



# Masonic Trestle Board

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

December 21, 2011

Volume 3, Issue 6

### Masonic News

- 12/25– Christmas
- 12/27– St. John’s Day
- 12/28– Raffle Drawing
- 01/02– Exam
- 01/05– Stated Meeting (DDGM Visit)
- 01/07– Conference
- 01/14– Golden Trowel
- 01/30– MWSA

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Merry Christmas from the East! Our wonderful holiday season has arrived. May the joy of peace and happiness be with you all. The last of those turkey sandwiches should be gone by now and everyone should be making room for those Christmas hams. And who doesn’t get excited by the patter of little feet rushing down the hallways in anticipation of what they will find under the tree. After the gifts have been opened and the dinners prepared, let us not forget to give thanks to God for that precious gift he gave us so many ago in the small stable in Bethlehem.

The end of November marked the beginning of a new journey for one of our young Entered Apprentices. We successfully passed him the degree of Fellowcraft and expect to confer a Master’s Degree in January.

December 1st was the beginning of the annual Grand Lodge Communication. I found it to be quite an experience. Many resolutions were presented, some adopted, some amended, and some rejected. The annual event brought fellowship among the brothers from across our great state. The unity and camaraderie were simply awesome. District 10 welcomed three

### From the East

new officers; Rex Parkison was appointed District Instructor of District 10-A; Doug Cochran was appointed District Deputy of District 10-B; and our very own Secretary, Brother - or should I say Right Worshipful - Jim Rumsey was appointed District Deputy Grand Master of Masonic District 10-A. Congratulations on your appointment!

At our December stated meeting we discussed a few items of concern. First, we are winding down on the Lodge raffle. We will be drawing for the shotgun on Wednesday, December 28, 2011. Have all your raffle tickets and monies turned in to either the secretary, one of the wardens, or myself before 6:00 pm. We have done well, but continue to sell all of the tickets you have!

Secondly, Pine Tree Lodge will host Most Worshipful Jim Brumit, Grand Master of Masons in Texas on January 07, 2011, at the first Grand Master’s Conference of 2012. The conference will be held at Pine Tree Junior High School (same place it has been for the past several years). Registration will open at 9:00 AM and the conference will begin at 10:00. Brother and Past Mas-

ter Robert Fletcher will be recruiting for kitchen help, as lunch will be provided after the conference concludes at approximately noon.

We will be honoring Rusty Roberts with the Golden Trowel Award on January 14, 2012. Brother Roberts is a Past Master and Charter Junior Warden of Pine Tree Lodge. Dinner will be served at 6:30 and the presentation will follow at 7:30. Please bring your friends and families out the Lodge and help us honor Brother Rusty.

I wish to express our deepest sympathy to the family of Brother George Liedel. Brother Liedel was summoned into the presence of the Great Architect of the Universe late last month.

I hope that everyone enjoys a safe holiday season and a Merry Christmas.

Fraternally,

Dan Flanagan, Worshipful Master





Fortitude is a quality of courage that is best understood by contemplating those who have displayed heroic fortitude. President George Washington and the signers of the Declaration of Independence showed their willingness to risk their property and their lives for freedom. General Washington's whole demeanor is a study in fortitude.

Throughout the long days at Valley Forge, Washington demonstrated a Masonic virtue that time and patients will accomplish all things. His persistence, single-mindedness, and bravery embodied heroic fortitude. Great leaders are true to their ideals. They persist even in trouble and show their courage when most needed. Our



## Fortitude

First President is a model for fortitude in action.

The EA degree introduces candidates to seven moral principles, which we group into three tenets and Four Cardinal Virtues. The tenets are brotherly love, relief and truth. These tenets are the key to any organization, but especially to our fraternity. Relief is practiced through our Masonic charities as an expression of brotherly love. If we are to become better men, we seek truth and enlightenment. These tenets are supplemented with Four Cardinal Virtues, of temperance, fortitude, prudence and justice.

Fortitude is clearly an important virtue, but we may well ask this moral principle was included in the Four Cardinal Virtues and not others? There are many valuable moral prin-

ciples in life. Some biblical virtues include compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, patience, righteousness, and long-suffering.

Biblical virtues are often viewed as gifts or fruits given to us. Fortitude is not listed as a gift of spirit; indeed fortitude does not appear in the Bible at all. On deeper introspection, it appears that some virtues are learnable and capable of being improved. As we seek to become better men, fortitude is a manly virtue that we should work to inculcate. It is not given as an inherent quality, but one that lifetime of practice can perfect.

The organ most associated with fortitude is the

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## Masters, Wardens, & Secretaries Association

The next meeting of the Masters, Wardens, and Secretaries Association of the 10th Masonic District of Texas will be held on Monday, January 30, 2012.

The meeting will be hosted by Bethesda Lodge No. 142 in Gilmer. This will be the first meeting of the MWSA hosted by Bethesda Lodge.

Masonic District No. 10 will host the first Grand Master's Conference in 2012. The conference will be at the Pine Tree Junior High School (same location as the past several years) on Saturday, January 07, 2012, beginning at 10:00 AM.

If anyone has any ideas for a program to be presented at the

MWSA, please contact one officers of your Lodge. We will also be looking for a Lodge to host the April Meeting.

The MWSA meetings are open to all Masons and families. Come out and support your District and your Lodge.



## Pine Tree Chapter 1090 Order of the Eastern Star

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

May each of you enjoy a wonderful holiday season filled with joy and happiness. Many thanks to those who joined us as we celebrated the season at our annual Christmas party with the Pine Tree Masonic Lodge on Saturday, December 17. We enjoyed a wonderful dinner that was followed by a very special visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus.

Our stated meeting was held on December 20, with Sister Rena Pittman giving the Christmas program. We were also awarded the skunk.

Many of our members have been busy visiting other chapters for their deputy visits. The chapter who has the most visitors signs the traveling plaque and the chapter who has signed the plaque the greatest number of times during the year gets to take the plaque home. This year our traveling plaque is a rocking horse, named Rocky. Rocky also has a companion named Sachet, a cute little skunk. To find Sachet a new home, at least three members, including one officer, must take her to another chapter. At the last deputy visit in Jefferson, Pine Tree had the most visitors present and got to bring Rocky home to Pine Tree for a visit; and, Sachet went home with the

Marshall chapter.

As a new year begins, please consider taking an active role in Eastern Star. We have many members that we would enjoy seeing at our meetings. If you are not a member and are interested in our Order, please ask a member for more information.

May you have the gift of faith, the blessing of hope and the peace of His love at Christmas and throughout the New Year.

Debra Albertson, Worthy Matron  
Weldon Pittman, Jr., Worthy Patron



## Grand Master's Conference

Pine Tree Lodge will host Most Worshipful James F. Brumit, Grand Master of Masons in Texas, at the first Grand Master's Conference of 2012. The conference will be at Pine Tree Junior High School on Saturday, January 07, 2012, and will be open to all Master Masons, Fellow-

crafts, and Entered Apprentices. Registration will begin at 9:00 AM and the conference will begin at 10:00. The conference will conclude at approximately noon with lunch provided.

## Fortitude *continued*

heart. We realize that courage or fortitude must reside in the brain. Nevertheless, the heart is viewed classically as the seat of courage, determination, and fortitude. The heart beats faster when adrenaline races through the blood system. Our faces flush in the danger-flight response. But with those with fortitude do not flinch. They persevere in the face of danger.

To a lesser extent, the mind is also associated with fortitude. The mind can be fickle; it wanders, prevaricates, or rationalizes lies and cowardice. A man with fortitude masters his fickle mind. He stands for truth and does not suffer his own cowardice lightly. He enters his future bravely, what ever the future holds.

A door is functional as well as symbolic. We open doors to gain entrance to dwellings or symbolically to our future. We close doors to keep some things safe or private. An EA candidate must decide by his own free will to enter the Lodge through a door. After entering, fortitude is associated with the first point of our entrance. Fortitude teaches Masons to have the strength of heart and mind to persevere in all noble endeavors.

**Hon. Russell Roberts, Past Master and Charter Junior Warden of Pine Tree Lodge will receive the Golden Trowel Award on January 14, 2012.**

# Pine Tree Masonic Lodge, #1396

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



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



## Masonic Anniversary Dates

Each month we will publish the Masonic Anniversary dates of the members of Pine Tree Lodge. These dates reflect the anniversaries that members were either raised in, or affiliated with Pine Tree Lodge.

### *December Anniversaries:*

4th - G. D. King; 1997

5th - W. C. Barnard; 1983

6th - N. W. Fears; 1973

9th - K. M. Willis; 2004

9th - J. T. Parker; 1999

9th - T. D. Roling; 1974

10th - D. R. Blank; 1973

12th - S. J. Crow; 1968

13th - D. C. Townsend; 1962

14th - R. E. Riggins; 1964

15th - R. L. Childs; 1977

18th - R. H. Cummins; 1969

20th - R. D. Culland; 1973

28th - A. L. Tehan; 1967

Brethren,

Dues notices were sent out last month. The annual dues are \$75. As of publication of this newsletter, only 56% have returned payment. Endowed memberships are \$500. If you plan on living another 7 years, the purchase of an Endowed Membership will benefit both you and the Lodge.