



Masonic Trestle Board

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

May 20 2011

Volume 2, Issue 11

Masonic News

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- 6/02—Stated Meeting
- 6/04—Scholarship & Lamar Medal Presentations
- 6/10—Community Builder Award Presentation
- 6/11—Golden Trowel Presentation
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- 6/24 St. John's Day

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Well, the May stated meeting occurred at a late date, therefore this newsletter is already overdue and I am just getting started.

I really enjoyed the May business meeting due to the brothers that were in attendance. We had a good crowd with several visitors from area lodges and some of our own members that we have not seen lately. Everyone was especially proud to see our Army Chaplain member in attendance. Brother Tony will address the Lodge at our June stated meeting. It was also really good to see Brother Russell Bush at the meeting.

On a really sad note, Brother "Step" Bright recently passed away and his memorial service was an impressive gathering of family, friends, and brothers. I think that everyone working the "Masonic Service" was a member of our lodge and in the Shrine "Fire Brigade" with Brother Step. Some of the newer members may not be able to place Step, because after he moved to the lake some years ago, he soon became ill and unable to attend lodge frequently.

On Saturday night, May 14th, we held our service

awards and had several members recognized for 25 years and 40 years of service. On the same night, the Pine Tree O.E.S. recognized the 25-year service awards. As you know, the 50 year and above awards are Grand Lodge of Texas awards and earlier this Masonic year, we honored two Masons for 50 years of service.

The Scholarship Awards Program to honor graduating seniors will be held on Saturday night, June 4th. This will be held in conjunction with the Pine Tree O.E.S. scholarship awards and will consist of a covered dish meal at 6:30 followed by the awards at 7:30 PM. Please plan to attend and help us honor these young people.

On June 10th, 2011, we will honor the "Community Builder Award" recipient. This will include a Lodge sponsored meal at 6:30 PM with the program at 7:30 PM. The recipient this year is a long time Pine Tree ISD teacher. Please join us in honoring this deserving person.

We plan to honor Brother Weldon Earl Pittman Sr., as the recipient of the 2011 Golden Trowel Award on June 11th. This will also

be a Lodge sponsored meal at 6:30 PM and the presentation at 7:30 PM.

I want to remind everyone that the annual election of officers for the Lodge will be held at the June Stated Meeting. As you all know, Pine Tree Lodge elects all officers except for the Chaplain and Musician, which are appointed by the Worshipful Master.

I feel that country musicians tell better stories than some of our other musical formats. There is a country singer songwriter who lives in Athens, TX named Tony Douglas. This man has been singing for over 50 years. He recently released a song he has written that is truly indicative of our hard financial times. He tells the story of all the things he is no longer able to pay for called "One More Repossession and I'll Be Completely Out of Debt".

Kenneth Jackson,
Worshipful Master





One's Back

Within the many lessons of Masonry are found references to one's back or behind one's back. They range from lending a helping hand to attacking one's character and each charge carries serious responsibilities that a Mason must understand and apply in order to fulfill his obligations, especially to his Brothers.

Each person will face times when challenges are great and there appears little hope. Faced with such challenges, one may give up totally, throw themselves upon mercy of others, appeal to the Great Architect, or simply hope for best. The Freemason is blessed with realization that his appeal to the Great Architect has been answered through the knowledge that his Brothers stand ready to aid him at all times. There is a hand ready to touch his back and give him both aid and comfort, regardless of circumstance. Both he and his

family have become a part of fraternal support and assistance.

While there are many more agencies for assistance in these times, the Fraternity practices charity, and the adage that "charity begins at home" applies particularly to the Craft. Brotherly love and affection should result in understanding and willingness to assist our Brothers in need. But this does mean just financial need, for frequently good counsel, a friendly hand, and a trusting ear are more important to a needy Brother. Sickness and distress are not idle words to those in need.

Another aspect of one's back can be seen in the expression "behind one's back", for one can not see there and is most vulnerable. So often words spoken behind one's back are not seen as being un-supportive of a Brother's character, but they are. Just as the hand

to the back lifts the Brother up, the words behind lower him. What is worse, these words lower the speaker's character and honor. That is why Masons so value integrity and the aspiration to improve one's self.

In an age where people exploit weaknesses and seldom offer praise for doing the right thing and choosing good, the Mason of character, honesty, and charity stands out from those about him. Each act of generosity, assistance to a Brother, willingness to give of time and energy, and do what is good is what the Fraternity is about. When a Brother leaves the Lodge, he should do so with a sense of pride in his Lodge, his Brothers, and the history of the Craft. He should leave with a commitment to add to that history and be a better man and Mason.

Masters, Wardens, & Secretaries Association

The Masters', Wardens', and Secretaries' Association of the 10th Masonic District of Texas will NOT have a May business meeting. The By-Laws of the association state that the regular business meetings are to be held on the 5th Monday of each month having 5 Mondays. This year, the 5th Monday of May falls on Memorial Day. It was agreed upon at our last business meeting and declared by

the President that we will not meet on the Memorial Day Holiday.

The next meeting will be a called meeting and will be held on Monday, July 25, 2011. The meeting will be hosted by James F. Taylor Lodge No. 169 in Hallsville. This meeting is being called to conduct the regular business of the association as well as the election and installation

of officers for the 2011-2012 Masonic year. Be thinking about officer nominations. We are in need of a Secretary/Treasurer. If you are interested in serving the association as an officer, please contact our association vice president, Chad LaGrone. Brother LaGrone is currently the Worshipful Master at James F. Taylor Lodge.

Pine Tree Chapter 1090 Order of the Eastern Star



Happy May everyone! For our chapter, May was and is still a busy month. We were saddened to lose one of our members, Brother Step Bright. His memorial was held May 10th at the Lodge. We extend our deepest sympathy to Sue and the family.

On May 14th we awarded 25 year certificates and pins to 4 of our members. Sisters Sue Belflower and Beverly Easley and Brothers Dennis Easley and John Abernathy. A covered dish dinner was enjoyed by all and everyone had a fun

time. We congratulate each of these members.

On June 4th we will award 2 scholarships to a high school student that will be furthering their education. This will be a joint covered dish dinner with Pine Tree Masonic Lodge awarding their scholarships also. This will take place at the Lodge at 6:30pm. We look forward to recognizing these students.

Our chapters in District One, Section 8 are gearing up for their installations. Our first is on June

2, which will be Waskom Chapter and they will conclude on June 20th. We congratulate all the incoming officers and pledge our support to all your endeavors.

Everyone have a happy and safe Memorial Day holiday. Remember our soldiers at home and abroad and their families.

Ann Wyatt, Worthy Matron

&

Bill Wyatt, Worthy Patron

Miscellaneous Thoughts and Statements from the Editor

1. The Masonic Year is drawing to a close. Worshipful Master, while looking forward to being Past Master Jackson, still has a full agenda so that the Lodge will be eligible for the Vanguard Award again this year. In the coming weeks the Lodge will

- Present scholarship and Lamar Medals
- Present a Community Builder Award
- Present and Honor Brother Pittman with the Golden Trowel Award

2. I want to remind everyone that Brother Brett Beggs, our Junior Dea-

con, is taking orders for Lodge Rings. The rings are stainless steel with the Pine Tree Lodge logo. The cost per ring is only \$89.00. We need 10 brothers to fill the minimum order. If you are interested, please see Brother Beggs.

3. Our Lodge will host the Grand Secretary's Forum and School of Instruction on May 21st. The forum and school is open to all Master Masons. It is recommended that Worshipful Masters and Wardens attend as well as the Secretary.

4. We need to extend a warm welcome to our

newest Master Mason. Brother Stephen Christopher Hardaway was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason on Thursday, May 12th. Brother Hardaway is the only Master Mason that Pine Tree has raised this year.

5. Remember the night that you were initiated into the Lodge? It was a special night. We need to remember that feeling and make better efforts to attend degrees and Lodge activities. We will be honoring non-Masons in the coming weeks. It is vital that we make the proper impressions.

Annual Election of Officers will be at the June Stated Meeting.

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



www.PineTree1396.org



Election of Officers

Grand Lodge Law requires constituent lodges to elect officers at the June stated meeting. In accordance with this regulation, Pine Tree Lodge will hold the annual election of officers at the stated meeting to be held at the Pine Tree Lodge Hall on June 02, 2011.

Pine Tree Lodge will open the floor for the nomination of all Masonic offices except the Chaplain, which is appointed by the Worshipful Master. The by-laws of the Lodge allow for the appointment of a Musician at the discretion of the Worshipful Master.

The 2011 Officers are displayed adjacent to this column. If tradition holds true and Dan Flanagan is elected as Worshipful Master, the Installation of Officers will be on July 9th at the Lodge. More details will be published in next months newsletter.

If you are interested in serving your Lodge as an officer next year, be sure to speak with the Worshipful Master and Senior Warden prior to the meeting.

- Worshipful Master - Kenneth Jackson
- Senior Warden - Daniel Flanagan
- Junior Warden - Patrick Bryan
- Treasurer - Phillip P. Smith
- Secretary - Chuck Rue
- Chaplain - Bill Wyatt
- Senior Deacon - Jason Turner
- Junior Deacon - Brett Beggs
- Senior Steward - Charles Looney
- Junior Steward - Weldon Pittman Jr.
- Marshal - Casey Holder
- Master of Ceremonies - Dell Bledsoe
- Musician - Vacant
- Tiler - Larry Willis