



December 15, 2010

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

Volume 2, Issue 6

Masonic News

- December 25—Christmas
- January 01—New Year's Day
- January 03—Exam Night
- January 07—Stated Meeting
- January 09—Portrait Hanging
- January 17—OES
- January 31—MWSA

Inside this issue:

Charges	2
MWSA	2
OES News	3
Freemasonry & Christmas	3
Grand Lodge Report	4-5
X-mas Party	6
Awards	7
Visit Us	7

There has been a lot of activity since the last newsletter, but NO degree work. As we all know, the stated meeting was a week late due to Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Texas, and we cannot hold business meetings during Grand Lodge meetings. We did have 9 members of Pine Tree Lodge present at the Statewide Communication (their word). I am sure a Grand Lodge Report will be inside this monthly newsletter, but after 3 ballots were taken, our friend, R.: W.: Jerry Martin was elected Grand Junior Warden. Right Worshipful Martin is a local Mason (East Mountain) and has visited our Lodge at least 3 times within the past year. I am so proud of him.

At the December stated meeting, we discussed a comedy night fundraiser to potentially be held early next year. Details will come after the holidays. We also announced the date for the Golf Tournament to be April 2, 2011. Brothers, this is historically our largest moneymaker, so sell holes, advertisement, sponsorships, get a tem together, and let's support the tournament; because the tournament supports us. We hope to offer a fish lunch after the tournament. Also as we all know, we are approaching our 50 year anniversary and a planning com-

From the East

mittee was formed to plan the celebration.

The Lodge and Eastern Star held our annual Christmas Party and Dinner with Mr. & Mrs. Santa Claus passing out gifts to the many children present. Everyone had a great evening.

An item that we need to discuss at our next meeting is our Lodge dues. Our lodge will be required to submit a significant increase in the per capita (their word for dues) to Grand Lodge of Texas. The increase is required for Grand Lodge operations. The annual amount was raised from \$14.25 to \$25.00 per Master Mason, which will result in some sort of income need for our Lodge and as we are not in the "for profit" business, an increase will be required at some point. Remember, this charge is for ALL members, including endowed members, except 50 year Masons. Remember, our fundraisers and raffles are for charity, scholarships, and community needs. We cannot use the proceeds of the fundraisers to pay our per capita. Please plan to attend our next stated meeting to hear the debate, pros and cons, and tell us your thoughts and ideas.

I would also asked that you remember we will be honoring Past Master and Past Grand Patron Bill Wyatt, by hanging his portrait for

permanent display in our building on Sunday, January 9th at 2:00 PM. There will be at least 2 Past Grand Masters and many other friends present, so please try to attend.

Wishing everyone a very MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR!

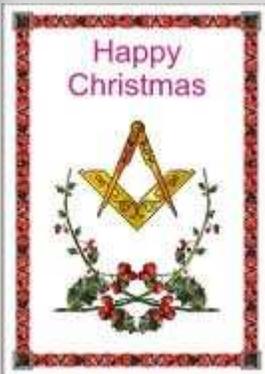
Kenneth Jackson, W.M.

Pine Tree Lodge 1396





**Look for Pine
Tree Masonic
Lodge No. 1396,
A. F. & A. M. on
[FACEBOOK](#)**



The Ancient Charges

Published in 1723 in the "Book of Constitutions", the "Ancient Charges", or "Old Charges", is a set of rules laid down by Dr. James Anderson and a Committee of the Grand Lodge for the conduct of Freemasons. These rules have been adopted by most Grand Lodges and are so important that most lodges are expected to read them, or a version of them, aloud each year. They are found in "The Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas, A. F. & A. M." with the following introduction:

"Extracted from the Ancient Records of Lodges beyond the sea, and of those in England, Scotland, and Ireland, for the use of Lodges in London; to be read at the making of new Brethren, or when the Master shall order it".

The charges are divided into the following six sections:

1. Concerning God and religion
2. Of the civil magis-

trates, supreme and subordinate

3. Of Lodges
4. Of Masters, Wardens, Fellows and Apprentices
5. Of the Management of Tile Craft in working
6. Of behavior

Each charge clearly outlines the expectations for the Freemason within and outside the Lodge.

Arising during one of the most divisive periods of European history, they were a call for good men to act with tolerance, understanding, and mutual respect, namely to act as a Mason. The Lodge was a place for labor, solemnity, and where good men could interact as equals. Merit and Brotherly Love were expected, along with peace and harmony. These were, and continue to be, laudable goals.

Perhaps the most challeng-

ing of these charges is the last, namely "Behavior". It, too, is divided into six parts, dealing with the Freemason's conduct in and outside the Lodge, with Brethren, at home and in his neighborhood, and with strangers. In all cases, circumspection, tolerance, and respect are expected, but a key element, Brotherly Love, is emphasized. Respecting the character and reputation of a Brother, extending him kindness and support at all times, avoiding slander, and applying the Golden Rule are at the heart of these Charges.

Each Mason should read and reflect upon these charges, his obligations, and the charges in each Degree. He must remember his virtue, honor, and reputation depend upon his character and the choices he makes. Masonic symbols are reminders of duties he assumed and the requirements in order to build a Spiritual Temple and achieve happiness. May we all live as Masons true to these Charges.

Masters' Wardens' & Secretaries' Association

The Masters', Wardens', & Secretaries' Association of the 10th Masonic District of Texas held its regularly scheduled business meeting on November 29th. We want to thank Marshall Lodge No. 22 for hosting the meeting.

The next meeting will be on Monday, January 31, 2011, hosted by Big Sandy Lodge No. 916 in Big Sandy Texas. We will have a covered dish dinner at 6:30 with an open meeting to follow. We look forward to introducing the newly appointed District Offi-

cers and begin planning for the Grand Master's Conference to be held in Longview on April 9, 2011.

The by-laws of the association were approved at the Grand Lodge Session this month.

Pine Tree Chapter 1090 Order of the Eastern Star

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from Pine Tree Chapter No. 1090, Order of the Eastern Star! Wishing everyone a safe, fun and warm holiday season. Our annual joint Christmas dinner/party with the members of Pine Tree Lodge was very successful. We had over 50 in attendance that enjoyed a fabulous meal, Christmas cheer, and of course—SANTA! Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves, especially the children. If you weren't there, you really missed a special time with our brothers and sisters.

We now look forward to a new year, while taking the time to reflect upon the precious years and to make those

New Year's Resolutions. There is no better time to make those changes in your life that you wish you had already done.

Our school of instruction was held on December 17-18 in Beckville. This was an excellent opportunity for new members to learn the work of our Order, and for current members to "brush up." Friday night was fun night, and our members had the opportunity to compete in the ritual competition. Saturday, our District Deputy Grand Matron will taught the work of our Order.

The banquet and Fraternal Visit was held Saturday night. The Worthy Grand Matron,

Worthy Grand Patron, Past Grand Matron, Past Grand Patron, and a host of installed Grand Officers were present.

Please mark your calendars for January 9, 2011, at 2:00 pm when we will have the "Official Portrait Hanging" or Brother Bill Wyatt, Past Grand Patron. I know Brother Bill would love to see everyone there. It will be a FUN afternoon with light refreshments following the ceremony.

If anyone reading this is interested in joining our Order, please see any one of our members.

May God bless each of you,
Ann Wyatt, Worthy Matron



Freemasonry and Christmas

What does Christmas mean to Freemasons? Freemasonry is not a religion, Christian or otherwise. It leaves the determination on spiritual matters to each individual Mason, so long as he believes in the Almighty Creator. But there are certain messages from the story of Christmas that are applicable to all Masons, not just those who celebrate a certain birth on December 25.

Many Christians feel God gave his greatest gift to mankind, and that Gift's birth is marked on Christmas Day. And the spirit of giving is also outlined in our Masonic ceremonies. The new Entered Apprentice is reminded in the northeast corner of charity, and to practice it whenever possible. There's the monetary charity of that portion of

our ceremony. And there's another kind. The one referred to in the Charge in the same degree which admonishes "to relieve his necessities, soothe his afflictions, and do to him as you would that he, under similar circumstances, should do until you." In other words, the Golden Rule, from the Sermon on the Mount.

Christmas is a time of faith for our Christian brethren. But all Masons are reminded in the different degrees of the principle of faith. In the explanation of the First Degree Tracing Board, we hear "How ready and willing ought we to be to adore the Almighty Creator." Therefore, let this time of year serve as a reminder to all Masons to practice their faith, whatever it may be.

Faith and Charity are names of principal staves or rounds on the Ladder you see every meeting on that Tracing Board. But there is another round, and that is Hope in Salvation. While Salvation has a particular connotation to those who believe in the story of the virgin birth, the concept of some kind of reward for following Masonic principles during or lives winds its way through the various degrees, as those of you familiar with the working tools explanations of the Second and Third Degrees well know.

So let this season of the year remind all Masons, no matter what their religious beliefs, to follow those universal tenets of the Craft – faith, hope, and charity. Doing so should bring satisfaction to you at Christmas-time.



Grand Lodge Resolutions

1. Amend Article 433 to require candidates to learn only the answers to questions in the first section of the EA and FC degrees, except by request the GM by dispensation may waive any part of the learning requirement of the EA. (Louis Libel) **REJECTED**
2. Amends Article 129 and 505 to require the Committee on Work to prepare separate and distinct cipher books for each of the primary Masonic Degrees and be published and sold by the Grand Lodge of Texas. In addition, it places restrictions on candidates using the cipher book. (Adolph McKnight). **NOT CONSIDERED**
3. Amends Article 318a and 353 for Lodges to not per capita payments to the Grand Lodge for any member with an endowed membership. (Ray O. Robinson). **TABLED**
4. Repeals Article 405a to permit names of petitioners, candidates, etc., be published. (Travis M. Major). **WITHDRAWN**
5. Amends Article 225a to recognize the Major John B. Jones Masonic Rangering Company of the Former Texas Rangers Foundation as an organization to which Texas Masons may belong and participate in as members. (F. Richard "Dick" Brown). **ADOPTED**
6. Amends Article 505.17 to add "canvass publicly for or against the reinstatement of a suspended or expelled Mason, or the admission of an unaffiliated Mason. (Fletcher L. Gray). **ADOPTED**
7. Amend Article 276 to delete the word Warden and replace it with "Junior and Senior Warden" of a Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction to be considered eligible to be elected Worshipful Master. (Garlon E. Evans). **REJECTED**
8. Amend Article 318a to add the provision that in any year that Grand Lodge fails to pay on the endowment, Lodges shall be exempt from paying Grand Lodge per capita on all endowed members. (James A. Acton). **WITHDRAWN**
9. Amend Articles 292, 302, 331, 332, 436, and 437 to use the term "Degree" in lieu of "Lodge." (Daniel B. Owczarzak). **WITHDRAWN**
10. Amend Article 397. Removes all extra wording in the Article except the first few lines, "A firm belief in the existence of God, the immortality of the soul, and the divine authenticity of the Holy Scriptures is indispensably necessary before a candid can be initiated." Eliminates wording regarding books of chosen faith. (Thornton Lodge No. 486). **WITHDRAWN**
11. Amend Article 505 to add item 37 "Make any negative reference or take any negative action in regard to a petitioner's or member's faith, creed or race at any time. (William A. "Bill" Lins). **ADOPTED**
12. Amends Article 278 to further define tradition of no person other than the Master shall preside "covered." (T. Neal Porter Lodge No. 1354). **ADOPTED**

Grand Lodge Resolutions (*continued from page 4*)

13. Amends Article 14c and 111 to clarify the rules for selecting Golden Trowel Award recipient. (Charles S. Robinson). **REJECTED**
14. Amend Forms 26 and 44 to delete the requirement for a petitioner to provide his full social security number. (Cale Clark Stephenson, III). **ADOPTED**
15. Amend Article 318a to repeal the Endowed Memberships and return the funds to the Lodges. (Frank M. Gentsch, Jr.). **NOT CONSIDERED**
16. Amend Article 353 to restrict plural members from paying Grand Lodge per capita but that all taxes, dues or contributions shall only be paid by the Lodge where the Mason is a regular member. (Harvey S. Dorman). **REJECTED**
17. Amend Articles 397 and 398 and Form 26 to delete the divine authenticity of the Holy Scriptures. (James W. "Sonny" Marchbanks). **WITHDRAWN**
18. Amend Article 6a to add information other than Grand Lodge of Texas service or activities in the Statement of Availability. (W. Vernon Burke, Jr.). **ADOPTED AS AMENDED**
19. Amend 318a to permit a member holding an Endowed Membership to add to the value of his endowment in increments of \$100 or multiples thereof. (W. Vernon Burke, Jr.). **REJECTED**
20. Amend the Monitor to add the word "Amen" in various places of the Ceremony for Leveling a Cornerstone. (W. Vernon Burke, Jr.). **ADOPTED**
21. Amend Article VII of the Constitution in regards to the Manner of Voting in the Grand Lodge. (William A. "Bill" Lins). **WITHDRAWN**
22. Amend Article VII of the Constitution in regards to the Manner of Voting in the Grand Lodge. (William Harold Collum, Jr.). **NOT CONSIDERED**
23. Amend Article 20c regarding the appointment of the Audit Committee of the Grand Lodge Trustees and required the Audit Committee report on the last day of the Annual Communication. (Fred R. Smith). **WITHDRAWN**

Election

Grand Junior Warden:
Jerry L. Martin

Lodge/ OES Christmas Party



Pine Tree Masonic Lodge, #1396

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Secretary: Chuck Rue, PM
903-663-0775

Web Master: Brett Beggs
903-238-3222

Trestle Board Editor: Jim Rumsey, PM
903-746-5849

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



www.PineTree1396.org

Pine Tree Lodge Recognized at 175th Annual Grand Communication

