

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

James W. Robinson, V, W.M.

Home: 225-336-1218

jrobinso@lsue.edu

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



Mark Paxton, P.M., Secy.

Home: 225-752-2568

mjpaxton55@gmail.com

225-344-7658

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

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

Monthly Newsletter----- June 2011 – July 2011

FUTURE MASONIC EVENTS

Practice every Monday at 5:30 pm at the Lodge.

Casual Summer Attire (except for degrees)	
July 7	4th of July celebration (Open / Meal 6:30 PM)
July 21	TBA
July 30, August 6	Downtown York Rite Festival
August 4	Report by Treasurer & Finance Committees
August 18	TBA
End Casual Summer Attire	
September 1	Guest Night (Open / Meal 6:30 PM)
<i>September 11 (Sunday 2:30 PM) 13th Masonic District Meeting</i>	
September 15	TBA
October 6	Past Masters, Widows & 25/50/60 Yr (Open / Meal 6:30PM)
October 20	TBA
November 3	St. John the Evangelist & Election of 2012 Officers
November 17	Thanksgiving Banquet, Veterans' Recognition (Open / Meal)
December 1	Installation of 2012 Officers
<i>December 4 (Sunday 2:30 PM) 13th Masonic District Meeting</i>	
December 15	Necrology

SICKNESS and RELIEF

Brethren, please keep W: Bro. Fred Ladner and his wife Mary in our prayers. Bro. Joe Cooper reports that Fred is at St. James Place undergoing very slow rehabilitation from a stroke, and Mary is recovering from a fall, broken bones, and can not drive for a couple more weeks.

We have many more members and families to remember who are infirmed or bereaved.

As we celebrate the approaching 4th of July with pride, let us remember our veterans, forefathers, military on active or reserve duty, local public servants, elected representatives, and church leaders.

We as Masons must all keep up our good work.

Have a happy and safe FOURTH OF JULY.

Fraternally,
JoeR

Masonic Restoration Foundation Second Annual Symposium will be: Friday, August 19 at 7:30pm - August 21 at 12:00pm at: Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22

George Washington Masonic Memorial
Alexandria, Virginia

Register NOW for the Symposium at <http://aw22.org/mrf>



Our Lodge had an Entered Apprentice degree and two Master Mason degrees last month. Once again, we continue to be indebted to these Masons for their dedicated involvement in the works of our Lodge.

On July 7th the Istrouma Area Council, Boy Scouts of America will help us celebrate the founding of our country with a presentation. As they have asked if their families could attend, we will have an impromptu open meal enabling both their families and the families of our Lodge to partake of this entertainment. Scheduled business will be conducted following the presentation.

Independence Day will be inundated with fireworks, bar-b-que, and reunions to lift our spirits and celebrate the birth of our nation. In the celebration of July 4th it is incumbent upon us to recall our Masonic obligations and speculate as to the role that these principles may have played with Washington and the many founding fathers who were Masons during those historic times of growth and turmoil.

The first documented notice about Freemasonry in North America was printed in the Pennsylvania Gazette by Benjamin Franklin, who became Provincial Grand Master of Pennsylvania in 1734. In that same year, he published the first Freemasonic book published in America.

It was Franklin that noted: "Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn."

Let us strive to fulfill the dreams and hopes of our founding fathers by providing not only the teachings of Masonry, but also by further encouraging a greater involvement of our fellow Masons in the works of our Lodge.

May Peace and Harmony prevail,

JWR

Bring guests!

to the open Lodge meetings at 6:00 pm
on **July 7, September 1, October 6,
November 17**

RECENT MASONIC EVENTS

June 2nd Entered Apprentice Degree, good food before the meeting!

June 16th St. John the Baptist Program Two Master Mason Degrees. Great food before the meeting.

If you have been missing the meetings, you have been missing some very good meals!



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 Post Office Box 444
 Baton Rouge, LA 70821-0444

Newsletter

June 2011-- July 2011

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Other Masonic Events

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.

Valley of Baton Rouge meets on the 2nd Monday of each month, dinner at 6:30 PM, meeting at 7 to 9 PM, at the Consistory on Florida Boulevard. The Advisory Council meets at the Consistory at 6:00 P.M. on the 4th Monday of the month.

Livingston Certificate Association meets at 6:00 P.M with dinner, on the first Friday of each month at Pine Grove Lodge #288 in Ponchatoula, 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.

Lodge of the Nine Muses #9, F&AM, meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month. The next meeting will be held in the "Red Room" in St. James Lodge on July 13th. The meeting starts at 6:30 PM. If you are interested in visiting, contact one of the members for dress code and other details.

58th annual gathering of **The International Masonic Lodges Named for St. Alban** October 7-9, 2011 at St. Albans Lodge # 28 Jackson Louisiana Information on the Gathering is available on the Association website at: <http://www.stalbanslodges.org/> The website for St. Albans Lodge # 28 F&AM can be found at: <http://stalbans.br.la.us/>

"Old Tiler Talks" by Carl Claudy -1924
 COUNTRY LODGE

"It was the funniest thing I ever saw!"

"What was?" asked the Old Tiler of the New Brother.

"That lodge meeting I attended in Hicksville. Listen, and I'll tell you!"

"I'm listening. Anyone who can find a lodge meeting funny deserves to be listened to!" answered the Old Tiler."

"The lodge room was funny!" began the New Brother. "Lodge rooms ought to have leather-covered furniture and electric lights, a handsome painting in the east, an organ- be dignified, like ours. This lodge room was over the post office. There were two stoves in it. And every now and then the Junior Deacon put coal on! The Lesser Lights were kerosene lamps, and the Altar looked like an overgrown soap box! The benches were just chairs, and they didn't have any lantern or slides- just an old chart to point to in the lecture.

But it wasn't so much the room, it was the way they did their work. You'd have thought they were legislating for a world, not just having a lodge meeting. Such preciseness, such slow walking, such making every move and sign as if it were a drill team. There wasn't a smile cracked the whole evening and even at refreshment, there wasn't much talking or laughing. I'm glad to belong to a lodge where people are human!"

"Yes," answered the Old Tiler, "I expect it is."

"Expect what is?"

"Impossible for a New Brother to understand the work of a country lodge," answered the Old Tiler. "What you saw wasn't funny. Listen- it is you who are funny."

"Me funny? Why, what do..."

"I said for you to listen!" sternly cut in the Old Tiler. "I have never been to Hicksville, but I have visited in many country lodges and your description is accurate. But your interpretation is damnable!"

"Masonry is beautiful, truthful, philosophical, strives to draw men closer to God, to make them love their fellow, to be better men. Is that funny? The more regard men have for outward symbols, the more apt they are to have regard for what is within. A man who won't clean his face and hands won't have a clean heart and mind. A man who is slovenly in dress is apt to be slovenly in his heart. A lodge which reveres the work probably reveres the meaning behind the work."

"You criticize the Hicksville Lodge because it is too precise. Would that our own was more so! The officers who have so deep

a regard for appearances can only have learned it through a thoughtful appreciation of what the appearances stand for."

"You have been taught that it is not the externals but the internals which mark a man and Mason. What difference can it make whether a lodge seats its membership on leather benches or chairs, or the floor, or doesn't seat them at all? Our ancient brethren, so we are taught, met on hills and in valleys. Think you that they sat on leather benches, or the grass?"

"It's good to have a fine hall to meet in. It's a joy to have an organ and electric lights and a stereopticon to show handsome slides. But all of these are merely easy ways of teaching the Masonic lesson. Doubtless Lincoln would have enjoyed electric lights to study by, instead of firelight. Doubtless he would have learned a little more in the same time had he had more books and better facilities. But he learned enough to make him live forever."

"We teach in a handsome hall, with beautiful accessories. If we teach as well as the poor country lodge with its chairs for benches, its kerosene lamps for Lesser Lights, its harmonium for organ, its chart for lantern slides, we can congratulate ourselves. When we look at the little lodge with its humble equipment, thank the Great Architect that there is so grand a system of philosophy, with so universal an appeal, as to make men content to study and practice it, regardless of external conditions."

"I do not know Hicksville Lodge, but it would be an even bet that they saved up money to get better lodge furniture and spent it to send some sick brother South or West, or to provide an education for the orphans of some brother who couldn't do it for his children. In a country lodge you will get a sandwich and a cup of coffee after the meeting, in place of the elaborate banquet you may eat in the city; in the country lodge you will find few dress suits and not often a fine orator, but you will find a Masonic spirit, a feeling of genuine brotherly regard, which is too often absent in the larger, richer, city lodge."

"I find nothing 'funny' in the dignity and the seriousness of our country brethren. I find nothing of humor in poverty, nor anything but sweet Masonic service in the Junior Deacon putting coal on the fire. Would that we had a few brethren as serious, to put coal upon our Masonic fires, to warm us all."

"You've put coals of fire on my head!" answered the New Brother, "I deserved a kicking and got off with a lecture. I'm going back to Hicksville Lodge next week and tell them what they taught me through you."

"If you won't expect me to laugh, I'll go with you!" answered the Old Tiler, but his eyes smiled

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