

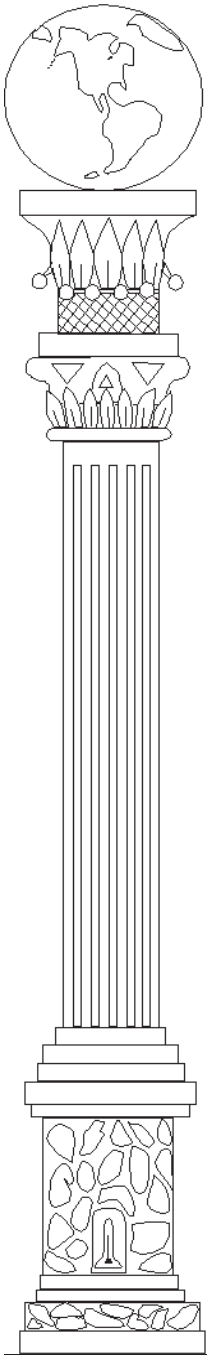
The Trestleboard



A Publication of Austin Lodge 12, A. F. & A. M.
February 2008



From The East



It's already February! Our January Stated Meeting was wonderful. Before the meeting, Brother Mike Jones made a presentation to the Lodge, families, and visitors about prostate cancer. Brother Jones is a prostate cancer survivor, and we learned a lot from him. First of all, one out of every six men will get prostate cancer. That was kind of surprising (and scary) to me. The good news is that it is curable when caught early. During the meeting we received Right Worshipful Jim Dougherty, who brought greetings from the Grand Master as well as an interesting message. Our Secretary, who also happens to be the District Instructor, graded us on the open, close, and reception.

We will be having our second Date Night on Sunday February 24th at the Treehouse Grill. We had such a good turnout and such a good time that we decided to have another one. Please contact our Senior Warden, Brother Brengle, if you are interested in attending.

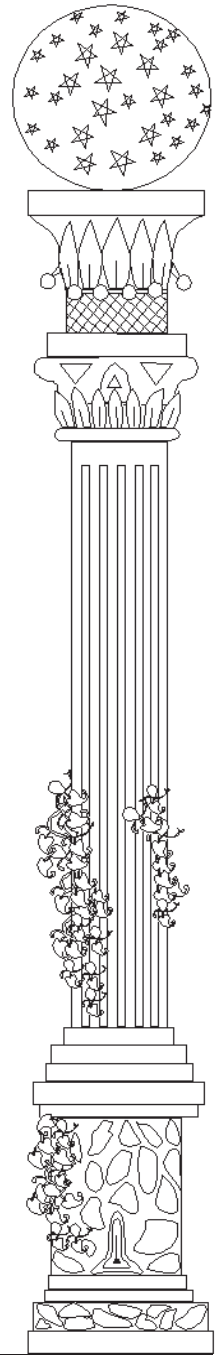
Please note that we will be having our Stated Meeting in February (second Past Masters Night) on February 11, which is the second Monday. We are doing this so that we can visit Colorado Lodge, who shares the same Stated Meeting date. Come out and support our Past Masters, who served our Lodge with dedication and devotion.

Our Stated Meeting in March will be our second Widows Night. I personally look forward to spending time with the wives of our fallen brethren. Please try and attend and show these women who have sacrificed so much how important they are to us. Also in March we will be visiting T. Neal Porter at their Stated Meeting on Monday March 3rd. If you get the chance, you should come visit with us.

Finally, we have quite a few degrees coming up over the next couple of months. Please see the calendar for details. Please try and make an effort to attend and help make the night special for the brother receiving the degree.

Take care of yourselves and I look forward to catching up with you soon.

Fraternally,
Jeff Goldman, Worshipful Master



Next Stated Meeting: Monday, February 11, 2008

2007-2008 Lodge Officers



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From the Secretary's Desk

Brethren,

I spend a lot of time typing these articles, talking to Brethren and encouraging them to come to Lodge. I haven't had much success.

Here are a few interesting statistics you should know:

Austin Lodge 12 currently has 303 members, 89 of whom are over 80 years of age, when you add the 63 more who are over 70, you have fifty percent of the membership. We have 33 members under the age of 40 (less than 10 percent of our membership) and half of them attend Lodge regularly and they make up 75% of our average attendance.

I have asked that you get in touch with Brethren who come to mind when you read these articles and come to Lodge together. I was surprised and gratified at the number of calls I received asking for another Brothers phone number or address, but it didn't do anything for Lodge attendance.

I've discovered that Masonry is a young man's fraternity. So why don't some of you old guys call up a friend, come to Lodge and rediscover your youth.

See you at Lodge,

Victor

P.S. Pay your dues, if you haven't done so.

February Birthdays

Howard Kirk Kimball	2/2/1974	Robin S. Galaway	2/15/1914
Laurence Alan Lee	2/2/1941	Louis F. Strange	2/16/1925
William Oscar Orum	2/4/1940	James Allen McKissick	2/17/1971
Richard Dale Masters	2/5/1944	Jeffrey David Goldman	2/17/1968
Joseph Parker	2/5/1938	LaFayette Lionel Duckett	2/19/1918
Gordon E. Grimsley	2/7/1943	Dennis Guy Wilie	2/20/1921
Robert William La Mont	2/8/1957	Donald Haycraft Bunnell	2/20/1925
Eddie Worth Parker	2/10/1944	Thomas Calvin Patterson	2/22/1972
Thomas Ross Sterzing	2/11/1941	Robert Roy Neidig	2/23/1933
Clyde Thomas Coleman	2/12/1931	Raymond Clayton Birch	2/25/1925
Fred H. Erben	2/13/1943	Charles Durham Nash	2/25/1924
Russell Gary Haldeman	2/13/1937	Edward George Balagia	2/26/1929
Irvin Weems Guyer	2/13/1929	James Logan Brown	2/27/1929
Mohammed Hasan Ali	2/14/1986	Stephen Sam Penn	2/27/1976

A View From The South

I would like to talk this month about Lodge decorum, specifically during degree work. Decorum is defined as “quiet, dignified and proper behavior”. The conferral of the Degrees of Freemasonry is a solemn experience, and deserves our deepest respect and courtesy. Although we have all seen these degrees performed many times, the degree is for the benefit of the Candidate, and we owe it to him to give him the best experience possible.

How many times have you been in Lodge during a degree, only to be distracted by a conversation happening on the sidelines? Carrying on a conversation during the degree is discourteous to the degree team and distracting to the Brethren and the Candidate. If something becomes so important that it must be discussed immediately, you should excuse yourself from the Lodge room. Private conversations or discussions should be confined to outside the Lodge room, except when the Lodge is at ease.

Another thing that one sometimes sees is sideline prompting during the degrees. Never prompt a Brother without his asking for assistance – sometimes all he needs is a moment to collect his thoughts. It is poor etiquette to prompt a Brother without being asked for help. Also, if a Brother makes a mistake, don't correct him during the degree – this is disruptive to the solemnity of the ritual, and can throw off even the best of ritualists.

Finally, I would like to address something that I have often observed in Lodge regarding the use of gavels. I defer to “Freemasonry and its Etiquette”, by Wm. Preston Campbell-Everden (p. 163):

“Much unnecessary energy is too often displayed in the use of the Gavel. One sometimes hears a succession of sounding blows that would not discredit Thor himself, emitting sounds that may be heard far beyond the Lodge room. This is objectionable, for more than one obvious reason. A moderately sharp ‘tap’, and not a heavy blow, is all that is required upon any occasion.”

Our degrees are beautiful and meaningful, and deserve our utmost respect. Do you give them proper reverence when the Lodge is at Labor? Our Ritual is the foundation upon which we rear our Moral and Masonic edifice, and our behavior in the Lodge room is the model after which new Masons will pattern their Masonic Etiquette. Let's give the best example possible, and remember...

~ YOU ARE SOMEONE'S IMAGE OF MASONRY! ~

J. McKissick, Junior Warden

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
George Davis
Marvin Feil
Bill Fogle
Herbert Jackson, Jr.
John Kavanaugh, Jr.
Gordon Kelso
Claude King
John McNamara
Robert Pugh
John Sheffield, Jr.
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

February, 2008



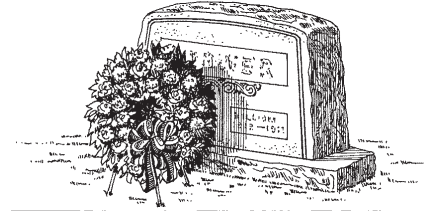
- Feb. 11:** Dinner 6:30 P.M
Stated Meeting 7:30 P.M
 Past Master's Night – *NOTE THE DATE CHANGE!*
- Feb. 18: Visit Colorado 96**
 Dinner 6:30 P.M
 Colorado's Stated Meeting to follow
- Feb. 24:** Date Night – Treehouse Grill –
 Please contact Bro. Brengle for a reservation
- Feb. 25:** Light Meal..... 5:30 P.M
 degree to follow
- Mar. 3:** Visit T. Neal Porter 1354 6:30 P.M
 Dinner, with T. Neal Porter's Stated Meeting to follow
- Mar. 7:** Scottish Rite Reunion, Day 1
- Mar. 8:** Scottish Rite Reunion, Day 2
- Mar. 14:** Scottish Rite Reunion, Day 3
- Mar. 15:** Scottish Rite Reunion, Final Day
- Mar. 17:** Dinner 6:30 P.M
Stated Meeting 7:30 P.M
Widows Night

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!

You can also view the schedule online here:
<http://www.austinlodge12.com/schedule.php>

In Memoriam



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

Dr. James Stoner

Dec 24, 2007

Lt. Col. William Harold Moore

December 20, 2007

Trestleboard Editor -- Steven Bach
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Organization

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