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

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

SEPTEMBER 2004—OCTOBER 2004

FROM THE EAST

Brethren: Guest Night was a great success. We counted 70 guests and handed out several Petitions.

I want to thank Shanna Little and Melisia Atkins for the delicious food and their efforts for the Guest Night Dinner.

The Master Mason Degree in Full Regalia September 16 was a great success also. All positions were filled with Past Masters. There were 71 Master Masons present. Everyone there had a really great time.

Again I want to extend a special invitation to all our Past Masters on Thursday, October 7, 2004. Fellowship begins at 6:00 pm and dinner at 6:30 pm.

On short notice, through his diligent work, Bro. Jones has arranged for "The Trombones" to entertain us again with a fine program. This is a special occasion each year to recognize and honor our Past Masters and we hope all of our Past Masters will attend. **Bring your wives and guests**. Seafood Gumbo, Salad, and other fine foods will be served. **Come hungry**.

Also mark your calendar for October 14, 2004, a special meeting at 7:00 pm for the purpose for conferring the Fellow craft Degree on two candidates.

We received two Petitions for Degrees last meeting; keep up the good work!

The program for the regular scheduled meeting October 21, 2004 will be on Masonic Education by WB Larry Wade.

We missed the bullet again. Let us pray for all the people that lost so much from Hurricane Ivan and the other hurricanes, this season.

FRANK E. DEDMAN

WORSHIPFUL MASTER

Perpetual Membership

Forms for Perpetual Membership are available from Secretary Pence. The Perpetual Membership fee is a minimum of twenty (20) times the current annual dues of $54.50 in one installment of $1,090, or five (5) annual installments of 4.52 times the annual dues, or five annual installments of $246.34 each.

RECENT EVENTS

(End Casual Summer Attire)

Sep. 2 **Guest Night (Open meeting: fellowship 6:00/meal 6:30)**
Sep. 16 Master's Degree in Full Regalia

Congratulations and welcome to Bro. John Joseph Dostal, raised on Sept 16th.

FUTURE EVENTS

Other Masonic Events - Downtown York Rite Bodies meet regularly on the first Saturday of each month at 8:00 a.m. with breakfast at 7:30 a.m. Scottish Rite Baton Rouge Valley meets on the second Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Acacia Shrine Temple meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. with dinner at 6:00 p.m.

Oct. 7 Past Masters' Night **(**Open/meal 6:30**) ***
Oct. 14 Special FC degree 7:00
Oct. 21 Masonic Education Program

Special communication of Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana October, 30, 2004 called for the purpose of disposition of the Grand Lodge property at Alexandria, La. Worshipful Master, Senior Warden and Junior Warden are required to attend or send a representative with his proxy.

Nov. 4 St. John the Evangelist Program
Nov. 18 **Thanksgiving Program (Open/meal 6:30) ***
Dec. 2 Election of Officers for 2005
Dec. 16 **Installation of 2005 Officers(Open/meal 6:30)**

There will be a York Rite Festival on November 6 and 13, 2004. This will be a Joint Reunion by Downtown York Rite Bodies and Istrouma York Rite Bodies, with possible participation by other York Rite Bodies from Feliciana and Hammond.

On Saturday, Nov. 6 the Chapter and Council degrees, Order of Red Cross and Order of Malta will be conferred at St. James Lodge beginning with breakfast at 7:30 a.m. and concluding about 3:00 p.m. On the following Saturday, Nov. 13 the annual Commandery Inspections will be held, and Knights Templar Order of The Temple conferred at Istrouma Lodge (corner of Dayton and Plank Road) beginning at 11:00 a.m. and concluding about 3:00 p.m. Lunch will be served both days.

All Master Masons who are Christians are eligible for membership in Knights Templar. Anyone wanting more information and a petition, please contact Joe Richard, Past Commander, Plains Commandery No. 11, at 924-7965 or jgr2@cox.net .

"Rays of Masonry" by Dewey Wollstein -1953

STRENGTH IN UNDERSTANDING

We must ever keep in mind the fact that the strength of Masonry is in the ideal of Universality. It has never offered a prescribed religion, but has forever offered the inspiration for the individual Mason to grow in his religious beliefs.

The instant there is a monopolistic trend to distribute religion to men, ignoring their private and personal beliefs, the system then becomes the master of the man and is a danger to society. The individual is submerged and no longer is a seeker of Light.

On the other hand, when an institution gives proper emphasis to Spiritual Enlightenment in relation to Intellectual Development, the individual stands as "the image of his Creator," not bound by dogma or edict, and free to develop spiritually and mentally, unhampered by a mighty pre-fabricated system.

The strength of Masonry is in the tolerance and understanding of those of many beliefs who unite in Love, the pinnacle of all religions.

The proper relation between Spiritual Growth and Mental Development is the balance wheel of Masonry.

The highest good of all religions (and here is the common ground upon which Masons meet), is determined by the degree to which we recognize the same ingredients of love, of unselfishness, of service to humanity, in our brother's religion, as we claim for our own.

There is a fine distinction between a Landmark and a Wall.

"Old Tiler Talks" by Carl Claudy -1924

POOR FISH

"If I didn't love the old lodge so much I'd dimit and go to a live one!"

The New Brother spoke disgustedly to the Old Tiler. He laid down his sword, hitched in his chair and snorted. "S'matter with the old lodge now?" he asked belligerently.

"Oh, the same old thing. Same old gang. No possible chance of doing anything different than we ever did. No pep. No costumes. No new expenditure for anything. We have died on the vine and don't know it!"

"Someone step on a resolution you offered?"

"Didn't offer any. Knew better. No use asking that bunch to do anything."

"Listen, brother, while I give you some advice. Look at an aquarium and consider the fishes."

"Huh?"

"Consider the fishes-the poor fishes. I asked the master of the aquarium what kept a bass in a glass pot full of water from eating up his small minnow companions. He told me he had trained the bass not to eat the minnows. I asked him how he could do that. He said he put a plate glass partition in the aquarium, with the minnows on one side and the bass on the other. The bass made a nose dive after a mouthful of minnows and got a noseful of invisible plate glass. That made him pause for a moment but he soon returned. For three days that determined bass tried to dive through the glass he couldn't see. After the third day his nose was so sore he gave up. Decided, probably, that the minnows were ghost minnows and couldn't be eaten! He has lived with them a year since and never tried to eat one, even when it rubs against his nose.

"Now, brother, you consider the poor fish. He doesn't try anything because once he did and got a sore nose. You think the old lodge is dead because it won't spend money for costumes or stage an entertainment or buy a new temple or something. You are convinced it has withered on the vine, because it hasn't done anything progressive. Every brother in it talks the same way. Everyone wants to do something, but a few years ago a crowd of standpatters put a plate glass between the membership and any minnows of progress. The plate glass is long gone and the standpatters are a ring no more. But you and all the rest are afraid to offer constructive programs because you think the plate glass is still there. Between you and the bass, there's little difference in wealth."

"Wealth? I don't get you!"

"I said wealth. You are the poor fish."

"That's handing it out pretty straight," commented the New Brother. "Now, tell me, Old Tiler, why you think this old lodge doesn't spend money for anything except necessities and charity? You think it is a good lodge, a flourishing lodge, an old lodge!"

"Got any loose change in your pocket?" asked the Old Tiler.

"Sure, a handful," said the New Brother, pulling it out.

"Hold a dime in front of one eye and close the other. What do you see?" commanded the Old Tiler.

"Why, I see a dime, of course!" was the surprised answer.

"Exactly. You see a dime. You don't see the $1.87 on the chair. A dime is close so that you can't see the $1 a foot away. That's the idea of brethren who won't spend lodge money for anything they don't have to. They see the treasury full to bursting and investments piling up, then they try to look through a dime and are so scared to spend a dollar they don't dare read the treasurer's report aloud for fear someone will steal it!"

"It was a fine lodge, now it is running on its reputation. It used to spend money wisely. Everything we needed we had. We had jamborees and smokers and entertainments; we had picnics and outings; we had educational lectures and a library; instructive talks were given new brethren and candidates. We spent what we took in and made better Masons by so doing. Gradually we began to look at the thin dimes so hard we couldn't see the success, progress, reputation, we had bought with dollars. So we stopped spending. Now we have money and a reputation of having died on the vine. What shall it profit a lodge if it lay up large numbers of dollars in the treasury, and lose its hold on its members? Where is the profit of penuriousness and lack of progress, even if we have money? What good is money unless you spend it? A million dollars at the North Pole isn't as valuable as one fur coat. All the money in the world on a desert island wouldn't but one newspaper. You must spend money to get the good of it. You must spend money to make money. And you must spend money to keep your lodge alive and make your members better members and your Masons happy Masons."

"I never thought of it that way," hesitated the New Brother.

"I think I'll start a public aquarium," continued the Old Tiler.

"For what?" the New Brother was unwise enough to ask.

"For the poor fish, of course," snapped the Old Tiler. "I've got one here to start with."

"Come on in the lodge room with me," commanded the New Brother firmly. "No Old Tiler can call me a poor fish and get away with it!"

"What are you going to do?" asked the Old Tiler.

"Offer a resolution to spend $1,000 in the next six months in educational work among our members, and you are going to second it."

"There goes the start of a perfectly good aquarium," sighed the Old Tiler.

NOTE: “The Old Tiler” stories use an archaic spelling of the word Tyler”

Did You Know?

During a talk before the Warrensberg Historical Society in 1921, Elizabeth, daughter of B. W. Grover said: “In order that you can understand the primitive conditions of travel and the lack of means of transportation, I will state that my father, while grand master of the Grand Lodge of Missouri, visited every lodge in the state, making the trips on horseback, using his favorite saddle horse.”

As additional information, Col. B. W. Grover, Grand Master of Missouri 1851-1852, suffered fatal wounds in the battle of Lexington on the grounds of The Masonic College. He had been a staunch supporter of the college.

From **Did You Know Vignettes in Masonry from the “Royal Arch Mason” magazine,** edited by Wes Cook

So, what was YOUR excuse for missing that recent lodge meeting?

My thanks for the contributions to this issue of the news letter! Send newsletter submissions to Bob Zinn, bz@chem.lsu.edu

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