

The Trestleboard
AUSTIN Lodge #12
October, ad 2009, Al 6009
Worshipful master
j. mCkissick



~Rising From the East ~

Brethren,

Fall is finally upon us! It has been a long hot summer, and I for one am glad to see some cooler (and wetter) weather here in Central Texas. However, the heat has not kept us from having a busy summer at Austin Lodge #12! Since the beginning of this Masonic year at the end of June, we have initiated 5 Entered Apprentices, passed 2 Brothers to the degree of Fellow Craft, and Raised 2 Master Masons. We've also had 4 Brethren affiliate with us by Certificate of Good Standing and 2 suspended Brethren reinstated. We Certified in the Entered Apprentice Degree on August 10th, and completed the last of our three Certified Degrees - the Fellow Craft - for the year on October 12th. As you can see, Lodge #12 is staying busy!

Before the September stated meeting, we held an Open meeting where we presented one 40 year Service pin, and honored our Masonic Service Men and Veterans by presenting them with American Flag and Square and Compasses lapel pins, in token of our appreciation for their service to their Country, and the defense of the ideals of Freedom and Democracy our Fraternity holds

so dear. The meeting was very well attended - I have not seen the dining room that full in a long, long time! If you haven't been to Lodge for a while, I encourage you to come back and enjoy some good Masonic fellowship with all the new Brethren who are becoming active members of our Lodge.

We have a busy fall ahead of us as well. We've had a large number of visitors at our Stated Meetings who are interested in Freemasonry, so I expect we'll be conferring quite a few degrees over the coming months. At the October stated meeting, we will be having our Past Masters night, so I encourage all you Past Masters to join us as the Lodge honors you for your service to the Craft and to Austin Lodge #12. We are missing portraits for several of our Past Masters, so we plan to set up a 'photo shoot' in the Blue Room upstairs so we can take portraits for those Past Masters whose photos are missing. Any other Brother who would like his portrait taken is welcome to do so as well.

Matthews Elementary, the school we 'adopted' last year, will be having their annual Octoberama Festival on Saturday October 24th. We are sponsoring the Raffle for them again this year, and have budgeted \$500.00 from our Charity budget to buy raffle prizes for the event. Our \$500.00 donation in prizes will raise several thousand dollars for the school. Bro. Chris Moyseos is our new liaison to Matthews Elementary - thank you Bro. Moyseos for taking on this very important task! We need some volunteers from the Lodge to help run the raffle from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm, and we have several other volunteer opportunities at the school as well. Please contact Bro. Moyseos at 718-795-3563 or email cmoyseos@westernequitygroup.com if you are interested in volunteering at the school.

Grand Lodge is December 3, 4, and 5, (Thursday through Saturday) and it will be here before you know it! If you plan to attend, please contact Bro. Secretary at the Lodge and let him know, so he can pre-register you and make sure you have a room reserved. We will be discussing resolutions

to go before Grand Lodge in our November stated meeting, so if you are interested in finding out more about these resolutions, please join us for the meeting.

Most Sincerely and Fraternally,
J. McKissick, Worshipful Master
Austin Lodge #12, A.F. & A.M.
512-828-7701
jam@austinlodge12.com

~The Sun In The South~

Franklin Virtues System

As a reminder, since it has been a couple of months since we started this exercise, Brother Ben Franklin started this system by selecting thirteen "virtues" which he wished to inculcate in himself, and used that old and proven technique of measuring for what he wanted to see. Each week he would take one of the virtues and score himself on how well he observed it each day, taking particular pains to identify ways in which he could do better. At the same time, he did not particularly focus on the other twelve, but did not particularly try to break those virtuous behaviors either! By this means, for one week each quarter (4 times a year), he would focus on improving his behavior with respect to each of his chosen virtues. While Franklin didn't live completely by his virtues and by his own admission, he fell short of them many times, he believed the attempt made him a better man contributing greatly to his success and happiness,

Once again, I invite you to try one of these virtues each week and see if you can use it to better yourself and those around you. I also invite your input as to how you are doing in this task.

5. Moderation: Avoid extremes; forbear resenting injuries so much as you think they deserve.

6. Industry: Lose no time; be always employed in something useful; cut off all unnecessary actions.

7. Cleanliness: Tolerate no uncleanness in body, clothes, or habitation.

8. Tranquility: Be not disturbed at trifles, or at accidents common or unavoidable.

Russel Zears, Junior Warden
Austin Lodge #12, A.F. & A.M.
512-794-9224
rzears@medium-s.com

"The Builder"

by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

All are architects of Fate,
Working in these walls of Time;
Some with massive deeds and great,
Some with ornaments of rhyme.

Nothing useless is, or low;
Each thing in its place is best;
And what seems but idle show
Strengthens and supports the rest.

For the structure that we raise,
Time is with materials filled;
Our to-days and yesterdays
Are the blocks with which we build.

Truly shape and fashion these;
Leave no yawning gaps between;
Think not, because no man sees,
Such things will remain unseen.

In the elder days of Art,
Builders wrought with greatest care
Each minute and unseen part;
For the gods see everywhere.

Let us to our work as well,
Both the unseen and the seen;
Make the house where gods may dwell
Beautiful, entire, and clean.

Else our lives are incomplete,
Standing in these walls of Time,
Broken stairways, where the feet
Stumble as they seek to climb.

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.

MASONIC ETIQUETTE

The following material is from the website:masonic-lodge-of-education.com This will be an ongoing series as space permits. This material is generic in essence and will work throughout the world of Freemasonry

Masonic Etiquette, for the most part, is merely good manners and respect for your lodge, its members, its Worshipful Master and the convention of Freemasonry, in general.

Unfortunately, Masonic Etiquette ...or Blue Lodge Etiquette, (as it is called in the United States) is largely unpublished as well as unspoken, therefore, up until now, it has been more difficult to learn its rules and nuances. You may study ritual work, degree work, floor work and know all Masonry's glorious history, Masonic symbols, jewels, etc. but there is very little written about how to comport yourself so you do not look foolish or be regarded as disrespectful.

Some are small things, and some are not, but your Lodge conduct is continually on display.

Few Masonic mentors include a list of proper Lodge behavior, as they have learned it, themselves, incident-by-incident, and usually learned by them after their having made an error and being kindly informed by another member as to the correct Masonic etiquette of the situation.

CONFORMING TO MASONIC ETIQUETTE

Over time, and by watching others, members conform themselves to exhibit proper Masonic etiquette behavior to learn lodge customs. As a newly Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft or Master Mason, it is

expected that you will exhibit the proper decorum and propriety in observance of the formal requirements which govern behavior in polite societies... BEFORE someone takes you aside to explain your errors...or you wouldn't be reading this.

THE MASTER'S AUTHORITY:

During his term in office, the brother who has been elected as Master is the most powerful member of the Lodge. He also shoulders all of its many responsibilities.

The Worshipful Master has the authority to:

1. Rule any brother out of order on any subject at any time.
2. Decide what can and cannot be discussed. Should a brother believe that the Master is arbitrary, unjust or unfair or is acting in an illegal manner, he can appeal to the District Deputy Grand Master. If that officer agrees that the appeal is a valid one, he will forward the complaint to the Grand Master.

If, however, that brother insists on speaking after the Master has ruled that he is out of order, he may be committing a Masonic offense.

Courteous Brethren accept the requests made by the Master to serve on various committees such as the examination committee, the investigation committee and other duties, as determined by the Lodge's needs.

-----More next time.-----

~Upon 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.

~UPCOMING SCHEDULE~

AUSTIN LODGE #12 CALENDAR:

Mon. Oct. 5 : Called Meeting (EA Turn in / FC Degree practice)

Mon. Oct. 12 : Called Meeting (Certified FC Degree)

Thu. Oct. 15 : Floorwork Class

Mon. Oct. 19 : **STATED MEETING (Past Masters Night)**

Mon. Oct. 26 : Masters, Wardens, and Secretaries Association Hosted by Colorado Lodge #96— Remember all Masons are invited to this meeting

Mon. Nov. 2 : Called Meeting (FC degree)

Mon. Nov. 9 : Called Meeting

Mon. Nov. 16 : **STATED MEETING (Grand Lodge Communications)**

Thu. Nov. 19 : Floorwork Class

Mon. Nov. 23 : Called Meeting

Thur. Nov. 26 : Thanksgiving

Mon. Nov. 30 : Called Meeting

Thurs. Dec. 3 – Sat. Dec. 5 – **GRAND LODGE**

Mon. Dec. 7 : Called Meeting

Mon. Dec. 14 : Called Meeting

Thu. Dec. 17 : Floorwork Class

Mon. Dec. 21 : **STATED MEETING : HOLIDAY BANQUET**

Mon. Dec. 28 : **DARK (HOLIDAYS)**