



March 23, 2010

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

Volume 1, Issue 9

Masonic News

- 3/25: EA Degree—7:30
- 3/29: Exam Night
- 4/1: Stated Meeting
- 4/9: Community Builder Presentation 6:30
- 4/20: OES
- 4/29: Master Mason Education Night
- 5/1: 40 Year Awards and Breakfast—9:00 AM

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February has slipped away and March has come in like a Lion. We started the month on March 1st with a tag-team Entered Apprentice examination where two lessons were turned in. We followed up with two Fellowcraft Degrees, and then with two Master Mason Degrees. I want to welcome Brothers Jim Bowling and Casey Holder to our Fraternity. Jim is the son-in-law of Bill Wyatt while Casey is the son of the late Cecil Lewis Holder and a childhood friend of mine. I am proud of both men for seeking and finding Light, and am looking forward to seeing both become active members of their Lodge.

At the March Stated Meeting, the Grand Lodge of Texas Esoteric Certificates were handed out. Brother Dan Flanagan renewed his class C certificate. Brother Grover Bryson renewed his class B certificate. Brothers Chuck Rue, David Sims, Weldon Chambers, Tom Whitehead, W.C. Fields, and Jim Rumsey renewed their class A certificates. W.C. Fields holds a lifetime certificate, but sat for the exam for fun and to prove he still could. Congratulations to W.C.

Saturday, March 13th, Pine Tree Lodge hosted its annual Masonic Widows'

From the East

Banquet. The widows of deceased Lodge Members were honored and treated to a wonderful meal and entertainment. The widows were then honored and presented with a Masonic Widow's pin and Widow's Certificate. Daughters and granddaughters of deceased members were presented with the Masonic Blue Slipper. Congratulations were offered and a good time was had by all.

Thursday, March 25th, Pine Tree Lodge will welcome a new member with the customary initiation and Entered Apprentice Degree. Please come out and support this new member. Remember, no-one can be made a Mason without those willing to work in the degrees.

I reported in the last edition that the Lodge would present the Community Builder Award in March to the Honorable Barbara Duncan, Gregg County District Clerk. Due to scheduling conflicts, we were unable to do so. However, I am pleased to announce that we will present the award to her on Friday, April 9th. We will have a covered dish dinner at 6:30 and will present the award at 7:30. Load up your family, bring a covered dish, and come out to the Lodge for dinner and to support the Lodge in the presentation of

the Community Builder Award to a deserving and dedicated public servant of our community.

The Lodge successfully participated in Public Schools Week by members making an appearance at the open house at Pine Tree Primary School. Additionally, Pine Tree Primary, Spring Hill Primary, and White Oak Primary Schools were delivered the *Take Time to Read* materials for the children on behalf of the Lodge and the Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children.

April proves to be another busy month for the Lodge. We will initiate one Entered Apprentice and raise at least one, maybe two, Master Masons. I am looking forward to being able to publish their names in the next edition. Check the Lodge website and calendar for an upcoming Master Mason Education Night. Also, don't forget that the Kilgore Rainbow Assembly will serve dinner at the April Stated Meeting as a fundraiser—bring a little extra cash if you can.

We are gearing up for the scholarship and Lamar Medal presentations as well as making the presentations of the 40 Year Masonic Service Awards.



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



Masons in Texas, History and Heritage

Reproduced from Grand Lodge of Texas Web Site

The Masons of Texas have much for which to be proud, for it is said that the history of Texas and Masons are so interwoven that they can't be separated. The first known Mason to come to Texas was Major Zebulon M. Pike, in 180607. Masons were among the first Americans to migrate to Texas about 1821. At the age of 27, Stephen F. Austin, a Master Mason, accepted and successfully carried out his father's deathbed request to settle three hundred families on a land grant he had obtained from Mexico. Austin was authorized by Governor Antonio Martinez to carry on the colonization under his father's grant. Martinez warned Austin that the Mexican government was not prepared to extend administration over the colonist and that Austin must be responsible for their good conduct.

By the 1830's, the settlers from the United States outnumbered the Texas Mexicans and the Mexican dictator Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna imposed measures to reverse this trend. The settlers rebelled, and the Mexican government outlawed Masonry in Texas on October 25, 1828 because of the political philosophies of Texas Masons. In 1828, Austin and six other Masons met to form a Masonic Lodge in Texas; however it was never chartered. In March 1835, five Master Masons met beneath an oak tree in Brazoria and petitioned

Grand Master John H. Holland of Louisiana for a charter to form a lodge in Texas. By the end of 1837, three lodges had been chartered in Texas by the Grand Lodge of Louisiana. On December 20, 1837, President Sam Houston presided over a convention of representatives of these three lodges and elected Anson Jones the first Grand Master of Masons in Texas.

Freemasonry was not so much the instrument of political change, as it was simply the most natural forum for the exemplification of those principals and tenets that free men hold most dear. On March 1, 1836, Sam Houston and 58 other delegates rode into Washington-on-the-Brazos for a Convention to declare independence from Mexico. Twenty-two of these delegates were Masons. The Convention appointed Sam Houston Commander-in-Chief of the Texas Army. Eleven of the twenty-five on the committee appointed to draw up a Constitution of the Republic were Masons. The men who led the revolution and formed the government were, by and large, active Masons whose Masonic philosophy was the inspiration behind their deeds.

Between 1838 and 1845 the Texas Grand Lodge issued charters to twenty-one more lodges, and membership increased from seventy-three to 357. In addition, there were probably some 1,100 Masons from other jurisdictions living

in Texas at this time. From the Texans' resolve to gain independence from Mexico, to the annexation by the United States, Masons took most of the major parts. Although constituting only 1½ percent of the population, Masons filled some 80 percent of the republic's higher offices. Every president and vice president of the Republic of Texas was a Mason, as was the first governor. Every chief justice of the Republic was a Mason. Fifteen Masons were in the first House of Representatives and seven were in the first Senate, and eleven in the executive branch. Thirty-one governors of Texas were Masons, and two of the governors also served as the Grand Master of Masons in Texas. Many cities and towns, and 102 Texas counties were named for men who were Masons. Schools, buildings and awards are named for them. The first public building in a new community was often a two story Masonic Lodge, with the first floor serving as a school classroom or meeting hall.

Masons have a good reason to be proud of their heritage and involvement in the history of Texas, and they continue to affect the course of Texas history today. Masons of Texas practice the tenets of the Fraternity, to assure "the world at large may be convinced of its good effects."

March is Texas History Month.

Pine Tree Chapter 1090 Order of the Eastern Star

March winds have come roaring in bringing with them snow and the promise of spring! Soon we will have the beautiful wildflowers all around us. Let us take time to smell the “roses” and wildflowers and enjoy them.

Thanks to everyone who helped with and/or attended our “special events” during February. The 25 year certificate presentations by the Worthy Grand Patron to those of us who received them was very exciting to us. Those in attendance who received them were Step Bright, Linda Jackson, Kenneth Jackson, Betty Scott, Candy Jehu, and Nancy Abernathy.

Another event celebrated by Pine Tree was our “Texas Tea” in honor of the Grand Officers of Pine Tree Chapter. Thanks to Nancy Abernathy and those who helped her for a beautiful reception.

Our next meeting will be April 20th. We will have our election of officers for the new year which begins in June. Please come and support our current officers and the election of a new slate of officers.

On the Grand Chapter level, some of us are planning to attend the “Sir X” banquet where our Grand Conduress, Vi Griffin will name her Sir X who will be elected as

our Associate Grand Patron in August.

Our WGP, Bill Wyatt along with the WGM, Bess Caldwell will have a “Roundup” in Tyler May 7th – 9th. See Ann Wyatt or myself for details on how to attend.

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

God Bless you all!

Linda Jackson, Worthy Matron.

Kenneth Jackson, Worthy Patron.



Masters, Wardens, & Secretaries Association

The Masters, Wardens, & Secretaries Association of the 10th Masonic District of Texas held its bi-monthly business meeting on Monday, March 22nd at James F. Taylor Lodge No. 169 in Hallsville.

A wonderful dinner was enjoyed by all. Upon finishing dinner, the President called the meeting to order and welcomed the members and guests. The roll of Lodges was then called by Secretary.

Chad LaGrone then introduced the Keynote Speaker for the evening, Miss Brannon Russell. Miss Russell spoke to the association about the American Cancer Society. Miss Russell, who is only 9 years old, actively la-

bors as a fund raiser for the American Cancer Society. She has raised over \$25,000.00 for the ACA in six years. She shared her story, her passion for both the ACA and fund raising, and her dreams of being a World Famous Kilgore College Rangerette. After Miss Russell spoke, she did her duty and collected some donations from those in attendance and thanked the Association. It was unbelievable to see such an sincere and dedicated young lady.

Continuing with the business of the Association; Jim Rumsey announced that he had received a letter from Grand Master Orville O'Neill granting dispensation for, and officially recognizing the Asso-

ciation. Chad LaGrone then made a recommendation pertaining to the Associations baking needs. After some discussion, it was decided that the Association would use Austin Bank.

Members of the various Lodges present discussed upcoming events at their respective Lodges including fund raisers at Little Cypress and James F. Taylor. Rumsey announced that an MWSA web page had been designed and attached to the Pine Tree Lodge web site.

The next meeting will be Monday, May 24, 2010, at Longview Lodge #404. Covered dish dinner at 6:30 followed by an open meeting at 7:30.

Don't Forget to Check out the Lodge's Web Site for Updates to the Lodge Calendar, Pictures of Lodge Events, and More!



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



WWW.PINETREE1396.ORG



Improve in Masonic Knowledge *By Dr. Bob Northcutt*

One of the first lessons imparted to a Mason is that of learning and the value of education, especially Masonic knowledge. While it appears as a small expectation and in the "leisure hours" of a Mason, improvement in knowledge, especially Masonic knowledge, is clearly a lifetime goal of a Freemason. Each degree and each step in a Mason's journey toward improvement and happiness is couched in gaining more Light.

Unfortunately many Brothers do not continue to search, but rather stop their study when they complete their proficiency examinations. Admittedly they are an "Entered Apprentice", a "Fellow Craft Mason, or a "Master Mason" in name,

but without further study and "labor", they have failed to grasp the depths of the obligations they have taken.

It is interesting that when approached by a non-Mason and asked "What is a Mason?" or "What do you do as a Mason?", many a Brother cannot answer, or attempts to refer the questioner to another Brother. How is it that a "Master of the Craft" does not know enough to answer the most often asked questions?

Well, the answer lies within the nature of who we are and how seriously we assume responsibilities. As in several past education notes, obligations are not to be taken lightly, even when made verbally. One's honor depended upon the value of

one's "word". The very nature of one's character hinged upon whether a man was a Man of his "word", or not. The value of the secrets entrusted to a Brother rests within the heart of the individual and his conscience.

Each Brother should be diligent in his pursuit of Masonic Light and realize Masonic understanding extends beyond the catechism and the Ritual work. To be knowledgeable a Brother must be willing to seek, read, discuss, and study the works of Masonry. Beyond its history and great practitioners, there are the many lessons to be learned and incorporated in one's life. Sources, such as the Grand Lodge Library and Museum, the Internet, numerous Masonic books and

magazines, encyclopedias, and research groups are open and available to any Brother willing to seek more Light.

Developing a philosophy for life and a moral roadmap are critical steps to achieving happiness and being a Mason. Each of us is charged to be honorable, reverent of the Great Architect, acting upon the Square toward our neighbors, and circumspect. To achieve these goals requires that we also increase in knowledge of the Craft and its mysteries. Considering each day as a step in our journey through life, we also should take each day as an opportunity to add to our store of knowledge and Light, so that when we are asked about our Craft, we have answers, not excuses.