

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

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

MARCH 2004 – APRIL 2004



Brethren:

Well Spring is here. I am looking forward to drowning a few worms and crickets.

When we go to our pleasures, this spring and summer, please be careful with your family and yourself.

Mar 4, Guest Night was successful. We had an attendance of 63 people. I counted 30 Master Masons, 20 wives and 10 potential petitioners.

Our next Guest Night is Sept 2, 2004. So start thinking of your next invitee. Our delicious gumbo dinner was prepared by Barbara and David Dodge. We ate it all. Thanks Barbara and David.

Carlisle Richard, chairman of the Telephone Committee, is going to have knee replacement surgery soon. Our prayers are with him. We will have an Entered Apprentice Degree April 15 at 7:30 pm. Telephone Committee, please inform the Brethren by phone. We want to have a good turn out. It makes the candidates feel welcome when many are present.

Think "PERPETUAL MEMBERSHIP" St. James Lodge and Masonry needs it. Contact Jim Grady for more information.

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. Bring your wife and enjoy a delicious meal prepared by Bro. Mack Little's wife Shanna. 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 GREAT opportunity for all to see a "show" like no other. Be there! April 1, no fooling!

WORSHIPFUL MASTER
FRANK E. DEDMAN

PAST EVENTS

Mar. 4 **Guest Night (Open/meal 6:30)**
A good time was had by all. MWBr Brown gave an excellent talk. WBr Jones, "How I became a Mason" was inspirational.
Mar. 7 13th Dist. Meeting, 2:30pm, Acacia Lodge No. 116
Mar. 18 Rededication & Re-obligation; 25 & 50 yr. Awards
The rededication/re-obligation ceremony was a new experience to me [I missed the last ones], and was quite moving. -bz-

FUTURE EVENTS

Apr. 1 **Grand Master's Official Visit (Open/meal 6:30)**
Apr. 15 EA degree
May 6 **Honesty & Integrity (Open/meal 6:30)**
May 20 TBA
(Begin Casual Summer Attire, EXCEPT for Degree nights)
Jun. 3 TBA
Jun. 17 St. John The Baptist Program
Jul. 1 July 4th Program
Jul. 15 Treasurer's Report & Committee Reports
Aug. 1 TBA
Aug. 15 TBA
(End Casual Summer Attire)
Sep. 2 **Guest Night (Open/meal 6:30)**

The APRIL 1st meeting
will be something
special to behold
Bring your wife, bring
your friends, bring
anyone that would be
a good candidate, and
don't forget to bring
yourself!!!!

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.
(1) W. Bro. Don Park is improving very slowly after four weeks of staph infection illness. He is in Room 318 in Our Lady Of The Lake Regional Medical Center. He will be there about another 3 weeks getting antibiotic infusion and therapy. When visiting him on Wednesday he was sitting up in the chair, squeezing a "nurf" ball to regain strength in his hands. That morning he had been to physical therapy. He was talkative, alert, and bored. His color was good. While there the nurse came in and took his temperature which was slightly above normal. He has asked for our prayers and would appreciate your good cheer and cards.
(2) W. Bro. Milton Cook has returned to Landmark Of Baton Rouge at 9105 Oxford Place Dr. Milton would appreciate a few visits in the morning only.
(3) W. Bro. Al Levingston remains at home, short of breath from his lung problem, and is discouraged that his condition is not improving. He has lost weight since being sick and tires easily. Al does not get out of the house and must avoid groups and crowds. He could use your cards and some individual visits and good jokes.
(4) W. Bro. Preston Eggers is back on the golf course and feeling better. Hooray!! His taste buds have not returned sufficiently after radiation for food to taste good again, so his weight is down.

"Rays of Masonry" by Dewey Wollstein -1952

THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE WORSHIPFUL MASTER

When installed, the Worshipful Master's authority is complete--it is part of our Masonic Manual and Code.

But as surely as we think in terms of authority in Masonry, we must also think in terms of responsibility. The Worshipful Master is the guide and the leading spirit of the lodge. The spiritual progress of the lodge depends largely upon his devotion to the Ideals of Masonry. The program of the meetings, which degree is to be conferred, the holding of special and open meetings, are all within the scope of the Master's authority, responsibility and duty.

The Master must always keep in view the realization of his obligation to the tenets of Masonry, to the lodge's welfare, to the welfare of the individual member. He must have a thorough knowledge of procedure, and above all, must represent, in his daily life, the moral strength that reflects the teachings of the Institution.

No candidate must be subjected to embarrassment or humiliation. The Master must see that nothing takes place in the conferring of any degree that debases the dignity of Masonry, or that of the candidate. The responsibility rests directly upon the shoulders of the Master to see that nothing takes place which is inconsistent with the sacred teachings of Masonry.

Authority in Masonry means properly placed confidence and responsibility.

The Master's authority and responsibility- both are complete.

"Old Tiler Talks" by Carl Claudy -1924

ON BEING ASKED TO JOIN

"I think it's an outrage," announced the New Brother with great emphasis, talking to the Old Tiler.

"Sure it is!" answered the Old Tiler.

"Why don't you have it stopped, then?"

"I dunno, what is it?"

"You just agreed with me it was an outrage. And now you don't know what it is!"

"No, I do not. But I am wise enough to agree with out-of-temper brethren. Then they don't get out of temper with me. So suppose you tell me what is an outrage?"

"All these brethren who try to get me to join things! Ever since I was raised they have been after me. Jones wants me to join his Chapter and Smith says as soon as I do I must come in his Council, and Robinson wants me in his Commandery and Jackson says I mustn't think of going York but must go Scottish Rite, and Brown tells of what he is going to have done to me when I join the Shrine, and Peters wants me to become a Veiled Prophet and Lem says I mustn't forget the Tall Cedars, and old Jerry tells me he'll never let up on me until I join the Eastern Star... it makes me ill."

"You sure do get sick easily," answered the Old Tiler. "But I'll attend to it. Tomorrow I will see to it that at least ten brethren tell you that you are not good enough for the Chapter, not wise enough to join the council, not brainy enough for the Rite, not sincere enough for the Commandery, not a good enough sport to stand the Grotto, Tall Cedars or Shrine initiation and not decent enough to join the woman's organization. That'll fix it all right and you can be well again."

"Hey, wait a minute! What do you mean, I am not decent enough for the women or good enough sport to stand the Shrine? I'm perfectly decent and as good a sport as-

"Gently, gently! I did not say you were not- I said I'd arrange with a lot of brethren to tell you that you were not."

"But why?"

"You get peeved when they tell you the other thing- I thought that was what you wanted."

"Our wires are crossed somewhere!"

"No, it is you who are cross and therefore not able to see straight," snapped the Old Tiler. You say it's an outrage that many brethren invite you to join with them. What is there outrageous about it? The brother who wants you in his Chapter sees in you good material

out of which to make a Companion. The Knight who wants you in his Commandery thinks you will grace its uniform, live up to its high standards, conform to its usages. The brother who would like to have you in the Scottish Rite thinks you have brains enough to appreciate its philosophic degrees and believes that Albert Pike had such as you in mind when he wrote 'Morals and Dogma.' The Noble or the Veiled Prophet who asks you to come with him thinks you are a good sport, able to be the butt of a joke for a while that others may laugh, and that you may, in turn, enjoy the antics of others. They all take you for a regular fellow.

When you are asked to join the Eastern Star a great compliment is paid you--you are selected as a man fit to associate with fine women; you are accepted as a gentleman as well as a Mason, a man women will be proud to know. That is your outrage!"

"I never looked at it in that way. Masons do not ask others to join with Masons in Masonry and I suppose I thought--I felt--"

"You didn't think; you just thought you thought." The Old Tiler was smiling now. "Think again. There is every reason why Masonry should not ask the profane to be of it. Masonry is bigger than any man. It never seeks; it must be sought. But, once a Mason, the matter is different. The lodge has investigated you. You were found not wanting by your fellows. Why wouldn't your brother ask you to join another organization in which he is interested and which he thinks will interest you?"

"Well, but--"

"There is no 'but' which fits! There are many Masonic organizations, each filling its place. Chapter, Council, and Commandery extend the symbolic lodge story. The Scottish Rite tells it to the end in another way. Shrine, Grotto and Tall Cedars are happy places where Masons play. The Eastern Star practices charity, benevolence, kindness, the gentler side of life. None duplicate; all have work to do. The better the workers, the better the work. It is no outrage that they pay to the compliment of asking you to join with them."

"But I haven't the time; I don't know if I could afford it."

"That is another story. All these organizations cannot make you more a Mason than you are now, but they might make you a better one. Whether you have the time or the means needed is your affair. It would indeed be an outrage if any one questioned you about that. These brethren who ask you to join with them think you have leisure enough to be a better Mason and of sufficient means to indulge that laudable ambition."

"Oh, of course, you are right and I am wrong, as usual. I guess I'm a--"

"A Mason," suggested the Old Tiler, gently.

"And a prospective, Companion, Knight or whatever it is they will call me when I join the Scottish Rite and all the rest!"

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

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



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