

The Trestleboard
AUSTIN Lodge #12
September AD 2010, AL 6010
Worshipful Master
Steven Charles Sterzing



~Rising From the East ~

I have to say that I believe that Austin Lodge 12 A.F. & A.M. is running quite nicely. I am not proposing to take credit for that, rather I am giving credit where credit is due. I give the credit to all the members that have been actively coming to Lodge functions, getting down to business and enjoying each other's company from week to week. So far this term, we have raised a couple of Master Masons, and have produced several Fellow Crafts and Entered Apprentices. In addition we have had several proficiencies given, voted for, and passed. It has come to my attention that a couple of financial gifts have come into our Lodge by long time members and that is greatly appreciated. Our long range planning team is working diligently to address concerns for the future of Austin Lodge #12 and I am sure that we are all quite interested in hearing the ideas that have been discussed. Just a reminder, that it is my wish to continue to push for Brothers to bring in non perishable food items for

Austin Lodge #12 to donate to the Austin Area Food Bank. In closing, I wish to give Austin Lodge #12 A.F. & A.M. a large pat on the back for the atmosphere of enthusiasm and dedication that only a Master Mason can appreciate.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,
Steven Sterzing, Worshipful Master
Austin Lodge 12 A.F. & A.M.
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~As The Sun Is In The West~

Long Range Planning Committee by Russell W. Zears

The Committee has met now for six sessions; it is time for us to report some preliminary findings and invite comment from the general membership. We are currently drafting those findings and plan to present them at a called meeting in October. The date is yet to be finalized, as are the findings, but I would like to give you a preview of some of the current thinking. Consider this an invitation for feedback, whether you agree or disagree, have additions or corrections; we seek to represent the true desires of the Lodge.

First, we recognize and honor the hard work of those who have gone before us, both in their efforts to put the Lodge on firm financial ground and for their efforts to find a suitable long term home. We recognize many advantages of our current space and of the fellowship offered by being co-located with other Masonic bodies.

Second, there is much dissatisfaction expressed regarding our current space. Many of these are minor and can be improved by ourselves or with cooperation with our landlord and co-tenants. Others might not be as amenable to correction. I expect the details will be covered in the report. For now let me grossly oversimplify by summarizing two feelings that seem to emerge from our deliberations. One, as a rule our brethren do not feel "at home" in the current space; somehow our tenancy leaves a sense of temporary or improvised feeling. And two, those brethren that compare the experience our space offers to other major

metropolitan Lodge rooms or those expectations set by best-selling books find that our space, while functional, does not inspire new members or good attendance by existing members.

Third, we have looked at our current finances and are working on a membership projection to estimate future revenues. Again, this has not yet been finalized, but a rough number of \$22,000 a year income seemed to be a likely steady state, given no major changes in our membership, recruiting, etc. Our current operating budgets have run at about \$49,000 a year, the difference made up by excess income from our investments. Clearly, if changes are desired, creative efforts will be required to finance them. This would involve a combination of one or more of these three options.

A: New funding from current members, either through a building fund campaign or unexpected gifts.

B: Structuring higher revenue producing assets, perhaps such as rental space in a new building.

C: Increased synergy and reduce our risk exposure by partnering with other Masonic entities in a similar financial situation to ours.

We are also examining real properties to determine what going prices are and what we might be able to afford, should the Lodge make that decision.

Finally, any of these options would involve significant additional commitments from our membership, both current and future. Before making such commitment we believe it is necessary to have a very clear vision of what we want and why we want it for the Lodge as a whole. This begins with a clear vision for Austin Lodge #12 as a whole, so that the space is a reflection of and supportive of that vision. As of this writing we have a first draft of such a vision that we would also like to have reviewed by the Lodge before we proceed.

Based upon feedback we expect to prepare recommendations to be voted upon at a future stated meeting. The resulting vote will give us direction for our future work. Thank you for your thoughtful support.

Russel Zears, Senior Warden
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~From the South~

As Freemasons, we ALL aspire to become the best we can become as men, as husbands, as friends, as patriots and as LEADERS in our church, our Lodge and our community. We frequently point out men who have helped us to become the man we are today and who have inspired us to continue to make our parents proud.

Recently, I learned that the great motivator, Anthony Robbins, is to be on several television shows pitching his new book. In 1982 Anthony Robbins was the guest speaker or should I say, guest performer, at the annual Sales Jamboree of Insurance and Financial Advisors, my professional organization.

Here is the quote by Anthony Robbins that gave my life a NEW direction: “It’s not what we get, but who we become as people... what we contribute that gives real meaning to our lives.”

I have spent most of my life in a leadership role and (as the leader) professionalism has and will always be the cornerstone and capstone of my life’s work.

Many of my Masonic Brothers have heard me speak with great admiration of other Brothers. Certainly, when given the right forum, I never hesitate to mention the “Magnificent Seven” list. This list was first made known on July 7, 1977.

The original list was made up of SEVEN men who had been the “most positive” influence on my life—ALL seven were Masons.

NOW is a good time to share my current “Magnificent Seven” with the readers of this Trestleboard.

Number one is Victor Yerby Armstrong, followed by William Oscar Orum. The #3 spot goes to John Brengle, followed closely by John David Smith. At the #5 spot is Ronald Carrol Harrison, followed by Kent Dawson Kinkade and James Allen McKissick is #7. Finally, to complete the “Great Eight” is Jeffrey David Goldman.

Going back to the first paragraph of this article—I must admit that I am not the only person to find these eight men to be the “Best of the Best: or “The Greatest of the

Great". Each man has received "Honors" from their peers in the Scottish Rite.

Six of these Great men are wearing the "Red Cap" and two wear the "White Cap".

If you take a real close look at Austin Lodge #12, you will quickly see that the leaders of this legendary Lodge are the "cream-of-the-crop" in Scottish Rite Masonry, not only in Austin, but in Texas.

NOW in rue Masonic tradition, please put these eight fine men in your prayers often and pray that they continue to "take good men and make them better: while at the same time becoming even better men themselves.

Finally, ask yourself daily: "ARE MY ACTIONS TAKING ME CLOSER OR FARTHER AWAY FROM MY GOALS?" This is another great power phrase by Anthony Robbins.

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~From the Secretary's Desk~

Brethren,
 It is Fall, Football, and Fellowcrafts. We have numerous Entered Apprentices who are nearing proficiency in their work and are eager to progress in their Masonic career. In short, we have a lot of degree work going on at Lodge and you should be there to enjoy and participate. Nothing encourages a young Mason like being brought to light in a full Lodge room. Come join us and help spread the light among our new Brothers.

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

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

Please note the following birthdays for this month:

First and middle name	Last name	Birthdate
William David	Warren	
Efren	Bermudez	
Philip Eugene	Morgette, Jr.	
Charles Lee	Easter, Jr.	
Jonas	Silberstein	
Jack E	Hightower	
Morris Douglas	Wallis	
William Alfred	Dye	
John Robert	Hastie	
Hyman	Sandgarten	
Benard	Laves	
Justin F (Jay)	Pollack	
Philip Edward	Hornsey	
Brian Wei-Han	Chan	
Pat	Morgan	
David K.	Peavy	
Samuel Earl	Baker	
John Wilson	Ashby	
Gordon Wayne	Kelso	
Michael Homsany	Darr	
Darrell Lee	Wise	
Herbert Lanoey	Jackson, Jr.	
Malcolm Douglas	Ferguson	
Shawn	Pitre	
Magnus Rex	Strange	
Jerry Lowell	Casebolt	
Bill Alan	Moore, Jr.	
Frank	Del Rio	

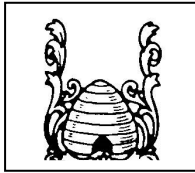
SUMMONS NOTE:

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.

Our new Stewards, Brothers Jessee Obed, SS, and Todd Smith, JS, will provide a wonderful steak meal at the Stated Meeting. They invite y'all to come and give feedback as to their proficiency in the kitchen!

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THE TRESTLEBOARD

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

~UPCOMING SCHEDULE~

AUSTIN LODGE #12 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

Thurs. Sept 16 : Esoteric Work
Mon. Sept 20 : **STATED MEETING**
Thurs. Sept 23 : Esoteric Work
Mon. Sept 27 : **CALLED MEETING**
Thurs. Sept 30 : Esoteric Work

OCTOBER

Mon. Oct 4 : **CALLED MEETING**
Thur. Oct 7 : Esoteric Work
Mon. Oct 11 : **CALLED MEETING**
Thur. Oct 14 : Esoteric Work
Mon. Oct 18 : **STATED MEETING**

Thur. Oct 21 : Esoteric Work
Mon. Oct 25 : **CALLED MEETING**
Thur. Oct 28 : Esoteric Work

NOVEMBER

Mon. Nov 1 : **CALLED MEETING**
Thur. Nov 4 : Esoteric Work
Mon. Nov 8 : **CALLED MEETING**
Thur. Nov 11 : Esoteric Work
Mon. Nov 15 : **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 your website at
<http://austinlodge12.com/schedule.php> for the latest schedule.