



Masonic Trestle Board

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

January 24, 2011

Volume 2, Issue 7

Masonic News

- January 27—Practice
- January 31—Exam Night
- January 31—MWSA
- February 3—Stated Meeting
- February 15—OES Stated Meeting

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I hope each member had a joyous Holiday season and a really good start to the New Year. The Lodge year is speeding past, and it has been a great experience. Every Mason should take this ride!

On January 8th, there was a Grand Master's Conference at the Sharon Shrine Temple in Tyler. Attendance at these helps fulfill requirements for the Vanguard Lodge award. Pine Tree Lodge was recognized for this achievement at the Grand Communication last December in Waco. To the best of my recollection, we had 6 officers and 1 non-officer member in attendance at the Tyler conference. This event will be repeated at Longview on April 9th. Pine Tree Lodge is sponsoring the conference to be held in Longview again this year, along with geographically adjoining lodges in the area. The conference will be held at the Pine Tree Junior High School. Brother Secretary, Chuck Rue, is the Conference Coordinator; and will need your support and assistance. Please plan to attend to help the Lodge and Brother Rue.

April will be a bust month for our Lodge. The James "Woody" Woodul Masonic Golf Classic is scheduled for April 2nd. The Masonic Golf Classis has proven to be our Lodge's most beneficial fund raiser, so I am calling on all golfers to begin forming their teams and be sure to sell advertisements and sponsor a hole. Brother Brett Beggs,

From the East

our Junior Deacon, has taken the bull by the horns and is serving as the tournament coordinator. This event requires man hours. Please get with Brother Beggs to see what assistance he needs. This year, we have the opportunity to have a "Hole In One" contest sponsor which will provide a large cash prize.

At our February stated meeting, we will receive R.W. Greg Murphy, our District Deputy Grand Master. R.W. Murphy is a Past Master of Danville Lodge No. 101 in Kilgore. R.W. Murphy will examine our records, evaluate our esoteric proficiency, and asses our assets to ensure that we are projecting the Masonic Image we all strive for. Historically, Pine Tree Lodge does well on these visits. I trust this year will be no different.

I know that currently, the Grand Lodge's investment accounts are not paying big dividends, but I want to encourage each member who has not done so to purchase an endowed membership. Everyone feels this will someday financially benefit the subordinate lodges even after we are gone. We especially hope to have all officers endowed prior to their service as Worshipful Master.

At our last stated meeting, we had ample discussion regarding the per-capita dues increase at the Grand Lodge. As everyone is aware, the

Grand Lodge voted to raise the per-capita dues from \$14.25 to \$25.00. Currently our Lodge dues are \$50.00 per annum. The discussions focused on raising the Lodge dues from \$50 to \$75. Our Lodge By-Laws will not allow us to simply vote to raise the dues. Since our dues are prescribed in our By-Laws, we must amend the By-Laws in order to raise the dues. This process is described on page 3 of this newsletter. If you have an opinion that you would like to share regarding the dues, please make a point to be at our February stated meeting.

I am sure that our Worthy Matron will discuss this in her column, but I wanted to mention the recent portrait hanging of our Past Grand Patron Bill Wyatt. Although the weather was really bad and attendance was low, we had three Past Grand Masters in attendance along with the Associate Grand Matron of Texas in attendance. There was a mock trial, and Brother Bill was sentenced to hang for the "heinous crimes too numerous to mention." All involved and in attendance had a great time.

We will have an Entered Apprentice Mason sit for his esoteric exam on Monday, January 31st. If all goes well, and I am sure it will, we will have a Fellowcraft Degree in February.



1852—
Masonic
Lodge and
Pine Tree
School

Charges of a Freemason

Found within the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Texas are six sections dealing with the ancient charges of a Freemason which are extracted from the "Constitutions of 1723". Of these sections, section VI deals exclusively with the subject of Masonic "Behavior". It, too, is divided into six sections, namely:

1. Of Behavior in the Lodge while constituted

Which addresses solemnity, respect, and conduct due the Master, Wardens, and Brethren, along with the seriousness of the work.

2. Behavior after the Lodge is over, and the Brethren not gone

Which addresses excesses, religion, politics, and quarrels, with an emphasis on peace and harmony.

3. Behavior when Brethren meet without strangers, but not in a Lodge formed

Which addresses issues of respect toward all, courtesy

and honor.

4. Behavior in presence of strangers not Masons

Which addresses the honor of the Fraternity and circumspection in conduct.

5. Behavior at home and in your neighborhood

Which addresses moral conduct, health, and family responsibility.

6. Behavior toward a stranger Brother

Which addresses guarding against the ignorant, false pretender, and toward the aid of a true Brother.

There is little question that these charges should be read at home and in the Lodge as reminders of our obligations we have toward our Brothers. The lessons of the Level, Square and Compasses, and Brotherly Love should always prompt kindnesses, patience, and understanding. There is no place for a sharp tongue, unkind remark, or dishonor of character in the Fraternity, for

the True Mason's behavior must be above reproach.

Finally, it is the concluding remarks within Charge VI that urge the cultivation of Brotherly Love and moral character. They admonish the Freemason to have patience, to avoid slander and backbiting, and to follow the Masonic law in dealing with one another. All of the lessons found within the Degrees, the allegories, and symbols of the Craft are there to map out a path of behavior and moral stairway to that "House not made with Hands, eternal in the Heavens" and as the section concludes: "that all may see the benign influence of Masonry, as all true Masons have done from the beginning of the world, and will do so to the end of time. Amen. So mote it be."

Masters' Wardens' & Secretaries' Association

The Masters', Wardens' and Secretaries' Association of the 10th Masonic District of Texas will hold its regular business meeting Monday, January 31, 2011. Big Sandy Lodge No. 916 in Big Sandy will host the event. We will have a covered dish dinner at 6:30 with the open meeting to follow. This will be the first time Big Sandy Lodge has

hosted the MWSA.

Our district will host a Grand Master's Conference in April. This is the last MWSA meeting before the conference.

We will discuss the possibility of a n MWSA web site as well as agenda items for future meetings. Our district has caught the attention of Grand Lodge hopefuls. Our Vice

President has lined up a candidate to be our guest speaker for the August meeting. We will make the announcement at our January Meeting.

All MWSA meetings are open and all Masons and their families and guests are welcomed to attend. Remember, every Lodge deserves representation.

Pine Tree Chapter 1090 Order of the Eastern Star



It has been an exciting and busy January. I want to thank everyone that was involved with the portrait hanging of our Past Grand Patron, Brother Bill Wyatt. Even though the weather did not cooperate and we had a snowy afternoon, we still had a good turnout and a fun (and funny) afternoon. Brother Bill enjoyed everyone's participation and all that everyone did to help, especially Pine Tree Lodge for allowing him to have his portrait hung and displayed in the foyer.

This month we initiated 4

new members into our Order. We look forward to these new members getting involved with the activities of our Chapter.

Our Chapter is collecting items for our soldiers serving our Country overseas. Sister Lucinda Bunt is taking care of getting the care packages sent. We have a list of items that we can send if anyone wishes to donate and help. We will be sending 2 or 3 rounds of packages our before June.

Spring his just around the

corner and our Chapter is planning several events. We will honor the Masons of Pine Tree Lodge with a dinner on March 3rd. Plans are also being considered for a barbecue fundraiser and garage sale. More details will be presented as they develop.

Our Officers and members wish everyone a Happy Valentines day; remember your Sweetie!

Ann Wyatt, Worthy Matron

Lodge Dues Increase Requires By-Law Amendment

Pursuant to the By-Laws of Pine Tree Lodge No. 1396, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons; the Lodge cannot raise its dues without a formal amendment to the By-Laws, as the amount of member dues are prescribed within the Lodge By-Laws.

Currently, the member dues are set at \$50.00 per annum. There was ample discussion at our last stated meeting regarding the increased Grand Lodge per-capita dues. It is apparent that our Lodge will have to increase its dues to remain solvent. However, it is important that this maneuver be executed in a legal manner. The procedure to amend the By-Laws is as follows:

The proposed amendment must be:

- in writing,
- signed by the proposer,
- presented and read at a stated meeting of the Lodge, at which time it may be discussed and amended, if necessary.
- It cannot be present for a vote at the stated meeting in which it is initially presented
- At the next stated meeting of this Lodge, it shall again be read and considered and amended, if necessary.
- If no amendments are approved at the this meeting, the proposal may be voted upon. If an amendment is offered and approved, the pro-

posals shall lay over to the next stated meeting.

- If a vote is taken, it must be approved by a majority of two-thirds of the votes of the members present, shall become a part of the By-Laws.

Grand Lodge requires that all amendments of the By-Laws of a subordinate Lodge to be submitted to the Grand Lodge for its approval before they take effect. However, there are two exceptions, and an amendment relating to the dues and fees which a subordinate Lodge charges its members and candidates is an exception, providing that the dues and fees are not less than those prescribed by the Grand Lodge.

I am very proud to say that I am a member of Pine Tree Lodge, the Best Lodge in East Texas.

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



Past Grand Patron Bill Wyatt



Hon. William Lundy Wyatt Jr. — known to all of us as Brother Bill Wyatt — was honored with the opportunity of serving the Grand Chapter of Texas, Order of the Eastern Star during the 2009-2010 year as the Worthy Grand Patron.