

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

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

Monthly News Letter March 2008 – April 2008



Brethren,

Let me begin by **thanking everyone** who attended Guest Night. Through your efforts, six new petitions have been received.

A hearty thanks goes out to George Jones, P.M. and Bill Brown, P.G.M. for sharing their Masonic wisdom and remembrances with our guests. Please remember that only by asking if someone is interested in attending functions like Guest Night can men be enlightened to the positive impacts of Masonry.

As might be anticipated when so many petitions are received at once, we will be conferring several degrees throughout the next few months. I would like to take the opportunity to thank the degree teams for their efforts in making the degrees as meaningful for our candidates as possible.

Please join me in congratulating Don Park, P.M. and Adib Shahla, P.M. for 25 years of service to Masonry and Ed Fletcher, Lewis Jones, and John White for 50 years of service to Masonry.

These men have been Masons for the better part of their adult lives.

Their service to the fraternity and their brethren is indeed worthy of praise.

William E. Little, W.M.

an **Open Meeting with meal and special program is planned for the Stated Communication on Thursday, June 19** to honor the flag of our country, as June 14 is officially Flag Day.
3/17, 24, & 31/08 Mondays at 5:00 p.m - Degree Team Practice and Masonic Education

PERPETUAL MEMBERSHIPS - W: Bro. David Dodge reminds that *now*, while St. James Lodge dues are \$59.50 per year, *before* the per-capita dues increase takes effect, is the time to start YOUR Perpetual Membership for 20 times annual dues. You just pay 4 times this years annual dues, for 5 years, and you are a perpetual member forever.

FUTURE EVENTS

4/3/08 Thursday 7:30 p.m - Stated Communication - One Fellow Craft Degree will be conferred.

4/4-5/08 Friday 6:30 p.m. & Saturday 7:00 a.m. - Baton Rouge Scottish Rite Reunion - at New Orleans Scottish Rite Cathedral

4/12-15/08 Saturday - Tuesday - Louisiana Commandery of Knights Templar - at Holiday Inn South, Baton Rouge.

4/17/08 Thursday 7:30 p.m. - Stated Communication

5/1/06 Thursday 6:30 p.m - **OPEN Meeting**, Stated Communication Honesty & Integrity Awards
May 15 TBA

-----Begin Casual Summer Attire, *except for Degrees*-----

Jun. 5 St. John the Baptist Program

Jun. 19 **Honor the Flag of Our Country Program OPEN Meeting.**

Jul. 3 4th of July Program

Jul. 17 Treasurer's Report & Committee Reports

Aug. 7 Masonic Education Program

Aug. 21 TBA

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

Sickness And Relief

Remember our ill members and their families:

Bro. Al Blanchard is having heart trouble and not doing well.

W: Bro. Jim Grady is seriously ill and is too weak to talk on the phone or have visits.

Bro. Wiley Noble is seriously ill with respiratory illness.

W: Bro. Preston Eggers has been in the hospital twice in March with hernia repairs.

W: Bro. Bill Gagnon is doing better and has resumed chemotherapy.

Nothing more, from the West, Joe R

Other Masonic Events

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, dinner at 6:30, and meeting at 7:30 PM

Livingston Certificate Association meets at 6:00 p.m 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. 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.

Master Ricks Martin Bowles; Senior Warden, Larry Houston Moore; Junior Warden Adib A. Shahla; Secretary Charles Daniel Smith; Treasurer George Samuel Roberts; Senior Deacon Naresh Sharma; Junior Deacon William Ellis Little; Master of Ceremonies Shane C. Crump; Senior Steward Timothy Hilary Atkins; Junior Steward Michael Carpenter; Chaplain Ernest St. Clair Easterly III; Tyler Robert Ronald Zinn, Members: Larry Wade, Alva Clay Smith; Clayton Johnson Borne, III; Glenn Cupit; Jay L. Martin, Mike Carpenter, Kristopher Easterly Jr., Ernest Easterly PM, Gerard Adam Ruth.

Special Notice: Please notify the Secretary, W: Bro. Dedman and Joe Richard if you change your address, telephone or email address.

RECENT EVENTS

3/2/08 2:30 p.m - 13th District Meeting at Central Lodge was attended by four members from St. James Lodge.

3/6/08 6:30 p.m - Stated Communication - Guest Night Open Meeting - About 65 attended to enjoy a delicious dinner of lasagna, vegetable, salad, rolls and apple pie a la mode, which was all prepared by Shana Little, wife of W:M; Little. Visitors from other lodges were Casey Collier from Katy, TX, Glenn Cupit, and James Seager. Talks were given by M:W: Bro. Bill Brown about the lodge room and its furniture and fixtures, and W: Bro. George Jones on the history of masonry. Six petitions resulted from that guest night. James Lee Seager II was accepted as a Plural Member.

3/11/08 Tuesday 5:00 p.m. - Degree Team Practice & Masonic Education

3/20/08 Thursday 7:30 p.m. - Stated Communication - 29 members attended. Six petitions, as a result of Guest Night were received. 25-year members, W: Bros. Don Park and Adib Shahla, and 50-year members, Bros. Lewis Jones and Ed Fletcher, were presented certificates. Not attending was Bro. John S. White, Jr.

A Reobligation and Rededication ceremony was conducted by W: Bro. Cal Elliott. The Budget for 2008 was presented by the Finance Committee Chairman, W: Bro. Steve Selby, and it was adopted. A motion passed to authorize the sale of some bonds, if needed, to pay the roofing contractor upon completion, but we will try to pay from current funds. The Building Committee reported that the roofing replacement is nearing completion. It was announced that



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March 2008 — April 2008

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"Old Tiler Talks" by Carl Claudy -1924

INDICTMENT

"Why don't men practice what they preach?" demanded the New Brother of the Old Tiler, walking up and down in the anteroom.

"I dunno, why don't they?" the Old Tiler hooked a chair nearer to his own. "Sit down, son, you remind me of a Marathon."

"I don't want to sit down! I want to know why men profess brotherhood and act like selfish beasts. I want to know why Masons agree to uphold each other in trouble and forget they have any brethren when trouble comes. I want to know why we preach charity and practice personal isolation from the other fellow's woes. I want to know..."

"Don't you also want to know why Masons preach toleration and broad-mindedness and then walk up and down the anteroom like cages lions, spouting intolerance and narrow-mindedness?" inquired the Old Tiler, mildly.

"That was right pat, for you," laughed the New Brother, "but we prate a lot of charity and while we give money enough, we don't do enough personal work!"

"Vague indictment," countered the Old Tiler. "You have something on your chest beside your vest. Suppose you unload?"

"I was put on a sick committee last week," began the New Brother. "And among our sick was a chap named Brown. We found him in Mercy Hospital. In a ward, he was, with a dozen or so other patients. He was pleased to see us and so appreciative of our visit, it was pathetic. Said if it wasn't for the visits of his brethren he'd go crazy. Said some of us had been to see him every two weeks for several months. Then he pulled me down over his bed and said, "Look here, brother, you look like a regular guy; lemme tell you I am not the only Mason here, There are seven brethren in this ward, all from foreign jurisdictions, and no one visits them!"

"I hunted these chaps out, and I conferred with the committee, and we brought fruit and flowers and took them to all these seven, and five of them cried! And, damn it, I cried, too! Here they were, four of them hardly more than boys, in a strange town, in a strange place, and not a single Mason had hunted them up or said a word to them until we did it. I say we are pikers not to go and see them, and I'm going every week, and the lodge can pay the bills, or I will, but these chaps are going to think at least one brother believes in charity and...I don't mean it as charity, I mean brotherhood and common decency. We preach a lot and do so little and we ought to be ashamed of ourselves and..."

"Whoa!" the Old Tiler grinned. "Back up, son! Your sentiments do you credit. It is true Masonic spirit to comfort the sick, but don't be too hard on the lodge. A lodge is not omniscient, you know. Neither the Master nor the committee on the sick can know of every sick Mason in town. If those seven Masons had written to their own lodges and told the facts, those lodges would have written to us here, and we would have been on the job. Nine times out of ten when a strange brother in a strange town is sick and no Masons visit him, it's because they don't know he is there.

"Now you have discovered these brethren, you need not keep a monopoly of their care. Tell your story in lodge and you'll start a whole procession of Masons toward Mercy Hospital. We are often apparently careless because we don't know, but that we preach charity and practice its neglect I will not agree. Are you a better Mason than any in our lodge?"

"Why, of course not!"

"Well, are you a better man than any in our lodge?"

"I don't think so!"

"You certainly do talk so!" responded the Old Tiler. "You have been to Mercy Hospital. You feelings have been touched by visible evidence of suffering and the need for Masonic visits. You are going to give what is needed. But you never did, before you went there. If you took the lodge out there wouldn't they all feel the same way?"

"I suppose they would!"

"Then why damn them because they haven't had your opportunity? You didn't have to wait until you were drawn on a sick committee to go to Mercy Hospital. You just never thought of it. Now you have seen for yourself, you are moved to action. So would any of the rest of the Masons in this lodge be. Be charitable to them, too, as well as to the boys in the hospital. Go inside and tell your story; you'll have plenty of company when you go to the hospital next time."

"How do you know?"

"I visit Mount Alban Hospital every week," said the Old Tiler, a little shyly, "and tell the boys, I know what they do."

"There are times, answered the New Brother, "when I think you should be framed and put on a wall! You are too perfect to be real."

"Oh, don't say that!" cried the Old Tiler, "or I'll think you are trying to borrow a cigar instead of just about to give me one!"

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