

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

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

Monthly News Letter for April 2007 – May 2007



Brethren,

Springtime has arrived, the trees are green the flowers are blooming and the allergies are in full swing.

If you haven't been to the lodge in a while now is the time to come, and if you need a ride please call one of your brother's I am sure they would be glad to bring you. The first meeting in May (5/3/2007) will be our Honesty & Integrity award night. The committee has selected 3 outstanding candidates for this year. Please come and support these fine young candidates. Dinner is at 6:30 with the program to follow. There will also be a surprise entertainment portion this year.

The first meeting in June (6/7/2007) we will have a guest speaker discussing the pros of the perpetual membership program. Come and learn about the future of Masonry and more importantly the future of your lodge St James #47. Have a great spring and come support your lodge.

See you on the 3rd of May.

Fraternally,
Mark Paxton

How many people have YOU invited to our next open meeting?

Surely you know some worthy people that have not been invited to the lodge recently.

Perhaps there is someone that you have been thinking of inviting but putting it off.

Stop putting it off; invite them!

Perhaps there is someone that you invited once but they said they were not interested in having anything to do with Masonry.

It won't hurt to talk to them a bit and find out if they have changed their mind.

Perhaps there is someone that you met recently but have not gotten around to inviting.

This is the perfect chance to get to know them better; invite them to an open meeting.

RECENT EVENTS

Mar 27 5:30 pm, practice
Mar 29 7:00 pm, Master Mason degree
Congratulations to our two newest Master Masons!
Apr. 5 Stated communication
Our Charity Budget for 2007 was discussed and adopted. We were happy to see Bro. John Staples return to Lodge and recovering from his hip surgery. We were also happy to see Bro. Evan Cooper returned to us from Iraq.
Apr. 17 5:30 pm, practice
Apr. 19 EA degree conferred
Apr. 22 Grand Commandery of Louisiana
Houma, LA.

FUTURE EVENTS

May 3 ***Honesty & Integrity Program (Open/meal 6:30 PM)**
Honesty and Integrity Awards will be presented to three very worthy recipients. Families, guests, and potential members are invited for dinner at 6:30 p.m.
May 17 TBA
-----Begin Casual Summer Attire, !!!except for Degrees!!!!---
Jun. 7 St. John the Baptist Program
SPECIAL MEETING TO HONOR 25/50 Year Members
JAMBALAYA DINNER Dinner at 6:30.
This is **NOT** an OPEN meeting!!!!!!!
Jun. 21 ***Honor the Flag of Our Country Prgm (Open/meal 6:30 PM)**
We will have a Flag Ceremony presented by the Boy Scouts of America.
Jul. 5 4th of July Program
Jul. 19 Treasurer's Report & Committee Reports
Aug. 2 Masonic Education Program
Aug. 16 TBA
-----End Casual Summer Attire-----
Sep. 6 ***Guest Night (Open/meal 6:30 PM)**
Sep. 20 TBA
Oct. 4 ***Past Masters' Night (Open/meal 6:30 PM)**
Oct. 18 TBA
Nov. 1 St. John the Evangelist & Election of 2008 Officers
Nov. 15 ***Thanksgiving Program (Open/meal 6:30 PM)**
Dec. 6 **Install Officers for 2008 (Open/meal 6:30 PM)**

* Represents possible entertainment TBA = To Be Arranged

REMINDER: Invite guests to open meetings!

Other Masonic Events –

13th Masonic District meets quarterly on the first Sunday of the last month in each quarter, except the 2nd Sunday in September. The next meeting of the 13th District is June 3 at Trinity Union # 372.

Downtown York Rite Bodies meet regularly on the 1st Saturday of each month at 8:00 a.m. with breakfast at 7:30 a.m. Scottish Rite Baton Rouge Valley meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Acacia Shrine Temple meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. with dinner at 6:00 p.m.

The Lodge of The Nine Muses, No. 9, F. & A.M., meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month in the Red Room of St James Lodge. If you are interested in visiting, contact one of the members to find time, dress code and other details. Ernest Easterly, W.M., Ricks Bowles, S.W., Adib Shala, J.W., Sam Roberts, Treasurer, Larry Moore, Secretary, William Mollere, Chaplain, Naresh Sharma, Sr. Deacon, Danny Smith, Master of Ceremonies, Gerard Ruth, Sr. Steward, Robert Zinn, Jr. Steward, Kristopher Easterly, Tyler, Tim Atkins, Member.

Sickness and Distress

Brother Thomas G. Wells, Jr., is recovering after having a cancerous kidney removed 3 weeks ago. He sounds like he is in good spirits.

I am sure that his new wife that he married on December 3rd must be an important part of why he is in such good spirits.

Masonic Brotherhood in Unexpected Places, By Robert Zinn

When my wife and I signed for LPB's 13 day vacation trip to Italy, I hoped to meet some brother Masons while in Italy. With that hope in mind, I corresponded with a Brother I met in the soc.org.freemasonry.usenet group. I found out that he lived in Florence and told him that when we got to Florence, my wife and I hoped that he, his wife and his young son could join us for dinner.

He mentioned that IF I wanted to attend a lodge meeting, I should have my 'Masonic Passport' with me.

I later discovered that in many states, a small fee, and a passport photo are sent to the Grand Lodge of the state and they issue a Masonic Passport. I am not sure if Louisiana has such a document. Perhaps some reader knows about this subject. I later saw my Italian Brother's Masonic passport. It looks very nice.

In any case, we set off for Italy with the hope of meeting a brother mason when we got to Florence.

In Baton Rouge Airport, we met three nice ladies with our tour. We flew to Atlanta. From Atlanta we flew to Newark NJ.

In the Newark airport we met with Lagniappe in the form of a group of Shriners, their wives and guests. Total number in their group was 38. They were on the SAME tour that we were on! What a coincidence!

The Illustrious Potentate for 2007, Earl E. Etzel, Jr of Crecent Shrine, AAONMS, Burlington NJ greeted me like a long lost brother, pinned one of his 'badges' on me, and made sure that I felt like an 'Honorary Shriner' for the duration of our 'Journey' together.

At our first stop, Rome, one of the officials of the Italian Grand Lodge came and visited with 'us' Shriners.

In Florence, my new friend and brother joined our group for dinner and brought me a beautiful gift, a book that contains pictures of his lodge in Florence. It is in the Palazzo dei Visacci (The Palace of the Faces) and is very beautiful.

Marta is currently translating the text of the book to English, and at some point in time, we intend to share it with anyone that might be interested.

Masonic Brotherhood shows up in unexpected places.

"Old Tiler Talks" by Carl Claudy -1924

MUSIC

"It's a shame! Our music! We don't get nearly what we pay for!" complained the New Brother.

"Is that so!" exclaimed the Old Tiler. "I thought Brother Henderson trains and leads a very good quartette."

"Brother Henderson, I suppose, is a competent musician," answered the New Brother, "but he hasn't much voice. People who can't sing ought not to. Why did the Master appoint him? We pay for our music; why can't we get it?"

"I take it then, if you were Master, you would not have reappointed Brother Henderson director of the choir?"

"I certainly would not!"

"And how would that have affected Brother Henderson?"

"Oh, I'd be sorry for the poor chap, of course. But age must give way to youth. He can't expect to sing forever."

"How would it affect the membership of the lodge not to have him there?"

"It would affect them pleasantly. We'd have good music, without his quavery voice."

"My son," answered the Old Tiler. "You are right in theory and wrong as to practice. Perhaps I can make you see better. Brother Henderson's voice is not what it once was. But Brother Henderson is still Brother Henderson."

"Not long ago I was so unregenerated as to go to a ball game. A once great pitcher was on the mound and they pounded him all over the lot. When they took him out to give place to a younger man, there was heartier cheering than when the game was won. The cheers were for what the old pitcher was in days gone by; the joy he had given, the work he had done, the manly way he played the game."

"John L. Sullivan was more famous in defeat than in victory; fight fans revere the memory of Lanky Bob Fitzsimmons, no less that he was finally supplanted in the ring by a younger man, because of the fair, square, hard hitting, honest fighter he always was."

"Brother Henderson has done something for Masonry. Year after year he has directed the choir and sung in this lodge. We pay him a pittance, but what he has given is not paid for by money. Never the funeral, no matter how cold or dreary the day, that Brother Robinson hasn't given the comfort of his voice to those who mourn. Never the

entertainment for charity that Brother Henderson has not sung himself hoarse for. Never the sick man getting well that Brother Henderson didn't appear at his house to sing some cheery songs.

"I have seen Brother Henderson at a funeral sing with dry eyes when I knew his heart was breaking up for some brother he loved; why? To comfort those who remained. I have known him to sit up many a night with the ill. He is the first to respond to any call of distress. He is a Mason through and through. And I'll tell you a secret he doesn't know I know. The checks he gets from lodge for singing he signs over to the charity fund."

"Brother Henderson has not a good voice now. But we are a lot of old timers. We take in new members slowly. All the old timers love Brother Henderson. They would rather have Brother Henderson on the job than in the shade of Caruso to lead the choir. For every cracked note he sings, they see a cracked heart he mended. For every false note he sounds they remember a false step he corrected for some wayward brother. For every husky note he whispers they see the husky strength with which he has served the Craft through nearly sixty years."

"If you want to be unpopular, just say something to any of our membership about Brother Henderson retiring."

"Brother Henderson isn't perfect. He's human. And, like all singers, he hates to admit his voice isn't what it was. But what does it cost us? We pat him on the back and tell him how beautiful his voice is, and how we enjoy it, and Brother Henderson is heartened and encouraged in his declining years."

"He would work just the same if we took him off the choir, but he would be cut to the heart to think we didn't like his voice any more; the voice he wore out in our service and for the comfort and the strengthening of his brethren."

"If we were a commercial organization we might have to think of value received! But we are brethren who love and comfort each other. What Brother Henderson has done entitles him to whistle in the choir, if he wants to; and he could direct and never sing a note, and we would still tell Brother Henderson that his voice is lovely! For that kind of a lie the Great Architect loves, my son; even as He must love Brother Henderson and... where are you going in such a hurry?"

"To a committee room, to see how many times I can kick myself in five minutes, and then to tell Brother Henderson his solo touched my heart...only, Old Tiler, it is you who touched it!"

The New Brother gulped as he went to kick himself; but the Old Tiler grinned.

[note: the spelling 'Tiler' in the article is NOT in accord with the spelling we use: Tyler.]

Your article could have been here

Send articles to Bob Zinn, bz@chem.lsu.edu

If you change phone, address or e-mail, PLEASE send updated information to Joe Richard jgr2@cox.net

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APRIL 2007 — MAY 2007