

CLAUD L. AUSTIN LODGE NO. 1450

Donnie Swango, Secretary

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May, 2014

STATED MEETING

The next Stated Meeting is **TUESDAY**, May 27, at noon in the Green Room of the Scottish Rite Cathedral. This is one of the most important meetings of the year as we will elect the principal officers for the ensuing Masonic year. One never knows what surprises may lie ahead.

INSTALLATION

The installation of officers will be held on Monday, June 30 in the Green Room of the Scottish Rite Cathedral. This will be an open installation beginning in the evening. We will have to wait for further information which will most likely come from the Worshipful Master-Elect.

"Giving people a little more than they expect is a good way to get back a lot more than you'd expect."

-Robert Half

FESTIVE BOARD

The Spring Festive Board will be held on Friday, May 30.....usual place and time. Several reservations have already come in. Please RSVP, letting Zola know whether you are coming or not, in a timely manner – without the necessity to call and remind you.

Zola Blicher zbblick@aol.com 972-661-8977

PAST MASTERS NIGHT

The annual night to honor our Past Masters was another outstanding event with our ladies. The DAC did a great job on the set up and the food was fantastic and the entertainment was once again provided by Dave Tanner... need I say more? The attendance was on the light side, but the enjoyment was at its usual high. It was great to see three of our beautiful widows enjoying the evening – Clara Hoffman (Leonard), Joanne Wilson (Danny) and Sarah Coursey (Robert).

NAME TAGS

Now, here was a novel idea.....

.....an idea that probably originated from remarks made by several of our better halves, and a push from our Senior Warden ... for a nominal shared cost, we were presented with some really nice name tags at the Past Masters dinner – and for the first time ever, we had the chance to know everyone we were facing or talking to, by name! What a great innovation!

INFIRMERY

We received word from our Brother and Past Grand Master R:W: Fred Allen APM that he had a major fall and suffered substantial injuries – enough so, that he said he doubted a return to our Lodge activities. We will miss him being there and will all pray for comfort and recovery.

Laurie Blicher is still in pain from a severe case of scoliosis. She was missed at our Past Masters dinner and we all wish her well.

Brother Plez Transou PM and Secretary Emeritus is looking great after a scary diagnosis a few months ago. Hopefully, modern medicine has nipped the fear and problem in the bud and he will maintain his presence and wisdom at our meetings and functions.

Most everyone else, as far as I know, seems to be maintaining status quo and we all hope it stays that way.

IN MEMORIAM

We are saddened to note the loss of a member that many might not have known: R:W: Robert Paul Walker PGM. Brother Bob Walker was a man of many talents – a seafaring man who became a Captain and head of the entire tanker fleet for TEXACO, an accomplished attorney who became an honorable state district judge, a non-Texan who became interested in the colorful history of our state, and a beloved Grand Master of Masons in

Texas. He lived in Port Arthur for many years and in Richmond as his health declined with Alzheimer's. Those of us who had the privilege of knowing and traveling with him will cherish those memories.

ROSTER CORRECTIONS/CHANGES

The following is current information. I can only keep it current IF you will notify me of any changes in your information:

- Jim Moore JimMoore@jammva.com
- Ed Kirkpatrick DDGM (past)
- Michael Pappas Middle name - Richard

MEMBERSHIP COUNT

To keep everyone informed on the membership count, since we have capped it officially, we had 76 members at the time we voted on the cap to keep the membership at no more than 75. With the death of R:W: Brother Bob Walker, we are now at the cap and there is a waiting list with two petitions in the file. The waiting list will be maintained on a first come, first served basis as openings occur.

CALENDAR

MAY

- 27th Stated Meeting Green Room
- 30th Festive Board DAC

JUNE

- 30th Installation Green Room

AUGUST

- 25th Stated Meeting Green Room
- 29th Festive Board DAC

TIME FOR CHANGE?

It has been brought to my attention that there might be a need for change, to bring things more in line with today's technology, to kick things up a notch, to make things more first class for our first class Lodge.

I have tried to do everything to the best of my ability, trying to maintain simplicity without the modern hi-tech displays that might show us in a

different light...to ourselves and others. First of all, I don't have that knowledge or software; and second, that's not me.

I have always felt that communication should be key with membership; at least a periodic newsletter and an up-to-date roster. Both are good for our members, whether they actively attend or not... and, hopefully, for our widows, too.

What I publish, however, might be getting old and boring. And there are no doubt others who could do a much better job. And that's okay. We are an old fraternity, but we don't have to operate that way.

As far as being the Secretary of the Lodge, I enjoy the "job"..... and there is a lot to do, surprisingly. After 10 years as Secretary of Dallas Lodge and 9 years as Secretary of Claud Austin Lodge, I think I know the ropes pretty well. But what I know is not something that several others in our Lodge don't already know or can't figure out.

I have been told there is a "line up" of Brethren to assume the post should I leave...which indicates desires, in a nice way, to assume the duties of Secretary.

The office of Secretary, being an elective post, is always open for anyone who is interested and has a desire to serve for several years -- as it has been said, the Secretary is the glue that holds a Lodge together year after year. I can't attest to that as we have had some really good leadership.

Stepping down has entered my mind because of the expressed desires to make what I do better, more up to date, classier, etc. However, I believe there is too short a time right now with lots of work to do at year end and year beginning to just walk away.

So, I will leave it up to the Lodge, just as I have done every year at the May Stated Meeting, for you members to be judge and jury and I promise to abide by your decision.

*"Excellence is...Caring more than others think is wise;
Risking more than others think is safe;
Dreaming more than others think is practical.
Expecting more than others think is possible."*

-Winston Churchill

HELPING HANDS

As the Chairman of the LA Pires York Rite Scholarships, I have the privilege of attending an annual dinner at TCU honoring the scholarship givers. Often, we are joined by the recipients at the table, to meet and become acquainted. This year, as last, our recipient is a fine young man from Beorne, Texas by the name of Travis Hayden. He is a microbiology major who desire to attend medical school. Even with top grades, and more, getting accepted is no easy task.

So, I thought ...we have some good contacts at the Scottish Rite Hospital who might help "lobby" for him at UT Southwestern. I called on our Brother JC Montgomery to arrange a tour and perhaps meet some of the staff. Done. We spent almost three hours touring the Hospital and having lunch.

Afterwards, I asked if Travis could meet our own Dr. Karl Rathjen. Done. They talked and exchanged information. I think Karl was impressed...with Travis not only graduating early (this December), but embarking on research work this summer and attending school abroad (in Scotland) to work with a premier researcher there next spring.

The result of this tour and his meeting with Brothers Montgomery and Rathjen is a promise to assist Travis in his application at UT Southwestern.

I am grateful for these two Brothers taking some of their valuable time to assist Travis, a deserving and promising future member of the medical field. What a nice feeling to see Masonry in action.

KIDS AND GRANDPARENTS

A grandmother was telling her little granddaughter what her own childhood was like. "We used to skate outside on a pond. I had a swing made from a tire; it hung from a tree in our front yard. We rode our pony. We picked wild raspberries in the woods"

The little girl was wide-eyed, taking this all in. At last she said, "I sure wish I'd gotten to know you sooner!"

When my grandson asked me how old I was, I teasingly replied, "I'm not sure."

"Look in your underwear, Grandpa," he advised
"Mine says I'm 4 to 6."

A 6-year-old was asked where his grandma lived. "Oh," he said, "she lives at the airport, and when we want her, we just go get her. Then, when we're done having her visit, we take her back to the airport."

KIDS AND BIBLE STUDY

A Sunday school teacher said to her children, 'We have been learning how powerful kings and queens were in Bible times. But, there is a Higher Power. Can anybody tell me what it is? One child blurted out, ' Aces!'

A Sunday School teacher decided to have her young class memorize one of the most quoted passages in the Bible - Psalm 23. She gave the youngsters a month to learn the chapter. Little Rick was excited about the task - but he just couldn't remember the Psalm. After much practice, he could barely get past the first line.

On the day that the kids were scheduled to recite Psalm 23 in front of the congregation, Ricky was so nervous. When it was his turn, he stepped up to the microphone and said proudly, 'The Lord is my Shepherd, and that's all I need to know.'

The preacher's 5 year-old daughter noticed that her father always paused and bowed his head for a moment before starting his sermon. One day, she asked him why.

'Well, Honey,' he began, proud that his daughter was so observant of his messages. 'I'm asking the Lord to help me preach a good sermon.'

'How come He doesn't answer it?' she asked.

AMEN.....SO MOTE IT BE