



Masonic Trestle Board

September 23, 2010

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

Volume 2, Issue 3

Masonic News

- 9/30: EA Degree - 7:00 PM
- 10/4: Exam Night - 7:30
- 10/7: Stated Meeting - 7:30
- 10/19: OES - 7:30
- 10/30: Scottish Rite Reunion - 8:00 AM

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On Friday, September 3rd, Pine Tree Lodge hosted Right Worshipful Jimmy Henley, Grand Lodge Committee on Work, who presented a Grand Lodge Forum. A light meal was enjoyed by all and the study session followed. The following morning, the meeting resumed at Danville Lodge in Kilgore for the certificate examinations. Several of our members were in attendance and renewed their esoteric certificates. These certificates are proudly displayed on the wall in the Lodge.

Several of our members attended the annual Outdoor Degree and breakfast at the Josephine Davidson Memorial hosted by Ashland Lodge No. 1138 on Saturday, September 11th. The work was performed by the Northeast Texas Degree Team, with what was reported to be a few mistakes thrown in "just to see if the audience would catch them." Everyone enjoyed the meal, the work, and seeing old friends again. If you have not seen this work in a while, or have never attended this degree, put it on your calendar to attend. It is worth the time and the Chapel grounds are quite scenic in the autumn.

On Friday, September 17th, Pine Tree Lodge honored two fifty-year members for their service to the Craft. Brother Henry P. Bishop and his family, Brother Billy R Goodman and his family, along with our members and guests were

treated to a fine meal and fellowship prior to the ceremony. The Masonic record of each recipient was read by Right Worshipful David Sims, District Deputy Grand Master of Masonic District 21-B; and the honorees were presented with a framed Grand Lodge certificate and a lapel pin by Right Worshipful Jessie Newton, District Deputy Grand Master of Masonic District 10-A. The recipients and their families appreciated the awards and recognition.

Pine Tree Lodge initiated a new Entered Apprentice Mason, a Longview Fireman, this month. The Longview Fire Department Degree Team had intended to confer the degree and initiate their brother firefighter, but due to the death of former Fire Chief and Brother Tommy McMasters, Pine Tree Lodge was asked to initiate the new brother. We held a really fine degree that was enjoyed by all. We will initiate another new Entered Apprentice Mason on Thursday, September 30th, at 7:00 PM.

Our Lodge is looking forward to hosting a training session to discuss and review the proposed Grand Lodge Resolutions that are scheduled to be voted upon at the annual Grand Lodge Communication to be held in December. One hot topic to be discussed is the proposed 40% plus increase in the per capita dues the Lodge sends to the Grand Lodge annually. This meeting is tentatively sched-

uled for November 15th, 2010. Traditionally, the Lodge provides a light meal at this meeting, and I expect the same this year. More will be published in the October newsletter.

I want to remind everyone that Pine Tree Lodge will again host the Waco Scottish Rite Bodies' East Texas Reunion and Degree Conferral on Saturday, October 30th. If you are not a Scottish Rite Mason, see Past Master Jim Rumsey for information about becoming a 32nd Degree Mason.

In closing, Pine Tree Masonic Lodge, No. 1396, A. F. & A. M. offers our congratulations to Past Master Bill Wyatt upon having been honored on August 27th as the 2010 recipient of the DeMolay Legion of Honor Investiture. In attendance for the presentation to Brother Bill were Brother Andrew Scott PM and myself.

Fraternally,

Kenneth Jackson, PM

Worshipful Master

Do you remember the night that you were initiated into Masonry?



Look for Pine Tree Masonic Lodge No. 1396, A. F. & A. M. on FACEBOOK



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

Apprenticeship and the Craft

Within the Fraternity it is easy to understand that an “Entered Apprentice” is a beginning Mason, but there are far deeper expectations and history to this beginning. First, an apprentice is one who traditionally worked for a set time in order to learn a trade or profession from one who was knowledgeable in the trade and who would serve as a teacher. This system of teaching was well known in ancient civilizations, such as Ancient Egypt, Greece, Rome, and in Asia, and was particularly evident in the training of stonemasons.

A key feature of this form of learning is the practical aspect on learning by doing and of the exchange of culture, tradition, and social knowledge associated with the craft. This form of education was systematically developed in the Middle Ages and came to be supervised by the craft guilds and local town governments, wherein we see the system of Lodges associated with the operative Freemasons.

To become an operative apprentice, generally a young

man, usually 14 or 21 years old and unmarried, would contract with a Master to work toward becoming a Master and obtain their own workshop. The length of time usually was 7 years and the Master furnished shelter, food, and possibly a small wage. Certainly the early contracts were verbal, but later an indenture, or written contract, usually in duplicate would be used. Notably Brothers Paul Revere and Benjamin Franklin were apprenticed, Revere as a silversmith and Franklin as a printer. Franklin did not finish his apprenticeship due to disagreements with his master, who was an older brother.

When operative masonry moved to the speculative format in the 1700’s, the concept of the apprentice took on a most important role, namely that of becoming a true Mason, a Master of those moral, ethical, and spiritual skills necessary to achieve happiness. As in ancient times, the potential apprentice approached the Craft and petitions entry. Expectations of freedom of choice and good reputation are required and most importantly, a willing-

ness to labor or work in order to learn and improve.

While time was a specific for the operative mason, along with proficiency, the speculative Mason should be aware that worthiness is a more important facet for advancement. Each step in gaining knowledge of the forms, traditions, and culture of Masonry should come with an increased understanding of the responsibilities of being a Mason. In England, early apprentices were required to demonstrate a proof of their proficiency and this was submitted to gain approval as a “Master” or “Freemen” of the craft. As we progress through the various levels of apprenticeship and proficiencies toward becoming a Master Mason, we should be fully aware that we are building a spiritual Temple and that our character, actions, and very being are the living proofs of our mastery of the lessons of Masonry, our obligations, ourselves, and our Craft.

Bob Northcutt

Masters’ Wardens’ & Secretaries’ Association

The Masters, Wardens, & Secretaries Association of the 10th Masonic District of Texas held its regular business meeting on Monday, August 30th. Little Cypress Lodge No. 1459 hosted the meeting in downtown Harleton, Texas.

The guest speaker for the meeting was Claude Ervin, Chairman of the Waco Scottish Rite Bodies. Brother Ervin spoke on the history and traditions of Freemasonry.

The next meeting will be hosted by Marshall Lodge No.

22 in Marshall, Texas, on Monday, November 29th. Remember, covered dish dinner at 6:30 and an open meeting will follow dinner.

All Worshipful Masters, Wardens, Secretaries and Past Masters are MWSA members.

Pine Tree Chapter 1090 Order of the Eastern Star

We want to welcome our newest Star; Sister Sharon Rushton. Sister Sharon was initiated into our Order on Monday, August 23rd, 2010. We are pleased that Sharon is a member of our Chapter and are looking forward to getting to know her.

Our next Chapter meeting will be on October 19th. We are honored to host our Deputy Grand Matron, Sister Elinor Humphreys. Sister Elinor will bring to us the suggestions of our Worthy Grand Matron, Sister Mary Ruth White. We are looking forward to having Sister Elinor with us and to hearing the presentation.

The holiday season is soon approaching, and we want to

remember those who might be in need this season. Our Chapter will continue the tradition of giving Thanksgiving Baskets to those deserving. If you know of anyone who is in need that we can accommodate this year, please let me know. We invite the Masons of Pine Tree Lodge to join us by donating non-perishable food items to help fill the baskets. We will set a date very soon.

We will have our study and practice meeting on September 28th. I invite all our members to participate in this meeting. Our last practice meeting was very productive, and all who attended enjoyed the opportunity to get together and learn the work.

New members are strongly encouraged to attend the practice sessions to learn the work of our Order.

Remember, to join our Chapter, simply visit with one of our members, and they will guide you in the proper direction.

Ann & Bill Wyatt

Worthy Matron & Patron

Editor's Note - Correction to last month's article:

Associate Matron of the Chapter is Deborah Albertson and Associate Patron is Weldon Pittman Jr.



Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry

Pine Tree Lodge will again host the semi-annual East Texas Reunion and Degree Conferral of the Waco Scottish Rite Bodies. Pine Tree Lodge hosted the event in the Spring of this year, and have been asked to host the fall reunion.

Scottish Rite Masons from all over East Texas will converge on Pine Tree Lodge for the reunion. A Scottish Rite Reunion is a time for Scottish Rite Masons to get together, visit, tell lies, and rekindle old friendships. It is also a time to meet new Scottish Rite Masons and candidates. The reunions also include a Scottish Rite Degree Conferral.

The Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, in Texas, is governed

by the Supreme Council of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite in Washington D.C. The State is governed by a Sovereign Grand Inspector General (SGIG) who is a member of the Supreme Council and oversees the nine Scottish Rite Valleys. Each Valley is overseen by a Chairman, who acts as the personal Representative to the SGIG.

There are Scottish Rite Valleys in Dallas, Ft. Worth, Waco, Galveston, Houston, Austin, San Antonio, Lubbock, and El Paso. The Waco Valley enjoys having jurisdiction over the East Texas area, and has two reunions in the East Texas area annually. This is a time for Scottish Rite Masons of the Waco Valley to get together without

having to travel all the way to Waco.

The Scottish Rite confers the 4th through the 32nd degree at the Reunions. At the end of the day, a candidate will become a 32nd Degree Scottish Rite Mason, or a Master of the Royal Secret. What is the Royal Secret? Well, like everything else in Masonry, you have to seek the Light to learn.

All Master Mason who have turned in their Master's Lesson are eligible for membership in the Scottish Rite. To learn more, visit with a Scottish Rite Mason in your Lodge or www.scottishrite.org

Do you remember the night that you were caused to give three distinct knocks?

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)
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).
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).
4. Repeals Article 405a to permit names of petitioners, candidates, etc., be published. (Travis M. Major).
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).
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).
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).
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).
9. Amend Articles 292, 302, 331, 332, 436, and 437 to use the term "Degree" in lieu of "Lodge." (Daniel B. Owczarzak).
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).
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).
12. Amends Article 278 to further define tradition of no person other than the Master shall pre- side "covered." (T. Neal Porter Lodge No. 1354).

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).
14. Amend Forms 26 and 44 to delete the requirement for a petitioner to provide his full social security number. (Cale Clark Stephenson, III).
15. Amend Article 318a to repeal the Endowed Memberships and return the funds to the Lodges. (Frank M. Gentsch, Jr.).
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).
17. Amend Articles 397 and 398 and Form 26 to delete the divine authenticity of the Holy Scriptures. (James W. "Sonny" Marchbanks).
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.).
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.).
20. Amend the Monitor to add the word "Amen" in various places of the Ceremony for Leveling a Cornerstone. (W. Vernon Burke, Jr.).
21. Amend Article VII of the Constitution in regards to the Manner of Voting in the Grand Lodge. (William A. "Bill" Lins).
22. Amend Article VII of the Constitution in regards to the Manner of Voting in the Grand Lodge. (William Harold Collum, Jr.).
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).

STATEMENTS OF AVAILABILITY

Grand Junior Warden:

1. Claude Ervin
2. Gerald Harris
3. Jerry L. Martin
4. Charles McKay
5. Thomas Shelton
6. D.C. Taylor

Masonic Home and School Board:

1. Paul D. Underwood

Library & Museum:

1. Graham Childress

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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

Help, Aid, & Assistance

Within the Fraternity there are many charges and obligations, of which one of the most important deals with the responsibility to “help, aid, and assist all poor and penniless Masters Masons, their widows, and orphans”. To many this seems to be redundant in that they believe that help, aid, and assistance are basically the same and represent charity, but such is not the case.

“Help” does mean to give assistance and support, but implies a strong effort critical to advancement toward some end, while “aid” suggests the need for help and relief. “Aid” clearly indicates that the giver of the aid can do so. “Assist” means to supply what is needed to accomplish an end. Thus the Freemason understands he is to work to advance those about him who are in need, especially his Brothers.

It is noteworthy that “help” to the Ancients was understood to mean “to save”, “rescue”, or “get out of difficulties”, rather than the modern definitions, and while the EA may recognize the general sense of these acts as virtuous and important, the FC and Master Mason recognizes them as duties to be practiced. The Old Charges of 1717 clearly outlined these duties and extended them to the widows and orphans of Masons.

To the Freemason these obligations are both a right and responsibility. It is a right to make such a request, but likewise it is a responsibility to respond. However, there are some expectations deemed to restrict these claims. Thus, the asker should be a worthy Brother, in good standing. The aid should not exceed one’s ability to meet the relief, while at the same time there is an order of preference, namely from Brother to Brother, Brother to widows and orphans, and finally, Brother to the Profane. The old adage that “charity begins in the home” applies to the Fraternity, as well as the World at Large.

The Mason should always remember the lesson of the northeast, and understand that Brotherly Love goes beyond monetary assistance. To listen when a Brother has a problem, and give wise counsel is as valuable as gold and silver. To give of one’s time and energy to advance those in need is the mark of a true Master of the Craft. The act of instruction is an act of assistance to the education of a worthy Brother and advances him, the Fraternity, and Freemasonry in general.

There are many philanthropies and charities supported by Freemasons, but the charity found within the internal part of a Mason is the most important. Willingness to support those in need, within sound judgment, is but one part of the spiritual and moral journey facing each Mason. As noted in one of the Great Lights of Masonry, “tis better to give than receive”.

Bob Northcutt