

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

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



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## Monthly News letter for February 2006 – March 2006

### RECENT EVENTS

Feb. 2

Slides were shown by W. Bro. Selby of his recent trip to Pennsylvania Grand Lodge Temple. They have a beautiful temple. It looked like Our entire building would fit within one of their lodge rooms.

Post-hurricane Income Tax law changes were explained by W. Bro. Melanson. It was a most entertaining and educational talk.

The budget for 2006 was presented by Finance Committee Chairman, W. Bro. Selby, discussed and modified by addition of \$1,000 to Charity & Relief.

A lively discussion of the possible revival of our Dyslexia Program ensued. No final decision was made.

Feb. 6 5:30 pm, we held practice for Feb 16

Feb. 16 Grand Lodge Report was given by MW Bro. Brown.

A Master Mason Degree was conferred. Reading of the minutes of the last meeting was deferred due to the degree work.

### FUTURE EVENTS

Mar. 2

\*Guest Night (Open/meal 6:30 PM)

## SPECIAL ENTERTAINMENT

**BE THERE or YOU won't be ON THE SQUARE.**

Mar. 16

Rededication & Re-obligation; 25 & 50 yr. Awards

Apr. 6

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

Apr. 20

Masonic Education Program

May 4

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

May 18

TBA

\* Represents possible entertainment

TBA = To Be Arranged

### Other Masonic Events –

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

The Lodge of The Nine Muses, U.D., F.&A.M., meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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, Jim Pecoraro

"Rays of Masonry" by Dewey Wollstein -1953

### THE OBLIGATION OF THE WORSHIPFUL MASTER

Perhaps there is no obligation more sacred than that taken by the one who is to become Worshipful Master.

The traditions, the tenets and principles, and all the precious possessions of Masonry, and even the responsibility vested in the lodge by the Grand Lodge, are placed in the hands of the Worshipful Master.

To be a good man and true, and strictly to obey the moral law, is the basis for all other of the Ancient Charges to which the Master-elect must give his assent. Every officer "in line" should read these questions many times before he is asked them officially. They will serve in some measure to answer the question: "Will I be able to live up to the regulations as Masters have done in the past?"

The weight of the true answers to these questions extends beyond the lodge room. The responsibility is to society and to country, in addition to the accepted responsibilities which are connected with degree work and the regular business of the lodge.

What relation is there between the obligation of the Worshipful Master and the brethren? When any brother takes upon himself such a sacred obligation, it is the duty of every other brother to give him every cooperation in helping him to discharge that obligation.

The Worshipful Master should have our good wishes, our prayers, and the work of our hands and heart in all his laudable and important undertakings.



## Greetings from the East!

The year is moving right along and I hope that it doesn't move so fast that I can't get all the things done that I need to do.

## Guest Night "HEAR YE, HERE YE"

Our next meeting, on March 2, 2006, will be our 'Annual Guest Night'. I hope everyone has a guest coming. We will have a fine meal and great entertainment provided by some 'English Actors'. The topic, "The Definition and History of Freemasonry," will provide an interesting insight into Freemasonry as it existed in the 15th and 16th Centuries.

On the 2nd meeting in March, March the 16th, the brothers will have the opportunity to re-dedicate themselves to Masonry. We will have the re-dedication ceremony. Our 25 and 50 year members will be also be honored this time. Please make an effort to attend.

This year the Grand Lodge Session was held at the new convention center/Holiday Inn complex in downtown Alexandria, La. It was a great improvement over the old convention center.

I have arranged for our new Grand Master, Most Worshipful Clayton J. "Chip" Borne, III, to come to St James Lodge on April 6, 2006 for his official visit. We will have an open meeting with a good meal and everyone is invited. Please try to be here and meet the new Grand Master and his delegation.

As you know, Masonry will make a good man better, so lets see how many good men we can have the chance to make better this year.

See you at the meeting place soon.

Fraternally,  
David Dodge, WM

"Old Tiler Talks" by Carl Claudy -1924

## WAGES

"We ought to revise the ritual. It has so much in it that doesn't apply nowadays..."

"I have heard that said about the Bible, too," the Old Tiler interrupted the New Brother. "What particular part of the ritual do you want changed?"

"Well, for instance, 'and pay the Craft their wages, if any be due.' That doesn't mean a thing today. We pay 'wages' or dues to the lodge- the lodge doesn't pay us wages of any kind."

"Haven't you been present at a Craft payday yet? You sure are out of luck," answered the Old Tiler.

"Why, what do you mean? Have I missed something?"

"If you have been a member of the Craft for six months and haven't received any Masonic wages, you must be among those the fathers of Masonry had in mind when they wrote 'pay the Craft their wages if any be due.' Evidently no wages are due you, or you would have received them."

"I have been a Mason so long I forget what it's like not to be one. I receive my Masonic wages regularly, and always have. Most members of the Craft get their wages regularly. It's a shame you don't work so that some are due you."

"Masonic wages are paid in many coins. Last week my son-in-law lost his job through a misunderstanding. He is not a member of the Craft. He asked me what I could do. I told his one-time boss the story as my son-in-law told it to me. The boss asked me, 'Is this on the square?' I told him it was."

"I know you for a true four-square man," he answered. "Tell the boy to come back."

"Last year Brother Michby, President of First National, was in the hospital. I went to see him two or three times. Michby never had much of an idea about Masonry before he was so ill; he seldom came to lodge. Now he never misses a meeting. And he never fails to chat with me going and coming, or when I meet him on the street. He is one of my wages; a small act of brotherhood brought Michby to appreciate that the lodge wasn't just words. I don't know how much good he has done since he has been really interested, but I do know that he lays it all to my visiting him."

"Over my bed is an electric light. I read before I go to sleep and reach up and turn it off when I am tired. Both it and the books I read came from Brother Tome, librarian at the big temple. Tome heard me trying to explain the meaning of a symbol and asked me if I had ever read Mackey. It sounds foolish now, but then I hadn't and I said I never heard of him."

The light and the books were the answer. Now I am never without a book of some kind, and it's astonishing what even an Old Tiler can read if he reads long enough. Masonic wages, my boy, are worth much fine gold.

"Two years ago my little granddaughter was all smashed up in a street car accident. After I got over the first shock I began to wonder what could be done. It looked like the illness, hospital, nurses, doctors and expenses were beyond her father's and my means."

"But I didn't trust the lodge enough. We have seven doctors on the rolls. One of the seven was at the hospital every day. Jim, the florist, kept her room a bower. Maxie, the preacher, brought a different young girl to see her every other day, until she had a wonderful circle of friends. Boys I only knew by sight stopped me on the street or came to the house or hospital, and when she was strong again she always said it was as much because of the loving care everyone took of her grandfather's girl as because of the surgeons. Masonic wages beyond my deserts, my boy, but Masonic wages nevertheless."

"I never learned much in the way of a trade or business. I'll never be much of a financial success. But is there a man in this town who can call more big business men by their front names than I? I once thought it was just because I was Tiler. Now I know it isn't. Michby and Lawyer Repsold and Doctor Cutter, and Harrison of the big department store have asked me to their homes to chat Masonry. I've gone as gladly to the bricklayer and the crossing policeman and the elevator man. When men like these tell me I've meant something in their lives that money can't buy, I don't care so much that I never earned much cash."

"Don't revise the ritual. Masonic wages are those which are paid in love and brotherhood and mutual help and information and inspiration and charity and assistance and being pals. They are worth much more than money. Take the Masonic wages out of a lodge and you would need to revise the whole fraternity. The payment Masons make to Masons is the most valuable which a man can receive. And you want to revise it out of existence!"

"No, I don't," answered the New Brother. "Now I'll tell you something. Brother Maxie, the preacher, told me to say that to you. He started by telling me how grateful some brother was because I had helped him out of a hole. Maxie asked me if I'd received any Masonic wages yet. When I said I hadn't, he said you were paying off and that the way to get mine was to talk to you about the ritual and- I've been paid"

"You are a pair of rascals!" growled the Old Tiler, but his eyes looked as if he smiled inside."

Send newsletter submissions to Bob Zinn,  
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**FEBRUARY 2006 —MARCH 2006**