

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

**Kenneth B. F. Streater Jr. , W.M.**  
Home: 753-9337, Office 291-3919  
A046756@allstate.com



**Lloyd Gerald Pence, Secy., P.M.**

Home: 924-1000

**315 Convention Street, Post Office Box 444, Baton Rouge, LA 70821**  
**225-344-7658**

Web Site: <http://www.stjameslodge47.org>

Stated Communications: 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.

## Monthly news letter for APRIL 2005 – MAY 2005



### FROM THE EAST

I hope you have invited your guests for the May 5<sup>th</sup> open meeting. We will be honoring some special people in our annual honesty and integrity award ceremony.

Remember, invite WIVES and GUESTS, especially prospective Masons.

**Do your part, BRING A GUEST!**  
**(bring more than one if you can)**

Dinner will be served at 6:30 and the meeting to start at 7:30.

Ken Streater, W.M.

### RECENT EVENTS

#### Apr. 7 **Grand Master's Official Visit (Open/meal 6:30)**

WBro. Frank Dedman's, PM catered meal was excellent. The Grand Master and his official family honored our lodge. He also honored us by presenting a 50 year membership pin to Wiley S. Noble, a perpetual membership pin to recently raised Brother David J. Cattar Jr., and the Lodge's Fidelity Medal to WBro George Jones, PM for his 60 years of service as a Master Mason

Apr. 14 EA special at 6:30

A memorable evening for the degree team and the new EA.

Apr. 21 two FC degrees

The lodge presented the Boy Scouts of America with a \$500 check.

### FUTURE EVENTS

#### **HOW MANY HAVE YOU INVITED to the open meeting? It is not too late!**

May 5 **Honesty & Integrity (Open/meal 6:30) \***

May 19 TBA

**(Begin Casual Summer Attire, except for Degrees)**

Jun. 2 St. John The Baptist Program

Jun. 16 July 4<sup>th</sup> Program

Jul. 7 TBA

Jul. 21 Treasurer's Report & Committee Reports

Aug. 4 TBA

Aug. 18 TBA

**(End Casual Summer Attire)**

#### Other Masonic Events -

Downtown York Rite Bodies meet regularly on the first Saturday of each month at 8:00 a.m. with breakfast at 7:30 a.m. Scottish Rite Baton Rouge Valley meets on the second Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Acacia Shrine Temple meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. with dinner at 6:00 p.m.

In an effort to educate our members who may not be aware of the significance of the eye in the pyramid on the US dollar bill, Ken Streater, WM, directed that we present the following information, taken from....

The Eye in the Pyramid  
By: S. Brent Morris, P.M.

HISTORIANS must be cautious about many well-known "facts". George Washington chopped down a cherry tree when a boy and confessed the deed to his father.

#### Other false 'facts':

Abner Doubleday invented the game of baseball. Freemasons inscribed some of their emblems (chief among them the eye in the pyramid) into the reverse of the Great Seal of the United States. These historical "facts" are widely popular, commonly accepted, and equally false

The eye in the pyramid (emblazoned on the dollar bill, no less) is often cited as "evidence" that sinister conspiracies abound; which will impose a "New World Order" on an unsuspecting populace. Depending on whom you hear it from, the Masons are planning the takeover themselves, or are working in concert with European bankers, or are leading (or perhaps being led by) the Illuminati (whoever they are). The notion of a world-wide Masonic conspiracy would be laughable, if it weren't being repeated with such earnest gullibility by conspiracists like Pat Robertson.

Sadly, Masons are sometimes counted among the gullible who repeat the tall tale of the eye in the pyramid, often with a touch of pride. They may be guilty of nothing worse than innocently puffing the importance of their fraternity (as well as themselves), but they're guilty nonetheless. The time has come to state the truth plainly and simply! The Great Seal of the United States is not a Masonic emblem, nor does it contain hidden Masonic symbols.

<http://web.mit.edu/dryfoo/www/Masonry/Essays/eyepyr.html>  
12/9/2004 G52-2 Page About Freemasonry, Essays: MSA Sept '95: Eye in the Pyramid

The details are there for anyone to check, who's willing to rely on historical fact, rather than hysterical fiction.

Benjamin Franklin was the only Mason on the first design committee, and his suggestions had no Masonic content. . None of the final designers of the seal were Masons. . The interpretation of the eye on the seal is subtly different from the interpretation used by Masons. The eye in the pyramid is not nor has it ever been a Masonic symbol.

On Independence Day, 1776 a committee was created to design a seal for the new American nation. The committee's members were Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, and John Adams, with Pierre Du Simitiere as artist and consultant. Of the four men involved, only Benjamin Franklin was a Mason, and he contributed nothing of a Masonic nature to the committee's proposed design for a seal.

Du Simitiere, the committee's consultant and a non-Mason, contributed several major design features that made their way into the ultimate design of the seal: 'the shield, E Pluribus Unum, MDCCLXXVI, and the eye of providence in a triangle. "[2] The eye of providence on the seal thus can be traced, not to the Masons, but to a non-Masonic consultant to the committee.

"The single eye was a well-established artistic convention for an 'omniscient Ubiquitous Deity' in the medallic art of the Renaissance. Du Simitiere, who suggested using the symbol, collected all books and was familiar with the artistic and ornamental devices used in Renaissance art. "[3] Thus was the same cultural iconography that eventually led Masons to add the all-seeing eye to their symbols.

The Pyramid signified Strength and Duration: The Eye over it & the Motto allude to the many signal interpositions of providence in favor of the American cause.

The all-seeing eye thus appears to be a rather recent addition to Masonic symbolism. It is not found in any of the Gothic Constitutions, written from about 1390 to 1730. The eye - sometimes in a triangle, sometimes in clouds, but nearly always surrounded by a glory - was a popular Masonic decorative device in the latter half of the 18th century. Its use as a design element seems to have been an artistic representation of the omniscience of God, rather than some generally accepted Masonic symbol.

The Great Seal and Masonic symbolism grew out of the same cultural milieu. While the all seeing eye had been popularized in Masonic designs of the late eighteenth century, it did not achieve any sort of official recognition until Webb's 1797 Monitor. Whatever status the symbol may have had during the design of the Great Seal, it was not adopted or approved or endorsed by any Grand Lodge.

"Old Tiler Talks" by Carl Claudy -1924

INVIOABLE

"Jones didn't get through, I knew he wouldn't," said the New Brother, sitting down in the anteroom.

The Old Tiler hitched his sword to be more comfortable. "Some of you young Masons sure do know a lot."

"I knew he wouldn't get through because I know two brethren who were going to blackball him," defended the New Brother.

"I have heard that before, too. Don't tell me who your friends were. Perhaps they try, once in a while, to be good Masons. But they don't succeed very well."

"What do you mean? They are splendid fellows, both of them. They know this fellow Jones ought not to be made a member and so they kept him out. One of them is..."

"Wait a minute son, wait a minute. The secrecy of the ballot is one of the great guardians of the Masonic fraternity. Every brother has a right to vote as his conscience tells him he should. None has the right to tell others either how he will vote or how he has voted. Whoever does so, tears down the fraternity, to some extent. If every Mason told how he would or had balloted there would be no secret ballot. If the ballot is controlled by outside influence, Masonry is no longer under the guidance of the hearts of its members.

"If I know you will vote against my candidate, I argue with you. I plead with you. I remind you of the favor I did you. I work upon your feelings and perhaps, for my sake, you let into the lodge a man I like but whom you believe unfit for membership. If I don't know how you will vote, I cannot argue with you, and your vote is dictated, as it should be, entirely by your conscience."

"But..."

"Never mind the 'but' just yet. After my candidate gets in, because of your affection for me, in spite of your knowledge of his unfitness, then what? Isn't the lodge weaker than it was? Even if you are mistaken and a good man thus gets in, isn't your telling that he isn't a good man a weakening influence? Are you not apt to value it a little less because you weakened it? The harm, once done, may persist for years- and all because you opened your mouth and let out a few words of your intentions before you balloted."

"Suppose I want advice as to how to ballot? How can I ask your advice without telling you why I want it?"

"You can't. But there is a remedy provided for such cases. Masonry demands that every application be investigated by a committee a month prior to the ballot. You have ample time to go to the committee. If you know anything against a petitioner it is your duty to tell the committee. If you heard something against the applicant, tell the committee. Let the committee find the facts. If what you heard is an idle rumor, the committee will learn it. If there is a foundation to the gossip, they will learn that, too. Then you can be guided by what the committee reports."

"Isn't that to say that all balloting should be done by the committee?"

"Not at all!" answered the Old Tiler. "The committee decides for you as to the foundation of the rumor or the malice behind the gossip. If you know anything which in your mind justifies a blackball your course and your conscience are clear. You asked me what you should do when you needed advice."

"But committees are often perfunctory."

"That's your fault!" was the sharp answer.

"My fault? How do you make that out?"

"If you think a committee has made a perfunctory investigation, tell the Master you want a new committee appointed. If you think a committee isn't doing its duty, ask its members what they have done. If they won't tell you, notify the Master that you wish more time. He won't refuse it; he knows such a request means a blackball if it is refused. No Master wants any good man kept out, or any unfit man in. Finally, get yourself on a few committees- the Master will be happy to have your request for such work. Then by example show the other committees what a real committee can do."

"I see!" said the New Brother. "I wonder why all this isn't told to us when we first come into lodge?"

"Humph! 'All this.' Boy, there are thousands of books written about Masonry. Do you expect someone to teach you the contents of them all? The shoe is on the other foot."

"How do you mean, other foot?"

"When you first came into this lodge, why didn't you ask?" responded the Old Tiler, as he rose to answer raps on the door.

**Did You Know?**

**The ALBERT EDWARD, A life boat given to the National Life Boat institution by the United Grand Lodge of England, saved 277 lives between 1878 and 1929**

From **Did You Know Vignettes in Masonry from the "Royal Arch Mason" magazine**, edited by Wes Cook

My thanks for the contributions to this issue of the news letter! Send newsletter submissions to Bob Zinn, [bz@chem.lsu.edu](mailto:bz@chem.lsu.edu)



**St. James Lodge No. 47**  
Post Office Box 444  
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-0444

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