

# 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.

## Monthly News Letter October 2008 – November 2008



Brethren,

Thank you to those of you who were able to attend our recent Guest Night/Past Masters Night. Several guests were in attendance, along with our usual good showing from our Past masters. Special thanks go to Bill Brown, PGM and George Jones, PM for their words of wisdom concerning Masonry. Likewise, special thanks goes to Ben Melanson, PM and Mark Paxton, PM for their warm sentiments on behalf of the Past Masters in attendance.

If possible, please attend on November 6th. On that date, annual elections will be held to elect the officers of your Lodge for the upcoming year. Please join me in congratulating our incoming officers and pledging our support for their leadership efforts.

November brings with it the season of Thanksgiving. Throughout history, celebrations of thanks and bountiful harvests have been observed. The Massachusetts Bay Colony's first "Feast of Thanks" was a commemoration of the New Land's bountiful harvest.

America has celebrated many Thanksgiving Days. Thanksgiving was celebrated by the Pilgrims from 1644 to 1649 and beyond. George Washington proclaimed the nation's first Thanksgiving for November 26, 1789. A Thanksgiving proclamation, drafted by William Seward, was signed by Abraham Lincoln in 1863. Franklin D. Roosevelt officially designated Thanksgiving Day as the fourth Thursday in November on November 26, 1941.

As we reflect upon the Thanksgiving season, let us be ever conscious of how truly blessed we are. Let us thank the Supreme Architect of the Universe for the bountiful blessings of plenty and freedom we enjoy every day, not just on Thanksgiving Day. By doing so, we can celebrate a harvest of harmony, peace, and brotherly love that has the potential of enlightening the entire world.

William E. Little, W.M.

In view of a dues increase in each of the next nine (9) years, it is appropriate to consider a PERPETUAL MEMBERSHIP at twenty (20) times current annual dues.

### RECENT EVENTS

**Thursday, October 2, 6:00 PM** Guest Night & Past Masters' recognition with Open Meal - 52 attended, including 6 prospective petitioners, 15 Past Masters, several wives and lady friends, and one visiting Brother Mason. Business included giving one petition, receiving one petition for Plural Membership and appointment of Investigation Committee, and announcement of conferral of a Fellow Craft at the next meeting.

**Friday, October 3** Lodge of Nine Muses - Ill. Bro. & Dr. S. Brent Morris, 33° spoke at the Annual Table Lodge. His talk was well received and good Masonic fellowship was had by all.

**Saturday, October 4** Scottish Rite Reunion had 12 candidates to become 32 degree Masons.

**Sunday, October 5** 13<sup>th</sup> Masonic District met at St. Albans Lodge No. 28 in Jackson

**Thursday, October 16** Prior to the Stated Communication, some Past Masters met with the Senior Warden to assist in planning for 2009. An Entered Apprentice examination report was made and a Fellow Craft degree was conferred.

### FUTURE EVENTS

**Nov. 6** St. John the Evangelist & Election of 2008 Officers  
**Nov. 20** **Thanksgiving Program (Open/Meal 6:30 PM)**  
**Dec. 4** **Installation of 2009 Officers (Open/Meal 6:30 PM)**

### Sickness, Relief and Sorrow

Brethren, a dear sweet lady, Carolyn Pence joined her husband, Illustrious Worshipful Brother Lloyd Gerald Pence, in that beautiful Celestial Realm, at 6:30 AM on Wednesday, October 15, 2008. Her sons, W: Bro. Steve and Gary, daughter Tisha and other members of her family had gathered around her since she moved from the hospital to Sherwood Manor. Her life and Lloyd's life were celebrated at services on Saturday, Oct 18<sup>th</sup> at First Christian Church.

Carolyn was a very talented lady who was always supportive of her husband's service to Masonry. The loss of both of them is felt deeply by all of us. Prayers and support for their family are extended from all of Masonry.

With Fraternal sorrow and celebration,

Please keep these special people and all others in your prayers. Nothing more, from the West, Joe R

### 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. 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.

Dues for St. James Lodge have not gone up in several years. In 2009 the total annual dues will increase by \$1.00 to a total of \$60.50, including Grand Lodge per capita dues and various assessments. In recent prior years total annual dues have been \$59.50. Future annual Grand Lodge per capita dues will increase \$1.00 per year for each of the next ten years. In 2009 the Grand Lodge portion of our dues, except for exempt categories of members is:

Per Capita	\$14.50
Grand Lodge Magazine	\$2.50
Board of Trustees and Masonic Charities	\$3.00
200th Anniversary Commemoration in 2012	\$0.50
Total Grand Lodge	\$20.50

Of the 2009 total of \$60.50, St. James Lodge retains \$40.00, as provided in Article VIII, Section 2 the By-Laws of St. James Lodge No. 47 F. & A. M. which was last amended January 1, 1990.

**HELP NEEDED – Volunteer(s) to be the Lodge Photographer(s). Contact Joe Richard if you think you can handle this important job.**



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**October 2008 — November 2008**

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

**Your article could have been here.** Send articles to Bob Zinn, [bz@chem.lsu.edu](mailto:bz@chem.lsu.edu)

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"Rays of Masonry" by Dewey Wollstein -1953

#### MASONRY IN THE HOME

Home is the sphere in which Masonry should find its most effective expression. It is here that teachings, principles, obligations, take on a living, breathing form and are recorded in every deed, by every act. Those virtues which command respect and promote love are here exemplified by the father who was schooled in Freemasonry. Little children, seeking to adapt themselves to a world that is new, eager to give expression to childish thoughts, find a true companion in the father or brother who himself stood as a child in the "northeast corner" of life.

The Masonic influence creates a feeling of confidence and hope that through calm, deliberate thought, obstacles will be surmounted. Between husband and wife there is a natural exchange of confidence, a proper recognition of each other's rights. Within the family circle there is a bright outlook upon life, a manifestation of the Mason's belief in the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of man.

Because he is a Mason, the vows of marriage become even more sacred. His obligations are infinitely more binding. In the domain of home, limited though it may be, the Mason sees the foundation of all good government. In the performance of his duties as a husband and father he contributes to the welfare of all the people. His value as a citizen is proportionate to the standards of his home. All the while he supplies the tenets of Freemasonry he does more. Through his son he perpetuates Masonry: through his daughter he perpetuates the ideals that she will look for and expect in all men. As long as a woman looks for these ideals, man will possess them.

A "key to perfection" is not claimed by Masonry. Yet we know that the Mason who holds his obligations as sacred trusts is a kind father, a faithful husband and a good citizen.

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"Rays of Masonry" by Dewey Wollstein -1953

#### LIBERTY

Liberty- Perhaps no single definition can be given which will convey all that is embodied in this precious word. For our purpose here, let us define it as "the normal balance between desire and restraint." This would be a proper Masonic definition. The words "normal restraint" must mean the understanding and application of Spiritual Laws, by which a perfect and permanent freedom is assured. The enjoyment of Liberty, or the extent of this enjoyment, is based upon the intellect of the individual. A privilege, therefore Liberty, is the possession of the man who feels a responsibility to give something in return for that which he receives and appreciates; to suppress a base desire for a nobler one; to sacrifice a temporary selfish desire for one that means the most lasting values to the welfare of all people.

Parents dare not indiscriminately grant every wish of their children. By doing so, an abnormal condition is set up. Desire is increased by reducing restraint. The virtue of freedom is turned into the vice of over-indulgence, a violation of a law of Nature, a trespass against a Spiritual Law.

In the state, frequent violations of these laws, by those governed or by those who govern, leave only a vestige of Liberty- the form but not the fact- the marble-like lips but not the voice. In like manner, the balance is lost when government exercises restraint without reason, depriving the people of privileges with which Spiritual Laws endow them. Those who govern them become the destroyers of Liberty, instead of the interpreters.

The propagandist, who, ignoring the welfare of the people, spreads malicious falsehoods; the newspaper that acts in the interest of a few; the religious leader who thrives by denouncing those who do not conform to his creed; all craftily deceive, by their cowardly claims to unlimited freedom of speech, of press and of conscience, when they use that which is sacred as a shield to hide their iniquity. They cry out "We demand our rights," when they mean "protect us in our evil intentions."

Freemasonry, is the great expounder of Liberty. It teaches Equality, Tolerance and Justice, without which Liberty cannot exist.

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If you change phone, address or e-mail, PLEASE send updated information to Joe Richard [jgr2@cox.net](mailto:jgr2@cox.net)