

The Trestleboard



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

October 2007



From The East

Brethren,

Last month our Secretary talked about investigating committees in his Trestleboard article. I think this topic is important enough to for me to talk about it this month as well. If you are assigned to an investigating committee, please discharge your duty in a timely manner. Give your prospective brother a call and make arrangements to meet him at his home, preferably when his family will be around. When you meet with him, you are required to ask certain questions, but please take the time to try to get a feel for him to see if he would be a good fit for our Lodge. Encourage him (and his family) to ask questions of you and bring up any concerns to also make sure that our Lodge would be a good fit for him.

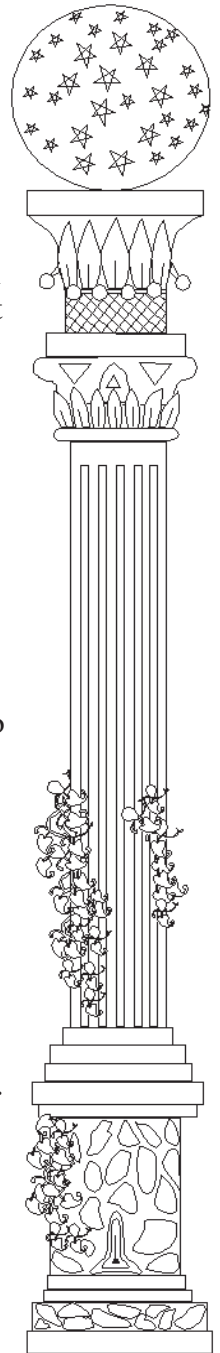
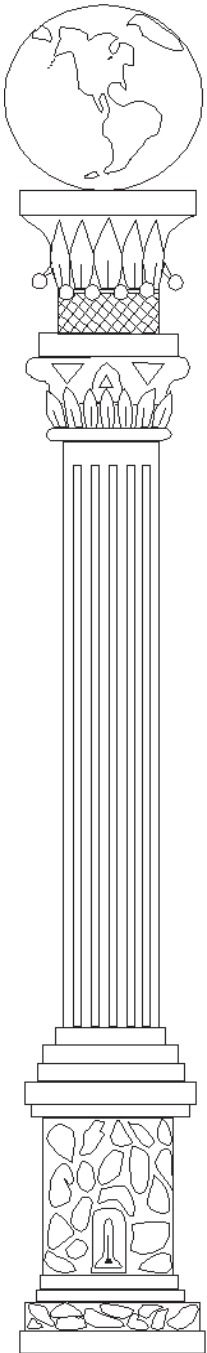
If you cannot discharge your duty in a timely fashion, then you must inform the Secretary as soon as possible. When a candidate petitions the Lodge and is notified that an investigating committee will be contacting him, he gets excited because he is closer to becoming a Mason. How do you think it makes him feel if he doesn't get contacted? My guess would be that he feels disappointed, and possibly a little alienated. Oftentimes a candidate is a personal friend of a member. How do you think that it makes the candidate's friend feel if he doesn't get contacted? Embarrassed is what I would guess.

When you are on an investigating committee your behavior is a reflection of the Lodge, and when you fail to perform your duties you present a bad image to the candidate. I think that this is a shame. Do you remember when you were petitioning the Lodge. How would you feel if you were treated in this manner? Brethren, let's keep the Golden Rule in mind and do unto others.

You might be wondering why this is being brought up for the second month in a row. It is because I have been hearing on a regular basis that candidates are not being contacted within thirty or sixty days, and we often have to substitute people on investigating committees at the last minute. We have been trying to assign committees based on geographic proximity and we don't have to keep assigning the same people to committees because we don't want to burn them out and neither do we want to make them the de-facto gatekeepers of Lodge 12.

To that end I will be appointing a brother to be in charge of all of the investigating committees to make sure that investigations are being done in a timely manner. Finally, if you are assigned to an investigating committee, please do the right thing and do a thorough and timely investigation of the candidate. Take pride in your Lodge and in Masonry.

Long Live Austin Lodge 12 and Long Live Central Texas Masonry!



Next Stated Meeting: Monday, October 15, 2007

2007-2008 Lodge Officers



Worshipful Master
 Jeffrey D. Goldman
 (Megan) 751-8208
 jeff@goldenrealtyservices.com

Senior Warden
 John Brengle
 (Evelyn) 335-8070
 brenglej@austin.rr.com

Junior Warden
 James A. McKissick
 (Lin) 828-7701
 jam@mckissick.us

Treasurer
 Ronald C. Harrison
 (Kay) 345-6601
 ronharrison@rocketmail.com

Secretary
 Victor Y. Armstrong
 (Patricia) 345-0226
 lodge12@austin.rr.com

Chaplain
 Gordon W. Kelso
 (Rita) 282-4726
 gordonkelso@srct.org

Senior Deacon
 Steven C. Sterzing
 431-4554
 stevensterzing@hotmail.com

Junior Deacon
 Russell W. Zears
 (Chalda) 794-9224
 rzears@medium-s.com

Steward Emeritus
 Wm. Oscar Orum
 (Ina Gay) 346-4310
 oorum@austin.rr.com

Junior Steward
 Stephen J. Mitchell
 (Sandy) 632-2781
 sjmitchell@austin.rr.com

Marshal
 Silas A. Powell
 (Theresa) 282-8808
 stphookem@austin.rr.com

Master of Ceremonies
 Steven M. Bach
 (Haley) 249-0780
 moof1138@mac.com

Tiler
 John W. French
 (Juanita) 345-9454
 jwfrenchins@yahoo.com

Lodge Librarian
 Stephen Penn
 (Priscilla) 203-9113
 mint400@hotmail.com



From the Secretary's Desk

Brethren: Fall is arriving, football season is here and all is well and going full speed ahead at Lodge 12. As you can see from the schedule, the Worshipful Master is scheduling fun, family oriented events where we get to know each other better and enjoy fellowship in a variety of atmospheres.

There is a lot of degree work, so come on out to Lodge and join in the making of Masons
 The young men are energetic and enthusiastic. Come to Lodge and you will go home feeling younger and ready to take on the world.

Thanks for your participations at our recent funeral services. The families of our departed Brethren really appreciate our attendance and participation.

Dues Notices for 2008 will be going out at the end of this month, go ahead and right that check when you get the notice. Dues are the lifeblood of our Lodge.

Hope to see you at Lodge soon. We are preparing for another Grand Lodge in December and we will be discussing resolutions and recommendations and your input is welcomed.

Thanks for all you do and will continue to do for Masonry.

Victor Armstrong

October Birthdays

Henry Elvin Shoenfelt II	10/2/1948	John Olan Sherrill, Jr.	10/18/1939
Gerald Avon Beathard, Jr.	10/3/1963	Marc Barry Grant	10/18/1957
Matthew James Scott Munro	10/4/1967	Jon Thomas Walker	10/18/1973
Charles Scott Richey	10/4/1962	J.T. Bryant	10/20/1934
Ross Olin Goodwin	10/6/1937	John McAlexander, Jr.	10/21/1923
Glenn Wallace Kennedy	10/6/1918	Elvin Jerome Pederson	10/22/1947
J. R. Hunnicutt, Jr.	10/7/1928	Gary McKenzie	10/22/1942
Hansel Thompson	10/10/1932	Lon Keith Griffith	10/24/1946
Hubert Allan Henry	10/13/1919	Samuel Edward Stimson	10/26/1942
Willie Ignacius Kocurek	10/14/1910	Kevin Francis Prochaska	10/26/1956
Joe Harold Lawrence	10/14/1932	Ingmar Eugene Sterzing	10/27/1971

A View From The South

One of the duties of the Wardens is to assist the Master in the discharge of his trust; diffusing Light and imparting knowledge to all, and see that the “laws, customs, and usages” of the Order are not violated or infringed upon. The laws of our order are quite well documented – “The Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas” are published annually by Grand Lodge, and we all know what our Masonic Obligations are. But what of the ‘customs and usages’ of the Order? These are not so clearly defined.

What is Masonic Etiquette anyway? Etiquette, according to the Mirriam-Webster Dictionary, is “the conduct or procedure required by good breeding or prescribed by authority to be observed in social or official life.” Masonic Etiquette, therefore, would be the rules and procedures by which we conduct ourselves in a Masonic setting. Many of these rules and customs are not written – they are either a function of common sense and polite manners, or have been handed down ‘mouth to ear, from generation to generation.’

Many of these rules are well known – don’t walk between the East and the Altar while Lodge is open; stand when addressing the Lodge; and address Officers by their correct title (the Master of the Lodge is ‘Worshipful Master’, the District Deputy Grand Master and other Grand Lodge officers are ‘Right Worshipful’, while the Grand Master is ‘Most Worshipful’.) Others rules of Masonic conduct are not quite so self-evident or well known.

It is the less common and less considered points of Masonic Etiquette which Bro. Senior Warden and I wish to address this year in our Trestleboard articles. I charge each of you to take a few moments to consider the rules that you apply to your conduct in Lodge and in relation to other Masons, and to hold yourselves to the highest standard of Masonic Etiquette.

In closing, I would like to quote R. W. Henry G. Meacham, Grand Lecturer, Grand Lodge of New York, on the topic of Masonic Etiquette:

“There is a certain grave beauty in the practice of Masonic etiquette. The Masonic life as it is lived out in our assemblies is a conscious work of art, with each and every part coordinated to every other, and instinct with the feeling of the whole; if a man enters into that system without preparation or forethought, and trusting only his instincts, his manner will strike an awkward note, like a discord jangling across a strain of music; but if he has trained himself in his part and caught the spirit of the whole, the genius of Freemasonry will shine through his actions, will express itself through ritual, symbol, law, philosophy, fellowship and daily deed. To have one’s self thus become a part of a great and living whole is a kind of satisfying pleasure nothing else can give, a participation in the very life of beauty, appreciated as much by the beholders as by the actor. This ability to confer pleasure upon one’s fellows when gathered in communication or in ceremony is not the least of etiquette’s rewards.”

- 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
Oscar Orum
Robert Pugh
William Riley
Walter Schlueter
Jonas Silberstein

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



Lodge Schedule

October, 2007



- Oct. 8:** Light Meal 5:30 P.M.
E.A. degrees to follow.

- Oct 13: Masonic Family Weekend**
10:00am at the Texas Masonic Retirement Center, Arlington

- Oct. 15: Stated Meeting**
Meal Served 6:30 P.M.
Widows Night open meeting
Stated Meeting to follow

- Oct. 16: Grand Masters Workshop** 6:30 P.M.
At Colorado Lodge 96

- Oct. 22: Masters Wardens Secretary** 6:30 P.M.
Hosted by Austin Lodge 12 Association
October, 2007

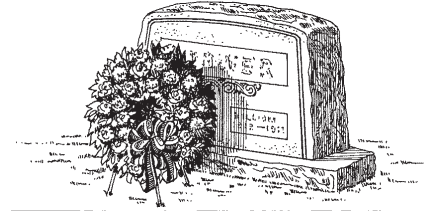
- Oct. 29:** Light Meal 5:30 P.M.
E.A. degrees to follow.

Check the schedule online here:
<http://www.austinelodge12.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!”

Owen Elbert Kelley 9/15/2007

Trestleboard Editor -- Steven Bach
<editor@austinelodge12.com>



Austin Lodge No 12, A.F. & A.M.
P.O. Box 5150
Austin TX 78763-5150 — 512/454-8009

Non Profit
Organization

U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Austin, Texas
Permit No. 1558

Address Service Requested