



## ***BUILDING MASONRY***

### ***COUNCIL OAK LODGE NO.745 JANUARY 2026***

19780 BRICK ROAD, SOUTH BEND, INDIANA 46619 PH.574.272.4073

***... AND GIVE THEM GOOD AND WHOLESOME INSTRUCTION...***

Council Oak No. 745 held its Installation of Officers for the Year 2026 on Monday, December 8<sup>th</sup>. Installed as Worshipful Master was WB Charles Yost. His Corps of Officers include: WB Thomas Dolly as Senior Warden (Tom was not present due to hip surgery); Bro. Colton Eads as Junior Warden; WB James Gillen as Treasurer; WB Anthony Meller as Secretary; WB Kyle Dolby as Senior Deacon; Bro. Austin Raab as Junior Deacon; Bro. Robert Stevens as Senior Steward (Robert was also absent); Bro. James Stevens as Junior Steward; WB Robert Mattasits as Chaplain and WB Rodney Strozewski as Tyler. WB David Wood and WB Todd Whitteberry served as the Installing team. Congratulations to all of you!!!



## ***CALENDAR NOVEMBER 2025***

***JANUARY 5<sup>TH</sup>*** - STATED MEETING AND DINNER. DINNER AT 6:30 PM. LODGE OPENS AT 7:30 PM.!

***1<sup>ST</sup>*** - Mishawaka No. 83, R.A.M. NO Meeting in January!!

***6<sup>TH</sup>*** - Elkhart York Rite. Stated Meeting. 7:00 PM. At Kane Lodge Hall, Elkhart.

***8<sup>th</sup>*** - Valley of South Bend, AASR. 7:00 PM. At the Scottish Rite Cathedral in South Bend.

***12<sup>th</sup>*** - TBA.

***14<sup>th</sup>*** - Plymouth Chapter, RAM. Dinner at 6:45 PM. Chapter convenes at 7:30 PM. At Plymouth.

***19<sup>th</sup>*** - Executive Committee Meeting. 6:30PM. At the Lodge Hall.

***20<sup>th</sup>*** - Zanzibar Grotto. 6:30 PM.

***26<sup>th</sup>*** - Fellowship at Wing's Etc. 6:s30 PM. Mishawaka.

*Check out our new website:*  
**<https://counciloak745.org>**

## ***!! STATED MEETING AND DINNER !!***

MONDAY, JANUARY 5<sup>TH</sup>

DINNER AT 6:30 PM.

LODGE OPENS AT 7:30 PM.

GOOD FOOD! ... GOOD EDUCATION! ... OUTSTANDING FELLOWSHIP!!

## ***FROM THE BROTHERHOOD***

**Broken Column:** Bro. Jere Pitts Entered the Celestial Lodge Above on December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Pray for the family.

**WB David Wood** has a BIG hole in his head. Squamous cell cancer surgery. Skin grafts to come.

**WB Tom Dolly** is recovering from hip surgery

Pray for the **Vaughn Brothers** who are experiencing various illnesses and surgeries. Also, **Bro. David** has a new address:

**Brookdale**  
**17441 State Rd 23, Room 138**  
**South Bend, IN 46635-1786**

Congratulations to the **COL 745 Officers** on Entering two Apprentices in excellent form!

**Please be in Prayer for our Country, our Service Men and Women and our 1<sup>st</sup> Responders!**

**January Birthdays:** 1st – Bart Norville and Mike Demchok; 4th - Robert Maurer; 6th – Jim Gillen; 18th Steve Leapman; 19th – Dean Engle, George Svadeba and John Lambert; 20th - Michael Carter and the 24th - Jay Ritchard

**Give these Brothers a call and wish them a Happy Birthday or Best Wishes!!**

***Check out our Facebook Group***  
**COUNCIL OAK LODGE NO. 745**

## ***ARE YOU CHANGED?***

We all knock on the door for a different reason. We're all looking for something--that's what brings us to the door of the lodge to begin with. Some of us find ourselves there because it's a family tradition. Our fathers, and uncles, and grandfathers were all Masons. There's a lot of different reasons. We're looking for a connection in the community. We're looking for new friends. We're looking for opportunities to serve our community and we know the Masons play a big role in that.

But sometimes we miss the forest for the trees. We miss the main purpose of the fraternity, which is to give us the guidance and instruction on how to become better men. In fact, I'd say most members of our fraternity these days rarely explore and apply what masonry actually teaches us about character. About finding our purpose. We don't use those resources we have in the fraternity to truly explore those questions we all have about why we're here, and what we are meant to do with these few years we have on this earth.

I'd have to admit that's why I joined twenty years ago. I was looking for meaning in my life. I was in my mid-thirties. I had a good job, a wife that loved me, good friends, and a nice home. But I wasn't content. I didn't feel like I'd discovered what life was all about. I hadn't found that thing yet that tied it all together for me.

So I knocked on the door. And I wasn't disappointed in what I discovered. I found hundreds of years of wisdom in how to rebuild myself from the inside out. And my life changed almost immediately. I read a few hundred books, and wrote a few books. I couldn't guess how many articles I've written, and blog posts I've posted. I've shared a lot of what I've discovered over the years right on here--The Midnight Freemasons.

But my journey didn't stop there. It lead me back to faith, and another transforming experience as God called me to a very different path in life than the one I'd been on. Not everyone's path will lead them to the pulpit, but mine certainly did, and that path began at the lodge door. That's when my course in life began to change.

Masonry is about more than friendships, and service, and activities, and meetings. It's about growth. And we recite those words, and hear those concepts in our meeting and degrees, but so few of us realize that's what it's all about. It's about building character. It's about finding our way of making this world a better place. About figuring out what we were built to do, and to find ways to do it! It's about letting ourselves be remade into something the creator can use for His purpose.

So my question for you is this. Are you changed? Are you a Mason that "gets it" and applies those principles we teach to your life, or are you pretty much the same now as you were when you joined. I encourage you to dig deeper. Apply those lessons and see what happens. You were put here for a purpose. Start working on that ashlar, and see where that path that started at the lodge door may lead you.

WB Todd E, Creason

Ogdon, IL Lodge No. 754

## **COUNCIL OAK LODGE OFFICERS - 2026**

WORSHIPFUL MASTER: WB Charles Yost, 785.317.5176, [charles.william.yost@gmail.com](mailto:charles.william.yost@gmail.com); SENIOR WARDEN: Thomas Dolly, PM; JUNIOR WARDEN: Colton Eads;

TREASURER: James Gillen, PM; SECRETARY: Anthony Meller, PM, [ameller31@yahoo.com](mailto:ameller31@yahoo.com); SENIOR DEACON: Kyle Dolby, PM; JUNIOR DEACON: Austin Raab;

SENIOR STEWARD: James Stevens; JUNIOR STEWARD: Carl Sabinas, PM; CHAPLAIN: Robert Mattasits, PM; TYLER: Rodney Strozewski, PM; TYLER EMERITUS: David Vaughn;

TRUSTEES: Rodney Strozewski, Timothy Genge and Mike Koziel; PROPERTY MANAGER: Rodney Strozewski, PM; TRESTLE BOARD EDITOR: David Wood, PM, 574.286.5686, [dwood52281@aol.com](mailto:dwood52281@aol.com)