

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

David Thomas Dodge, W.M.

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Stated Communications: 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.



Lloyd Gerald Pence, Secy., P.M.

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## Monthly News Letter for September 2006 – October 2006



October 2006

A tribute to a great Secretary:

What difference does it make whether a great man was a great Mason or not?

A number of men were famous and at the same time were Masons, but were famous for things not related to Masonry. In some cases, for doing things that are the opposite of everything Masonry stands for.

The great Secretary must always be there for the Lodge and its members.

A Master trying to run a Lodge without a great Secretary is in deep trouble.

Every new Master depends on the Secretary for guidance and he is always eager to give advice when asked and even when not asked. He keeps the Master from making mistakes in Lodge protocol. No Master can begin to know all the things that the Secretary does automatically to keep the Lodge running.

The great Secretary rarely misses a meeting. He is there at a memorial service, a Lodge program, guest night and all degree work. He is always there to look after the Lodge business, emergencies in maintenance, calls from a visiting sojourner and anyone needing information of any kind.

These things that I have just said about a great Secretary apply to our own Worshipful Brother Lloyd Pence and I can't, in the short time that I have known him, begin to know all that he has done for Masonry.

St James Lodge owes him a great debt of gratitude for the twenty some odd years as its Secretary and I know all the Secretaries who follow will wonder 'how in the world did he do it?'

When you are ready Lloyd, pass on the torch, then you can come to meetings and just sit back and enjoy being there.

Our last Guest Night was one of the best we have ever had. I want to thank all the Brothers that made it such a success. We had 85 members and guests that enjoyed a great meal furnished by Frank's Restaurant, then were treated to a great program by Worshipful Brother Larry Wade with special help by Worshipful Brother George Jones. It looks as if we will receive six or more petitions for membership.

On Saturday the 16th, four candidates were raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason. The morning began at 7:30AM with Worshipful Brother Frank Dedman cooking eggs to order. He kept everyone in awe watching him flip those eggs up in the air and never failing to catch them on the way down. The Degree Team did an excellent job. The members were very impressive dressed in their Regalia. Everyone, especially the four new Master Masons, were most impressed. It all went on schedule and we were finished by noon. I want to thank all the brothers who made this happen. Any Lodge, in any district, would have been very impressed.

Our Past Master's Night will be on October the 5<sup>th</sup> and will be an open meeting with musical entertainment to follow. I look forward to a good turnout of the Past Masters and their families. I know everyone will pass a good time.

Brother Tim Atkins will have an informative program for the meeting night on October 19<sup>th</sup>. He has prepared an interesting presentation that includes props to illustrate his topic.

Don't forget to spring forward on October 29<sup>th</sup> and set your clocks ahead one hour. This means things will happen sooner than you think, so don't be late for Lodge Meeting on November the 2nd when we will elect the new officers for 2007. Where did this year go???

Take care, be careful out there and I will see you at the meeting place soon.

Fraternally,  
David Dodge, WM

### RECENT EVENTS

-----End Casual Summer Attire-----  
Sept. 7 \*Guest Night (Open/meal 6:30 PM)  
Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> The 13th Masonic District met at St. James.  
Sept 13<sup>th</sup> Birth Announcement: It was an honor to see **The Grand Master of the State of Louisiana** deliver The Charter into the hands of the Master at the regular meeting of *The Lodge of Nine Muses. #9*. This is the **FIRST** newly chartered Lodge in Louisiana in about 10 years. As LoNM meets in the Red Room of St James this event reflects well upon St. James.  
Sept. 16 4 Master Masons Raised  
Sept. 21 A Fellow Craft was passed.

### FUTURE EVENTS

Oct. 5 \*Past Masters' Night (Open/meal 6:30 PM)  
Oct. 19 TBA  
Nov. 2 St. John the Evangelist & Election of 2007 Officers  
Nov. 16 \*Thanksgiving Program (Open/meal 6:30 PM)  
Dec. 7 Install Officers for 2007 (Open/meal 6:30 PM)

\* Represents possible entertainment  
TBA = To Be Arranged

### Other Masonic Events –

Downtown York Rite Bodies meet regularly on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month at 8:00 a.m. with breakfast at 7:30 a.m. Scottish Rite Baton Rouge Valley meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Acacia Shrine Temple meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. with dinner at 6:00 p.m.

The Lodge of The Nine Muses, No. 9, F.&A.M., meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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, Tim Atkins, Jim Pecoraro

### SICKNESS and RELIEF

**It is good to once again see Our Secretary, W. Bro. Pence, P.M., at our meetings!**

**W. Bro Bill Mote was taken by W. Bro. Dodge to the BR General Hospital at Bluebonnet with a staph infection in his leg. He was expected to be hospitalized for 2 days.**

**Bert Denham passed away September 18, 2006. Brother Denham will be missed in Baton Rouge, especially by the York Rite Bodies.**

**Please pass it on to other masons in La.  
John L. Belanger, PM**

The 'annual' Table Lodge is a Masonic evening you will truly enjoy.

### Ladies and guests welcome!

Members of *The Lodge of Nine Muses No. 9* (formerly the Baton Rouge Masonic Discussion Group) are hosting the '06 Table Lodge on Friday, November 3rd at the Camelot Club.

III. Ronald A. Seale, 33°, Sovereign Grand Commander will be the keynote speaker. Social hour will start at 6:00 p.m. The Table Lodge will open at 7:00 p.m. III. William J. Mollere, 33°, will facilitate this memorable evening.

Below are some details:

1. Cost is \$60 per person; checks to be made out to "Lodge of Nine Muses."
2. Dress: Gentlemen, dark suits. Ladies, evening dress.
3. Assigned seating. We need names of each attendee.
4. Entrée choices to be made in advance! Choices are: Grilled 6 oz. Filet Mignon; Sautéed Snapper Amandine or Grilled Chicken with Artichoke Florentine.
5. Each attendee will receive a souvenir "Firing Glass."

Contact Bro. Ricks M. Bowles 6238 Riverbend Lakes Dr, Baton Rouge, LA 70820 Telephone: Home: 225 757 9369. Cell: 225 772 1775  
Email: [theoldcoach@cox.net](mailto:theoldcoach@cox.net)

"Old Tiler Talks" by Carl Claudy -1924

**COSTUMES?**

"They are having a hot discussion!" replied the New Brother to the Old Tiler's inquiry. "Jones is arguing that we ought to spend a thousand dollars or more to buy costumes for the degrees. Past Master Smith is marshalling all his forces to combat it."

"That's the way it would line up," agreed the Old Tiler. "Jones hopes to be Master in a couple of years and wants costumes, and Smith doesn't want his last year's record eclipsed."

"I'm against costumes," said the New Brother. "Looks like a waste of money to me."

"Why is it a waste?"

"Why, we can confer the degrees just as well without them!"

"Yes, and we could confer the degrees just as well in a plain board building as in a fine Masonic Temple, with brethren seated on wooden boxes instead of on expensively upholstered leather settees; by candle light as well as electric light?"

"Oh, well! Of course we want to be comfortable and to impress the candidate..."

"That is what costumes are for, to impress the candidate. The degrees are allegorical; they teach lessons of the present from happenings of the past. If costumes can make them more impressive, the lesson should be easier, and so better learned," countered the Old Tiler, but with an odd smile.

"You can't tell me..."

"Oh, yes, I can! I \*am\* telling you. The third degree in costume takes the candidate back to the building of the Temple. We show him characters dressed as Solomon's workmen dressed. He finds reality in the story he cannot see when the actors are in modern clothes. The more real the story is, the more potent the impression. Costumes add largely to the degree's spectacular features."

"You are right, at that," answered the New Brother. "You argue well. I think I'll support Jones in his motion."

"Oh, I wouldn't say that!" The Old Tiler smiled broadly. "You haven't thought the question through."

"But you have argued me into believing in costumes," answered the New Brother, bewildered.

"Oh, no, I haven't. I have told you what the costume proponents say of it. But there is another side. Masonry is a system of philosophy taught by allegories and symbols. We are not really stone masons. We do not actually lay mortar or construct actual buildings. Our Masonry is speculative, not operative. But the legend of our third degree, when enacted in costume, is certainly an operative performance. The aprons we wear in lodge would not do for a real worker in stone; they are but imaginations or symbols of a body protector and tool holder. Our lodge room does not look like the exterior of a temple, and the three gates exist only in imagination. Why put the actors in costumes and omit a stage and lights and scenery?"

"I don't know why not," said the New Brother, thoughtfully.

"There isn't any reason why not," answered the Old Tiler. "Some lodges do it that way. But the majority of lodges have no stages, costumes or real actors. Most lodges have earnest workers, who enact the degree with hope of instructing the candidate in one of life's greatest lessons, a lesson so great that it does not need costumes. When the minister in the pulpit reads the gospel, does he act the parts of those whose words he

reads? There is but one Passion Play, but all Christianity knows the story. It needs no costumes to sink home to the heart.

"So it is with the Masonic story. It needs no trappings to be glorious, no yellow and blue robes to be effective. It has the dignity of its own impressiveness. To put a business man in a blue and green robe and tell him he is to act like a stone mason of the time of Solomon, without scenery or training, is not to add to the impressiveness of the degree, but to take away from it."

"I guess you are right," agreed the New Brother, thoughtfully. "I will back Brother Smith in his contention that we don't need the costumes."

"But we do need them!" countered the Old Tiler.

"But you have just argued me into thinking we should not buy them!"

"Not at all, not at all," was the smiling answer. "I have just quoted you the reasons some urge against them."

"But one side must be right and one side wrong!" protested the New Brother.

"It is not a matter of sides but of men. The degree neither needs costumes, nor needs to be put on without them. Some need costumes in which to work; others don't. The right answer is in the people who work the degree. A group of dramatic actors, who throw themselves into the story as if it were a play, will do better work if fiction is made real with costumes. Brethren who find the story an allegory rather than a play do better without them. Whether costumes or not depends on the men who do the work."

"I am going back in that lodge and vote whichever way the degree team votes!" announced the New Brother.

"You see, I \*did\* manage to tell you!" answered the Old Tiler.

Send articles to Bob Zinn, [bz@chem.lsu.edu](mailto:bz@chem.lsu.edu)

On October 7th the Baton Rouge Scottish Rite will hold its 100th Reunion. On Friday night, October 6th, the members of the New Orleans Scottish Rite will confer the Scottish Rite Master Mason degree at the Baton Rouge Scottish Rite auditorium.

We would like to extend an invitation to all Master Masons in the Baton Rouge area to attend this conferral of the Scottish Rite Master Mason degree. The program will begin at 6PM with light refreshments and the degree at 7PM. The Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons for the State of Louisiana will be present as will other dignitaries.

If you have not seen this degree it is well worth the time.

Fraternally,  
Robert J. Hutchinson 33<sup>o</sup>  
Personal Representative  
Valley of Baton Rouge

Saturday, October 7th, 2006  
7:00AM Check-In  
7:15AM Breakfast  
Degrees  
12:00PM Lunch and Pictures  
12:45 PM Childhood Learning Center Presentations  
1:30PM Presentation  
2:30PM 30th Degree  
4:15PM 32nd Degree  
6:00PM Wrap-Up  
6:45PM Banquet (Reservation)

If you change phone, address or e-mail, PLEASE send updated information to Joe Richard [jqr2@cox.net](mailto:jqr2@cox.net)



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