

The Trestleboard



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



From The East

Brethren,

At our Stated Meeting this past month, we were visited by two Lodges – Hill City and Parsons. Both were in attendance in hopes of walking away with the Traveling Gavel. Parsons had a couple more members than Hill City, and were able to take the Gavel. Believe it or not, we actually had as many visitors at our Stated Meeting as we had members! It was really nice to be breaking bread with and getting to know our visitors. It was especially nice that they chose Past Masters' Night to come visit. What a great night.

We also had our first Ladies' Night, which was a resounding success. Kudos to our Junior Warden, Brother McKissick, for putting together a great evening. There were twenty six of us present, including our wives, and a great time was had by all. We will be having another one of these later in the year, and I encourage you to attend it.

This Stated Meeting we will be receiving Right Worshipful John David Smith, the District Deputy for District 50. We will also be awarding 50 Year pins. Please come on out and support your brethren in their glorious achievements.

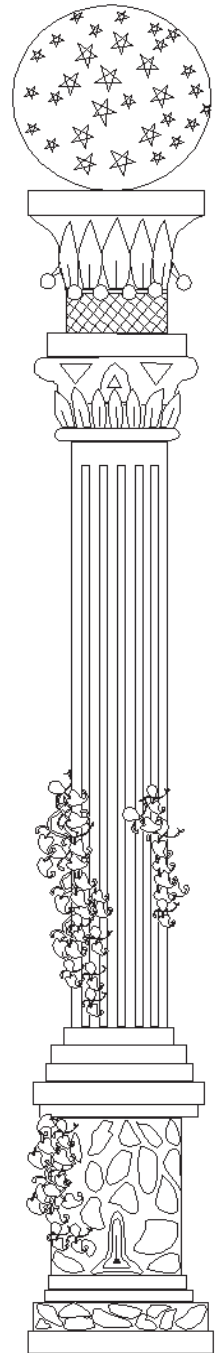
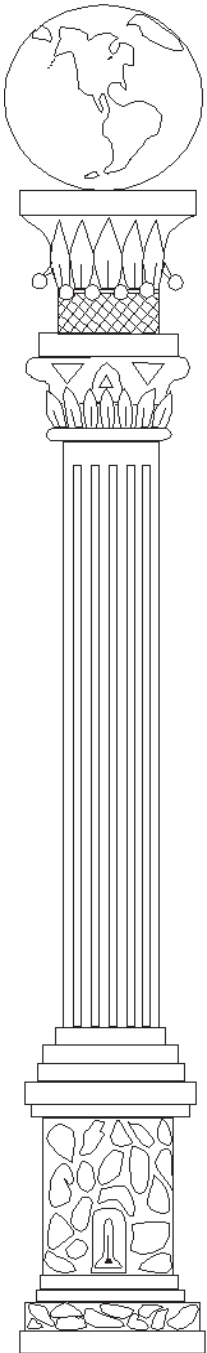
Our first Game Night will be held on Saturday September 22 at 6:00 PM in the Lodge 12 Library. Come if you can, and enjoy your brothers' company.

Our Lodge Visitation program will be continuing on Thursday October 4 when we will be visiting University Lodge at the York Rite building. University has a great group of guys, and they always make us feel welcome. Please let the Secretary or myself know if you would like to attend so they can be prepared for us.

Finally, if you or your business would like to advertise in the Trestleboard and help defray the cost of publishing and mailing it please let the Secretary or I know. The cost will be \$100 for the balance of the Masonic year.

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

S & F,
Jeff Goldman, WM



Next Stated Meeting: Monday, September 17, 2007

2007-2008 Lodge Officers



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From the Secretary's Desk

Brethren,

Your Secretary has two items on his mind. The first of which is to thank the brethren who attended Brother Joe Del Rio's services. This is the best turn out We have had for a funeral in several years. It was an opportunity to support the family and friends of Brother Del Rio and bring Masonry's light to our community. Brother Frank Del Rio, his son, called and expressed his thanks for our support.

Secondly, the Lodge is receiving petitions in greater numbers than in the recent past. We should be voting on FOUR petitions this month. I have been trying to put brethren on the Investigating Committees that live or work near the petitioner by using Zip Codes. Should you receive an appointment to an Investigating Committee act promptly and thoroughly on the petition and send it back to the Secretary in a timely fashion.

Every member should be involved in Masonry. Let us show our concern, compassion and commitment to all the members of our Fraternity.

See you at Lodge,

Victor Armstrong

September Birthdays

William David Warren	9/2/31	Justin F (Jay) Pollack	9/11/75
Michael Lynn Barker	9/4/72	Pat Morgan	9/14/27
Morris H Craig	9/5/26	Samuel Earl Baker	9/16/21
Efren Bermudez	9/5/30	John Wilson Ashby	9/18/20
Daniel Eugene Treager	9/5/57	Robert Lynn Pugh	9/19/23
Charles Lee Easter, Jr.	9/6/49	Gordon Wayne Kelso	9/20/41
Philip E. Morgette, Jr.	9/6/52	J. T. Madison	9/20/25
Jonas Silberstein	9/6/29	Darrell Lee Wise	9/21/39
Jack E Hightower	9/6/26	Herbert L. Jackson, Jr.	9/22/28
Morris Douglas Wallis	9/7/12	Malcolm D. Ferguson	9/24/25
Hyman Sandgarten	9/9/21	Shawn Pitre	9/24/72
William Alfred Dye	9/9/39	Larry David Mitchell	9/26/38
John Robert Hastie	9/9/42	Jerry Casebolt	9/26/40
Benard Laves	9/11/26	Frank Del Rio	9/30/31

A View From The West

The upcoming month of August, being Past Master's month, I decided to take a further look at the term, to see where it came from. At first glance, it looks obvious. A Master Mason was installed in the East, and afterwards, his term is in the past. Now he's a Past Master. At least that is how I looked at it. Now comes a very short history lesson of the term: "Past Master".

It seems that, sometime previous to 1741 or so, the only ones who were to arrive at the "sublime degree of a Master Mason", were those who were to be installed in the "presiding chair". In modern terms, to be installed as Worshipful Master. All others were either Entered Apprentices or Fellowcrafts (or Past Masters as you shall see). When a Master Mason, or one who had presided over a Lodge and sat in the chair, had served his term, he would have "passed the chair" on to the new Master of the Lodge. In other words, the only Master Masons were those who were presiding over their Lodges. Although you can reference different sources for differing times and circumstances, these seem to be common facts throughout most of the sources I have found. In some writings, I have found the term: "Passed Master" and in others: "Past Master". Both were used in like manners, so I presume them to be equivalent terms.

There was an informal degree given when a "Fellow"(craft) was elected to sit in the presiding officer's chair. It was styled the fourth degree (called the "Past Masters" degree) and its purpose was to enlighten the incoming Master of the Lodge as to his duties and obligations. Some writings say that only "Passed Masters" could be in the degree, except for the "candidate for the Chair". This degree became formalized in what is now called the York Rite (or as some call it, the American Rite) as the fifth or "Past Masters" degree. It is not the same now as it was originally, but some parts are the same (again presumably since none of the original degree was written down).

There ends the short history lesson.

So, here's a health to those of you who have "passed the chair". You have done an invaluable service to Austin Lodge #12 and to the Craft in your service by presiding over the Lodge. It is you who have made it possible for us to be a vibrant and growing Lodge, you who have made it possible for us to be the second oldest constantly serving Lodge in Texas and we salute you. To our Past Masters. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

John Brengle

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.
Owen Kelley
Claude King
John McNamara
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



September, 2007

Sept. 10: Movie Night 6:30 P.M

Bring the family for "The Alamo."
Sodas and popcorn provided.

Sept. 17: Stated Meeting

D.D.G.M. Official Visit & 50 Year Pin Presentations
Meal Served..... 6:30 P.M

Sept. 21: Certificate Exam..... 6:00 P.M

At Onion Creek Lodge #220

Sept. 22: Austin Lodge 12 Game Night

Sept. 24: Light Meal..... 5:30 P.M.

Called Meeting Degree(s) to follow

October, 2007

Oct. 1: Light Meal 5:30 P.M.

Called Meeting Degree(s) to follow

Oct. 4: Meal Served..... 6:30 P.M

Visit University Lodge #1190

Oct. 8: Light Meal 5:30 P.M.

Called Meeting Degree(s) to follow

Oct 13: Masonic Family Weekend

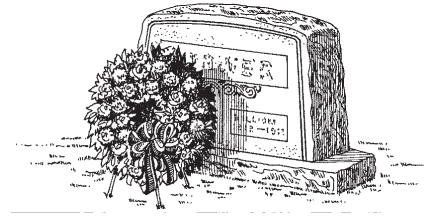
10:00am at the Texas Masonic Retirement Center, Arlington

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!"

David Dochen August 13, 2007

Joe Del Rio August 18, 2007

Trestleboard Editor -- Steven Bach
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If you have moved recently, we probably have your new address but not your new phone number. Please call us or email your new information so that we may serve you better.



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Organization

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