

The Trestleboard

AUSTIN Lodge #12

February AD 2010, AL 6010

Worshipful Master

J. McKissick



~Rising From the East ~

Brethren,

We are now well into the new year, and I hope everyone is having a good one! We've already got a busy 2010 planned for Austin Lodge #12. On February 8th we certified in the Entered Apprentice Degree, and will be scheduling Certification in the Fellow Craft and Master Mason Degrees in the coming months.

The Lodge 12 Holiday Party in December was a great success. There were over 80 Brethren and guests in attendance – the most people we've had at a stated meeting in a very long time. We held a 'record' Stated Meeting (10 ½ minutes 'gavel to gavel') so that the Brethren could get back downstairs to enjoy some good Masonic Fellowship and celebrate the Holiday Season with friends and family in attendance. I'd like to personally thank everyone who attended and made this a great event.

We are continuing with our Lodge visitation program to visit every Lodge in the district at least once each year. In February, we are moving our stated meeting to the 4th Monday (February 21st), so we can visit Colorado Lodge #96 for their Stated Meeting on Monday February 15th. On Thursday April 1st we will visit Onion Creek Lodge #220 and on Wednesday May 12th we'll be visiting Parsons #222. Visiting other Lodges is a great way to meet other Brethren in our District and increase Masonic

Fellowship between the Lodges, so I invite you to come and join us.

I would also like to urge everyone to attend the Grand Masters conference in March. The Grand Master has decided to hold some of the conferences in more 'rural' locations this year, so there will be no conference in Austin for 2010. The closest locations to us will be in San Antonio on Saturday March 6th at the Alzafar Shrine (registration is at 1:00pm, the conference starts at 2:00pm), and in Marble Falls, Texas on Saturday March 20th at Blazing Star Lodge No. 413 in (registration is at 9:00am, the conference starts at 10:00am). The San Antonio conference coincides with the annual Grand Lodge Alamo Observance, which begins at 9:00am at the San Antonio Scottish Rite, and includes a Masonic parade and program to honor the fallen heroes and brother Freemasons who fought at the Alamo. There will be a group from Austin Lodge #12 attending the Alamo Observance and San Antonio Conference. If any of you are interested in attending, let me know, or contact Bro. Secretary, and we can make arrangements to carpool.

Our March Stated Meeting will be our annual 'Widows Night' to honor the widows of our fallen Brethren, so please try to come to the meeting that night (and invite your wife and family), and let these ladies know how much they are appreciated. Often our Widows need assistance to get to Lodge on this night, so if you are able to help give them rides, please let me know.

On Saturday April 17th, Masonic District #50 will have a district wide picnic at Richard Garriott's property on Lake Austin. This will be a family friendly event, and should be a fun time for all, so mark your calendars! More details will be forthcoming, so check the Austin Lodge #12 calendar on our website for information on this and other upcoming Lodge events.

I hope to see you all at Lodge soon!

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

Brother J. McKissick

Worshipful Master, Austin Lodge #12, A.F & A.M.
512-828-7701

jam@austinlodge12.com

Some of the members and guests at the annual Holiday Party. Feasting abounded!



Come and partake of the good fellowship, Masonic light and Brotherly love being dispensed at Austin Lodge #12 these days!

~As The Sun In The West~

Western Oasis

In our everyday lives, we sometimes seem to be burdened by seemingly overwhelming circumstances. Day in and day out we turn on the news or read the newspaper and it seems that the world is in a constant state of chaos. National debt, National healthcare, the Haitians earthquake, crazed gunman, missing children, elderly abuse, etc...are just to name a few of the chaotic streams of Light that we are encountering. It is very nice to have a community of like minded individuals to commune with, just to get out of the rest of the world, at large, for just a short amount of time each week.

I really enjoy seeing the growth and enthusiasm taking place at Austin Lodge 12. It seems as though the newbie's are jumping right in to help out their new Brethren.

I also see that interest in the chairs is up from that of the past few years where it seemed as though filling the empty seats was somewhat of a task. I see a steady stream of interest coming into our lodge and wish to convey to our senior Brethren, that the renaissance of the Craft is at hand. Returning back to the beginning of this

article, I wish to explain that, to me, Masonry is a great escape from the craziness of the world, thus, to me, it is my **Western Oasis**.

Fraternally,
Steven Sterzing, Senior Warden,
Austin Lodge #12, A.F & A.M.
512-431-8097 stevensterzing@hotmail.com

~From the South~

Franklin does Yoga!

In reading about the Franklin Virtue system I felt that his methodology was valuable, but I was not certain that he had chosen the "virtues" that I would have. In particular, I began to question whether his list of virtues covered all forms of virtue, and could be considered "complete", and also whether the virtues overlapped or were perhaps too personal to Franklin's own weaknesses.

I then began collecting systems of describing virtue or virtuous behavior. Ultimately I intend to construct a list of virtues I feel are best for me, but I wanted to build upon those selected by some of the greatest minds available.

One system that I recently studied is that of yoga, called the Yama and Niyama. The first of these, the Yama, are "don'ts", and a prospective student was eliminated as a candidate for initiation to some schools if he did not exhibit a degree of character with respect to each of these. Below are the Yama as described by one ancient author:

- 1) Ahimsa: non-violence, non-injury, harmlessness
- 2) Satya: truthfulness, honesty
- 3) Asteya: non-stealing, honesty, non-misappropriativeness
- 4) Brahmacharya: sexual continence in thought, word and deed as well as control of all the senses
- 5) Aparigraha: non-possessiveness, non-greed, non-selfishness, non-acquisitiveness

I invite you to join me in trying the Franklin system with respect to these virtues.

Russel Zears, Junior Warden
Austin Lodge #12, A.F. & A.M.
512-794-9224

~From the Secretary's Desk~

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.

Brethren, here it is February and quite a few of you have not sent in your dues for 2010. It seems it is always the duty of your Secretary to remind you in these articles for the Trestleboard.

Along those lines, I am reminded since I took over this job on Oct 1, 2003, I have only met about 20 percent of the membership. I know 300 names, but less than 60 faces.

In this year of 2010, try to attend two Lodge meetings, whether it be at Austin Lodge 12 or some other Lodge. There is a lot happening at Lodge 12, so come and enjoy it.

See you at Lodge,
Victor Armstrong, Secretary
Austin Lodge #12, A. F. & A. M.
Website is: austinelodge12.com

~ Standing in the Northeast Corner~

Every man should live like this.

It's not every day you change the course of your life, or is it? My understanding of that concept has changed drastically over the last nine months. It began with the passing of the greatest role model in my life, my grandfather, Francisco Farias—a Master Mason. He ultimately led me to my introduction to the Craft.

Relatively speaking, my journey in Masonry has been short, but my association with its members and their guidance has already made lasting impressions in my life.

Impressions that grow stronger with each passing day.

Like learning how to drive and getting your first car; how wonderfully liberating that feeling is. There is nothing like the feel of acquiring new knowledge that you can apply in your life. Masonry provides a limitless opportunity to learn something new when we devote time to its teachings.

Obviously, Masons join for a variety of reasons and receive an array of benefits from its principle teachings and guidance. However, these differences only serve as unique avenues we each take to find the true meaning behind this fraternal association; the sense of belonging to something greater than the sum of its parts. A course of life bound only by Divinity and its guidance to pursue to the end, all that is honorable and righteous for family and country. Defined by Brother Rudolf Seydel "as a union of all unions, an association of men, bound together in the struggles to attain all that is noble, who desire only what is true and beautiful, who love and practice virtue for its own sake – this is Freemasonry, the most comprehensive of all human confederacies."

I hope that each of you find the time each day to truly put into practice what we are taught. For this is the greatest respect you can pay to the Craft.

So, the answer to the question is simple. It is every day you have a chance to change the course of your life. Masonry provides the vehicle. The bottom line being, **every man should live like this.**

Fraternally Yours,

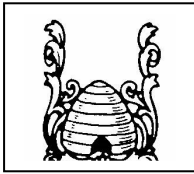
Alejandro Farias, EA

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.

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THE TRESTLEBOARD

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

~UPCOMING SCHEDULE~

AUSTIN LODGE #12 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February

Mon. Feb. 15 : VISIT COLORADO #96
Thu. Feb. 18 : Floorwork Class
Mon. Feb. 22 : **STATED MEETING (MOVED
TO 4th MONDAY)**

March

Mon. Mar. 1 : CALLED MEETING
Thurs. Mar.4 : Floorwork Class
Sat. Mar. 6 : 9am Alamo Observance (San
Antonio)
2pm Grand Master's Conference
(San Antonio)
Mon. Mar. 8 : CALLED MEETING
Mon. Mar. 15 : **STATED MEETING (WIDOWS
NIGHT)**

Sat. Mar. 20 : 10am Grand Master's Conference
(Marble Falls)
Mon. Mar. 22 : CALLED MEETING
Sat. Mar. 27 : Goliad Observance (Goliad, Tx)
Mon. Mar. 29 : CALLED MEETING

April

Thur. Apr. 1 : VISIT ONION CREEK #220
Mon. Apr. 5 : CALLED MEETING
Mon. Apr. 12 : CALLED MEETING
Sat. Apr. 17 : District 50 Picnic
Mon. Apr. 19 : **STATED MEETING**

NOTE: At almost all of the called meetings we are
doing degree work. Come out and be a part of the
dynamic work that is going on at your Austin Lodge
#12. We have some great young men joining our
Lodge and the work is excellent. Y'all will be
proud!

Visit our website at
<http://austinlodge12.com/schedule.php> for the latest
schedule.