

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

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

FEBRUARY 2005 – MARCH 2005



FROM THE EAST

I hope you have invited your guests for the March 3rd open meeting. Our guest nights are OUR chance to show our friends and neighbors that Masons are not evil. We may seem a bit strange at times, but we are not evil.

The entertainment is arranged by W. Bro. George Jones. He has done an excellent job in the past and we expect this time will be the best ever. Remember, to 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 shortly thereafter.

I want to give my special thanks to degree teams for the very good work done on the last two degrees. Visitors from other lodges were very impressed.

There will be a special communication on the 10th of March to confer a master Mason degree. 7:30

We need volunteers for to play role of Fellow Craft.

Contact the WM or W: Bro. Adib Shahla, PM.

Ken Streater, W.M.

Sickness and Relief:

Brothers, unfortunately there has been a failure to communicate who is sick and in need of relief.

If YOU know of a brother in need and their name is not on the following list, please let us know so that we can put them on the list.

List:

[Intentionally left blank for lack of information]

RECENT EVENTS

Feb. 3 Review of our Programs for Charity
A Special Communication was called for 5:30 p.m. to confer an Entered Apprentice degree. The work was observed by two of our Entered Apprentices. Other guests attended.

The regular Stated Communication began at 7:30

(1) Special guests were W: Bill Mollere, DDGM, who discussed DeMolay activities. Also attending was Bro. Don Leinwebber from Summit Lodge # 263, Summit, MO.

(2) Various possible charity activities were discussed and referred to the Charity Committee.

(3) It was announced the W: Bro. Jesse William Griffith. PM of St. James Lodge demitted to Henderson Lodge because he moved to Henderson, TN.

(4) A report by the Proficiency Committee on a Fellow Craft examination was accepted and approved.

(5) A budget for 2005 was presented by W: Bro. William Zollinger, PM, Treasurer. Approved.

(6) A Masonic Education article about ATTITUDE by Charles Swindell was read by Bro. Ken Streater, WM.

(7) It was announced that Baton Rouge Scottish Rite will hold its next meeting on the third Monday, February 21, instead of the usual Second Monday to avoid conflict with the Grand Lodge which meets Feb. 12 -15.

(8) A proposal was offered to expand the Honesty & Integrity program this year, which was taken under advisement.

Feb. 17

Grand Lodge Report

Sickness and Relief

Bro. Barry Scott has had a third stroke. Keep him and his loved ones in your prayers. If someone has detailed information for the next newsletter, please let bz know.

We regret to announce

Past Master of St. James Lodge, W: Bro. Milton Cook passed to the Celestial Lodge. His funeral was on Feb. 14.

Bro. James Davis died Feb. 3. There was a Masonic Service on Feb 6.

Bro. Robert Haskel Lynch joined The Celestial Lodge Above on Jan 29.

FUTURE EVENTS

Mar. 3

Guest Night (Open/meal 6:30)

HOW MANY HAVE YOU INVITED to GUEST NIGHT? It is not too late!

Mar. 10

Special to confer MM 7:30

Mar. 17 Rededication & Re-obligation; 25 & 50 yr. Awards PMs honored.

Apr. 7

Grand Master's Official Visit (Open/meal 6:30)

Apr. 21

TBA

May 5

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

May 19

TBA

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.

"The Old Past Master" by Carl H. Claudy- 1924

ATTENDANCE

"There are a lot of Masons in this old lodge tonight" began the Old Past Master. "See the new faces? Must be most two hundred. Pretty good attendance, what?"

"But is it a good attendance?" asked the Very New Mason. "Why, there must be six hundred members on the rolls. Seems a pity they can't all get out to enjoy this kind of an evening, doesn't it? Seems to me that Masonry fails when she has so many on the rolls who don't come regularly to lodge."

"I don't agree with you!" answered the Old Past Master. "Masonry succeeds because she gets so many of her members to take an interest! True, she might...if she were a wizard... so interest every one of her devotees that all would crowd the lodge room every meeting night. Then, I think, there would be no use for Masonry, because the millennium would have come. But in place of being discouraged because only a third or a fourth of our members attend, I am always highly encouraged because so many do attend."

"You see, my brother, Masons are picked from the general body of men by two processes, and neither one of them works out for the very best interests of the Order. The first process is a man's making up his mind he wants to be a Mason. If we could go to the best men and ask them, we would get a lot better men than we do, of course. Equally, of course, we would vastly injure the Order by making it seek the man instead of the man seek its gentle philosophy. I wouldn't change that unwritten law for anything, but the fact remains that as the first selection of Masons is made by the profane, it isn't always for the best interests of the Order."

"The second selective work is done by committee. Now in theory every one appointed on a committee to examine a member is a sort of cross between a criminal lawyer, an experienced detective, a minister of the gospel, a super-perfect man, a well read Mason and an Abraham Lincoln for judgment!"

"But as a matter of fact most committeemen are just average men like you and me, and we do our work on committees in just an average sort of way, with the result that many a self-selected candidate slips into our ranks who has no real reason for being there. The theory is that all men become Masons because of a veneration of our principles. The fact is that a lot become Masons because their brother is one, or their boss is one, or they want to wear a pin and be a secret society member, or they hope it will help them in business."

"They get into the lodge and find it quite different from what they expect. They learn that they can't pass out business cards, that it doesn't help them because the boss belongs, and that they don't have to come to lodge to wear a pin. If they are the kind of men to whom Masonry doesn't appeal because of

her truth, her philosophy, her Light, her aid in living, they wander away. They become mere dues-payers, and often, stomach Masons, who come around for the feed or entertainment.

"Don't let it distress you. It takes all sorts of people to make a world and it would be a very stupid place indeed if we were all alike. There is room in the world for the man who doesn't care for Masonry. He has his part to play in the world as well as the man to whom Masonry makes great appeal. Do not condemn him because he has become a member of the fraternity and found it not to his liking. At least there is something in his heart which was not there before."

"And let me tell you something, my brother. There are many, many men who become Masons, in the sense that they join a lodge and pay dues, although they never attend, who do good Masonic work. There is Filby, for instance. Filby has been a member of this lodge twenty years and has never been in it, to my knowledge, since the day he was raised. I don't know why. I rather think he was frightened, and showed it, and has been afraid of being laughed at, now that he knows there was nothing to be frightened about. But there was never need for money that Filby didn't contribute; there was never a committee appointed to work on the Masonic Home that Filby didn't head. There was never any work to be done outside the lodge that Filby didn't try to help do it. He is a good Mason, even if he doesn't attend lodge."

"And there are lots of young men who join the fraternity and neglect their lodge in early years, who turn their hearts towards it in later years; boys who are too fond of girls and dances and good times to spend a moment in serious thought while they are just in the puppy age, who grow up finally to become thoughtful men, turning their hearts toward the noble teachings of this fraternity and becoming most ardent lodge members and attendees."

"Oh, no, my brother, never weep because we have but a portion of our membership at a meeting. Be glad we have so many; be happy that those who come, come so regularly and enthusiastically, be proud that there is such a large number of men content to sit through the same degrees year after year to learn what they can, let sink deeper the hidden beauties of the story, absorb a little more of that secret doctrine which lies behind the words of the ritual."

"Masonry is not for yesterday, for today, for tomorrow alone. She is for all the ages to come. The Temple Not Built with Hands cannot be built alone by you and me, nor in a day, nor yet a century. And remember that the stone rejected by the builder was finally found the most necessary of them all. Perhaps the man who doesn't come now to lodge may be the most earnest and powerful Mason of tomorrow. Only the Great Architect knows. Masonry is His work. Be content to let it be done His way."

ATTITUDE by Charles Swindoll (as read by WM Streater in lodge)

The longer I live the more I realize the impact of attitude on life. Attitude, to me, is more important than facts. It is more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than failures, than successes, than what other people think or say or do. It is more important than appearance, giftedness or skill. It will make or break a company...a church...a home. The remarkable thing is we have a choice every day regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day. We cannot change our past...we cannot change the fact that people will act in a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play on the one string we have, and that is our attitude...I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me and 90% how I react to it. And so it is with you...we are in charge of our attitude.

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



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