



December 17, 2009

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

Volume 1, Issue 6

Masonic News:

- December 19th, Lodge/ OES Christmas Party: 6:30
- December 19th, Shotgun Raffle
- December 30th, Longview Fire Department Entered Apprentice Degree: 7:30
- January 4th, Exam Night
- January 7th, Stated Meeting

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Chuck Rue Receives Golden Trowel

Members of Pine Tree Lodge surprised the Lodge Secretary with the presentation of the Golden Trowel Thursday night.

Chuck Rue, Past Master, Lodge Secretary, and District Instructor was honored with the Golden Trowel Award. Chuck was surprised when the Master abruptly called the meeting from labor to refreshment when, after answering an alarm at the door, the Junior Deacon reported, "Worshipful Master, our guests have arrived." The Master then called the meeting to refreshment and instructed the Senior Deacon and Secretary to receive the guests. Imagine Chuck's emotions when he opened the

door and discovered that the Master's guests were his wife, son, daughter, daughter-in-law, and grandchildren. Chuck and his family were escorted to the alter and the Master presented him with the Golden Trowel.

The covert operation had been ongoing for approximately two months. The Golden Trowel Committee had made it known to the Master that they had chosen Chuck for the award. By coincidence, Chuck missed the November stated meeting and the matter was brought before the Lodge and voted upon. The Worshipful Master challenged everyone in attendance by saying, "Masons have a reputation

for being able to keep secrets. Let's consider this a Masonic Secret."

The secret was kept. Chuck was sincerely surprised and appreciative.

The Master commented during the presentation, "Chuck, It is an honor for me to have the opportunity to present this award to you. It is long overdue and most deserving."

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From the East

Wow, December is here and with it comes the holidays, the end of the year, and of course the Grand Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Texas.

The Grand Lodge activities were less attended this year than in the years past; but nonetheless, the Lodge was represented. Of the 20 proposed resolutions; some

passed, some failed, some amended, and some rescinded. Of those that made it to a vote, all went the way of the Lodge except one.

Lodges will now be able to certify a Worshipful Master in the ritualistic opening rather than a member of the Committee on Work or a District Instructor. I intend to ask the Lodge to waive it authority and require the

Master to be certified by the District Instructor.

Other than that, December will be a slow month.

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



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

Darkness to the Mason

Perhaps one of the most familiar phrases is “And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep”. This phrase points to there being darkness before there was Light and carries deep meaning within the Craft. In most cultures and peoples, darkness is associated with death and the cold of winter, whereas light is associated with life and the warmth of spring and summer. Depending upon the times, each of these states was feared or

revered.

But the Freemason has attached a deeper and more instructive meaning to these stages. Darkness is defined as the absence of light, and as such, represents ignorance, while Light represents knowledge and truth. In darkness, one wanders helpless and at the mercy of all about him, but with light, the eye can see clearly the path with its good and evil. There is no question that in darkness, the eye is blind and the other senses

must perceive so that the mind may conceive. Thus it is that the hoodwink is used to cause each of us to recall the state of darkness which existed before our seeing the Light. It is not an idle charge that the mind and heart should behold first, before the eye. Recognizing our ignorance and deprivation of understanding are important lessons in our journey toward Truth and knowledge.

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From the East (continued from page 1)

The Longview Fire Department’s Masonic Degree Team will confer an Entered Apprentice Degree at the Lodge on Wednesday, December 30th at 7:30. Traditionally, Wednesdays are not Lodge nights, but with the Holidays and the Firemen’s work schedules, this was the only date that worked.

The annual Lodge/ OES

Christmas Party will be held on Saturday, December 19th at 6:30. All families are invited to attend.

Congratulations to Chuck Rue upon being awarded the Golden Trowel Award. See page 1 for details.

The new year will bring fresh activities to the Lodge. We will honor our Masonic Wid-

ows, present 25 year service awards, present scholarships and Lamar Medals, celebrate George Washington’s birthday, present a Community Builder Award and much more.

May each of you and your families have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Jim Rumsey

Masters’ Wardens’ & Secretaries’ Association

On Monday, November 30th, representatives from several lodges in Districts 10-A and B met at Pine Tree Lodge to discuss the formation of a Masters, Wardens, & Secretaries Association. The result of the meeting was the formation of the Masters, Wardens, & Secretaries Association of the 10th Masonic District of Texas.

Those representatives approved a code of by-laws and elected officers whom will serve until the end of the Masonic Year. The elected officers are”

- President—Jim Rumsey (Pine Tree Lodge)
- Vice President—Chad Murphy (Gladewater Lodge)

- Secretary—Treasurer—Chad LaGrone (James F. Taylor Lodge)

The association will meet on the 4th Monday of every other month beginning in January 2010. Meetings are open to all. The next meeting will be at Gladewater Lodge on January 25th; covered dish dinner at 6:30 and the meeting will follow at 7:30.

Pine Tree Chapter 1090 Order of the Eastern Star

Hello everyone! I hope you are all ready for Christmas! The Worthy Patron and myself along with the officer of Pine Tree Chapter extend to one and all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Since our last newsletter, we have had our OES School of Instruction. We had a good number of members attending the school and the fraternal visit. Section 8, home section of the Worthy Grand Patron did a wonderful job and we hope made him proud of us all. We are very proud of him. The Grand Examiner at the school gave out just over 40

“A” proficiency certificates with 8 of them going to Pine Tree members. I was honored to preside at the school as Worthy Matron; Kenneth, our WP served as the Warder for the school and Chaplain for the Fraternal Visit. Nancy Abernathy WOWED everyone at the school with her beautiful music. Mary Sue Rogers co-hosted the school lunch along with Kay Faulk who was ill and not able to attend. Thanks to everyone who helped or just attended. The WGP tells me he was very proud of his Chapter.

We are all looking forward to our joint Christmas party on

12/19 and hope to see you all there. Mr. & Mrs. Santa will be there for the children. We had been told this would be their last time but they have agreed to do it for one more year after this one. Be sure to show your appreciate to Mr. & Mrs. Claus aka WC and Jo Ann Fields.

We read another petition at our November meeting and voted to initiate the petitioner sometime in January.

That is all for now – but wanted to again wish everyone MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Linda & Kenneth Jackson



Definition of a Freemason, 1823

In the Farmer's Almanac of 1823 the following was printed under the heading, "Definition of a Freemason".

The real Freemason is distinguished from the 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 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 offense, because he does not choose to be offended.

He contracts no debts which he is certain he cannot discharge, because he is honest.

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

Golden Trowel *continued from page 1*

The Master then presented Chuck with the Golden Trowel and a certificate from the Grand Lodge of Texas. Chuck's wife, Nancy, pinned her husband with the Golden Trowel lapel pin. Brother Grover Bryson presented Chuck with a hand-tooled leather rendition of the Golden Trowel.

Chuck's family was recognized and Chuck's toddler grandson provided the entertainment while Chuck offered a few words of appreciation. Congratulations were offered by several members of the Lodge. The Master told the back story of acquiring the award without the secretary, and Nancy told about how Chuck caught them getting

ready to go to the Lodge tonight, but they quickly concealed their intentions.

The Golden Trowel is the highest honor in which a Lodge can bestow upon a member. It is reserved for those who are truly deserving. Chuck Rue is one of these brothers.



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



PINE TREE LODGE No. 1396, Longview, TX

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Darkness to the Mason (Continued from page 2)

But it is important to remember that just as day and night alternate, so do the choices which we encounter in our lives. To gain knowledge requires continual attention and effort. "The face of the deep" is exactly that, deep! The lessons contained in the Holy Works represent a compilation of the Works of the Great Architect through the ages and while it lies open in our Lodge room; its contents radiate the Light to guide our lives. To overcome the Darkness of the North requires careful thought and reflection.

Like the lessons of the Ritual, the lectures, and memory work, the Light of Freemasonry through its symbols, Brotherly Love, and Spiritual values places a higher standard upon its members. To move from the World of Darkness to the World of Light is a lifetime goal and a true spiritual journey requiring a trust in God, faith in a hereafter, and a commitment to morale conduct and Brotherly Love.

The next time we witness a new candidate being initiated, regardless of level, we should close our eyes and recall the Darkness which surrounded us as we began our journey and reflect upon our state of progress and how much we owe to the Great Architect and those about us.

And when we open our eyes, having listened carefully to the lessons being given, and look to the East, may we renew and increase our efforts to construct our Temple, serve our Brothers, and discover more Light.

