



# Masonic Trestle Board

July 22, 2010

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

Volume 2, Issue 1

### Masonic News

- 7/24—Iron Bluff Installation
- 7/26—MWSA
- 8/2—Exam
- 8/5—Stated Meeting
- 8/17—OES

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My first statement in this newsletter is to thank Pine Tree Lodge for the act of faith in me to elect me to the high position of Worshipful Master. I want to assure you that I treasure the compliment and will strive to serve you in the most honorable manner. I promise to do my best. It is truly a privilege to be elected and installed. My next statement will be to congratulate Junior Past Master Jim Rumsey on having a very successful year, for Pine Tree Lodge and Masonry in general. This will be a hard program to follow. Our Lodge did have a great year.

The Installation of Officers on July 3rd was quite an event, with more than eighty attendees. Jerry Martin, former Grand Lodge Officer and Past Grand Patron (Grand Chapter OES), and our own Bill Wyatt, former Grand Lodge Officer and Worthy Grand Patron (OES) did an outstanding job. Past Master, and Brother, Tom Whitehead presented the *Traveling Master's Ring* and read the accompanying letter in a most impressive and patriotic manner. I can think of no greater patriotic act than to serve in the United States Military; and the military is why our Lodge has this ring. When I was in the service, the *Code of Conduct* stated, "I am an

### From the East

American Fighting Man. I serve in the forces that guard our country and our way of life. I am prepared to give my life in their defense." I can think of no greater act of Patriotism! As the installation program was held in a Patriotic Holiday weekend, I felt a need to hold the ring ceremony at this time, and it was moving. Another highlight of the evening was the Bluegrass Duet. Everyone seemed to enjoy the songs. I, along with the other installed officers, was also proud of my family and friends that were able to attend. There was also a large number of our Church Family present, including Past Master and Past Patrons, Dennis Easley and Bill Wyatt.

Due to commitments to the Grand Chapter of Texas, Order of the Eastern Star, I will not be able to attend the August stated meeting of the Lodge. Dan Flanagan, Senior Warden, will preside and receive the District Deputy Grand Master. Committee appointments should be finalized at the meeting.

It is rumored that the Waco Scottish Rite is seeking an East Texas Lodge to host their fall reunion. I hope that the members of our Lodge will approve to offer our Lodge to the Scottish Rite. We hosted the Spring Reunion this past year, and it was a success. I

would like to bring them back to Pine Tree.

Additionally, this year I intend to continue the effort to secure the Vanguard Award for 2011. This goal was achieved last year, and our Lodge has proven itself. We will achieve it!

The time is upon us to begin planning the James E. "Woody" Woodal Golf Tournament. Past Master Lex Janner has accepted the task of heading up the tournament. It is our biggest and most successful fund raiser, and is beneficial to the community, as it funds our scholarships and other financial commitments.

Also, I hope to find a place of service for the Pine Tree Lodge in the local school districts. A few ideas are:

- Take Time to Read Program
- Adopt a Classroom or School Campus
- Scholarships

I want Pine Tree Masonic Lodge to be a part of the Greggton community, not just a building on the roadside. I hope to improve our visibility in the community.

Kenneth Jackson



**Pine Tree  
Masonic Lodge  
has met the  
requirements  
for the  
Vanguard  
Award for 2011.**



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

One of the actions within the lodge is the opening ceremony, which begins each meeting of Masons. For many it is an oft heard routine, a short memory exercise, a time consuming ritual, and a responsibility of the officers. In some lodges the officers may run through the opening easily, while in other lodges they may struggle to complete their parts. Sometimes the floor work is a study in precision and at other times, a chore.

Members occasionally question the need to go through the ritualistic forms. "Just drop the gavel" and "get on with the meeting" is an easy answer, but this fails to consider other aspects of the opening exercises. As within the Craft, each activity holds deeper lessons and meanings, and the opening rituals are no different.

Certainly the tone of the meeting is set by its opening, for the command and leadership from the east is evident based on the competence and confidence of the Master. Light comes from the East and the sound of the gavel signals His presence. A lodge

## Opening the Lodge

is being opened to "labor" and all present should be aware of that purpose. Likewise, only those eligible to attend are to be there, for this is a meeting of Masons, coming together to work.

As questions and answers move about the lodge room, tokens of respect, gaveling, prayer, and concluding remarks are given, there are lessons in responsibilities, focus, and leadership. There is a reaffirmation in our obligations, our commitments, and our sense of fraternity. Rather than simply hearing the words, one should listen to their meanings as a Mason and give them due attention and effort to understand. Learning is a life long journey and the openings contain much to be learned.

So, with these thoughts in mind, the officers must recognize their responsibilities to display good lessons in their openings. Practice is required to attain that ease and confidence which is due their membership. Leadership is a study in preparation and work, so it is with the opening ceremonies. Each officer of a lodge should review

carefully the eight steps outlined in the "Monitor of the Lodge" to understand how important the openings and closings are to the Craft.

While not mandatory, there is a charge at the opening; which may be given by the Worshipful Master. Its concluding portion is: "Let us ever remember that the great objects of our association are the restraint of improper desires and passions, the cultivation of an active benevolence, and the promotion of a corrective knowledge of the duties we owe to God, our neighbor, and ourselves. Let us be united, and practice with assiduity the sacred tenets of our Order; ever remembering that where brethren are, there should be peace and harmony, and each should wish for the good of the whole".

As we open each lodge meeting and greet each day, we should reflect upon the preceding as a challenge to be better men and better Masons.

## Masters' Wardens' & Secretaries' Association

The MWSA of the 10th Masonic District of Texas will meet at Gladewater Lodge No. 852 in Gladewater on Monday, July 26th. This meeting will be the election and installation of officers.

The by-laws of the association

were amended at the last business meeting to change the meeting dates. The association will meet on the 5th Monday of each month except July.

The association is working to set up as a Not for Profit Or-

ganization, and is accepting donations for Lodges in lieu of dues.

The association meetings are open to all Masons. Come out and support your association and ensure that your Lodge is represented.

## Pine Tree Chapter 1090 Order of the Eastern Star

Greetings. Pine Tree Chapter No. 1090, Order of the Eastern Star welcomed Darla Dunaway, Grand Organist of the Grand Chapter of Texas, Order of the Eastern Star, at our meeting on July 20th. Also in attendance were:

Bill Wyatt, Worthy Grand Patron;

Ann Wyatt, Grand Marshal;

Mary Calvert, Grand Ruth;

Betty Scott, Board of Directors, District One;

And a whole host of others.

Darla presented our annual Patriotic Program, which we all enjoyed. Our next meeting will be August 17th. As always, we will have dinner at 6:30 with the meeting following at 7:30.

The Annual Grand Chapter session, *Love and Friendship Across Texas*, will be August 5th through the 8th in Amarillo. Our own Bill Wyatt, Worthy Grand Patron, will preside over the Grand Chapter Session along with Mrs. Bess Caldwell, our Worthy Grand Matron. We wish everyone safe travels as they

make their way across our great state. Our prayers are with all.

This is such an exciting time; from the Grand Chapter to the local Chapters. New officers assume their respective offices and our Order reflects a new flare.

We have several functions and events planned for this year at Pine Tree, come see what's in store.

Ann Wyatt

Worthy Matron



## The Mason's Hand

Within operative masonry the hand is a tool with which to build. From drawing plans to the actual edifice, the hand is an efficient instrument of construction, molding mortar, brick, stone and other materials into a creation of beauty and service. It brings feeling, strength, and purpose together to the builder's use. Great temples are testaments to the hands of the artist, the builder, and the Freemason.

But to the Speculative Mason there is greater depth of meaning found in the hands. They are tools to reach out and aid Brothers to build their Temples. Time and again, in the darkness, as well as in the Light, a Brother is taken by the hand and given assistance, support, and guidance. The clasped hands are

representative of the fidelity and trust which are essential to the character of a Freemason. "To lend a helping hand" reminds each of support and insuring a "hand to the back" in aiding, not only a fallen Brother, but all Brothers in their journey to a better life.

Of the five human senses, feeling and touch are communicated primarily through the hands, especially in the dark. We grope for familiar objects to find a path and when we find a friendly grip, or the hand of another, whom we know to be true and faithful, we move confident of direction and purpose. Hand in hand, we move forward toward Light.

While we know of the differences ascribed to the left and right hand, both have

equal significance in allowing us to touch one another. The Hand of the Great Architect has always reached out to touch Man, and offer the Path to the Great Temple, not made with hands. His reaching out is an act of Love and Affection taught in each degree.

It is not without significance the clasped hands teach us to reach out toward our Brothers, and our fellow man, not only when asked, but when not asked! This voluntary act of Brotherly Love goes beyond obligation and represents an act of the will toward goodness and happiness in this world. To touch life is to do good, and to do good is to be a true Mason.

**I am very proud to say that I am a member of Pine Tree Lodge, the Best Lodge in East Texas.**

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



[www.PineTree1396.org](http://www.PineTree1396.org)

## Circumspection

In olden times certain watchfulness was recommended to everyone, as strangers were not the norm and could be sources of personal danger. People did not move often and suspicion and distrust were a way of life. The Freemason, as a sojourner, did move from job to job, and was always called upon to prove himself, especially to the Craft. Such was the origin of our signs, tokens, and grips.

But beyond these tests, the expectation of watchfulness is a required duty of the Freemason. Circumspection in its simplest form means “to look around”, and can be applied to two very important aspects of morale and Masonic conduct. Thus, in action, a Freemason is bound to be cautious and considerate of each of his decisions. His behavior reflects upon himself, but also extends to his Lodge and the Craft.

In this respect, the “Old Charges of 1722” and the “Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas” stated “You should be cautious in your words and carriage that the most penetrating stranger shall not be able to discover or find out what is not proper to be intimated; and, sometimes, you shall divert a discourse, and manage it prudently for the honor of the worshipful Fraternity”.

Circumspection with respect to those about you requires attentiveness to everything and to be mindful of all circumstances. If Masonry is to be your way of life, it is necessary to recognize the responsibilities required to be morale and upright. The ancient charges describe behaviors in the Lodge, outside the Lodge, toward strangers and Brothers, at home, and in your neighborhood. The Mason is to act with awareness that his decisions are to extend Brotherly Love and happiness at all times.

Limiting one’s passions and reflecting upon one’s conduct in constructing a personal Spiritual Temple requires circumspection and watchfulness. In these times, strangers to Masonry and strangers in general are a part of daily life. The world has become a small place and filled with many more mobile people. Circumspection reminds the Freemason that “the word once spoken, the act, once done, is done forever”.

Spread the cement of Brotherly Love, and be wise and watchful.

Bob Northcutt