

# The Trestleboard



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



## From The East

Brethren:

In slowly merging back into Masonic work (and healing well, thank you), I find I did not fully realize just how important my Brothers were to my life. In talking to y'all, I also find that the Gentle Craft has impacted us all in most every way positively. Even those standing on the outside, are looking in at Masonry—though they may not realize it—and finding our service to society in general and to our Country specifically, holding up the ideals our Founding Fathers imagined and brought forth.

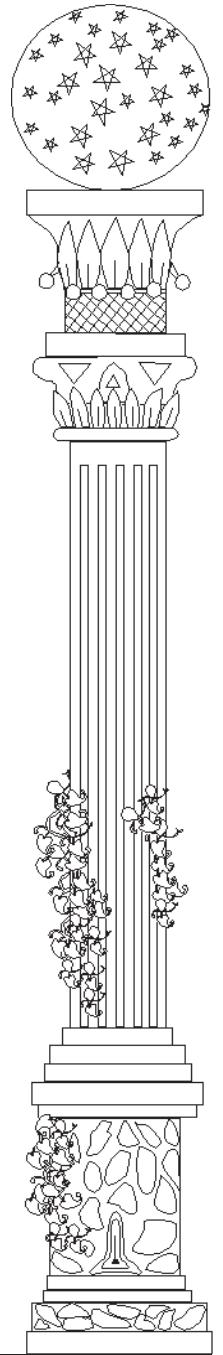
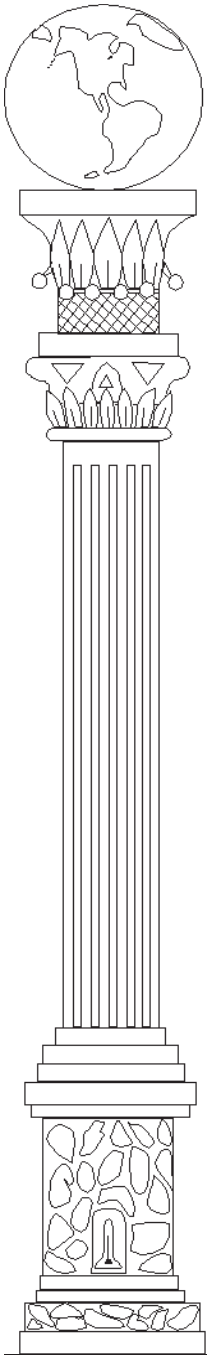
I think back to the history lessons I learned as a child and I did not know that so many of our heroes were Masons. Some we know much about, like Brothers George Washington and Thomas Jefferson, Albert Pike and Sam Houston, but many of them, we know nothing or very little about. While much is touted of the influence of these famous men and Masons, the little known Masons were in the vast majority and as such, hoisted on their capable shoulders the bulk of the work in formulating, instituting, carrying forward and maintaining this bulwark of Freedom, known as the United States of America. This is certainly not meant to downplay the roles of our more famous Brethren, but it is to bolster up those amongst us who play a supporting role in upholding the society, culture and ideals of this great nation, as well as around the globe.

As we go about our daily tasks, we should keep in mind all the Masons who were influential in our lives, personally, professionally and certainly in maintaining our freedoms. We should ever be vigilant for good men who are not Masons, that we may make them aware that there is a force for good out there, and that we are a part of it and they may become a part of it as well, much as our Founding Fathers were. It is a service we do for them in introducing Masonry into their lives. This seemingly small task has the possibility to benefit them and all of us.

Always, we should remember that it does take the many to be the foundation for the few who would lead. Gathering more good men of like minds and introducing them to the world of Freemasonry can do nothing but bolster our strength and help us to work for the good of all. Men are looking for what we do, but many do not even know we exist, so we need to keep our eyes peeled for those who would fit the mold set so long ago in a certain Temple of earthly origin, as well as that one not made with hands.

It will be good to see you in Lodge again. I look forward, as well, to all the

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Next Stated Meeting: Monday, Nov. 17, 2008

# 2008-2009 Lodge Officers



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new Brothers you will help to bring on board in the future.

In Brotherly Love and Sincerity, I remain your obedient Servant,  
Worshipful Master, John Brengle

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

Brethren,

It has been just a little over two weeks since dues notices have been sent out and we have already received checks from thirty percent of our dues paying members. What a great start, keep those checks rolling in.

Membership cards to our 50+ year members, our endowed members and those who have paid their dues have been mailed. You should have received them by the time you get this newsletter or shortly after if you just mailed your check.

Thank you Brethren for your timely response to the dues notice.

We presented several 50+ service awards at our October Stated Meeting along with 25 and 40 year service awards. The Lodge will continue presenting service awards in Nov. and Dec. If you are eligible, come on down, you will enjoy the fellowship.

Austin Lodge 12 is extremely busy. We will raise four Master Masons during the month of November and then head off to Grand Lodge the first week in December. Ten Brethren from Austin 12 have signed up for pre-registration and hopefully a dozen of our members will attend. Another wonderful showing of the interest in Masonry of our members.

Send in those dues checks, or better yet, bring them to Lodge with you and enjoy the fellowship....

See you at Lodge soon,

Victor Armstrong, Sec.

## **November Birthdays**

Mark Franklin Burris	11/2/1956	George Laffone Burnett	11/19/1925
Andrew Emery Gray	11/2/1981	Luther H. Fox	11/21/1944
Edward Maxwell Carr	11/4/1919	Ray Eugene Prime	11/21/1937
Calvin C. Benson	11/4/1924	Edwin Glynn Hudson	11/21/1927
Walter Eugene Simms, Jr.	11/5/1917	Jacob Cordell Hull	11/22/1941
Hollis Glenn Jay, Jr.	11/7/1928	Mark Robin Steinhagen	11/22/1956
William Herbert Prather	11/8/1921	Wilson McVicker, Jr.	11/23/1952
Dr. Milton Turner	11/9/1917	Robert Archie Martin	11/23/1930
Shannon Lance Hebert	11/9/1970	Alba Oran Wimberley	11/25/1930
James Allen King	11/10/1937	John Brengle	11/25/1948
Bruce Edward Brown	11/12/1946	Dennis B. Bohls	11/26/1960
William Dale Shaffer	11/13/1953	Steven Michael Bach	11/26/1969
Duard Desmond Linam	11/13/1919	Joe Irron Pruettt	11/27/1930
Walter Leon Horton, Jr.	11/14/1938	Stephen LaRue	11/29/1968
Robert F. Lake	11/15/1946		

## A View From The West

In my last article, I stated that this year I was going to focus on the topic of Masonic Labor and the Working Tools of Masonry. In keeping with this idea, I thought I would start with the very first Working Tools presented to a new Entered Apprentice Mason – the 24 Inch Gauge and Common Gavel.

The working tools of an Entered Apprentice are tools of Action. This admonishes us that the Work of Masonry is not a passive thing. We must Labor at improving ourselves by constant attention to our thoughts and actions, and a constant striving to better ourselves.

The Common Gavel is used by Operative Masons to “break off the rough and superfluous parts of stones, the better to fit them for the builder’s use.” It is used to impose the workers will on a piece of stone, and is symbolic of our own will power, which we must constantly exercise to subdue our passions and free ourselves from base influences and actions.

It is interesting to note that the gavel is an instrument common to both the youngest Entered Apprentice and the highest officer of the Lodge. This reminds us that even when one has attained the highest rank in the Lodge by becoming its Master, we should remember the need to continue to strive for improvements in our manner and character.

The Twenty Four Inch Gauge is used by Operative Masons to “measure and lay out their work.” Thus we see that the Gauge is an instrument of Measurement, and is symbolic of Time. It is made up of 24 equal parts, which are emblematical of the 24 hours of the day, which are further divided into three sections, “whereby we find a portion for the Service of God and a distressed worthy Brother, a portion for our usual vocations, and a portion for refreshment and sleep.” As there are only 24 hours in a day, it reminds us that our time is limited. It also admonishes us that time spent in one area of life is time taken away from another, so we should be conscious of how we use our time, and should spend it well, for time spent cannot be recovered.

In the early editions of his Monitor (1797 and on) Thomas Smith Webb wrote : “The operative workman measures his stone with his Gauge; if the Ashlar is too long, he shortens it. If it is too broad, he narrows it. If it too crooked to make square, he casts it on the rubbish heap and begins anew with a rough Ashlar. But the Speculative Mason, measuring his time with the twenty-four inch gauge, has no such latitude. The ruined minute is forever lost; the crooked hour can never be made straight.”

Are you actively using the lessons of the 24 Inch Gauge and Common Gavel in your life to improve yourself in Masonry and better yourself as a person?

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

Bro. J. McKissick  
Senior Warden, Austin Lodge No. 12, A.F. & A.M.

**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:

Steven Bach  
James Baker  
Samuel Baker  
John Brengle  
Everett Bohls  
James Logan Brown  
George Davis  
Marvin Feil  
Bill Fogle  
Herbert Jackson, Jr.  
John Kavanaugh, Jr.  
Gordon Kelso  
Claude King  
John McNamara  
Silas Powell  
Robert Pugh  
William Riley  
John Sheffield, Jr.

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



## Lodge Schedule

November / December, 2008



**Mon. Nov. 17 : Stated Meeting - Past Masters' Night,  
Grand Lodge Resolutions**  
Dinner at 6:30, meeting at 7:30

**Nov. 24 :** Called Meeting - FC Degree  
Light meal at 5:30pm, Degrees to follow.

**Mon. Dec. 1 :** Floorwork Class (EA Degree) at 6:00pm  
No meal will be served.

**Tues. Dec. 2 :** Visit T. Neal Porter Lodge  
Dinner at 6:30 with Stated Meeting to follow at 7:30

**Thurs. Dec. 4 – Sat. Dec. 6 :** GRAND LODGE (Waco, Texas)

**Mon. Dec. 8 :** 'More Light' Discussion at 6:00pm  
No meal will be served.

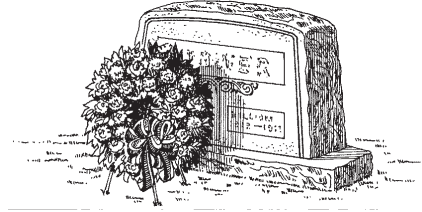
**Mon. Dec. 15 : STATED MEETING**  
Holiday Dinner at 6:30, meeting at 7:30

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!”

Larry David Miller  
September 24 2008

**25 year Service Awards**  
**40 year Service Awards**  
**50+ year Service Awards**

**Presented October, November, December Stated Meetings**

**Come to Lodge and receive your pin if you qualify.**

Trestleboard Editor -- Steven Bach  
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Organization

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