comparison to the former period. The edict whereby brothers were asked to donate 200 USD took the lodge out of the danger zone. During the meeting measures were proposed to keep the lodge financial sound. The proposed change is to increase the Per Capita Tax from \$10.00 to \$20.00 per member per year. The Jurisprudence Committee recommended that the proposed constitutional change be submitted to the lodges for comment. Also the bar will be forced to pay rent. On the downside one of the brothers trusted with lodge money embezzled 40.000 dollars. During the meeting he was suspended for life.

Later that evening the Lodge of Sorrow was held, which was a very beautiful and all in all fantastic experience. The lodge of sorrow was followed by a meal.

On Saturday the 12th the Grand Master had the honor of receiving Grand Masters of other jurisdictions and their delegations. They all were received with Grand Honors. The Sisters of the Eastern Star were admitted accompanied by their appointed guardian. This year the amount of visitors was overwhelming and very impressive. After the lunch break we were once again entertained by reports from the various Districts.

On Sunday the 13th the session began with yet more reports and some interesting information by concerning prostate cancer followed by a Q & A. The Sunday however was set and reserved for the election of the grand lodge officers. By lack of challenge to the different position it was swift and the existing officers were newly elected.

I hereby take the opportunity to express my sincere thanks and gratitude to Past master Beane and PM Griffin for all the good work they have done for the lodge and also together with Bro Horn to make the stay at the grand lodge a pleasant and interesting experience. As well to thank the other brothers of Blazing Star for making this trip a memorable one.

Recommendations future visiting WM. I strongly recommend preparing future WM visiting the lodge. Some of the customs used in the grand lodge where new to me since they're not in use in Blazing Star. The grand hailing sign for instance is seldom practiced in our lodge. Considering the overwhelming experience and intensity of the lodge visits it is a good thing that the WM is prepared for what to expect. Since more brothers joined our lodge not originally from the USA and will have a limited time to spend in Boston it will be good to have a plan in place which allows for time to visit the city and some hotspots.

All in all I left with a positive feeling about the future of the lodge. Financially sound and even plans were presented to develop the venue into a lodge building with hotel and conference areas.

Respectfully submitted on 9th January 2016,

Bro. Rene Meeuwessen WM.

Blazing Star Lodge 26

I AM The *Brother/Sister*



I'm the Brother/Sister who asked to join your organization.

I'm the Brother/Sister who paid my dues to join.

I'm the Brother/Sister who stood up in front of all of you and promised to be faithful and loyal.

I'm the Brother/Sister who came to your meetings and no one paid any attention to me.

I tried several times to be friendly to some of the folks, but they all had their own buddies they talk to and sat next to.

I sat down several times but no one paid any attention to me.

I hoped very much that somebody would have asked me to take part in a fund raising project or something, but no one saw my efforts when I volunteered.

I missed a few meetings after joining because I was sick and couldn't be there. No one asked me at the next meeting where I had been. I guess it didn't matter very much to the others whether I was there or not.

The next meeting I decided to stay home and watch TV. The following meeting I attended, no one asked me where I was when the last meeting was held.

You might say I'm a good Brother/Sister, a good family person who holds a responsible job, love my community, and my country.

You know who else I am? I'm the Brother/Sister who never came back!

It amuses me when I think back on how the heads of the organization and the members were discussing why the organization was losing members.

It amuses me now to think that they spent so much time looking for new members when I was there all the time.

All they needed to do was make me feel needed, wanted and welcome!!

Author Unknown

SEVENTEEN WAYS TO WRECK YOUR LODGE

A veteran Past Master had been going to lodge meetings for years. Experience has taught him what is good and what is bad for his lodge. The Past Master put down a list of seventeen (17) ways to which a lodge member can injure his organization – and thus injure its chances of doing a better job of protecting your interest. Are you guilty of any of these ?

- 1 – Do not attend lodge meetings, but if you do, arrive late.
 - 2 – Be sure to leave before the meeting is closed.
 - 3 – Never have anything to say at the meeting, wait until you get outside.
 - 4 – When at the meeting, vote to do everything. Then go home and do nothing.
 - 5 – The next day, find fault with the officers and your members.
 - 6 – Take no part in lodge affairs.
 - 7 – Be sure to sit in the back, so you can talk it over with a member.
 - 8 – Get all the organization will give and don't give the lodge anything.
 - 9 – Never ask anyone to join the organization.
 - 10 – Talk cooperation, but don't cooperate.
 - 11 – If asked to help, say you haven't time.
 - 12 – Never read your communication or anything pertaining to the lodge.
 - 13 – At every opportunity threaten to resign. Try to get others to do the same.
 - 14 – Never accept an office, since it is easier to criticize than to do anything.
 - 15 – If appointed to a committee, never give any time or service to it.
 - 16 – If you receive a bill for dues, ignore it.
 - 17 – Don't do anymore than you have to, and when the others willingly and unselfishly use their ability to help the good cause along, then howl because the lodge is run by a "clique."
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Respectfully Submitted

P.M. Thomas C. Allen

Author: Unknown

King's Day 2016

Blazing Star Lodge #26 celebrated King's Day with a food stand in Soesterberg. The Lodge has been doing this in Soesterberg for over forty (40) years. This event is our major fund-raising event and was successful in spite of dire weather warnings. Luckily the weather was much better than predicted and sales went very well. We did not have sales in Zeist this year due to not having enough brethren available to man the stand. We had good participation in Soesterberg from the brothers and some family and friends who volunteered to help us. We thank all the volunteers and all the brethren who came and worked to make this a successful affair.

King's Day - Soesterberg



Bringing the SMOKE!



Working on the rib and burger gang!

Upcoming Gala Ball in October



*Dresscode:
Elegantly
Casual*

E059

*Blazing Star Lodge No. 26
F. & A.M.
Armersfoort, The Netherlands
cordially invites you to their
Luxury Dinner
Saturday, 15th October 2016
Proceeds in aid of Charity*



*The function will be held on
Saturday, 15th October 2016, in the
Van Der Valk Hotel - Almere
Veluwezoom 45, 1327 AK Almere
Time: 18:00 - 00:30
Price: € 60,- per person
Dinner & Dance*

Supported charity: Wilhelmina Kinderziekenhuis - Utrecht

Blazing Star Lodge #26 will be celebrating it's 44th Anniversary in December 2016. In honor of this event we will be holding a Gala ball and dinner on Saturday, the 15th of October in Almere, the Netherlands. The Lodge will be combining this affair with a charity event. We encourage all brethren to sell as many tickets as possible to make this a memorable and profitable occasion. Last year we had a great time and growing attendance. This year's charity will be the Wilhelmina Kinderziekenhuis in Utrecht. Please do your best to get family and friends out on this day!

PLEASE SELL TICKETS NOW!

Grand Master is Coming!

Blazing Star Lodge #26

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We are looking for articles and or pictures for our next issue. Please send them to the secretary or e-mail them to the following e-mail address:

E-mail: blazstar26@gmail.com

Web site: www.blazingstar26.org



We Love You!

NOTICE!

The MWGM Reuben H Meade has decided to have a Masonic visitation to the Seventh Masonic district Blazing Star Lodge #26 Amersfoort Netherlands from May 17- May 24, 2016. The Grand Master would like to have a delegation of interested Master Masons accompany him, at their own expense, on this visitation.

All brothers are encouraged to attend the Lodge meeting on the 21st of May.



Blazing Star Lodge #26
2015 - 2016