

St. James Lodge No. 47 F. & A.M.

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Stated Communications: 1st & 3rd Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.

FEBRUARY 2004 – MARCH 2004



From The East

First, the Lodge thanks Melissa Atkins for the delicious meal she prepared for the Open Meeting on February 19.

The trumpet entertainment that was arranged by W. Bro. George Jones was wonderful. The good turnout resulted from an active Telephone Committee led by Bro. Carlisle Richard.

Remember **March 4 is our semi-annual Guest Night.** Your WIVES and GUESTS are invited, together with prospective Masons.

Do your part, BRING A GUEST!

Dinner will be served at 6:30 and the meeting to start shortly thereafter.

On April 1 St. James Lodge will receive an official visit from the Grand Master and his Official Family. The meeting will start at 6:30 p.m. and be open to wives and guests. Specifically for the Grand Master, we planned on 76 trombones, but we can accommodate only a dozen or so in the hall, so we will have at least a dozen trombones giving a tremendous program under Professor Larry Campbell of LSU.

This is a huge opportunity for all to see a "show" like no other.

Be there! April 1, no fooling!

Frank Dedman

PAST EVENTS

February 5 Stated Communication: Treasurer's Report for 2003: Income \$77,359; Operating Expenses \$37,268; Building Renovation Expenses \$55,123; Unpaid Building Renovation Expenses \$27,000; investments \$245,000. Report by Sick Committee appointed to call on sick members - M.W. Bill Brown, Chm., Carlisle Richard, Al Blanchard, & Dale Ducote. W. George Jones will investigate with Downtown Development District the possible designation of our building as a Historic Building. W. Larry Wade will investigate possibility of centennial celebration of our building and our Secretary to investigate the 1904 donation of three Gavel Stones at officers' stations.

Grand Lodge actions of February 2-3 were reported: Congratulations to Most Worshipful Brother Neil R. Crain, new Grand Master. The Resolutions passed are summarized as follows:

- (3) 2006 GL Communication to be in Alexandria.
- (6) Basic member dues increased for first time since 1991 from \$8.50 to \$13.50, not including \$6.00 for 3 special assessments.
- (8) Catechism examinations may be done by Committee, rather than by a Lodge.
- (9) Removed word "gambling" from Masonic offenses list.
- (10) Modifies the form *Petition For Degrees*.
- (13) Eliminate state residency requirement for Plural Members.
- (14) Eliminate eligibility requirement of 6-months as Master Mason for membership in Appendant Masonic Bodies.
- (15) Suspend requirement to wear Aprons during Refreshment when serving or consuming food.
- (17) Authorize a Cipher for catechism work.
- (18) Specified how many Master Masons and how many lodge member must be present in order to conduct business at a lodge meeting.

6:30 p.m. February 19 was an Open meeting. Business included a vote to have the adjoining building owner remove their new roof overhang. It was reported that the roofing repair is progressing and completion in 60 days is expected.

6:30 p.m. February 26 a Special Communication was called for two Master Mason degrees.

Cancel the "clean-up" Work Days until a future date.

FUTURE EVENTS

- Mar. 4 **Guest Night (Open/meal 6:30)**
Mar. 7 13th Dist. Meeting, 2:30pm, Acacia Lodge No. 116
Note: the Relief Lodge meets at 1:30 P.M. and a meal will be served at 12:30 P.M. all at the same place: 59025 Bellevue Road, Plaquemine, LA. To get there from Baton Rouge cross the I-10 Bridge; proceed South on Louisiana Highway 1 through Plaquemine to a red light between McDonalds and Burger King; turn right (West) on Louisiana Highway 75, which is Bellevue Road and look for the Lodge on the left (south) side of the road.
- Mar. 18 Rededication & Re-obligation; 25 & 50 yr. Awards
Apr. 1 **Grand Master's Official Visit (Open/meal 6:30)**
Apr. 15 TBA
May 6 **Honesty & Integrity (Open/meal 6:30)**
May 20 TBA

Illness, News and Relief

As the WM said last month in 'From The East', contact those Brothers that are sick and let them know that you care. Let the Lodge know about any who are sick that are NOT on the sick list.

W:Bro. Milton F. Cook, PM, was hospitalized this past week. Is okay now and returned to Landmark. Would welcome visitors in the mornings.

W: Preston Eggers suffers with shortage of energy since finishing his radiation treatments, but is improving.

W: Al Levingston says he is suffering from lack of oxygen and energy. He appreciates calls and visits

W: Don Park is in Room 548 Our Lady Of The Lake with a serious staph infection. Cards and prayers are welcome, but please delay visits until he feels better.

""Rays of Masonry" by Dewey Wollstein -1953

"ADHERING MASONS"

There was a time in America when the enemies of Freedom formed an anti-Masonic political party. For once and for all, the issues were brought before the people of the United States, and the anti-Masonic party was soundly defeated in a national election.

To keep the lodges open and to be Masons under those trying conditions of intolerance and persecution required the courage and strength of tried and true Masons who were willing to suffer the penalty of "boycott" imposed upon them. Those who stood as Masons have won the praise which history cannot deny the courageous. They were called Adhering Masons.

If you pause to consider, there is forever the demand for the "adhering Mason." We are living in such times. Our enemies are arrogant, dishonest, and filled with fanaticism. They have neither moral nor religious scruples. Their fight against Freemasonry is the same as set forth in 1738, and as they gain power through political trickery, they endanger the security and welfare of all free institutions.

Of all weapons, Masonry has but one, The Adhering Mason. Our enemies have read the fate of others who conspired to bring about the downfall of Masonry and of other free institutions. The Mason who inclines neither to the right nor to the left, but walks uprightly before God and man, is the deciding factor in the battle between Freedom and Slavery.

There is no place in Masonry today for the casual and indifferent Mason. To defeat the force of evil which threatens the welfare of America, there must be Adhering Masons.

"Old Tiler Talks" by Carl Claudy -1924

BEAUTIFUL ADVENTURE

"They are forming a study club in there!" announced the New Brother, disgustedly, to the Old Tiler. "Get all I want of study in school. Can't see why men in lodge want to make a job out of Masonry!"

"Maybe they want to learn something about it," suggested the Old Tiler. "Some people do like to know something about the religion they practice, the organization they belong to, the truths they embrace."

"Is that a dirty dig?" demanded the New Brother. "It isn't deserved. I am not one of those careless Masons who wear the pin and pay dues and end their activity. I attend regularly. I do what I am called upon to do. I learned the work and learned it well. I even learned all the third degree, although it wasn't demanded of me. But to get together evenings in a study club and go all over it again and learn it some more- not for mine!"

"Well, no one is going to hog-tie you and throw you into a study club," answered the Old Tiler. "It's not only a free country, but a free lodge."

"I am properly thankful for it," answered the New Brother. "But I can't understand the complex these fellows have."

"Suppose you change the subject and give me a definition of the philosophy of Masonry," suggested the Old Tiler.

"Why, the philosophy of Masonry is...it's er...why, I suppose it's...I don't know what it is."

"Well, tell me then, what the religion of Freemasonry is?"

"That's easy," laughed the New Brother. "Fatherhood of God and brotherhood of man."

"Brotherhood of man cannot be a religion," answered the Old Tiler, "because a religion is a system of belief and worship of Deity. And the Fatherhood of God is taught in a dozen different religions, including the Christian religion, the Jewish, the Mohammedan and most of the pagan religions. You'll have to dig deeper than that for the religion of Freemasonry."

"As that sticks you, you might explain to me the real origin of the letter 'G' in Freemasonry; I don't mean the ritualistic reference to it, but its connection with the symbols of the first and second degrees."

"I didn't know it had any other origin than what we give it in the Fellowcraft degree," answered the New Brother.

"Seems to me there are several things you don't know about this craft work of which you are so self-sufficiently proud to have learned," scoffed the Old Tiler.

"Can you give a history of Freemasonry? Do you know anything about the first Grand Lodge?"

"You mean the one in Jerusalem?"

"No, I mean in London!" was the sharp answer. "Can you tell me anything about Ars Quatuor Coronatum? Do you know the story of Price and Coxe and Freemasonry in the United States? Who Morgan was? What Freemasonry had to do with Mormonism? What other patriots besides Washington, Warren, Lafayette and Paul Revere went to a Masonic lodge for help in the revolutionary war?"

"Do you know anything of the Egyptian and Syriac origins of any of our ceremonies and symbols? Do you understand the connection of the myth of Isis and Osiris with our lion's paw and Lion of the Tribe of Judah? Do you know why clandestinism is mentioned in our ritual or anything about Cerneauism and other spurious Masonry?"

"I know you do not! And therefore, it seems to me that you are among the many to whom attendance in a study club would be of the greatest value."

"Freemasonry is much more than a system of lodges. It is a system of living. It has many secrets to give you...you have learned only the exoteric secrets; the secrets which all initiates are taught. You have nothing more from your Freemasonry than any of the rest. Yet the simple and few secrets given you in your degrees are keys with which to unlock doors behind which lie other secrets of untold value. They cannot be told to you. You wouldn't know how to understand them if you had them told to you. The only way a Mason can learn these, the inner, esoteric secrets of Free masonry, is to use the keys we give him and unlock the doors and enter the holy of holies himself."

"A man can do this alone. Many men have. A man may study medicine or engineering or stenography or house building or anything else alone, if he has the wit and the determination so to do. But it's easier to study such things in the company of others and with a teacher. Teaching is an art and so is study. Not all of us know these arts. Hence, we have schools and colleges to help those who want to learn but don't know how."

"A study club is a Masonic school. It makes Masonic study easier. Unfortunately, there are many to whom the word 'study' is anathema; it is connected in their minds with tiresome days in school, when some teacher taught an uninteresting subject uninterestingly. If I should form a club, I'd call it the Beautiful Adventure Club. I'd try to make its members feel that instead of hard, laborious hours studying something, they were setting out on a beautiful adventure to find the end of the Masonic rainbow, to look for the pot of hidden gold, to learn the secrets which may not be told, to get the knowledge that each man must find for himself. That's what the right kind of a study club is; a means of having an adventure which the casual-minded man can never have. But, of course, it's only for the Masons who like adventure and who want to see behind the locked door to which they hold the keys- where are you going?"

"You know perfectly well where I'm going!" retorted the New Brother scornfully. "I am going inside to join that club before they close the list of members! If there are any adventures to have in Freemasonry I want them, and if there are any locked doors I want to open them!"

The Old Tiler smiled. He had been an Old Tiler for a long, long time.

NOTE: "The Old Tiler" stories use an archaic spelling of the word Tyler"

Send newsletter submissions Joe Richard, jgr2@cox.net or Bob Zinn, bz@chem.lsu.edu



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