



# Masonic Trestle Board

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

November 17, 2011

Volume 3, Issue 5

### Masonic News

- December 1-3: Grand Lodge
- December 6: Fellowcraft Degree
- December 8: Stated Meeting
- December 17: Christmas Party
- December 20: OES

### Inside this issue:

Moral Law	2
MWSA	2
OES News	3
Anniversaries	4
Contact Us	4

Greetings from the East! With Thanksgiving right around the corner, the holiday season is among us. I truly hope that each has a safe and joyful time with their respective families and friends.

At our last stated meeting, Pine Tree Lodge gained two Master Masons; Brother Bobby Dickerson was reinstated and Brother Russell Proetz affiliated from Jewel P. Lightfoot Lodge in Dallas. Welcome!

Our shotgun raffle is off to a good start. Get some tickets from either of the Wardens or the Secretary and sell, sell, sell! The drawing will be December 28th, so there is still time to participate.

October ended with the recognition of our twenty-five and forty year Masonic Service Awards. Good food and fellowship preceded the ceremony. Each of the recipients shared their Masonic experiences of the Lodge with those in attendance. A good time was enjoyed by all, especially the families of the honorees.

Halloween came and went with the regular business meeting of the Masters, Wardens, and Secretaries Association. Our association has done quite well. This is the second year in a row that we

invited and subsequently hosted each of the Grand Junior Warden frontrunners. I encourage everyone to get involved with the MWSA and to attend the meetings. They are truly worthwhile.

At an informal meeting of the Lodge this past week, we reviewed and discussed the proposed Grand Lodge resolutions. If anyone is not planning to attend the Grand Lodge meeting in December, and would like to talk about the Lodge's vote on any of the resolutions, please see me before December 1st.

On the topic of Grand Lodge, the annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Texas will be held at Waco on December 1st—3rd. Several of us will be making the trip to Waco for the meeting. Our awesome Secretary has informed me that he received notification that Pine Tree Lodge was awarded the Vanguard Award this year. This is no surprise, as we worked hard to achieve this goal, but nonetheless, it is nice to receive the official notice.

Also, a friendly reminder that our Lodge by-laws state that the December stated meeting shall be held on the second Thursday of December, not the first Thursday as usual.

This is due to the Grand Lodge meeting being held on the first Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.

Our annual jointly held Lodge & Eastern Star Christmas Party will be on Saturday, December 17th. We will have a covered dish dinner at 6:30 PM and a program afterwards. As always, Santa and Mrs. Clause will make their regular appearance for the little ones. It is always a good time. I strongly encourage everyone to bring a dish and their family and come out the Lodge that evening for a genuine good time.

Attention all of you who are in fall hunting mode; I wish you the best of luck. May your tags and your freezers be filled. Speaking of freezers, I have room in mine, hint - hint.

On a sad note, we lost one of our members this month, as Brother Edwin Graham laid down his working tools. Please remember Mrs. Graham in your prayers.

Faternally,

Dan Flanagan

Worshipful Master



## The Moral Law

“A Mason,” say the old charges, “is obliged by his tenure to obey the Moral Law.”

Morality seems to be the first outward manifestation of Masonic philosophy. It is a prime prerequisite for admission into the rites of initiation. Masonry is described as a “beautiful system of Morality veiled in allegories and illustrated by symbols.”

A careful investigation of this important subject will reveal the fact that moral preparation is an essential necessity before the candidate can actually enter upon the path of true initiation.

The moral law is the gateway through which one enters the straight and narrow pathway that leads to spiritual awaken-

ing and unfoldment, which may be said to be the ultimate object to be accomplished by the rites of institution.

No one who reads our ancient charges can fail to see that Freemasonry is a strictly moral institution, and that the principles it inculcates inevitably tend to make a brother who obeys its precepts a more honorable and virtuous man. Hence our lectures very properly define Freemasonry to be “a science of Morality.”

Morality is, indeed a very comprehensive term. It has been defined to be the doctrine of right and wrong in human conduct; conduct or practice which accords with moral principle, or virtuous conduct; of, or pertaining to the practices, conduct, and spirit of men toward God,

their fellow men and themselves, with reference to right and wrong.

Moral laws are not man made edicts or decrees; they spring from the eternal justice and wisdom of God. They are as absolute and immutable as the physical laws He has ordained for the government of nature and the universe about us. Violation of moral laws, bring evil consequences, in like manner, as a violation of the physical laws.

Morality is an attribute of the immortal soul, and is not a product of the bodily senses. The appetites and passions generated by the material senses are regarded as obstacles in the development of lofty

*Continued on page 3*

## Masters, Wardens, & Secretaries Association

The next meeting of the Masters, Wardens, and Secretaries Association of the 10th Masonic District of Texas will be held on Monday, January 30, 2012.

The meeting will be hosted by Bethesda Lodge No. 142 in Gilmer. This will be the first meeting of the MWSA hosted by Bethesda Lodge.

Masonic District No. 10 will host the first Grand Master's Conference in 2012. The conference will be at the Pine Tree Junior High School (same location as the past several years) on Saturday, January 07, 2012, beginning at 10:00 AM.

If anyone has any ideas for a program to be presented at the

MWSA, please contact one officers of your Lodge. We will also be looking for a Lodge to host the April Meeting.

The MWSA meetings are open to all Masons and families. Come out and support your District and your Lodge.

## Pine Tree Chapter 1090 Order of the Eastern Star

Let us also say thank-you to all who have served and are currently serving in our Armed Forces. We are grateful for their service to our country.

To help families in need, Pine Tree Chapter prepared and delivered Thanksgiving Baskets again this year. Thanks to all who donated food and helped in the preparation and the delivery of the baskets. Pine Tree Chapter wishes everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. This is a time we remember friends and family and are thankful for our many blessings.

In October, Deputy Grand Matron, Nancy Parkison, made her official visit to Pine Tree. She brought greetings from the Worthy Grand Ma-

tron, Vi Griffin, and the Worthy Grand Patron, David Dibrell. Pine Tree members have also been visiting many of the chapters in our section for their Deputy visits, and are keeping their eye on the travelling plaque, Rocky, the rocking horse.

Pine Tree members attended and participated in the District 1 Section 8 Fraternal Visit and School of Instruction in Marshall on October 28 - 29. Pine Tree members served in many capacities and represented our chapter with pride and excellence. Many of our members received their "A" proficiency certificates. Congratulations to Jennifer Utzman for being a "first timer". Linda Jackson, Andy Scott, Rena Pittman, Weldon Pittman, Jr., and Ann Wyatt

participated in the ritualistic competitions and earned ribbons for Pine Tree.

Mark your calendars! We invite you to attend our joint Christmas Celebration with Pine Tree Masonic Lodge on Saturday, December 17. We will have a covered dish meal starting at 6:30 followed by a Christmas program and a visit from Mr. and Mrs. Claus. Please come and be part of the fellowship with our sisters and brothers.

We hope everyone enjoys a Happy Thanksgiving.

Debra Albertson, Worthy Matron

Weldon Pittman, Jr., Worthy Patron



**The Lodge has formed a Library Committee to catalogue the books and artifacts in our collection. If you have something to donate, see the Secretary.**

## *Moral Law cont.*

moral attributes. Freemasonry teaches its initiates "to circumscribe their desires and keep their passions in due bounds."

A good moral character is a prerequisite to admission into the Mysteries. A strict observance of the tenets of the Moral Law is an essential condition as well as retention of good standing, therein. Likewise, Freemasonry requires of its initiates that they "come under the tongue of good report."

## Shotgun Raffle

The Lodge is raffling off a Beretta AL 391 Urika 2, 12 gauge shotgun. The tickets are \$5 each or five tickets for \$20. The drawing will be Wednesday, December 28, 2011. Proceeds from the raffle will benefit the Pine Tree Masonic Charities fund which pays the annual Lodge scholarships and other charitable and benevolence needs throughout the year.



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



[www.PineTree1396.org](http://www.PineTree1396.org)



## Masonic Anniversary Dates

Each month we will publish the Masonic Anniversary dates of the members of Pine Tree Lodge. These dates reflect the anniversaries that members were either raised in, or affiliated with Pine Tree Lodge.

### November Anniversaries

- D.S. Mallett—2000
- I.M. Hales—1972
- J.L. Willis—2003
- J.P. Jantz—1983
- G. W. Blassingame—1993
- D.E. Wilbur—1995
- G. D. Shearer—1985
- S.C. Newman—2001
- P.W. Grimes—2005
- J.R. Freeman—1977
- L.W. Smith—1999
- R.J. Turner—2007
- K.C. Mitchell—1990
- M.B. Pitts—1970
- H.D. Heath—1974
- J.D. Dixon—1976
- J.M. Cohn—1983
- D.V. Sims—2000
- D.E. Bull—1997
- N.C. Benham—1980
- J.M. Brittain—1976
- D.G. Kullenberg—1978

Brethren,

Dues notices were sent out this month. The annual dues are \$75. As of publication of this newsletter, only 38% have returned payment. Endowed memberships are \$500. If you plan on living another 7 years, the purchase of an Endowed Membership will benefit both you and the Lodge.