



October 13, 2009

## Pine Tree Masonic Lodge #1396, A. F. & A. M.

Volume 1, Issue 4

### Masonic News

- October 15—Lodge Ritual Practice (7:30)
- October 20—OES Stated Meeting
- October 29—Grand Lodge Resolutions (7:00)
- November 5—Stated Meeting

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Here we are in mid-October, and the state of the Lodge is good. This Masonic Year started with a boom and has been going strong ever since. Things are now beginning to slow down and we all now have time to think. Notice I didn't say time to relax.

Last month, we hosted R.: W.: Jimmy Henley, member of the Grand Lodge Committee on Work. The forum went well and Junior Warden Dan Flanagan renewed his Class C certificate which is a requirement for the Lodge to receive the Vanguard Award in 2010.

I traveled to Lufkin on September 19th and presented the History of Tusculum Lodge to the Texas Lodge of Research. The paper was very well re-

The rain slowed long enough for the Pine Tree Lodge to hold its 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual "Woody" Woodul Golf Classic on Saturday, September 10, 2009 at 1:00pm, during a very rainy season for the Wood Hollow Golf Course in Longview.

Overall, this year's tournament was another huge success. Forty-three golfers participated in the event, equaling eleven teams.

### From the East

ceived by the publication committee and the Lodge. I want to thank brothers Weldon Pittman Jr. and Sr. and Kenneth Jackson for supporting me during the presentation.

We initiated a new Entered Apprentice Mason last month. The significance of this initiation is that he is the first person under the age of 21 to be initiated by Pine Tree Lodge.

This month, the calendar isn't quite as full, but that doesn't mean that we aren't busy. The annual James "Woody" Woodul Sr. Memorial Golf Tournament was held at Wood Hollow Golf Club on Saturday the 10th. While the final tallies aren't in, I am assured by the tournament

coordinator (Lex Janner) that it was a success.

Brett Beggs and I are working on a project for the web site and we are compiling a list of all of the lodges that members of our Lodge have visited. As of today, the list is over 180 lodges in 3 countries and most states. If you have visited a lodge, please let me know so that I can add it to the list.

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### James 'Woody' Woodul Golf Classic

They were accompanied by approximately twenty-one hole-sponsorships, and multiple donated door prizes.

At the conclusion, the teams were ranked from highest to lowest according to score, and divided into two flights by the course pro. The top six teams were placed in the top flight and

the bottom five were situated in the second tier.

Pine Tree lodge member Dell Bledsoe's teams took first place overall with a high-score of minus ten. The Schlumberger and JE Kingham teams tied for second with a score of nine under, but JE Kingham came out ahead after the tie-breaker was determined by the tournament stipulations. *(continued on page 2)*



**“Pine Tree  
Masonic  
Lodge will  
receive the  
Vanguard  
Award in  
2010.”**



**1852—  
Masonic  
Lodge and  
Pine Tree  
School**

## Masonic Stairs - Jacob's Ladder

The ladder symbolizes the lessons learned in life, which, if properly used, brings us higher and higher in knowledge; however, if lessons are forgotten the danger of falling is continuously present.

The most common usage of the ladder is ascension to Heaven, or coming closer to God. In Islam, Mohammed is said to have seen a ladder which he climbed to reach God. In Egyptian tombs, many amulets have been found in the shape of a ladder. Most usage of the ladder is symbolizing to go from this world to the next. This thought only assumes that there are only two worlds, where most cultures assume three, the present, the higher

(like heaven) and the lower. The ladder can be seen to symbolize the different stages. Each stage can then be subdivided into smaller ones (like three, five, and seven) to symbolize further, smaller, breakthroughs needed to be able to advance.

It is also interesting to note that the number of steps is an odd number. Vitruvius noted that most ancient temples had odd numbered steps. He sited that the reason for this to be that any pilgrim climbing the stairs would necessarily would arrive at the top with the same step as one he started out with. Hence, if the first step was taken with the right foot, it would be the right foot to reach the top. This was consid-

ered a good omen.

It could also be because in the Pythagorean system, odd numbers were considered more perfect than even numbers. It can be therefore, be said that the usage of odd-numbered stairs was intended to symbolize the perfection the candidate was expected to reach.

Also interesting is the exact number of stairs. Some tracing boards of the 18<sup>th</sup> century show only five steps, whereas in Hemming lectures (used in England) the total number of steps given as 25, divided into series of one, three, five, seven, and nine.

## Golf Tournament (*continued from page 1*)

Gerry Averitt's team from Hallsville, CSI Coil, won first place in the second flight, Chandler Engineering took second, and the Pine Tree lodge team placed third.

Averitt is a Master Mason from Hallsville and a loyal supporter of the Pine Tree tournament since its inception. Although he was unable to play, Averitt sponsored a team and a hole. He later

replied, "Sorry I was out of town on golf day. Seems my team did Ok and said they had a great time!"

It appears that a great time was the consensus. Rob Wooten for Chandler Engineering traveled from Tulsa, Oklahoma, and remarked, "We had a great time and we will definitely be back next year."

Other tournament winners included Pine Tree member David Wood (Wood team) for the Longest Drive, Nick Wesson (JE Kingham team) for Closest to the Pine, and Mack LaGrone (CSI Coil team) for Closest to the Pine.

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## Masters' Wardens' & Secretaries' Association

There will be a meeting of the Worshipful Masters, Junior & Senior Wardens, and the Lodge Secretaries of all of the Lodges in Masonic District 10 (this includes districts 10-A and 10-B) to determine if there is interest in forming a MWSA for the district. The meeting will be held at Pine Tree Lodge on Monday, No-

vember 30, 2009, at 7:00 pm.

The purpose of a MWSA is to :

- 1: assist the DDGM and members of any Grand Lodge Committee in the performance of their duties when requested,
- 2: foster and encourage ideas

and plans determined to promoting better spirit of Brotherhood and widen acquaintances among the brethren of the district, and

- 3: promote and support educational meetings designed to bring more light to all Master Masons.

## Pine Tree Chapter 1090 Order of the Eastern Star

Pine Tree Chapter has been busy since the last newsletter. Each year our Worthy Grand Matron gives her Deputy in each section a Traveling Plaque. This is to encourage visitation between the chapters. It starts out with the Deputy taking it to each of her visits and the Chapter with the most present (not counting the host chapter) gets their name on the plaque. The Deputy in our section has 8 visits and Pine Tree Chapter 1090 has gotten their name on it 5 times with only 2 more visits left. After that, the plaque will be passed around to the visiting chapters until next July when

Pine Tree hopes to “bring it home” in honor of our Worthy Grand Patron, Bill Wyatt.

Speaking of the WGP, I ask Ann Wyatt for some news from Brother Bill. She says that he is homesick and I am sure tired. He has been on the road for the past month but will be home at the end of this week. He will get to spend a few days at home since the Masonic Family Day that was to be held this Saturday has been cancelled. We are happy to have him here for a few days because Pine Tree Chapter initiated a new member on Friday 10/9, and Bill and Ann

presided over the initiation of their granddaughter, Brandi Pittinger.

Please remember all of our members who have been ill and continue to have health issues. Lots of flu going around and other illnesses. Our sympathy to David & Marie Sims in the loss of their daughter.

Thank you and remember what our WGP, Bill Wyatt says, “Kindness is a language the blind can see and the deaf can hear.”

Linda Jackson-Worthy Matron



## From the East *(continued from page 1)*

Thursday, October 29th, we will host R.: W.: Jerry Martin, Grand Orator of the M.: W.: Grand Lodge of Texas. R.: W.: Martin is a friend of Pine Tree Lodge and will be on hand to discuss this year's Grand Lodge Resolutions.

We are exploring Cornerstone possibilities with the new school buildings being erected

by Spring Hill ISD. We need Lodge members who live in the Spring Hill ISD to serve on the committee.

We will be conducting a shotgun raffle for a fundraiser. Be prepared to sell tickets. The committee is working to secure a shotgun for the raffle and will report the make and type at the November stated

meeting.

That just about sums it all up. Remember, we don't have time to relax. There are opportunities to spread Masonry in Pine Tree.

Jim Rumsey

**“Pine Tree Masonic Lodge will be the benchmark for other Lodges in East Texas.”**

## The Real Freemason

The real Freemason is distinguished from rest of mankind by the uniform unrestrained rectitude of his conduct. Other men are honest in fear of punishment which the law might inflict; they are religious in expectation of being rewarded, or in dread of the devil, in the next world. A Freemason would be just if there were no laws, human or divine except

those that are written in his heart by the finger of his Creator. In every climate, under every system of religion, he is the same. He kneels before the Universal Throne of God in gratitude for the blessings he has received and humble solicitation for his future protection. He venerates the good men of all religions. He disturbs not the religion of others.

He restrains his passions, because they cannot be indulged without injuring his neighbor or himself. He gives no offence, because does not choose to be offended. He contracts no debts which he is certain he cannot discharge, because he is honest upon principal.



## Pine Tree Masonic Lodge, #1396

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903-663-0775

**Stated Meeting: 1st Thursday;  
Dinner at 6:30 and Meeting at  
7:30.**



[WWW.PINETREE1396.ORG](http://WWW.PINETREE1396.ORG)

### Golf Tournament *(continued from page 2)*

Brother David Wood was very excited about his trophy, and said, "I am going to put this trophy on my credenza, so everyone can see it. I always win small trophies, and now I finally have a big one to show off!"

Tournament play concluded around 5:30pm, followed by a fried-fish dinner that was prepared by the members of the Pine Tree. Head Cooks included brother's Tom Whitehead, Art Dunavant, Sam Crowe, Weldon Pitman Sr., and Jason Turner. Numerous other members of the Pine Tree assisted with the event as well.

Music during the meal was provided by Willie Nelson impersonator, Cowpaw Willie, and the door prizes were distributed by the Tournament Director, Lex Janner. Prizes included a DeWalt Power Drill, which was donated by East Texas Consolidated Supply Owner, Chris Lewis, who is also new member of Pine Tree.

"Thanks to everyone that helped make this year's event a success. We should profit around \$4,500. It has become a great annual tradition and fund-raiser for us, and I just want to thank everyone for their continued support," stated Janner.

In conclusion he added, "This tournament is finally starting to get some attention from other lodges around the district. I have been asked what it takes to pull off an event like this each year. I tell them a lot of hard work. I guess imitation is the best form of flattery for Pine Tree."

