



Masonic Trestle Board

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

January 23, 2012

Volume 3, Issue 7

Masonic News

- 1/28: Master Mason's Degree 9:00 AM
- 1/30: MWSA (Gilmer)
- 2/2: Stated Meeting
- 2/14: Valentine's Day
- 2/21: OES
- 2/22: George Washington's B-Day
- 2/27: Exam Night
- 3/1: Stated Meeting

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The holidays are over and a new year has begun. Look out mailboxes, the credit card charges are swooping in and New Year's Resolutions have already been broken.

Life is back to normal. On December 28th, Pine Tree Lodge held its drawing for the Beretta AL 391 Urika 2 shotgun. The raffle was a huge success, raising nearly \$1,500.00 for our scholarships. Mrs. Linda Jackson had the honor of drawing the winning ticket. The winner was contacted and given the good news.

At our January stated meeting, I had the honor of receiving our District Deputy, who just happens to be our own Secretary. I am happy to report that the District Deputy Grand Master reported that our Lodge is in good shape (its his fault if it isn't). Right Worshipful Rumsey brought the message of Most Worshipful James Brumit, Grand Master of Masons in Texas. Part of the Grand Master's message was the *Pass It On* program. The principle officers have reviewed the program and will be implementing it at our Lodge.

At the stated meeting, Right Worshipful Rumsey presented Brother Tom Whitehead with

his LIFETIME esoteric certificate. Tom is the 4th member of our Lodge to achieve this honor in the history of our Lodge.

Pine Tree Lodge had the honor of hosting Most Worshipful Brumit on January 7th at the first Grand Master's Conference of 2012. The Grand Master's program was both interesting and inspiring. Over 200 Masons from across the state were in attendance for the event. Brother Grover Bryson presented the Grand Master with a hand-tooled leather plaque of the Grand Master's Logo. The Grand Master thanked the officers and brethren of Pine Tree Lodge for a job well done. I want to give a deep and sincere *THANK YOU* to all the brothers who helped us put the conference on; some helped with registration, some in the kitchen, some with advertising, and some made monetary contributions. It was truly a team effort and a success!

January 14th, I was honored to be able to present the Golden Trowel Award to Brother Rusty Roberts. Brother Roberts is the Charter Junior Warden of our Lodge, the 3rd Master of our Lodge, the most senior Past Master of our Lodge, and an all around Mason. Brother Roberts was

joined by his friends and family for the occasion. Congratulations Rusty!

On January 28th, we will confer our first Master Mason's Degree of the new year. We will serve breakfast at 9 and confer the degree at 10. All are invited to breakfast and the degree.

On a sad note, it is with heartfelt sympathy that I report the passing of Russell McDade Bush. Brother Bush lost his battle with cancer on January 2, 2012. I want to thank Brother Bill Walker for conducting the Masonic Burial Service at the request of the Bush family.

I am also saddened to report the death of R. W. Doug Cochran. Doug was a Past Master of Bethesda Lodge in Gilmer and was serving as DDGM in district 10-B. Doug had become a common face in our Lodge. I wish to thank all the brothers who attended the Grand Lodge Funeral Service and represented our Lodge.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of these Brothers.

Fraternally yours,

Daniel Flanagan,
Worshipful Master



Corn, wine, and oil were the Masonic wages of our ancient brethren. In ancient operative times, the Master of the work received the highest. His wages were corn, wine, and sometimes the coin of the realm.

Fellow Crafts and Entered Apprentices were less than the Master, but they were kept in meat and drink.

In Speculative Freemasonry, Masonic wages are not earned in coin. They are the rewards earned through acts of kindness, good deeds of service, and the gift of your time to others. They are earned by mentoring other brethren, helping others, remembering the widow and orphans and visiting the sick. In short, wages are earned much as the biblical verse says: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

Corn, wine and oil are the Masonic elements consecration. The adoption of these symbols is supported by the highest antiquity. Corn, wine

Masonic Wages

and oil were the most important productions of Eastern countries; they constituted the wealth of the people and were esteemed as the supports of life and the means of refreshment.

David enumerates them among the greatest blessings that we enjoy, and speaks of them as;

Psalm 104: 15: "wine that maketh glad the heart of man, and oil to make his face to shine, and bread which strengthenth man's heart."

Anointing with oil:

In devoting anything to religious purposes, the anointing with oil was considered as a necessary part of the ceremony, a rite which has descended to Christian nations,

The tabernacle in the wilderness, and all its holy vessels were by God's express command, anointed, anointed with oil.

Aaron and his two sons were set apart for the

priesthood with the same ceremony.

... and the prophets and kings of Israel consecrated to their offices by the same rite.

Hence, Freemasons' Lodges which are but temples to the Most High, are consecrated to the sacred purposes for which they were built by strewing corn, wine, and oil upon the Lodge, the emblem of the Holy Ark.

Thus does this mystic ceremony instruct us to be nourished with the hidden manna of righteousness, to be refreshed with the Word of the Lord, and rejoice with joy unspeakable in the riches of divine grace.

Discourse:

"Wherefore do you carry with you that in the pilgrimage of human like you are to impair:

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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 successfully hosted the first Grand Master's Conference of 2012. Over 200 Masons were in attendance. Thank you for your support.

At the January meeting, we will host Brother Mark G. Bateman as our guest speaker. Brother Bateman is the VP of Public Relations for the Texas

Scottish Rite Hospital.

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, and let's show our guest a warm welcome.

Pine Tree Chapter 1090 Order of the Eastern Star

Happy New Year!!

December was a busy month at Pine Tree. The joint Christmas party with the Masons was a special time to enjoy the holiday season with our Masonic family--the Masons of Pine Tree Lodge and the Rainbow Girls of Kilgore. After singing Christmas carols and reading the "Night Before Christmas" we had a special visit from Mr. and Mrs. Claus who delivered gift bags to the children. Thank you to all who brought food, helped in the kitchen, and participated in the program. At our stated meeting, Sister Rena Pittman reminded us about the true meaning of Christmas with her program "Teach the Children."

Since the last newsletter, we have

enjoyed having the traveling plaque, "Rocky", return to Pine Tree. His traveling companion, "Sachet", the skunk, also made a surprise visit. Don't worry, the membership did not let Sachet stay long. She was quickly escorted to the Beckville Chapter to cause a "stink" there.

In February and March, Pine Tree 1090 will be collecting goods for our men and women in the Armed Services. If you wish to donate items please bring them to the Lodge where we will have a "Soldier" box. Handi-wipes, hand sanitizer, socks, beef jerky, trail mix, individual snacks, small games, puzzles and magazines are some of the most requested items.

The February stated meeting will

be our Valentine Friendship meeting. Peggy McNeely, from the Jefferson Chapter, will be giving our Friendship program. We miss seeing many of our members at our meetings. Please invite a member from our chapter who is no longer active or a member from another chapter to be your "friend" for the evening.

Finally, Pine Tree 1090 would like to congratulate our Associate Patron, Jim Rumsey, on being appointed District Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Texas.

Fraternally yours,

Debra Albertson, Worthy Matron

Weldon Pittman, Jr., Worthy Patron



Masonic Wages *continued*

A portion of your bread to feed the hungry.

To send a cup of your wine to cheer the sorrowful.

And to pour the healing oil of your consolation into the wounds which sickness hath made in the bodies, or afflictions rent in the heart, of your fellow travelers?"

Corn...The Staff of life: In processions, the corn alone is carried in a golden pitcher, the wine and oil are placed in silver vessels, and this is to remind us that the first, as a necessity and the "staff of life" is more of importance and more worthy of honor than the others, which are but comforts.

Wine:...as a symbol of the inward refreshment of a good conscience is intended, under the name of the Wine of Refreshment, to remind us of the eternal refreshments which are the good are received in the future life for the faithful performance of duty in the present.

Oil: The Hebrews anointed their kings, Prophets and High Priests with oil mingled with richest spices. They also anointed themselves with oil on all festive occasions, whence the expression in

Psalms xiv, 7: "God hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness."

...and thus, your unspotted white lambskin Masonic apron is a

symbol reminding you of the necessity of the purity of the purity of heart, and uprightness of conduct in order to earn the Masonic wages which are due you.

Your final wages will be earned when you leave this world and travel to:

"that House not made with hands", where you will receive your Masonic wages for a life well spent in the "coin" of that realm.

Albert Mackey

**Master
Mason's Degree
on Saturday,
January 28th.
Breakfast at
9:00 and degree
conferral at
10:00!**

Pine Tree Masonic Lodge, #1396

2709 Pine Tree Road
Longview, Texas 75604

P.O. Box 150144
Longview, Texas 75615

903-759-9512

Worshipful Master: Dan Flanagan
903-759-6768

Secretary: Jim Rumsey, PM
903-746-5849

Web Master: Brett Beggs
903-238-3222



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



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.

January Anniversaries:

1st - W. Chambers, 2009
3rd - W. L. Murphy, 1985

3rd - W. M. Gentsch, 1974
4th - M. J. Meadows, 2001
4th - A. N. Scott, 2001
4th - J. B. Wright, 1996
6th - C. W. McGregor, 2000
10th - W. T. McCool, 1974
11th - K. P. Pickett, 2001
11th - W. R. Williams, 1973

16th - R. W. Chesnut, 1975
17th - D. K. Bledsoe, 2009
18th - B. L. Donowho, 1993
20th - C. S. Rue, 2005
26th - J. R. Adams, 2004

Brethren,

Dues notices were sent out in November, and second notices were sent last week. The annual dues are \$75. As of publication of this newsletter, only 70% 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.