

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

Mark Jeffery Paxton, W.M.

Home: 752-2568

Office: 769-9923 x106

mjpaxton@cox.net

315 Convention Street, Post Office Box 444, Baton Rouge, LA 70821

225-344-7658

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

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



Frank Earl Dedman, Secy., P.M.

Home: 927-8196

Frankededman@cox.net

Monthly News Letter for May 2007 –June 2007



Brethren,

Summer is here, the heat is on.

The afternoon showers have arrived.

Welcome to South Louisiana, in all its glory. Why not come down to the Lodge to cool off?

Refreshments will be available and a few snacks and great fellowship with your brothers.

If you were not at the meeting on June 21 you missed another great Flag Day ceremony put on by Worshipful Brother David Dodge. We would like to thank the Boy Scouts for assisting us in this magnificent program. Worshipful Brother Frank Dedman did another outstanding job of portraying "Old Glory." Thank you Frank.. And I would be negligent by not thanking Anna Paxton for her fine solo. Again, thanks to everyone that participated in the Flag Day Ceremony.

Come join us on July 5 as we have an Entered Apprentice Degree scheduled [therefore NOT CAUSUAL ATTIRE!]. And hopefully on July 19 we will have a report from Tim Hutchinson on his charity program, as well as a report from the Finance Committee on the Perpetual Membership program that has been previously discussed.

Come join your Brothers for some fun and fellowship and have a safe and cool summer.

Fraternally,

WM Mark Paxton

RECENT EVENTS

June 7, Thursday, 6:30 PM, Stated Communication - Following a fine dinner of jambalaya, a presentation on Perpetual Membership was made by M:W: Bro. Joe Baker, PGM. Other visitors were M.W. Robert "Buck" Kleinpeter, PGM; M.W. William Brown, PGM; and W. Bro. Bill Womack, PM, Istrouma # 414.

June 21 Stated Communication - **Open dinner at 6:30 PM** was attended by 42 members and guests. Food from Frank's Smokehouse included pork chops, mashed potatoes, and baked beans, dinner rolls, a chilled vegetable salad, and drinks. A cake, beautifully decorated with the American Flag, from Ambrosia Bakery completed the dinner. Past Grand Masters William Brown and Harold Ballard (and his wife Marian) were recognized. W. Bro. David Dodge, PM, conducted the "Honoring the Flag of Our Country" program. The flags were carried into the Lodge by Eagle Boy Scouts. A donation to the Boy Scouts of America was presented by Worshipful Master Paxton to Scout Leader Peter Davidson on behalf of St. James Lodge No. 47. Two petitions for membership were received and referred to committee and one petition was balloted upon.

FUTURE EVENTS

-----Begin Casual Summer Attire, **!!!!except for Degrees!!!!**-----
Jul. 3 5:00 pm Practice for EA degree
Jul. 5 4th of July Program, We will honor St. John the Baptist. An Entered Apprentice degree will be conferred, together with the recognition of St. John the Baptist day and the founding of the Grand Lodge of England on June 24, 1717, and Independence Day on July 4th.
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

Masonic Education: Every Tuesday at 5:00 PM there will be a tutorial practice of the Work for each Station of Lodge Officers conducted by Past Masters of St. James Lodge.

Congratulations: Bro. Evan Cooper, who is on military duty in Tucson, AZ, has just received word of his Navy promotion to Commander.

In the Scottish Rite W: Bro. Ben Melanson, PM, has been selected to receive the Inspector General Honorary 33rd Degree, and W: Bro. Frank Dedman, PM, and Bro. Joe Richard to receive the 32nd degree KCCH (Knight Commander of the Court of Honor).

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.

NOTICE the changes in the layout of page 2!!!!

These are due to changes in postal regulations.

How many Masons does it take to change a life?
Changing a life is like changing the whole world!

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

It only takes one mason to bring light to a non mason by inviting him to an open meeting.

The good thing is that there is no limit on how many people **you** can invite!

Don't be the limiting factor.



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

MAY 2007 — JUNE 2007

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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

W.Bro. Gagnon, PM, received a negative PET scan report, which is good news, but he will soon begin treatment for recurring cancer in his neck and jaw. Lady Carolyn Pence, wife of W: Bro. Lloyd, PM, had a recurrence of lung cancer, and will soon begin treatment. W.Bro. Ken Streater, PM, was at the Flag Day celebration, Quite a feat, considering the fact that the last event he attended in our building saw his journey in search of light interrupted by a trip to the hospital followed by multiple bypass surgery. The quick thinking of the brothers that rushed him to the hospital was at least partially responsible for his rapid recovery.

Postal Costs: Due to recent increases in U. S. Postal Service rates for our non-profit, presorted, bulk mail permit, and the resulting cost of our St. James Newsletter, consideration may be given to sending Newsletters, at no cost, by email to those who have an Internet address, and mailing the remainder by First Class postage through USPS. Should this change be made, those members who do not now have email may consider getting an email address and send a message to jgr2@cox.net. The Newsletter is also posted each month on the Lodge website at <http://stjameslodge47.org>. Members are invited to express their opinions about the Newsletter mailings to the Lodge Officers.

"Rays of Masonry" by Dewey Wollstein -1953

LODGE ACTIVITIES

We do not underestimate the importance of degree work. If there are candidates, there must be degree work. However, it seems that we often are willing to sacrifice something that is vital in our zeal to confer degrees. To do so is unfair to the candidate and to the lodge.

It requires time between degrees for the candidates to contemplate the seriousness of a Masonic degree and to grasp even a small part of the ceremonies. He not only should learn the words of the catechism, but he should also learn the meaning of the catechism.

To a large extent we determine the future usefulness of a candidate by the impression we make upon him during his days as a "candidate."

But what of the progress of the lodge in the interest of the brethren when there is no degree work? These meetings should be carefully planned by the Master and officers of the lodge, and should result in the advancement and study of Masonry. It may be symbolism, history or some other study of Masonry, but it will prove of great interest to the brothers. Also many fine meetings may be held when our older members are given an opportunity to tell to what extent Masonry has influenced their lives. There are many leaders of Masonry who have made a study of Masonic philosophy and symbolism. They are always willing to visit a lodge and give the brethren the benefit of their years of study.

Let us not feel that nothing of value can be done when there is no degree work. Perhaps that can be done which is of equal or greater value to the lodge. But, let us bear in mind that our programs must always be in keeping with the dignity of the high calling of Masons and the sacred principals of our Institution.

Your article could have been here.

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

"Rays of Masonry" by Dewey Wollstein -1953

OUR STRENGTH

Duty is not confined to a display of heroism in times of abnormal circumstances. Duty is noble when discharged in the normal way of life. It is noble and Godlike when it is performed willingly and in the silence of the heart.

We speak of the enemies of Masonry. Toward our enemies, and none but the foolish would deny their existence, we have certain duties which are the highest expressions of Masonic teachings. It is the glory of Masonry, however, that whenever an enemy appears, it is in the form of greed, of tyranny, or unbridled ambition for power. The enemies of Masonry have always sought to arrogate unto themselves a power for the ultimate purpose of selfish gain. The philosophy of Masonry does not always strike a responsive note within the hearts and minds of all men, yet whenever an honest and impartial evaluation is expressed, it is never said that Masonry seeks to impose its philosophy upon others, or seeks something of material gain for the Institution. It is to the everlasting credit of our Institution that the avowed enemies of Masonry are at once the avowed enemies of Right as it is universally applied.

It is possible to have enemies without being an enemy. The principles of Masonry must be interpreted to the world in the only way that principles remain unsullied--through patience and kindness. We often under-estimate the strength of morality when we view the apparent strength of evil. We often question its effectiveness because it is such a quiet force. Yet the Story of the Ages is the miracle of moral strength. One so weak in the ways of wrong, one so little versed in the art of revenge, one so free of hate, one so foolish as to love his enemies, draws some Unseen Power a force that neither he nor his enemies can understand. We must not blindfold our senses to the existence of enemies; neither must we adopt their weapons.

How, then is a miracle accomplished? Every miracle is a moral victory. Be content to know that. It is Truth.

Weapons, strange to the Mason, will ever be in the hands of our enemies. There will be the struggle, the fight, and the upward climb over difficult obstacles. We cannot evade the struggle, yet every moment is a golden opportunity. We can gird ourselves for the battle. The performance of duties, great and small, which are duties to God and man, represent the strength that will be ours upon whatever field the lines may be drawn.

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