

The Trestleboard

AUSTIN Lodge #12

December AD 2009, AL 6009

Worshipful Master

J. McKissick



~Rising From the East ~

Brethren,

It is hard to believe, but we are already mid-way through the Masonic year! And thus far, it has been an exciting one! Austin Lodge # 12 is continuing to attract new young men to our Fraternity, and inculcating the lessons of Freemasonry in the hearts and minds of the next generation, ensuring the vitality and survival of our Gentle Craft well into the 21st Century. We have an exciting Stated Meeting planned for December 21st and I hope that you and your family and friends can attend. We will be having our Annual Holiday Party and celebrating one of the prescribed Masonic Feast Days, being that of St. John the Evangelist. The Masonic Feast was an important part of the Lodge activities in the Lodges of old (one of the purposes of forming the first Grand Lodge in 1717 was the revival of the 'Annual Feast'), and these Masonic Feasts are a tie to our past and a time to enjoy some good Masonic Fellowship with our Brethren.

We will be having a potluck dinner at 6:30pm, followed by a very brief stated meeting, then a musical performance by *The Old Holdouts* (a 'Old Timey'/bluegrass band) in our Historic Scottish Rite Theater. The Lodge will provide ham and green beans- everyone else is asked to please bring a side dish or dessert for all to enjoy. You are welcome to bring your own adult beverages to partake of while we listen to the band and celebrate the Holiday season with our Brethren. Too often, we get caught up in the business of the Lodge and of making Masons, and do not take the time to just socialize and enjoy each other's company. The Feast Days are a time to do just that.

If you have not been to Lodge for a while, this is a perfect opportunity to come back and renew old acquaintances and meet some of the new Brethren who are Laboring in the quarries of Masonry and moving our Fraternity forward into the future. So, if it is at all within length of your Cable-tow, please invite your friends and family to come, bring a side dish, and come celebrate with your Brethren at Austin Lodge #12. I'm certain that you will find it an enjoyable evening! Austin Lodge # 12 is continuing to reach out into our Communities and practice the Tenets of Relief and Charity by helping those in our community who are in need. This year, we adopted several families through Safe Place in Austin, a shelter for women and children who are victims of sexual and domestic violence. In these difficult economic times, the support our Lodges can give to our communities is needed more than ever. We are also continuing to raise funds for our Austin Lodge #12 Masonic Memorial Scholarship. We need the support of our Brethren if we are going to be able to continue to award these scholarships, so if you are in a position to contribute to this worthy cause, and would like to honor a fallen Brother by donating in his name, please do so. Anything you are able to give will help.

Grand Lodge was held the weekend of December 4-6, and Austin Lodge #12 was well represented. I would like to extend congratulations to R.: W.: Bro. Hal Elliott, of Hill City Lodge #456, who was appointed as the District Deputy Grand Master for Masonic District #50 for the year 2010. Also, congratulations to M.: W.: Orville L. O'Neill, our new Grand Master, and R.: W.: Walter Rogers, who was elected as our Grand Junior Warden.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

Brother J. McKissick

Worshipful Master, Austin Lodge #12, A.F & A.M.
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~As The Sun In The West~

Protecting The Door

As Master Masons, I believe that our duty to each other is to provide the cement which unites a building into one common mass; and to make use of it for the purpose of spreading the cement of brotherly love and affection which may unite us into one sacred band, or society of friends and brothers, among whom no contention should ever exist, but that noble contention, or rather

~From the Secretary's Desk~

emulation of who can best work and best agree. I believe that potential brothers should be met at the door and thoroughly screened as to their desires and/or motives to become Master Masons. It is very hard to distinguish if a potential brother's intent is sincere or of a potential mercenary motive, I.E.: that of trying to do a disorder to our order. It is my wish that potential brothers may be met well at the door. I would like to encourage all the brethren reading this article to try your best to live in a Masonic way, and in attempting to do so, you may encourage and/or attract other prospective Masons for future generations.

Fraternally,
Steven Sterzing, Senior Warden,
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~from the South~
Franklin Virtues Concluded

I hope some of you have found this experiment in implementing the Franklin Values measurement system interesting, or even informative and enlightening. I have found one aspect to be a common problem for me in all of the values.

In my daily activities I have found it particularly easy to become side-tracked and unfocused with regard to the specific value I am pursuing, there are so many distractions and things move at such a rapid pace. Perhaps this would have been easier if I had formed the habit when young; or perhaps with time I can repeat this cycle and develop the habit so that it will become easier to focus in the future.

Here are the last of the values, good luck!

9. Moderation: Avoid extremes; forbear resenting injuries so much as you think they deserve.
10. Cleanliness: Tolerate no uncleanness in body, clothes, or habitation.
11. Tranquility: Be not disturbed at trifles, or at accidents common or unavoidable.
12. Chastity: Rarely use venery but for health or offspring, never to dullness, weakness, or the injury of your own or another's peace or reputation.
13. Humility: Imitate Jesus and Socrates.

Russel Zears, Junior Warden
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Brethren, you should have just received your dues notices. This is a reminder to go ahead and send in your dues before the notice gets lost in the holiday shuffle. Your dues are the lifeblood that sustains this Lodge and we need you to pay them promptly.

The new cards for our 50 and 50+ year members and our Endowed Members are on their way. You have probably received yours by the time you get this newsletter.

Your officers have just returned from Grand Lodge where great fellowship and interesting resolutions were presented. Most failed and your Lodge was not effected by any of the resolutions that passed.

There are a lot of degrees being conferred at Lodge 12 and your presence to work in the degrees or just to show support on the sidelines would be greatly appreciated. We are approaching a New Year and a great resolution would be to attend Lodge at least four times in 2010.

May each of you and your families have a blessed holiday season and enjoy the fruits of the New Year.

See you at Lodge,
Victor Armstrong, Secretary
Austin Lodge #12, A. F. & A. M.
Website is: austinlodge12.com

Happy Birthday to all who have had birthdays since our last Trestleboard.

Please keep our sick, infirm and otherwise distressed Brethren and their families in your thoughts and prayers.

SUMMONS NOTE:

The Worshipful Master wishes you all to know that each Trestleboard is to be viewed as an official summons to the Stated Meeting just the same as the summons you receive every other month. Please notify one of the above officers of your disposition.

~POT LUCK DINNER!~

The Lodge will provide ham and green beans for the potluck **Holiday Banquet** at the December Stated Meeting. Bring your favorite side dish, hors d'ouvres, salad or dessert. But most importantly, bring your family and friends and meet with good holiday cheer to celebrate the season of giving and thanks!

~MASONIC ETIQUETTE~

In continuing our quest for proper Masonic Etiquette, I offer the following items. They are not Masonic offenses, they are simply a lack of Masonic Etiquette...or in other words, considered to be "bad form" or bad manners.

So... Let's begin:

1. WALKING BETWEEN THE ALTAR AND THE WORSHIPFUL MASTER:

Brethren do not pass between the Altar and the East when the lodge is open.

Why? As a courtesy to the Worshipful Master, it is necessary that the three Great Lights which shine their eternal light and wisdom upon the Master to help him govern the lodge should never be in shadow, not even for a millisecond, while the Master has the Lodge open. There are rare exceptions in degree work.

2. SITTING IN THE EAST:

Brethren do not take a seat in the East without an invitation... even if all other seats are full.

Why? While all Brethren within a tiled room are equal to one another, and the officers are servants of the Brethren, all Lodge officers have worked and studied long and hard for their Lodge. It is, therefore, the Master's prerogative to recognize this devotion and their loyalty by inviting distinguished visitors or a special member whom the Master wishes to honor to sit with him in the East. In other words, if you were in church, synagogue or mosque and the pews were full, would you go up and sit beside the Pastor, Rabbi or Imam (Muslim Priest)?

3. ALWAYS FULLY DRESSED:

Brethren should not enter their Lodge room when the Lodge has been opened, either without their apron nor while putting on that apron...not even the tying of its strings.

Why? In respect to the formalities of their Lodge, officers expect that the Brethren will have the courtesy to enter it fully dressed and ready for the labor. They should not have to wait for a member to be fully "dressed", even just tying or adjusting their apron, to salute that member. It is expected that you will be properly and entirely dressed when you pass by the Tiler and enter your Lodge room.

4. STAND WHEN YOU SPEAK:

No man sits while speaking in the lodge room, no matter if he addresses an officer or another brother.

Why? All lodge activity is based on each man in the Lodge as being a servant of the Brethren. This includes the Worshipful Master and his officers.

While the man, himself, who has been elected Worshipful Master does not gain any special honor, personally, as the Worshipful Master, it is to the Worshipful Master as the Master of the Lodge that a member stands to address. It is simply a form of respect ...and no different than attending a shareholder's meeting or a City Council meeting. It is expected that if you wish to address the audience, you will stand so all may see who is speaking.

In Texas, the only exception is when the Worshipful Master is addressing just one man.

5. TALKING:

"Side" talk while a is open is considered bad manners.

Why? The lodge room is a Temple of the Great Architect of the Universe. The Brethren within are working to make the best ashlar (stones) for His spiritual temple. Just as it is impolite to talk in a church, synagogue or mosque service, so it is improper to distract the degree team or the candidate.

Talking without asking to do so shows irreverence for the proceedings. God's house is not for social conversation within the Lodge room. It is for worship and learning the lesson of the day which is being taught. Unless you have requested of the Master to speak, silence is the rule. This also means no whispering.

HOW TO SPEAK? If you have something pertinent to say, simply stand. When the Master recognizes you, then you address the Lodge in this manner:

"Worshipful Master, Wardens and Brethren".

When dignitaries are in attendance, you still address the Worshipful Master first, then in descending order, address the dignitaries:

"Worshipful Master, Most Worshipful Grand Master, Right Worshipful Sir, Worshipful Sir, Wardens and Brethren."

~UPCOMING SCHEDULE~

AUSTIN LODGE #12 CALENDAR

DECEMBER 2009

Mon. Dec. 14 : CALLED MEETING : EA Degree
Thu. Dec. 17 : CALLED MEETING : EA Degree
Mon. Dec. 21 : **STATED MEETING :**
HOLIDAY BANQUET
Mon. Dec. 28 : **LODGE DARK**

JANUARY 2010

Mon. Jan. 4 : CALLED MEETING : 'More
Light' Masonic Discussion
Mon. Jan. 11 : CALLED MEETING : Master's
Degree
Tue. Jan. 12 : Visit T.Neal Porter #1354
Mon. Jan 18 : **STATED MEETING**

Thu. Jan. 21 : Floorwork Class (6:00pm, no meal)
Mon. Jan. 25 : CALLED MEETING : EA
Degree(s)
Thur. Jan. 28 : M,W,S at Onion Creek #220

FEBURARY 2010

Mon. Feb. 1 : CALLED MEETING
Mon. Feb. 8 : CALLED MEETING
Mon. Feb. 15 : VISIT COLORADO #96
Thu. Feb. 18 : Floorwork Class (6:00pm, no meal)
Mon. Feb. 22 : **STATED MEETING (MOVED
TO 4th MONDAY)**

Called Meetings : dinner at 5:30, Lodge opens 6:30
Stated Meetings : dinner at 6:30, Meeting at 7:30
Visit our website at
<http://austinlodge12.com/schedule.php> for the latest
schedule.