

# The Trestleboard



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



## From The East

Brethren,

Eight members of Austin #12 attended the Grand Communication this year.

There was a banquet given for Affiliated Past Grand Master Jack Hightower in honor of his retirement as Sovereign Grand Inspector General of the Scottish Rite Southern Jurisdiction of the Scottish Rite in Texas. Unfortunately, Judge Hightower was unable to attend because of health problems. We wish him a speedy recovery.

Grand Lodge membership voted to extend eligibility for Masonic membership to those eighteen years and older.

Another resolution of interest that passed addressed a number of issues regarding Endowed Memberships. These issues included local Lodge discretion with regard to the price of an Endowed Membership, decrease in the amount of income paid to Grand Lodge, authorization for the Trustees to allow the Endowment Membership Trust to retain some earnings in an effort to stabilize distributions from year to year, adjustments to distributions made to local lodges based the price their members pay for endowed memberships, and portability of Endowed Membership for masons changing lodges.

Brother Oscar Orum accepted the Vanguard Award on behalf of Lodge 12. We were one of 6 lodges statewide that was certified in all 3 degrees. We received the highest score in the state for the EA degree. Thanks to Junior Past Master Howard Kimball for pushing this program, thanks to Brother McKissick for implementing the agenda, and a special thanks to Brother Victor Armstrong for esoteric leadership and instruction.

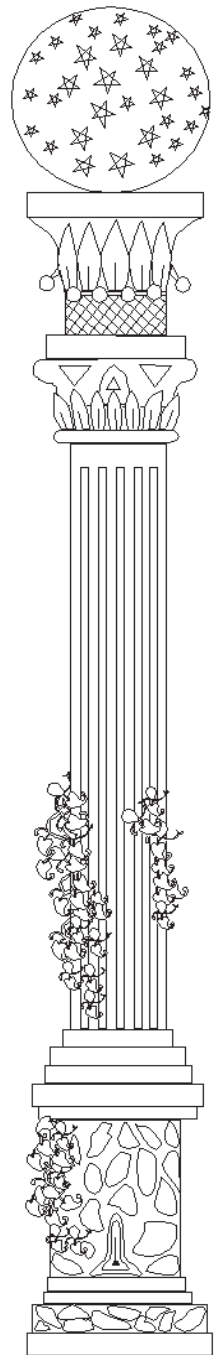
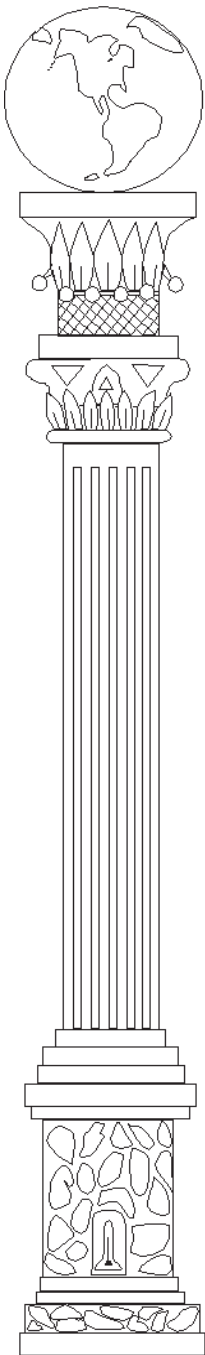
I am pleased to enclose an excerpt from an email received from Senior Steward Russell Zears:

"I am happy to report that on 12/21/2006 we delivered 622 pounds of food stuffs to the Capital Area Food Bank. They estimated that this would provide 497.6 meals for those in need this season.

Great work, brethren! Special honors should go to those who worked so hard, including Bro. Steven Sterzing and Ross' Old Austin Cafe on North Lamar."

Brother Zears also suggests that we may want to do this on an ongoing basis. Thank you, Russell, for all your efforts and enthusiasm. Furthermore, thank for your results!

Past Master Tom Alvis volunteered to prepare the meal for our December stated meeting. It has been awhile since I have eaten his cooking. We all enjoyed it. Thank you, Tom. Brother Steven Sterzing also stepped in to provide his able assistance. Brother John French provided the venison for the chili.



Next Stated Meeting: Monday, Jan. 15, 2007

# 2005-2006 Lodge Officers



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## **Tiler**

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Numerous EAs and others stepped in to help. Thanks to you all.

Junior Warden and Affiliated Past Master John Brengle volunteered to act as liason and deliver our various donations to the Adopt-a-Family for Christmas Program. This involved shopping for and delivering food and toys to the agency for two families on behalf of Lodge 12.

Senior Deacon Brother Jay McKissick has volunteered to chair a library committee. The committee working on numerous facets of the library including organization, a contents wish list, and presentation of our collection.

Senior Warden Jeff Goldman continues as working chairman of the Communications Committee which has produced a new Lodge Membership Roster. In addition, his committee assembles monthly to call our Lodge members to touch bases with them.

Brother Ron Wright is in his fourth year as Lodge Instructor. He meets with initiates and other brethren to teach them the trial questions and answers. He is here every Monday and Thursday around 5 pm.

Each of these brethren has made a different level of commitment to improve our lodge and our community. As we usher the New Year in I invite you to join them at whatever level you can.

Please remember to check your Trestleboard for upcoming events. We have a number of activities that will be fun scheduled for the upcoming months. These include a picnic and a Festive board. Please make a special effort to join us in honoring our Masonic widows at our January 15 Stated Meeting.

I look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Brian Vance  
Worshipful Master

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## **From the Secretary's Desk**

Brethren, 2007 is here. I hope that is what it says on your dues card. Forty percent of our dues paying members have not yet sent in their checks. Now is the time to get those dues current. Thanks to the many of you who have taken the time to fill out and send in the questionnaire. This will help the Lodge in meeting your requests and keeping your records current.

Austin Lodge 12 can be proud of their participation in collecting food for the Capitol Area Food Bank and in their support of two families through the Christmas Bureau.

Make 2007 a year to renew your attendance and participation in Lodge. Come to Stated Meeting, the food is great and the fellowship greater.

See you at Lodge,

Victor

## WARM WISHES FOR THE NEW YEAR!

Brethren,

As I sit here reflecting upon the Season, I am joyful, hopeful and thankful. I say this for many reasons, but more especially because I was fortunate enough to be able to deliver the gifts and food that Austin Lodge # 12 so graciously provided for two needy families here in Austin.

One of the families we provided for was a couple with two boys, one a teen-ager, and the other a pre-teen, and one daughter, a teen-ager as well. They have been struggling, but both the parents have jobs, though low-paying, and are doing what they can to try to make it. They communicated their desires and we complied as best we could. When my father, Brother Pop (who was down from South Dakota, by the way), and I made the delivery, they obviously really appreciated the gifts and the Christmas dinner we provided. Though the family members were somewhat reserved, almost embarrassed, it seemed, it was still a great feeling.

The next day, the Saturday before Christmas, we two (Brother Pop and I) again delivered gifts and dinner, this time to another family: a working mom, her disabled and elderly father, and her four children, two teen-aged boys, and two girls, one a teen-ager and the other a pre-teen. When we knocked on the door, we discovered a gathering of the family members as well as a couple of neighbors. The warm surrounding supplied abundant grins when we explained our reason for knocking on their door, we being two complete strangers. It was a welcoming sight to put the presents under the small Christmas tree standing alone in the corner, lit up sparsely with a few lights and sprinkled liberally with some home-made ornaments. Ours were the only presents to go under that tree. And yes, as I placed the presents under that modest tree, a tear did come to my eye at the sight of so many smiling faces in such humble surroundings. They were not reserved at all in their thanks and with hands shook all around and backs patted, Brother Pop and I departed this happy scene. My face almost cracked in two, so big was my grin. Brother Pop thanked me for allowing him to come along on such a delightful outing.

Now I must thank you, my Lodge Brethren, for giving of your selves and of your energy in this Christmas season. But more especially, I must thank you for giving me the opportunity to be the Elf to your Santa in the giving of these gifts to our chosen families. The gift of a Masters' wages was indeed mine in this loving endeavor.

By way of thanking you, I can offer up this prayer to each of you:

May the Best Experience of this Last Year

Be the Worst Experience of the Coming Year!

Give to yourself and love yourself, that you may give to others and love others.

Hope to see you this year in Lodge, my Brother. And thanks again.

John Brengle

### Sept. Birthdays

|                             |           |                            |           |
|-----------------------------|-----------|----------------------------|-----------|
| James Laurence Caldwell     | 1/23/1937 | Stephen John Mitchell      | 1/8/1967  |
| Jack Milton Carson          | 1/6/1923  | Thomas William Munroe, Jr. | 1/26/1929 |
| Earl Jeffery Combs          | 1/25/1921 | James Clifton Overcash     | 1/15/1931 |
| Garrett Cooper              | 1/31/1940 | Anthony Molin Pais         | 1/30/1926 |
| Vincent Turner Crawley, Jr. | 1/29/1940 | Charles J Preston          | 1/24/1973 |
| Kevin Wallace Flegal        | 1/27/1951 | Louis Rase                 | 1/11/1947 |
| Russell G. Harper           | 1/22/1964 | Thomas Edward Riggs        | 1/11/1930 |
| Martin Cornelius Heyne      | 1/22/1973 | Adrian Darell Sallee       | 1/24/1931 |
| Frederick Whitfield Howlett | 1/22/1938 | Daniel Ralph Samuelson     | 1/26/1926 |
| Owen Elbert Kelley          | 1/20/1925 | Silas Steen Smith, Jr.     | 1/27/1914 |
| Edward Thomas Laine         | 1/7/1944  | Durwood M. Thompson, Jr.   | 1/10/1950 |
| Erwin William Meiske        | 1/5/1929  | Brian Arthur Vance         | 1/2/1951  |
| Donald Curtiss Meyers, Jr.  | 1/30/1926 | Michael Wayne Weaver       | 1/24/1948 |
| Stephen Daniel Mings        | 1/3/1946  | Ronald Gayle Wright        | 1/6/1949  |
| Donald Waldo Mishler        | 1/18/1922 |                            |           |

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:

Jack McCowan  
Samuel E Baker  
Robert Pugh  
Walter Simms  
Wesley Moore  
Don Cox  
Marvin Feil  
David Dochen  
Claude King  
George Davis  
John Sheffield, Sr.  
Tilmon Sanders  
Richard Wilbur  
Bill Fogle  
Jonas Silberstein  
Morris Shapiro  
Walter Schleuter  
Jack Hightower  
William Riley

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



# Lodge Schedule

Jan., 2007



- Jan. 8 :** Graded FC Degree..... 6:00 P.M.  
Light meal before degree.
- Jan. 15:** Meal..... 6:30 P.M.  
Stated Meeting..... 7:30 P.M.
- Jan. 22:** Meal..... 6:30 P.M.  
Masters, Wardens, Sec'ys Assoc. following meal.
- Jan. 29:** Lodge 12 Movie Nite..... 6:00 P.M.

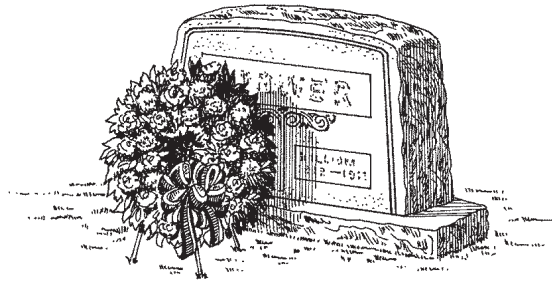
### Stated Meeting Menu:

Green salad  
 French crepe with mushroom gravy, filled with ham,  
 asparagus and cheese, with turkey substitutes for those  
 not eating ham.  
 Dessert  
 Iced Tea  
 Coffee

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!”

**Clifford “Scotty” Rankin 12/24/2006**

Trestleboard Editor -- Steven Bach  
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