

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 for September 2007 –October 2007

RECENT EVENTS

September 6 - Guest Night -- 67 attended, including 7 guests, that resulted in two petitions. Special thanks are extended from St. James to W. Bro. Frank Dedman and his daughter Cheryl Salter, wife of Bro. Brent R. Salter, for the delicious spaghetti and meatballs supper. An excellent program on early Masonic history back to about 900 was given by W. Bro. Larry Wade. Also, W. Bro. George Jones gave an excellent program on Masonic history in St. James Lodge.

September 20 - Stated Communication - The Entered Apprentice degree was conferred on one candidate. W. Bro. Harold Ballard from Central # 442 brought an Entered Apprentice Brother from his Lodge to observe. Other visitors were W. Bro. Bill Womack from Istrouma # 414 and W. Bro. Jack Claunch from Trinity Union # 372. Congratulations were given to W. Bro. C. Lenton Sartain on his 87th birthday on September 17. One Petition was received. Invitations were announced of upcoming degrees to be conferred at several other Lodges. Thirty members and guests attended.

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

FUTURE EVENTS

September 30 - 13th Masonic District Special Communication will be on Sunday afternoon at 2:30 p.m. at Baker Lodge # 441, which is located at 4807 Groom Road in Baker. St. James Lodge officers should attend and members are welcome. The purpose is to elect a District Deputy Grand Master for 13th District for 2008 to replace one who became unable to accept.

September 30 – Lodge of Nine Muses 'annual' table lodge.

October 4 - Stated Communication -- This is an open meeting with dinner at 6:30 p.m. to honor and recognize our Past Masters. Currently we have 24 living Past Masters of St. James Lodge, one of which is a Past Grand Master, plus eight (8) members who are Past Masters by affiliation. October 18 - Stated Communication at 7:30 p.m. The District Deputy Grand Master for our 13th Masonic District, R.W. Guy Jenkins, will be received. Possibly, the Fellowcraft degree will be conferred.

Nov. 1 St. John the Evangelist & Election of 2008 Officers

Nov. 15 *Thanksgiving Program (Open/meal 6:30 PM)

Dec. 6 Install Officers for 2008 (Open/meal 6:30 PM)

News:

Bro. Al Blanchard, Tyler, has moved to 185 South Club Avenue, St. Gabriel, LA 70776-4438. His new phone number is 225-642-5552. Special Notice: Please notify the Secretary, W. Bro. Dedman and Joe Richard if you change your address, telephone or email address.

Masonic Education:

Every Tuesday at 5:00 PM there will be a tutorial practice of the Work for each Station of Lodge Officers conducted by Past Masters of St. James Lodge.

Other Masonic Events –

13th Masonic District meets quarterly on the first Sunday of the last month in each quarter, except the 2nd Sunday in September.

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 dinner, and meeting at 7:30 PM.

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. Ernest Easterly, W.M., Ricks Bowles, S.W., Adib Shala, J.W., Sam Roberts, Treasurer, Larry Moore, Secretary, William Mollere, Chaplain, Naresh Sharma, Sr. Deacon, Danny Smith, Master of Ceremonies, Gerard Ruth, Sr. Steward, Robert Zinn, Jr. Steward, Kristopher Easterly, Tyler, Members: Tim Atkins, Larry Wade, Alva Clay Smith; Clayton Johnson Borne, III; Shane Crump; Glenn Cupit ; Jay L. Martin, Mike Carpenter; William Little



Brethern,

I want to thank everyone who attended Guest Night. It was a great crowd and we had 6 or 7 potential members and 2 petitions were requested. Also, I want to thank Larry Wade and George Jones for an excellent job. Well done Brothers. I had several guests and their wives comment on how informative and how much they enjoyed both talks. Brother Jones and Brother Wade, thank you so much for agreeing to speak to our guests and doing such an outstanding job.

October 4 is Past Masters night and I want to personally invite all Past Masters to dinner at 6:30 and we will have some outstanding entertainment. Back by popular demand Brian Babin will come and play at the lodge. Bring your wives and friends to this festive occasion. The Past Masters are a great support to me and help me out. Please come and enjoy the company of your fellow brethren.

On October 18, St James will have the official visit of Guy Jenkins the DDGM. I am sure that Brother Jenkins will bring us up to date of the activities of the Grand Lodge. Be sure to come to this informative meeting.

If there is anything that I can do for you please do not hesitate to let me know and I will work to get your request done. Thank all of you for your support and participation in the meetings and degrees.

Sincerely,
Mark Paxton, WM

2008 Dues and Perpetual Membership -- The 2008 dues notices will be mailed out in November and due by December 31, 2008. Annual dues of St. James Lodge are currently \$59.50 and are expected to increase by \$1.00 when Grand Lodge meets on February 4-5, 2008. Perpetual Membership currently costs \$1,190.00, or 20 time annual dues. That amount can be paid over 5 years, which amounts to a more manageable and appealing amount of only \$238.00. After the five years, you will be Dues Free. Please consider it. Frank E. Dedman, Secretary, PM



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SEPTEMBER 2007 — OCTOBER 2007

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My Dear Brothers:

The following is a brief summation of my travels since I departed from our last lodge meeting in mid August. On 16 August I reported for duty at Belle Chase Naval Air Station, outside of New Orleans. The day was filled with the typical governmental red tape paper chase. Administrative forms, filled out in triplicate, submitted for processing, medical examinations conducted, and tests ordered. This entire process had been done in April when I was discharged from active duty, but due to Navy regulation, it was done again.

>From Belle Chase my orders had me report to Norfolk, VA. It took me 2 days to drive to Norfolk where I reported for duty on a Thursday morning. The staff at Norfolk NMPS told me to have a good weekend, that I should have been there on Monday and there was nothing they could do for me until Monday. So, I had a good weekend.

On Monday morning I filled out the same administrative and medical forms I had completed at Belle Chase, received one extra shot, went through uniform measurements and uniform issue, and had personal counseling. While there I had brief contact with a Chaplain that said he wanted to serve on the front lines. I told him there are no front lines in Iraq, death and destruction could happen at any instant anywhere. The chaplain sure acted like he wanted to go down range, but I think he is going to stay in the rear with the gear and be a paragraph trooper. Who know, maybe our paths will cross down range.

From Norfolk my orders took me to Ft. Bragg, just out of Fayetteville, North Carolina. This place has a nickname of Fayetteenam. Ft. Bragg is the center of the universe for Airborne Units as well as other special operations units. Right now I am quite satisfied with letting the Army keep this piece of real estate.

The Army methods of operation are quite different from any logical process; the Army has latrines and fox holes, the Air Force has beautified grounds and inside plumbing.

Currently I am going through training that take about two months. By some unique grand scheme, I have been appointed the class leader; this position was bequeathed over another officer senior to me. When I introduced myself I told the class that I had been enrolled in several anger management classes, but had not graduated from any of them.

For now we are going through training and establishing our routine. It is my intent not to let us get too engrained in a routine because that is when complacency will open a hole in the outer armor. Last week I took us on our first ruck march with full battle rattle. Just to set the example I showed up with boots, helmet, battle rattle, and ruck sack. At the end of the march I was carrying a classmate's body armor for him. We were strung out over a long distance. At the end of the training we will cover 26 miles in one hike. Better to train in pain now than to have to carry someone later.

I had a chance to visit the lodge in Fayetteville. It is Phoenix # 8. It is a very old and beautiful lodge. My immediate Navy superior, a Commander, is a brother of the craft from Philadelphia, Pa. Needless to say I was very excited when I saw the square and compass on his ring. We have had many good Masonic discussions and I have learned a lot from him. We went to the local lodge, gained admission and met many good Masonic brothers. Here on Ft Bragg there are many masons. On Tuesday of this week we attended an initiation for three candidates at one time. All of the candidates were under the age of 30. Boy was I surprised. On Thursday I was able to break away for a Masonic lunch here at Bragg and met some more brothers.

All goes well and I must close for now. Please keep my and my Military brothers in your prayers for soon we shall be in much need of the same. I will try and write when able. Fraternally, LCDR Evan E. Cooper

Interesting --how things are done elsewhere.

Subject: Re: Doing Business of 1st Degree

Brother xxxx,

I do not wish to comment on the issue of whether or not my lodge is a 'properly-run lodge' because in my humble opinion, it is, under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Virginia. I would agree that a regular meeting should consist of more than just voting, but as of yet, I have not attended such a meeting, other than to work in the kitchen serving food and drinks to the visiting brothers and then cleaning up the cafeteria area after they all went upstairs for the stated meeting, so I cannot speak of what goes on inside the Lodge room when a stated meeting is in progress because I've never been in attendance at one.

In our Lodge, EA and FCs have the privilege of 'paying our dues'- not monetarily, but through our efforts, working in the kitchen or KP duty, and as such, we are invited to the dinner that precedes the Stated meeting. We help serve in the kitchen and cook food, clean up the pots and pans after, and sweep and clean the dining areas after the MMs go upstairs for their meeting. We get to eat for free, after the MMs have gone. We usually take 20-30 minutes, sit together and eat prior to cleanup. I've had many enjoyable conversations with EA and FC brothers. I have not felt deprived by not being included in the Stated Meetings. I have enjoyed the fun and fellowship of my fellow EAs and FCs while we cooked, cleaned and often spent the time practicing our catechisms with a few of the MMs who stayed below with us.

As EAs and FCs we are allowed to attend Lodges open on our degree, such as the Mentor's Lodge. Also there are nights where we do degree work and I get to watch and participate. EAs and FCs fill in as Treasurer and read the Charge as per GL instruction. We enjoy ourselves while doing this. We have a monthly Saturday morning breakfast where we work alongside our Eastern Star sisters in serving the brethren, our annual Family day picnic and Annual Fish Fry.

As to the question of whether or not Stated meetings should be opened to EAs and FCs, and whether or not they should be allowed to vote, I do not, at the this time, have enough information to prove to me that this would be beneficial for the Craft in Virginia, but I do not condemn it where allowed.

I am a brand new Master Mason, and time and experience have taught me that wisdom requires a thorough investigation of a matter before rendering judgment, else the judgment rendered might be a misjudgment. I am glad to see that the Craft is going forward and that Freemasonry as a whole is growing, I hope for the betterment of all involved, and mankind as a whole. We EAs and FCs feel that we are gainfully employed in learning the catechisms and in working in the kitchen, and we enjoy it.

Fraternally,
 Brother Eric Martin
<http://www.vamason.org/no220>

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