

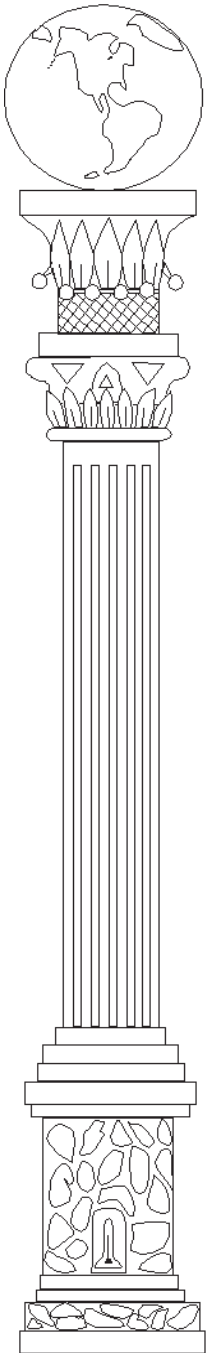
The Trestleboard



A Publication of Austin Lodge 12, A. F. & A. M.
December 2007



From The East



I can't believe that we are already at the end of 2007. It seems like just last week we celebrated the New Year, and here we are already in December. Where did the year go? This year has been a great year, and the end of it should be great, as well. We will be having our annual Holiday Dinner before our stated meeting this month. Our Tiler, John French, and his wife will be putting together the meal and the program. Please come and bring your family, and help your brethren get into the holiday spirit.

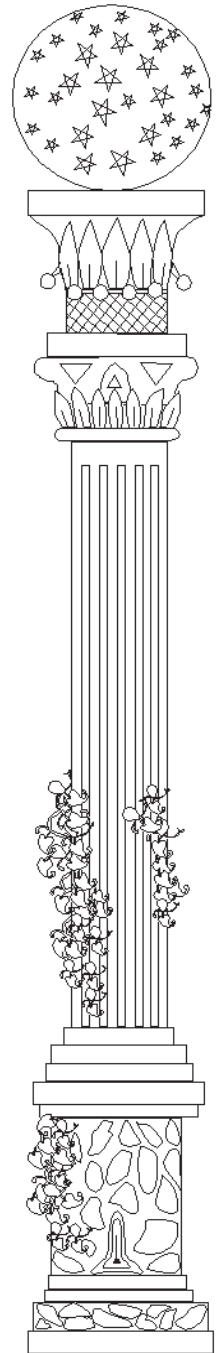
Before this past stated meeting we held our First Annual Comedy Night. We had five entrants, and the winner was Stephen Penn, who won a \$25 Barnes and Nobles gift certificate. All five of our entrants had all of us in stitches, and I'm already looking forward to next year!

During this past meeting we elected six people to become Masons and members of our Lodge. As you can imagine, we will be busy for the next couple of months at Lodge 12. We will even be doing degrees on Thursday December 20th, just to keep up. Please make an effort to come out and welcome your newest brethren into the mysteries of Masonry.

Finally, the Annual Communication at Grand Lodge will be held this month. Besides voicing our opinion in how our Grand Lodge operates, it will give us the time to catch up with our Masonic friends as well as make new ones.

I look forward to catching up with you soon, and I hope you have a wonderful holiday season.

Fraternally,
Jeff Goldman, Worshipful Master



Next Stated Meeting: Monday, December 17, 2007

2007-2008 Lodge Officers



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From the Secretary's Desk

Brethren:

Here we are at the end of another year, and the Holiday Season has begun. It is time to give thanks for the blessings of the year and reflect on the good times with family and friends. May this holiday season bring you happiness and a New Year filled with anticipation.

We are also gathering canned goods for the Capitol Area Food Bank, so drop a few cans by the Lodge, bring a check for your dues and I will hand you your 2008 card

By the time you receive this we will have returned from Grand Lodge. Join us for the December Stated Meeting for the Holiday festivities and going over the new Laws passed at this years Annual Communication.

The Best of the Season to you and yours...See you at Lodge

Victor

December Birthdays

Billie O. Browning	12/2/2022
Johnny Frank Harrell, Jr.	12/2/1943
Matthew Sean Pardo	12/8/2006
Marvin D. Feil	12/10/1937
Otis Thomas Rice	12/12/1928
Russell Winfred Zears	12/13/1951
George Crockett Camp	12/15/1944
Alton Clinton White, Sr.	12/15/1911
Phillip John Puzzo	12/15/1974
John Ross Dickens	12/16/1943
Ronald Arthur Stearns	12/17/1947
Charles Robert Brewer	12/17/2019
Connell Ray Dennis	12/18/1928
J. Michael McBride	12/20/1951
Anthony Bruno Macaluso	12/21/1948
Daniel Preston Nelson	12/21/1973
Brent Matthew Rutan	12/22/1962
David Vernon Spielman	12/23/1929
William Charles Dye	12/25/1968
Paxton Wayne Knight	12/26/1972
James Basset Nitschke	12/28/1924

A View From The South

Continuing with the theme of Masonic Etiquette, I would like to address this month's article to the topic of Masonic Dress. Of course, we all know that it is 'the internal and not the external that Masonry regards,' and I would NEVER disparage a brother because of the clothing he wears. However, there is something to be said for 'proper' Masonic dress.

I would quote R.:W.: J. Kirk Nicholson, Jr., PGM, Georgia, from his 'Short Talk Bulletin' on Masonic Etiquette :

We have become a casual society and in some ways this is good. However, just as familiarity breeds contempt, being too casual can cause disrespect. We shall again call on the term "good taste". The dress of lodge officers is prescribed by at least one Grand Lodge in the United States-Pennsylvania-to be "strictly Masonic," consisting of black clothes, tail coat, (evening dress preferred), black vest, black tie, black shoes, black silk hat and white gloves. In some lodges the officers all dress in tuxedos. There is no set rule of dress for the officers, but its practice is to wear attire which will show respect and express the dignity of Masonry. We should remember that we represent a Fraternity that is great because of its sacred foundation and there is no place for carelessness . . . in dress, ritual, or dignity.

Many lodges (especially European Lodges) still hold their members to this 'strictly Masonic' dress code. You were not considered to be 'properly clothed' if you were not dressed appropriately. In the United States, we are a little more lax – a coat and tie (usually dark, but not necessarily black) is generally taken as 'properly clothed'. I would encourage every Mason to own at least a black suit. It will serve you well not only in Masonic settings, but on many different occasions throughout an Honorable life.

Much like when we go to our place of worship, proper dress shows respect for the Order. The Lodge is a sacred place, outside the sphere of our normal day to day activities, and dressing for Lodge helps to reinforce this feeling. Another function of 'Masonic dress' is to bring us together 'on the Level'.

As a rule of thumb, it is better to overdress for an event than to under dress. You are always forgiven for being more formal than the rest, but never for being more casual. The Grand Master sets the standard for events he attends. The Worshipful Master sets the standard for his Lodge's events. Look to the Master of the Lodge for guidance.

Think of the newly initiated Entered Apprentice, and the first thing he sees during his initiation. This is the new Brother's very first impression of the Form and Beauties of Freemasonry. What do YOU think would make a better impression on the Candidate – men in shorts, jeans, and t shirts, or Brethren 'properly clothed' in a respectful and dignified fashion, showing their regard for the Craft and Honor to the Fraternity?

- J. McKissick, Junior Warden, Austin Lodge #12

~ **REMEMBER : YOU ARE SOMEONE'S IMAGE OF MASONRY!** ~

Brethren,

The following Lodge # 12 Brethren remain on our prayer list as they are either ill at home or staying in nursing facilities. I am sure they would appreciate hearing from any of you, either by phone, personal visit or a card:

John Ashby
Samuel Baker
Everett Bohls
Don Cox
George Davis
Marvin Feil
Bill Fogle
Herbert Jackson, Jr.
John Kavanaugh, Jr.
Claude King
John McNamara
Robert Pugh
Dr. James Stoner
William Riley
Walter Schlueter
Russell Zears

If you know of any other Brethren that should be on our prayer list, please call the Lodge office at 454-8009.



Lodge Schedule

December, 2007



- Dec. 10:** Light Meal..... 5:30 P.M.
Two EA degrees to follow
- Dec. 17: Lodge 12 Annual Holiday Party** 6:30 P.M.
Stated Meeting 7:30 P.M.
- Dec. 20:** Light Meal..... 5:30 P.M.
Two EA degrees to follow
- Dec. 24: Christmas Eve – Lodge Dark**
- Dec. 31: New Year’s Eve – Lodge Dark**
- Jan. 7:** Light Meal..... 5:30 P.M.
Degree to follow.

You can also view the schedule online here:

<http://www.austinlodge12.com/schedule.php>

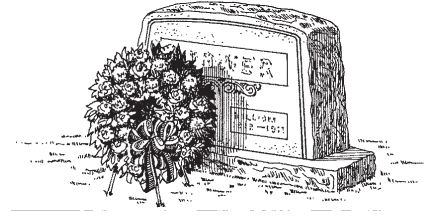
Schedule is subject to change based on the availability and schedule of candidates.

For the latest, most up-to-date information on what is scheduled to occur at the lodge, please call 454-8009. The answering machine message is updated every

Monday evening. We invite all interested brethren to attend our floor work and degree work sessions! **Remember, all stated meetings are Family Night!**

We hope you will all bring a dessert for everyone to share!

In Memoriam



“Well done, thou good and faithful servant! Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord!”

Trestleboard Editor -- Steven Bach
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