



October 20, 2010

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

Volume 2, Issue 4

Masonic News

- 10/30 - Scottish Rite Reunion and Degree Conferral
- 11/01 - Exam Night
- 11/04 - Stated Meeting
- 11/06 - Feast of Tishri (Longview Lodge—noon)
- Grand Lodge Resolutions
- 11/16 - OES Stated Meeting

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Pine Tree Masonic Lodge continues to move forward, initiating one new Entered Apprentice Mason this month. Our membership level continues to remain steady at about 307 members. Our “Chief Auditor”, Brother Charles Looney has forms for volunteer service, community service, or other contributions. The forms are proof for tax regulators to verify that our fraternity and Lodge are beneficent, and are giving back to the community. Our tax burden is about \$2,000.00 per year which is now exempt by action of the previous State Legislature. We want to maintain that tax exempt status, so please complete the forms when you provide any service.

Another issue we must address is yard maintenance. The mowing has always been provided by our neighbors, and the yard trimming by volunteer members. The mowing is no longer being provided and some of our volunteer members are no longer able to do the trimming. We have to maintain the yard. This issue must be rectified before the next growing season. We wish to maintain a proper appearance with the community and con-

From the East

form to area standards.

At our last stated meeting, our Lodge agreed to allow the display of the portrait of our member and Junior Past Grand Patron, Brother Bill Wyatt. There will be an official hanging ceremony in the afternoon of January 9, 2011 to honor Brother Bill for his service to the Grand Chapter of Texas, Order of the Eastern Star. Please come and support Bill in his “hanging.”

We also had the honor of having Brother Charles McKay, Past Master of Plano Lodge #768, as a guest speaker at our last meeting. Brother McKay brought a program and asked the following question to our membership; “Does our product meet expectations?” He went on to compare Masonry to a consumer product and asked if Masonry had met our individual expectations. My association with the Lodge has far exceeded my expectations, and after 37 years I am still serving and very active in our lodge. The program was enjoyed by all.

On October 30, 2010, Waco Scottish Rite Bodies will hold a one-day Reunion, Degree Conferral, and Memorial honoring Brother Terry Martin at our Lodge starting about 8:00 AM. The Lodge will provide coffee and donuts.

Lunch will be provided. If you are a member, please come out and enjoy the degrees, fellowship and the memorial service. If not, surely someone (Past Master Rumsey) has a petition for you.

Remember, our next business or stated meeting will be November 4th. Please plan to attend, enjoy the meal and meeting, and by all means - bring a friend. Also, remember that on November 15th, we will have Brother Jerry Martin here to discuss the Proposed Grand Lodge Resolutions that will be voted upon at the annual Grand Lodge Communication in December.

Fraternally,

Kenneth Jackson, PM

Worshipful Master





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



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

Illustrated by Symbols

Early in their Entered Apprentice preparation each initiate is told that "Freemasonry is ... a beautiful and profound system of morality, veiled in allegories and illustrated by symbols". Purposes and means are outlined, concluding with the admonition that he will now go "as all others have done who have gone this way before him", and with this introduction, the initiate begins his journey seeking Masonic knowledge and Light.

In his mind there have to be many questions about the lessons of morality to be learned: What is an "allegory?", "Why the lessons taught through allegories?", "What symbols?", and "Why symbols?". And so it is that his learning begins.

Webster's dictionary defines a symbol as "something that stands for, represents, or suggests another thing, especially an object used to represent something abstract".

Throughout the ages symbols have been used in rites and ceremonies to convey mes-

sages and lessons. Before paper and writing, papyrus and hieroglyphics, cuneiform and clay, is found the use of symbols in rites, rituals, and ceremonies. Every primitive group first used symbols as they developed, and so it is that symbols are used for instructing the Mason. Each symbol in the Lodge holds a lesson and the various working tools demonstrate the qualities of moral concepts. The plumb is a symbol of upright conduct, the level of fraternal equality, and the square of respectful conduct toward all. To reflect upon the Masonic symbols about us is to reflect upon the lessons of being a true Mason.

To the ignorant and uneducated mind, symbols are the first step in learning. Like a child learning their first letters or numbers, "A" is "apple", "B" is "banana", and so on, the initiate must learn the language and beauty of Freemasonry. It took thousands of years to develop the alphabets and number representations we have today, but

each of us, as a child, started from the darkness of ignorance and move toward knowledge, as all have done before us.

In Freemasonry the lessons and mysteries all are communicated in symbolic form and we must look deeply for the meanings and the Light. Among our Brothers and in our Lodge we are surrounded by symbols and moral lessons. We must reflect upon them carefully, learn their morality, and build a happy spiritual life, as befits a Freemason.

Grand Lodge Masonic Education and Service Committee



Masters' Wardens' & Secretaries' Association

The Masters, Wardens, & Secretaries Association of the 10th Masonic District of Texas will hold its next business meeting on Monday, November 29th. Marshall Lodge No. 22 will host the meeting. Remember, covered dish dinner at 6:30 and an

open meeting will follow dinner.

The By-laws of the association are slated to be approved at the Grand Lodge session in December. We had a minor grammatical issue, but it has been resolved with the Grand

Lodge By-Law Committee.

Our November meeting will be the week of Grand Lodge. We will be reviewing Grand Lodge resolutions during the meeting. I strongly encourage all Worshipful Masters and Past Masters to attend.

Pine Tree Chapter 1090 Order of the Eastern Star

It was an autumn day, October 23rd in 1968 that Pine Tree Chapter No. 1090 was constituted. Much excitement and anticipation had led to that date. A Charter Member's husband, William Few, Past Master of Starr Lodge No. 118 in Winona, had been instrumental in the chartering of Pine Tree Masonic Lodge - in fact, the initial planning for the Lodge had taken place at the Few kitchen table. As time passed, the wives of these masons began to want an Eastern Star Chapter to be affiliated with the newly chartered Lodge. The ladies began to secure names of those interested in forming a new chapter - always stressing that they did not want to take members away from existing chapters. Thirty-nine people were very interested in this proposal and plans were pursued to establish a new Star Chapter in Longview at this little lodge that resided in an old office building along the railroad tracks on Premier Road.

Of course, one who was most interested and active in pursuing a new chapter in Longview was Agnes Few, who at the time was a member of Kilgore Chapter. She

wanted the convenience of a chapter closer to home. Once the number of people required to have a chapter was secured, Agnes and other "hopefuls" began to secure donations for paraphernalia. They held garage sales and each officer elect purchased his or her own badge. After the Constituting Ceremony, the officers for the new chapter were installed. As a Charter Member, Agnes was installed as Associate Conductress. From the North, Agnes went to the East to serve as Worthy Matron in 1969.

Throughout the years, Agnes has remained an active and faithful member. She has held many other stations numerous times: Secretary, Treasurer, Chaplain, Adah, Ruth, Esther, Martha, Electa, and Warder. Agnes has remained the nurturer of each subsequent Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron of Pine Tree Chapter. She, along with many other faithful members, has actively participated in Chapter events: garage sales, dinners, luncheons, teas, banquets, practice session, Schools of Instruction - the list goes on! Agnes found it necessary to

take a break from her active Star service to become the caretaker for her ill mother-in-law for several years. After her mother-in-law passed, Agnes resumed her active Star service.

Agnes is also widely known for her service to her church and to the community. She has served as a volunteer with local schools and clubs. She needs no prodding to tell you how proud she is to be an active member of the Gregg County Republican Women's Club and that she has served as a delegate to the state convention. Agnes is many things to many people. This quiet, unassuming lady with the lovely smile is one with whom the members of Pine Tree Chapter No. 1090 are MOST proud to call her "SISTER" and "FRIEND."

By Betty Scott

Pine Tree Chapter No. 1090, Order of the Eastern Star meets at Pine Tree Lodge on the third Tuesday of each month. Dinner is served at 6:30 with the Chapter meeting following at 7:30. The Chapter also has a study club and practice session on the fourth Tuesday of each month at the Lodge.



Agnes Few, Charter Member of Pine Tree Chapter No. 1090, Order of the Eastern Star.

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

Scottish Rite

Pine Tree Lodge will again host the semi-annual East Texas Reunion of the Waco Scottish Rite Bodies on Saturday, October 30, 2010. Any Master Mason who wants to take the next step and seek further Light in Masonry is encouraged to join the Scottish

Rite and become a 32° Master of the Royal Secret. The Reunion and Degree conferral will begin at 8:00 and will conclude around 3:00 PM. This Reunion is being named in Honor of Illustrious W. Terry Martin, 33° IGH. Illustrious Martin, a Past Master of

James F. Taylor Lodge in Hallsville and brother-in-law to W. C. Fields, lost his battle with cancer earlier this year. If you have any questions about the Reunion or about the Scottish Rite, see Jim Rumsey.

Kilgore Rainbow Assembly

Kilgore Assembly No. 168, International Order of Rainbow for Girls will be holding a chicken spaghetti fund raiser at Danville Masonic Lodge - located at 1108 Stone Road in Kilgore, on Saturday, November 20, 2010. Lunch will be served from 11 AM to 2 PM. The cost is \$6 per plate.

Additionally, the Kilgore Assembly will be providing lunch for the Scottish Rite Masons on Saturday, October 30, 2010, at Pine Tree Lodge.

The Kilgore Assembly meets on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month at Danville Lodge No. 101 in Kilgore. All Master Masons

have an open invitation to attend the meetings of this Masonic Girl's Youth Group.

For more information on the Kilgore Assembly, contact Weldon Pittman Jr., Junior Steward of Pine Tree Lodge.

York Rite

The Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Texas and the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Texas held their annual communications this past week in Waco. There were several hundred York Rite Masons that turned out for the annual event. After hearing all of the speakers, one would conclude that York Rite Masonry is strong in the State of Texas. However, I am not convinced that East Texas is in line with the rest of the State.

The Longview Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, the Longview Council of Royal and Select Masters, and the Longview Commandery struggles to have enough attendees to open. If you are a York Rite Mason, I encourage you to visit your Chapter, Council, and Commandery. If you are not a York Rite Mason, I recommend that you ask one for a petition. The charters for the Longview York Rite Bodies date back to the 1800's. It would be a shame

if they demised after these many years of service.

Longview Chapter & Council meet on the 1st Monday of every other month. Longview Commandery meets on the 1st Monday of every other month opposite of the Chapter & Council. All meet at Longview Lodge on Center Street.

For more on the York Rite visit: www.texasorkrite.org

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

Feast of Tishri

The Feast of Tishri in Freemasonry derives from the Jewish Festival of Sukkoth which is marked chiefly by the building of temporary structures made of boards, canvass, etc. and roofed with branches, especially pine branches. These structures are built against or near a house or synagogue and used during the Festival of Sukkoth chiefly as dining areas. Beginning on the 15th day of the month of Tishri, which in 1999 corresponds to sunset on September 25 until sundown on October 1, the feast is celebrated for eight days by Orthodox and Conservative Jews outside of Israel, and for seven days by Reform Jews and by Jews in Israel. On the last day of Feast of Tishri, a reading of the Pentateuch is completed, and a new cycle begins.

Sukkoth celebrates the harvest and commemorates the period after exodus from Egypt during which the Jews wandered in the wilderness and lived in huts. Also called the Festive of Booths and Feasts of Tabernacles, the biblical Festival of Sukkoth relates to the general celebration of Thanksgiving in America today and to Freemasonry, particularly the Scottish Rite's observance of the Feast of Tishri. The latter is one of the Rite's ceremonies observing biblical events – for example, Maundy Thursday, Passover, and Easter Sunday. Yet Freemasonry is an organization with no religious agenda of its own, and these Masonic observances are done in such a manner as to be acceptable to men of all faiths.

In the Masoretic text of the Scriptures, Leviticus 23/9-10, we read, "And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them: When ye become into the land which I give unto you, and shall reap the harvest thereof, then ye shall bring a sheaf of the first fruits of you harvest unto the priests." And in verses 39 and 40, we read, "Also in the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when ye have gathered in the fruit of the land, ye shall keep a feast, ye shall keep a feast unto the Lord... And ye shall take you on the first day the boughs of goodly trees, branches of palm trees, and the boughs of thick trees, and willows of the brook; and ye shall rejoice before the Lord seven days." So, three and a half centuries ago here in America, a small group of courageous men and women, the Puritans, fewer than half the number who had landed in Plymouth Harbor during a snow storm a year before, were inspired by the Biblical injunction to set aside a day of prayer and thanksgiving to God, a day which has become a traditional American observance, Thanksgiving.

The evolution of the Jewish feast of Succoth into American national day, Thanksgiving, could not have occurred except in a climate of freedom and independence. Thus this holiday is uniquely American and Masonic since the same culture that nurtured religious freedom and toleration also nurtured the growth of Freemasonry..

GREGG COUNTY SCOTTISH RITE CLUB WILL CELEBRATE THE FEAST OF TISHRI ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 06, AT LONGVIEW LODGE #404, BEGINNING AT NOON.