

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

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

Monthly Newsletter July 2009 – August 2009



FROM THE EAST

Traditionally, most of the new members in St. James Lodge join as a result of Guest Night. Let us all go to work and really do a good job this year. In both the fall of 2005 and 2007 our Guest Nights were crippled by Hurricanes Katrina and Gustav. It is highly improbable that Mother Nature will affect us again so soon, so let us overcome on September 3. This year, search well and seek out good men to whom we can provide a progressive moral environment and the opportunity for them to become better men. Consider fellow workers, neighbors, church members, high school or college friends, your physician, your minister, even your politician. Invite them by conversation and eye-ball contact, mail them a written invitation, give them a telephone reminder about a week ahead and follow it with another on the day before Guest Night.

Summertime is the time for vacations and family outings. This year the Master of your Lodge went to Townsend, Tennessee for an annual Richard family reunion. The cabin at Townsend was a lovely place in the Smokey Mountains at elevation 1,700 feet. Green vegetation was so abundant everywhere. One day we toured Cade's Cove and one day, while the young people were tubing in the river, two couples of us went into Pigeon Forge to see "The Miracle" which was a live show about the life of Jesus Christ. Good food, a good time, and a peaceful meeting of siblings, in-laws, out-laws, and the cousin club was had by all.

School time returns soon in early August. The water level is falling and fishing in The Atchafalaya Spillway is getting good. Salt water fishing under the circling sea gulls in Terrebonne Bay is good in August. The planet Mars will come closest to the earth (35,000,000,000 miles) in about 5,000 years on August 27. Beginning in early August, Mars will become brighter, rising in the east and be at its highest point in the sky at 12:30 A.M. on August 27. Have fun - now is the season to do things with your family.

Hope you are all having a wonderful summer,
Joe Richard, Worshipful Master, 2009

From the Secretary's Desk: if you have not paid your 2009 dues, they are now delinquent.

Consider a PERPETUAL MEMBERSHIP at twenty (20) times current annual dues. This may be paid over 5 years.

Keep open meetings in mind-----Invite worthy guests.

You *Still* have *Time to invite a guest: 6:00/6:30 P.M*
Sep. 3 !!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Guest Night !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
Oct. 1 Past Masters', Widows & 25/50 Yr.
Dec. 3 Installation of 2010 Officers

RECENT EVENTS

-----Begin Casual Summer Attire, except for degrees-----
June 18, 7:30 P.M. Thursday, STATED COMMUNICATION - Bro. Terry Steven Newgard was made a Master Mason. Congratulations Bro. Newgard.
June 20, 7:30 A.M. Saturday, SPECIAL COMMUNICATION - By Special Dispensation from the Grand Master, M:W: Bro "Jeff"

Webb, the Fellowcraft and Master Mason Degrees were conferred on Bro. Scott Nicholas Nelson, who is a U.S. Navy Corpsman and whose duty station changed away from our area on July 1. Congratulations Bro. Nelson.

July 2, 7:30 P.M. Thursday, STATED COMMUNICATION - Two petitions for degrees were received. Recognition was made of St. John The Baptist Day on June 24, the 165th Birthday of St James Lodge on June 28, and Independence Day on July 4.

July 16, 7:30 P.M. Thursday, STATED COMMUNICATION - The Lodge opened, was put to refreshment and guests invited in to hear an entertaining program by Smiley Anders of The Advocate Newspaper. Labor was resumed and business was conducted. A motion passed to permanently remit dues for two Brothers who are infirm and unable to pay dues because of medical bills.

July 25, 7:30 A.M. Saturday, SPECIAL COMMUNICATION - By Special Dispensation from the Grand Master, M:W: Bro "Jeff" Webb, the Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft and Master Mason Degrees were conferred on Bro. Daniel Earl Cox. Bro. Cox is a Lieutenant in the U.S. Army and is scheduled for assignment to Iraq/Afghanistan in 2010. Congratulations Bro. Cox.

FUTURE EVENTS

-Continue Casual Summer Attire, **except for degrees--**

August 3, 5:30 P.M. Monday, DEGREE TEAM PRACTICE.

August 6, 7:30 P.M. Thursday, STATED COMMUNICATION - With the Lodge at "refreshment," a presentation will be made to the Boy Scouts of America who will perform a Scout Oath program. Entered Apprentice Proficiency Examination reports will be made and the Fellowcraft Degree will be conferred on two candidates.

August 15, 9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M. Saturday, WARDENS' RETREAT will be held at the Methodist Camp at Woodworth, LA. Your Worshipful Master, Senior and Junior Wardens, and Senior Deacon plan to attend.

August 17, 5:30 P.M. Monday, DEGREE TEAM PRACTICE.

August 20, 6:00 P.M. Thursday, SPECIAL COMMUNICATION - Confer one Entered Apprentice Degree.

August 20, 7:30 P.M. Thursday, STATED COMMUNICATION - Conduct business, receive reports from Treasurer and Finance/Investments/Audit Committee and confer one Entered Apprentice Degree.

-----End Casual Summer Attire-----

September 3, 6:00/6:30 P.M. Thursday, STATED COMMUNICATION - **GUEST NIGHT - Open Meal.**

September 13, 12:30/1:30/2:30 P.M. Sunday, 13th District Meeting at Central Lodge # 442.

Sickness and Relief

We wish for our ailing Worshipful Brothers Sartain and Dodge to heal quickly and feel much better soon.

Bro. Leon Coates Hendry was raised in St. James Lodge on November 3, 1966 and demitted to the Celestial Lodge Above on July 9, 2009. A Masonic Funeral was conducted for him by members of St. James Lodge on July 13. Keep his family in your prayers.

Keep in your thoughts and concerns the widows and families of all of our Brothers who have passed on this year.

Also, pray for the Doctors who will be treating W: Bro. Streater, who has a recurrent heart blockage problem, and Bro. Joe Cooper, who will have gall stone removal and prostate surgery.

JoeR



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July 2009 — August 2009

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Notify our Secretary, W.Bro. Dedman and George Scanlan if you change your address or telephone.

Other Masonic Events

Sunday, June 7, 13th District Lodge meeting at 2:30, Relief Lodge meets at 1:30, at Olive lodge #52 in Clinton.
Acacia Shrine meets at 6:00/7:00 PM every 3rd Wednesday at 7991 S. Commerce Ave

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 the Consistory on Florida Boulevard with Advisory Council at 5:30, meeting at 7:30 PM, and dinner at 6:30 PM

Livingston Certificate Association meets at 6:00 P.M with dinner, on the first Friday of each month at Hurd Murrell # 454 in Livingston, LA and Baton Rouge Certificate Association meets at 6:30 P.M. with dinner on the third Friday of each month at Trinity Union Lodge # 372.

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.

What do you most desire?

(excerpts from a Grand Lodge of North Carolina publication)

Greetings, brother, and welcome to a long and distinguished line of North Carolinians who are proud to call themselves Masons. You have knocked on the door of your lodge and taken your first step in Masonry. Once you learn your catechisms and return for additional instruction and enlightenment, culminating in the Master Mason degree, your journey ends. Right?

Well, no. Not if you want a return on your investment.

Our ancient fraternity has been perpetuated because, through the years, a relatively small group of men has been determined to keep the fires of learning lit. These men are hungry for more light. They want to experience real brotherhood. They want to serve their communities. They want the symbols to come alive. They want to pursue the real secret of Masonry.

Once you are entitled to all of the rights or benefits afforded by membership, you will have a decision to make. Will you settle for just being a member? Or are you going to be a Mason? Some lodges open, rush through the order of business and close in 30 minutes flat. The lodge door is locked tight until the next stated communication, when the rush to close begins again. Other lodges hum like beehives. The meetings are lively, the brothers are active in their communities and the lodges open their doors for educational, cultural and civic functions. And for some reason the secretary has to keep restocking the petitions.

If you find that your lodge falls into the second group you are fortunate! If it is in the first, do not despair. After all, it is better to light a candle than curse the darkness.

Many brothers say that for them, the best part of getting involved in Masonry was the coaching. Strong bonds are formed when a new brother rolls up his sleeves and sits down with a knowledgeable coach. The best coaches share their time and expertise freely. They know the material frontward and backward, but they also dispense a lot of wisdom when you think you're just taking a break from memorizing the catechism.

Coaching shouldn't end with proficiency in the third degree catechism. We are always searching for more light and deeper

meaning in our Masonry. So if you have a great coach, keep him. Make him your mentor. Ask questions, work with him on your parts as you go through the chairs and seek his help when you are learning a role for degree work. If your coach is unavailable for some reason, find a mentor in your lodge. And become a coach. It may be the most important role you ever play in your lodge.

We pledge to aid and assist distressed brother Masons – so long as such aid does not cause injury to our selves or families. We are not to let our duties to our lodge detract from other duties, including family. Clearly, families are important in Masonry, and we should find opportunities to involve our families.

Members of your family may want to join one of the appendant bodies – organizations such as Eastern Star, Rainbow, DeMolay and Job's Daughters that are related to Masonry and offer spouses and children opportunities for personal growth, fellowship and community service.

Welcome to our fraternity. You have received light in Masonry, but partially, and we encourage you to continue your search for more light. Not only will your lodge and your community be improved, but your efforts will be rewarded. Brothers who remain active in their lodges and engaged in their communities find more light and deep personal satisfaction. They also perpetuate the craft.

We have attempted to provide an introduction to the Masonic ideal of leadership and service and basic ideas on which you can build. We encourage you to take this guide and practice its precepts while keeping your eyes and your mind open to new opportunities for leadership, service and fellowship in your lodge and your community.

The Committee on Masonic Ceremonies and Miscellaneous Publications 2003-2006

Tim Daniels, King Solomon 704

Andy Greene, Wilmington 319

Speed Hallman, Eagle 19 (chairman)

Ron Sortino, Semper Fidelis 680

Don Tew, Masters 754

Dan Weatherington, Wilson 712

Your article could have been here. Send articles to Bob Zinn, N5bz@cox.net

If you change phone, address or e-mail, PLEASE send updated information to George Scanlan gscanlan@cox.net and Frank Earl Dedman Frankededman@cox.net