



THE TRESTLE BOARD • Fort Jackson Lodge No. 374, A.F.M.

Volume VII, Issue 1

Winter 2008

Greetings from the East! Incoming Master's Message

My Brothers-

First and foremost I want to thank everyone for your confidence in me to be your Worshipful Master this ensuing Masonic year.

It is with much pride that except this high honor. There are so many people I can thank for my Masonic education and all the help I have had these past two years and to each and everyone "Thank You"

It scares me sometimes to think that in September 2005 I was raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason and now I am setting in the East, but this was done with a lot of hard work and a lot of great Masons behind me all the way coaching and teaching me. Without them this would have been impossible.

I know I have some very large shoes to wear and many great Past Masters to follow, but I can assure all that my devotion to our lodge and Masonry in general with have my utmost attention and support.

Our degree work the past two years has been outstanding. We have done some, if not the best degree work in our district and I see it getting better and better. It takes dedication and hard work to accomplish what our lodge has done and each and every brother should be very proud of what we have.

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LODGE CALENDAR

STATED COMMUNICATION — 1ST THURSDAY

COVERED DISH DINNER — 3RD WEDNESDAY

EASTERN STAR — 1ST MONDAY

FELLOW CRAFT DEGREE

- Ft. Jackson Lodge. Thursday, February . Eat 6:30 p.m.,
Work 7:30 p.m.

PAST MASTERS BREAKFAST

Ft. Jackson Lodge. Saturday, February 23. 8:00 a.m.

2008 LODGE OFFICERS



Front: Wallace Wright, Tres; Hal Nobles, SW; Alex Roberts, WM;
Joe Rush, JW; Wayne Cagle, Sec.

Back: Rev. Robert Blackwell, Chap.; Walter Reed, JD; Larry
Simonson, Tiler.; Charles Warner, Jr., Stew; John Thorne, Stew.;
Eddie Comeau, Sr., JD

Tidings from the West Senior Warden's Message

Happy New Year Brothers and Sisters!

It seems that the years are going by faster than they use to. Last year was a great year! We raised five candidates, had three fundraisers, and made donation to three families. I am looking forward for another great year. I thank you, the Craft. for having trust in me to serve as your Senior Warden for this Masonic year. We have already raised one candidate and have more standing in the door.

We are doing good work but I think we still need to practice to get our timing a little better. We also have new blood moving in so many of us can start sitting the South after we leave the East. But as Past Masters we have to keep our fingers in the action so we do not forget the work.

I am also the chairman of the fundraising and charity committee. We will be having two fundraisers this year. We will have a BBQ diner in late August and a Boston Butt sell in mid-November. I will put out the dates as soon

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What Is Masonry?
From *Old Tiler Talks* by Carl Claudy
(1925)

"I've been a Mason six months now and I ought to know something about Masonry. But there are more secrets in the fraternity I don't know than those I have been told!"

The New Brother was puzzled. The Old Tiler laid down his sword, picked up a half-smoked cigar and lit it, and settled back in his chair.

"Get it out of your system," he invited.

"Is Masonry a religion," continued the New Brother, "or a system of philosophy, or a childish getting together of men who like to play politics and wear titles? I have heard it called all three. Sometimes I think it's one and sometimes the other. What do you think?"

"It isn't a childish getting together for the love of titles and honors," answered the Old Tiler. "Men would soon invent a much better organization for the satisfaction of such purposes. In fact, he has invented better ones. Men who want to play politics and be called the Grand High Cockalorum of the Exalted Central Chamber of the Secret Sanctorum can join these. If Masonry were nothing but play, it wouldn't live, and living, grow.

"Masonry isn't a religion. A religion, as I see it, is a belief in deity and a means of expressing worship. Masonry recognizes Deity, and proceeds only after asking divine guidance. But it does not specify any particular deity. You can worship any God you please and be a Mason. That is not true of any religion. If you are a Buddhist, you worship Buddha. If a Christian, Christ is your Deity. If you are a Mohammedan you are a worshipper of Allah. In Masonry you will find Christian, Jew, Mohammedan and Buddhist side by side.

"Masonry has been called a system of philosophy, but that is a confining definition. I don't think Masonry has ever been truly defined."

"Or God," put in the New Brother.

"Exactly. A witty Frenchman, asked if he believed in God, replied, 'Before I answer, you must tell me your definition of God. And when you tell me, I will answer you, no, because a God defined is a God limited, and a limited God is no God.' Masonry is something like that; it is brotherhood, unlimited, and when you limit it by defining it you make it something it isn't."

"Deep stuff!" commented the New Brother.

"Masonry is 'deep stuff,'" answered the Old Tiler. "It's so deep no man has ever found the bottom. Perhaps that is its greatest charm; you can go as far as you like and still not

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THE BEEHIVE

The bee was among the Egyptians the symbol of an obedient people, because, says Horapollo, "of all insects, the bee alone had a king. " Hence looking at the regulated labor of these insects when congregated in their hive, it is not surprising that a beehive should have been deemed an appropriate emblem of systematized industry. Freemasonry has therefore adopted the beehive as a symbol of industry, a virtue taught in the instructions, which says that a Master Mason "works that he may receive wages, the better to support himself and family, and contribute to the relief of a worthy, distressed brother, his widow and orphans"; and in the Old Charges, which tell us that "all Masons shall work honestly on working days, that they may live creditably on holidays."



There seems, however, to be a more recondite meaning connected with this symbol. The ark has already been shown to have been an emblem common to Freemasonry and the Ancient Mysteries, as a symbol of regeneration--of the second birth from death to life. Now, in the Mysteries, a hive was the type of the ark. "Hence," says Faber (Origin of Pagan Idolatry, volume ii, page 133), "both the diluvian priestesses and the regenerated souls were called bees; hence, bees were feigned to be produced from the carcass of a cow, which also symbolized the ark; and hence, as the great father was esteemed an infernal god, honey was much used both in funeral rites and in the Mysteries." This extract is from the article on the bee in Evans' Animal Symbolism in Ecclesiastical Architecture.

- Source: Mackey's Encyclopedia of Freemasonry

Master's Message

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This past year we raised five brothers to the sublime degree of Master Mason and things are looking bright for our future. Two of those are now in appointed positions and are desirous of moving thru all the chairs. I think this is great for our lodge future!

The New Year looks bright as we have four new petitions and it looks like we will have another busy Masonic year.

I would like to take this moment to ask that any brother that hasn't visited us this past year, please come be with us for a business night or degree work. Masonry is alive and well and great things are happening in your lodge and I ask that you come, be with us as we move forward into a new year.

The charity committee did an

outstanding job for our lodge again this year and I am sure our continued efforts to help those in need will be a priority again this year.

Ladies night was once again a great night and thanks go out to WB Larry Simonson for his hard work. We look forward to another great event this year.

Our monthly family covered dish has been a great success and we will continue to join together in fellowship and great food. I will ask that if anyone has ideas on where we can go to eat please let me or the Senior Warden know.

Information on our events this year will be published as soon as they are finalized.

I do want to institute a Past Masters' breakfast this year. We will start with once monthly and add as needed. Due to some serious back surgery that I had on January 11, our first breakfast will be on February 23 at 0800 hours at our dining hall.

I am looking forward to a great Masonic year! May God be with you all and keep you safe and healthy.

Fraternally

Alex A Roberts
Worshipful Master

Senior Warden's Message

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as the committee comes up with them. Last year was a great success for our fundraisers, thanks to everyone that helped. We will need help on both of these, so come out and have fun doing these events.

So for this year we have donated a

\$100.00 dollars to a family that has a 6 year son with a brain tumor. It is inoperable and he is only expected to live for about 2 years. The family has huge medical bills as a result of this. If anyone is interesting in making a donation please contact me and I will get address to you.

Looking forward to working with everyone.

Harold Nobles, PM
Senior Warden

2008 Lodge Committee Assignments

Standing Commission of Funds

All Elected Officers

Budget Committee

Bill Lamb, PM, PDDGM (Chair)
Joe Rush, PM
Eddie Comeau

Audit Committee

Harold Nobles, PM (Chair)
Ernie Jones
Eddie Comeau

Building and Grounds Committee

Wallace Wright, PM, PGP (Chair)
Harold Nobles, PM
Ernie Jones
Walter Reed
John Thorne

Education Committee

Joe Rush, PM
Wallace Wright, PM, PGP

Charity/Sympathy Committee

Harold Nobles, PM (Chair)
Larry Simonson, PM
Carl Young
Ernie Jones

Past Masters' Night

Wallace Wright, PM, PGP (Chair)
Harold Nobles, PM
Wayne Cagle, PM
Joe Rush, PM

By-Laws Committee

Wallace Wright, PM, PGP (Chair)
Wayne Cagle, PM
Joe Rush, PM

Ladies Night Committee

Larry Simonson, PM (Chair)
Harold Nobles, PM
Eddie Comeau
John Thorne

Masonic Funerals

Jennings Waddell, PM (Chair)
Harold Nobles, PM
Ernie Jones

Newsletter Committee

Paul C. Graham, PM, PJGD (Chair)
Jennings Waddell, PM
Walter Reed

Internet/Web Page Committee

Paul C. Graham, PM, PJGD
Walter Reed

Lodge History Committee

Wallace Wright, PGP (Chair)
Paul C. Graham, PJGD

Fund Raising Committee

Harold Nobles, PM (Chair)
Larry Simonson, PM
Chuck Warner
Bill Klite
Eddie Comeau

Old Tiler Talks

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see the limit. The fascination of astronomy is the limitlessness of the field. No telescope has seen the edge of the universe. The fascination of Masonry is that it has no limits. The human heart has no limit in depth and that which appeals most to the human heart cannot have a limit."

"But that makes it so hard to understand!" sighed the New Brother.

"Isn't it the better for being difficult of comprehension?" asked the Old Tiler. "A few days ago I heard an eminent divine and Mason make an inspiring talk. I hear a lot of talks; nine-tenths are empty words with a pale tallow-tip gleam of a faint idea somewhere in them. So when a real talker lets the full radiance of a whole idea shine on an audience, he is something to be remembered. This speaker quoted a wonderful poem, by William Herbert Carruth. I asked him to send it to me, and he did; please note, this busy man, president of a university, and with a thousand things to do, didn't forget the request of a brother he never saw before!"

The Old Tiler put his hand in his pocket and took out a much-thumbed piece of paper. "Listen you," he said, "till I read you just one verse of it:

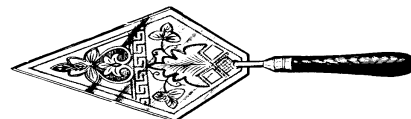
"A picket frozen on duty;
A mother, starved for her brood;
Socrates drinking the hemlock,
and Jesus on the road;
And millions who, humble and nameless,
The straight hard pathway plod;
Some call it consecration
And others call it God."

The New Brother said nothing, held silent by the beauty of the lines.

"I am no poet," continued the Old Tiler, "and I know this isn't very fitting, but I wrote something to go with those verses, just to read to brothers like you." Shyly the Old Tiler continued:

"Many men, banded together Standing where Hiram stood;
Hand to back of the falling, Helping in brotherhood.
Wise man, doctor, lawyer, Poor man, man of the hod,
Many call it Masonry And others call it God."

"I don't think it makes much difference what we call it, do you?" asked the New Brother.



FORT JACKSON #253 O.E.S
JANUARY, 2008



Greetings from the East. A new year has started and that means it's DUES time again.. You should have already received your notice. Please submit you dues as soon as possible, and since we have not had any fund raisers this year, what ever you can spare extra this year would truley be welcome.



Our attendance the last couple of months has been very low.. Due to the Holidays and Sicknesses. If there is any one who deserves a card or calls or has been in the hospital lately please let someone know so we can do something for them. Our relief committee has been very busy. There have been several flowers, card and friut baskets delivers to our members. But once again if don't hear from you , we will not know if you are sick or confined to you home. In November we gave fruit baskets to the following members. Flo Miller ,Emele Adams, Olivia Curry, The Hamels , Carol Lovece, Anna Skipper, Martha Rainwater and Georgia Hyder. Then in the month of December the following members received a gift certificate, Bill and Sue Johnson, and Walter and Mamie Franceschini. Thanks to Dot , Maggie ,Genie, and Vi we were able to deliver 8 big beautiful baskets to our sisters and brothers.

I have received a letter from the Bill and Sue Johnson. Sue is having a hard time getting around and is getting weaker, I'm sure a card or a call would cheer her up alot.



DATES TO REMEBER

February 4, 2008 @ 8:00pm Reg Meeting

February 23, 2008@ 1:00pm Dentsville
O.V. @ Dentsville
Masonic Lodge.

Febraury , 2008 Worthy Matron Banquet
Time to announced

March 3, 2008 @ 8:00pm Reg meeting
Election Of Officers



Congratulations to Brother Walter Franceschini and Sister Mamie Franceschini, and Sister Vera Freeman. They have been members of O.E. S. for 25 years.. Also Keep Bro Franceschini in your prayers has he continues with his treatments.

Our Chapter Members are getting old, and interest in coming to Chapter is not there. We need to consider the future of our little Chapter if we are to continue on. The same 18 or so members come. So essentially these members are what keeping this chapter alive and they are becoming discouraged. Ask your self what does The Order of the Eastern Star mean to you. Why are you still a member. We have only 97 members left on the role. We have initiated one new members in 2 years . If we do not get new members soon this chapter will be in serious trouble.



May the Lord Bless you and keep you.

May the the Lord lift up his countenance upon you
and be gracious unto you.

And give you peace.

This is the scripture for this year from our Worthy Matron Sis. Vernie Elliott. I hope the rest of this year is good to everyone.

Please as always call me or Vernie with any questions....865-9004.

Fratenally submitted Judy Krummich Sect'y



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