

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

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

Monthly Newsletter October 2009 – November 2009



FROM THE EAST

Masonic Education in the monthly Newsletter of St. James Lodge will begin with this issue by including excerpts, as space permits, from the *HANDBOOK OF MASONIC LAW, THE GRAND LODGE OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA, FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS*. The selected excerpts from the *HANDBOOK OF MASONIC LAW (H.O.M.L.)* reflect answers and guidance to some of the questions or situations that have arisen in St. James Lodge in recent years.

The *LOUISIANA MASONIC MONITOR* lists the thirteen Prerogatives and Duties of the Worshipful Master. The Seventh Duty is: "To perform the ritualistic work of the Lodge and instruct the brethren therein." The *Landmarks Recognized* by The Grand Lodge of Louisiana includes: "23. Every Master, before closing his Lodge, may give, or cause to be given, a lecture on Masonry, or a part thereof." The *Digest of Edicts* of the Grand Lodge requires that one duty of the Master is to: "Instruct the brethren in the work of the Order and the moral lessons of the symbols."

Therefore, it is hereby proposed that a regular component of the monthly Newsletter of St. James Lodge, be excerpts from H.O.M.L. as a part of our Masonic Education to make us more fully aware of the extent and details of our Masonic Law. This proposal is subject to the needs and desires of Lodge and its Master in future times.

Bettye and I send a wish to each of the Brethren and their families for a joyous fall season – Happy Thanksgiving and good hunting, fishing, football, or whatever you enjoy in the Fall of the year.

Fraternal best wishes,
Joe Richard,
Worshipful Master 2009

and Re-obligation ceremony and Bro. Brian Schmolke was found to be proficient in the Master Mason catechism.

October 22, Thursday, Special Communication – one Entered Apprentice Degree was conferred.

FUTURE EVENTS

Monday, November 2, 5:30 P.M. Officers & Degree Team Practice (Fellow Craft Degree).

Thursday, November 12, 5:30 P.M. – Examine two Bros. in the Entered Apprentice Proficiency.

Thursday, November 12, 6:30 P.M. – Special Communication – Confer Fellow Craft Degree on two Bros.

Monday, November 16, 5:30 P.M. – Officers & Degree Team Practice (Master Mason Degree).

Thursday, November 19, 7:30 P.M. - Stated Communication – Receive Investigation Committee Report by W: Bro. Ladner and ballot.

Saturday, November 21, 8:00 A.M. – Special Communication – Breakfast – 9:00 A.M. Confer Entered Apprentice Degree on one candidate & appoint W: Bro. Mark Paxton as Coach – 10:00 A.M. Confer Entered Apprentice Degree on second candidate & appoint W: Bro. Naresh Sharma as Coach.

Thursday, December 3, 6:00 / 6:30 P.M. - Stated Communication – Open / Dinner Installation of 2010 Officers.

Sunday, December 6, 12:30 / 1:30 / 2:30 P.M. (Dinner / Relief Lodge / District Lodge – 13th District Lodge at Fairfields Lodge # 425 at 10484 Mammoth Avenue.

Dec. 3 Installation of 2010 Officers, Open Meeting

Sickness and Relief

Early October 22, 2009, IRA "BO" HILL left this world and entered into that house not made by hands. Brethren, "BO", was an inspiration to all of us, remember his family in prayer, at this, their hour of bereavement.

Also called recently was Brother VIRGEN JOSEPH "V.J." SANCHEZ, who lived in St Amant, La. Bro SANCHEZ, Born August 16, 1936, was 73 yrs old and was raised a MASTER MASON, JUNE 06, 1980.

--Jimmie D. Dunkin DGL 13th Masonic District

The Great Architect Of The Universe has seen fit, in his infinite wisdom, to suddenly issue a summons call from this earthly realm a good man and Mason, Worshipful Brother Ernest S. Easterly III, Past Master of East Gate Lodge and Lodge of Nine Muses, and a member of Downtown York Rite Bodies, Baton Rouge Valley of Scottish Rite. He will be deeply missed by many, but most of all his family and Lodge Brothers.

Brother Cooper continues to have health problems as does WBr David Dodge.

--Joe Richard Wm

Brother Gordon Kenneth Smith, a member of Fort Benning Lodge 579 in Columbus Ga. died in Texas last week. The family has requested Masonic Rites at Resthaven Funeral Home on Jefferson Hwy, Monday Oct. 05, 2009, He was a retired Lt. Col of the USAF.

--Harold G. Ballard PGM

Brother Book Hopkins has had back problems. Again, please keep him in your prayers as he makes serious decisions.

Brother Mehmet Dicle's Mother has been diagnosed with lung cancer. I ask that you join me in keeping Brother Mehmet, and his Mother, in our prayers. And, also please join in the hope for recovery.

--Ricks Martin Bowles Wm

Did you know that you can read the news-letter on-line at <http://www.stjameslodge47.org> ?

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

Dec. 3 Installation of 2010 Officers

RECENT EVENTS

October 1, Thursday, Stated Communication was an **open dinner meeting** to honor the widows of our departed members. We also honored our Past Masters, and 25 & 50-year members. Certificates for 25-year membership were presented to W; Bros. Naresh Sharma and Larry Bossier. Certificates and permanent membership cards were presented to Bros. James Black, Mark Guidry and Carl Cutler. Carl & his wife Rena made the trip from Atlanta for the event. One Petition was received, and an Investigation Committee appointed, a ballot was passed for an individual to receive degrees in Masonry.

October 8, Thursday, Special Communication conferred one Fellow Craft Degree after a successful Entered Apprentice Proficiency Examination.

October 15, Thursday, Stated Communication – A Proficiency Exam was held in the Lodge in conjunction with a Rededication



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October 2009 — November 2009

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

Other Masonic Events

Sunday, December 6, 13th District Lodge meets at 2:30 P.M. at Fairfields Lodge # 425 located at 10484 Mammoth Drive, Baton Rouge.

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 Merrill Lodge # 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.

Ever Master Mason is given a copy of "THE LOUISIANA MASONIC MONITOR." It was first issued in 1921 and last reprinted in 1988. It contains descriptions and lectures *Of The Degrees Of Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, Master Mason And Other Masonic Ceremonies.*

Lodges maintain a current copy of "HANDBOOK OF MASONIC LAW" (H.O.M.L.) by The Grand Lodge Of The State Of Louisiana Free And Accepted Masons. The Handbook was edited and republished in 1978 with annual supplements issued following each Annual Grand Communication. Definitions and excerpts from the H.O.M.L. are shown in quotes, and those not in quotes are paraphrased. The items selected are certainly not all, but are in response to questions that more frequently found to arise in a Lodge, and are as follows:

Preface

DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES (pp. iii & iv)

- 1.) "Freemasonry is a charitable and benevolent, educational and religious society. Its principals are proclaimed as widely as men will hear. Its only secrets are in its methods of recognition and of symbolic instruction."
- 2.) Charity: Masonry is a non-profit organization that supports charities and benevolences, too numerous to list, by both individuals and organizationally, by monetary contributions, participation and leadership.
- 3.) Education: Masonry supports public education and the improvement and welfare of mankind, by its system of morality based upon the Sacred Law.
- 4.) Social: It is social only in that it gathers men in numbers for its primary work of education, of workshop, and of charity. Its desire is to make good men better. It is described as a brotherhood of man under the fatherhood of God. A significant objective is peace, harmony and happiness among the brethren.
- 5.) Religion and Masonry: "It is religious in that it teaches monotheism; the volume of the Sacred Law is open upon its altars whenever a Lodge is in session; reverence for God is ever present in its ceremonials; and to its brethren are constantly addressed lessons of morality; yet it is not sectarian or theological." It teaches truth, justice and morality by one's duty to God, family, neighbor, and self. Religion is not discussed in a Lodge. No Atheist or irreligious Libertine can be a Mason.
- 6.) Politics: Masonic bodies consider it dangerous to their unity, strength, usefulness, and welfare "to take action or attempt to exercise pressure or influence for or against any legislation, or in any way to attempt to procure the election or appointment of government officials, or to influence them, whether or not they are members of the Fraternity, in the performance of their official duties." Politics is not discussed in a Lodge. "Masonry abhors Communism Anyone embracing Communism is therefore barred from Masonic Membership in Louisiana."

[to be continued]

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