

Volume 3 Issue 6

June 1, 2014

THIS MONTH'S
FEATURE STORIES

Crossroads
The Old Freemason



Inside this issue:

From the East	2
From the West	2
From the South	2
From the Secretary	3
From the Senior Deacon	3
From the Senior Steward	3
Lubbock Lodge 1392 in Action	6-7
The Quarry: Our Degree Work	8

Crossroads

Crossroads

With elections upon us this month and as we are now about to embark on a new Masonic Year, let's look again at some of the challenges ahead.

For the last one-half century, membership in Freemasonry has continued to decline. Candidly, that may be phrasing it too gently since our fraternity has lost approximately 66 percent of its members during that period!

Some brothers sincerely think that reduction is good calling it a "cleansing" that would result in a fraternity of "higher quality men". A brother with an opposite opinion could ask, "Who are we to judge the level of the quality of a man if he is found

to be morally and ethically sound?"

No matter what your opinion is on that matter, it is safe to say that solutions to this and other issues before us require a need for change that makes the fraternity more contemporary to 2013 than to a past era, say 1913, 1953, 1973 or even 1993. But, to make this level of needed change requires courage, most especially from the East. It also takes patience, tolerance, flexibility and a new way of thinking from the general membership.

SOLUTIONS

How We Regard Each Other

Last year, we had a new charge at the closing of each meeting. "You are now about

to quit this sacred retreat of friendship and virtue, to mix again with the world. Amidst its concerns and employments, forget not the duties you have heard so frequently inculcated and forcibly recommended in this Lodge. Be diligent, prudent, temperate, discreet. Remember that around this altar you have promised to befriend and relieve every brother who shall need your assistance. Remember that you have promised to remind him, in the most tender manner, of his failings, and aid his reformation. Vindicate his character when wrongfully traduced. Suggest in his behalf the most candid and favorable circumstances. Is he justly reprehended? Let the world observe how Masons

Programs & Announcements



With elections for officers this month we hope that you will make the stated meeting on June 13.

This is your opportunity to let your voice be heard regarding leadership for the upcoming year.

Please welcome our two newest Entered Apprentices: Adam Crawford and Bruce Williams!

This month "Dining out" to help our scholarship program will be at a new location, Logan's Roadhouse on June 18. Check your emails often for further

details and for the voucher.



And God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. Genesis 1:3



From the East— The Charge Worshipful Master James Urban

Another year has come and gone in masonry and our little lodge has grown in many different directions. We have been relatively fortunate as we have successfully navigated those trials and tribulations that have been thrown our way. We have already completed the requirements and the paperwork to earn the very special Vanguard award for

the second straight year. It is certainly a feat and an accomplishment that a majority cannot claim. We have had many opportunities to get our names and faces out in the community more as masons, from our charitable works and scholarships, to our promotions at various events. I hope that as new officers are elected and appointed for the upcoming masonic

year, that they continue to carry the torch of masonry, and particularly of Lubbock Lodge onward.



"The grand object of Masonry is to promote the happiness of the human race"

Washington



A Message From the West Senior Warden Glenn Fant

"When you go into court you are putting your fate into the hands of 12 people who weren't smart enough to get out of jury duty" —Norm Crosby

I was called for jury duty this week. At first there was the typical sigh amidst the thoughts of all that I had to do, things I must get done.

Surely I didn't have time to spend for jury duty.

Then the thought occurred to me. Suppose I was in court? Suppose my fate hung on the decision of those 12 jurors? Suppose my very freedom rested on the good sense of those 12?

How quickly we take privi-

leges for granted.

Be a good Mason, and serve your country & community well. There are those who are trying to take your freedom away from you right now, and there is way too many who just don't care. It is unlikely you will do anything more important than jury duty.



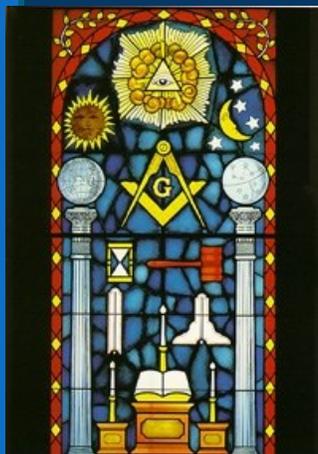
From the South — Jurisprudence and Scattershots Junior Warden Kevin Rush

"Scattershooting and wondering, what happened to common sense?"

So, we are about to begin our stated meeting and we have visiting brothers from another lodge within the Texas jurisdiction with us. One happens to be Muslim and the other Hindu. The lodge happens to have their Holy Books, The Koran and the Bhagavad Gita. Are they sup-

posed to be on the altar while they are in attendance? So the question is: May Holy Books, other than the Holy Bible be placed upon the Holy Altar? The answer here may surprise many: NO, Unless the Lodge is opened for the purpose of the conferral of candidate degrees, ONLY the Holy Bible is authorized upon the Altar (Article 223) and (Article 397). When utilizing another chosen book of faith

during the conferral of a degree, the provisions of Article 397 and any applicable rules of the Committee on Work must be strictly complied with. To the extent that Grand Master's Decision - 1984 - No. 2 and Grand Master's Decision - 1992 - No.8 (herein indexed under Article 223) are in conflict herewith, such are overruled. GRAND MASTER'S DECISION - 2006 - No. 2.



"Remember not only to say the right thing in the right place, but far more difficult still, to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment."

Benjamin Franklin



From the Secretary Jerry Hendrick

Taking Care of Business—"Whence did we come and where will we go?"

Definition of Freemasonry

Many definitions have been suggested, most of them are oversimplified, incomplete, and not altogether accurate.

One of the best definitions is that proposed by the late Charles C. Hunt, of Iowa:

"Freemasonry is an organized society of men sym-

bolically applying the principles of operative masonry and architecture to the science and art of character building."

The Hunt definition especially distinguishes our fraternity from all other organizations that teach a system of morality.

Freemasonry is many things, but one brief de-

scription could be that it is a society for the joint effort of its members towards individual self-improvement, a fraternity for learning and cultivating the art of living in the building of character.



From the Senior Deacon John Rosser

Visiting Brothers & Prospects

Last month we had the following guests: From Emma Lodge, Roland Martin, PM and DDGM. From Yellowhouse Lodge: Bob Clemmons, PM, Rolan Pirtle and David Mead. From Lee Lodge: Scott Bates. The Masonic Funeral Service: It is at this time that most non-Masons are introduced to Freemasonry – perhaps, for the very first time. It is at and during that service that most

people will form their opinion or perception of our Fraternity. Not being members of our Ancient Craft, they are often very curious as to who we are, what we stand for, and what is it that we believe in as an organization. The first thing any non-Mason will observe is the size of the turnout. If it is small, they may conclude that his Lodge did not hold the deceased Brother in very high

esteem. Or even worse, that Freemasons are much too busy with their own private lives and interests to practice the tenets of Charity and Brotherly Love of which we so loudly boast. On the other hand, if the turnout is large, the non-Mason is likely to come away with a very different impression of both the Fraternity and the deceased Brother.

Let us endeavor so to live that when we come to die even the undertaker will be sorry.

Mark Twain



From the Senior Steward Brandon Gould

Food, Flowers & Frolic

Dear Brethren, summertime is just about here and we've been blessed with life, love and rain! Summertime is a great time to get out and enjoy life, go swimming, fishing, barbecue, and enjoy friendships. This summer I encourage all of us to get out and live life to the fullest and enjoy every moment no matter how small and make sure to create lasting memories.

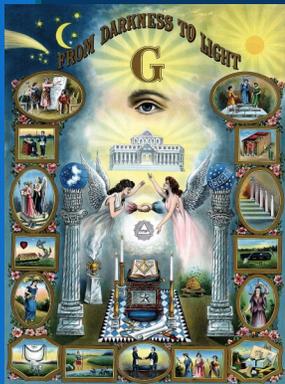
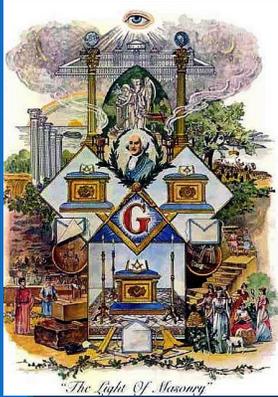
As we near the end of my time as steward I would like to thank everyone for the opportunity to feed you all and share in brotherly love, it has been a wild year for me and I thank you all for your support through everything and while I have opted out of advancing in the chairs I look forward to seeing you all at lodge and out around town.

This month's meal will usher in summer and I hope to see everyone at the stated meeting. Again, thank all of you for everything and see you all soon!



Upcoming Menu for June:

Barbecue hamburgers and hotdogs



love one another. “ How many take this charge to heart? Did any of your obligations state I will not sit in a Lodge with a Brother I don't agree with? Level, Plumb and Square; think about those implements. Now, is refusing to sit in lodge with someone with whom you disagree Masonic?



Membership Process

Many good men never join our fraternity because they never know that they had to ask. Let's give ourselves as many opportunities as possible for someone to ask. Let's find ways to increase our visibility in the community. Ask yourself, “How many people in Lubbock know we even exist?” Perhaps we also need to be more aggressive in dispelling the misinformation about our fraternity. We need to have open houses in our meeting places, visibly help in community projects, do more random acts of kindness, and generally let our neighbors know who we really are, what we stand for and the good that we do. Let us begin to talk about the many charities that our fraternity supports, publicly share our history, and create do-able plans that would make us a real element of our community. If we do so, this will end up being our best membership development tool.



Improve Meetings

Gaining membership is one problem. Another is getting brothers to attend lodge meetings and be present for the conferring of degrees. Where can we find answers to attendance problems? First, try asking inactive Masons. There must be a reason why these men are not attending. We should not be afraid to find out what our shortfalls are. Most decisions made in our lodges are made by those few who actively attend and the end result is that we too frequently continue with an attendance-squashing status quo. The status quo is not good enough for future success.

Equally important is to ask what active members think of our meetings. Some brothers want to attend their lodge meetings for the fellowship and to learn something. They want the meetings to be more social, shorter, less ritualistic, and provide an opportunity to listen to an interesting speaker. Some brothers may not care to hear the minutes read in their entirety, but rather enjoy dinner before the meeting and have the opportunity for time for fellowship. Whatever the issue is, let's find a way to be better.

While we don't require a coat and tie, should we have more respect for our institution and not permit jeans, shorts and t-shirts?

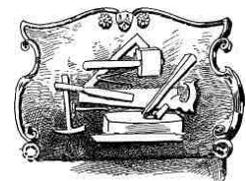
Floor Practice

Candidates deserve the most beautiful and impressive ritualistic ceremonies we can confer. That means we must work at it. We should not let our floor practice time go to waste. Our esoteric leaders, those who hold instructor certificates, should help establish goals and help the membership attain them. Our appendant bodies go to great lengths in putting on degrees with elaborate costumes and props. Perhaps this is something we should consider as well.



Separating the Fraternal and the Financial

While almost every Mason enjoys and supports the fraternal bonds of brotherly love and the beautiful ritual or our degrees, few have been provided the matter-of-fact information that would also allow them to understand and address the weakening financial side of our lodge. We were provided this information last year and we are to be congratulated for having done a better job this year financially. In spite of the cost of living expenses, OUR dues and fees have stayed the same for several years. However, we must continue to be fiscally sound.



Conclusion

The true secret of Freemasonry is not in the ritual, but rather it is the special bond that exists between Masonic brothers. This special bond cannot be defined nor can it be described. It just exists, and that is our true and real secret that no person can take away.

To do nothing new to preserve our fraternity and expect better will not begin to address the challenges before us. The world changes around us every day whether we like it or not. We must examine the need for our own change if we expect to be a significant fraternity in the future. We need to ask ourselves and our brothers "are we doing all the right things today to assure there is a future Masonic Fraternity, including one for those Masons yet to be born?" The time for positive change is now and no change will take place unless there is . . . Courage to do so!

Adapted from COURAGE IN THE EAST (THE TIME FOR CHANGE)

By: Thomas K. Sturgeon



The Old Freemason

I met a dear old man today
Who wore a Masonic pin
It was old and faded like the man,
It's edges worn and thin.

I approached the park bench
where he sat,
To give the old brother his due

I said "I see you've traveled East",
He said, "I have, have you?"

I said, I have and in my day
Before the all seeing sun
I played in the rubble
With Jubala, Jubelo, and Jubalum.

He said don't laugh at the work my son
It's good and sweet and true....
And if you've traveled as you said
You should give these things their due.

The word, the sign, the token,
The sweet Masonic prayer.
The vow that you have taken
You have climbed the inner stair.

The wages of a Mason are never paid in gold
But the gain comes from contentment
When you're weak and growing old.

You see, I've carried my obligations
For almost 50 years
It has helped me through the hardships

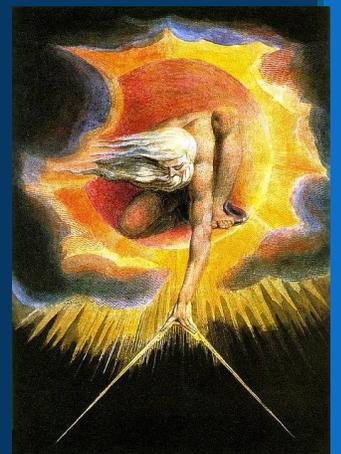
And the failures full of tears...

Now I'm losing my mind and body
Death is near, but I don't despair
I've lived my life upon the level
And I'm dying on the square.

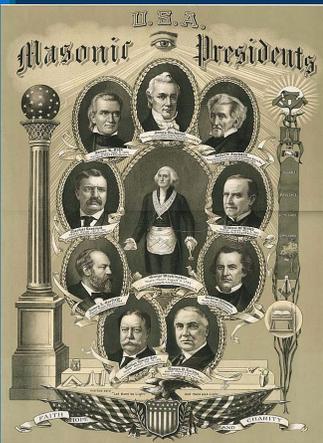
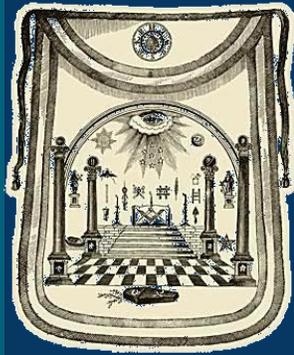
Sometimes the greatest lessons
Are those that are learned anew
And the old man in the park today
Has changed my point of view.

To all my Masonic brothers
The only secret is to care
May you live upon the level
And part upon the square.

Blake Bowden, May 18, 2014
Reprinted with permission from MyFreemasonry.com



Lubbock 1392 in Action



Our very own John Rosser captured "The Craftsman Griller" trophy (2nd Place) for his Baby Back Ribs at the Yellowhouse BBQ cookoff last month. Yellowhouse Senior Warden David Mead won "The Apprentice Griller" (3rd Place) and "The Master Griller" (1st Place went to Past Master Larry Burks.



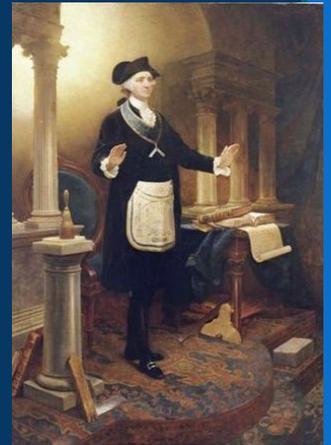
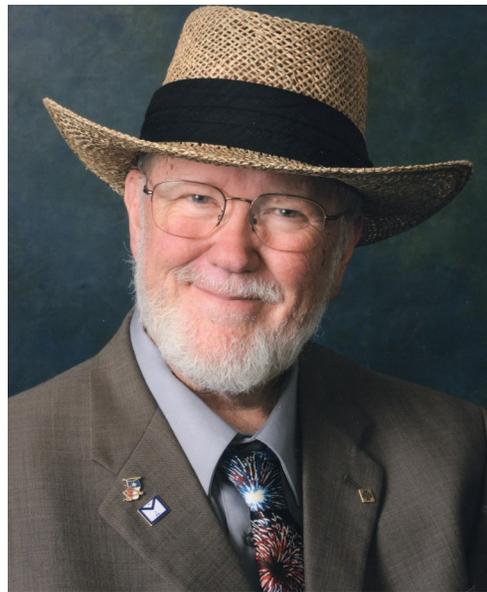
"The Craftsman Griller" with his wife Sara, stepson Chris Jolly and his wife Tarah, and their children Skylla and Summit

Lubbock 1392 in Action



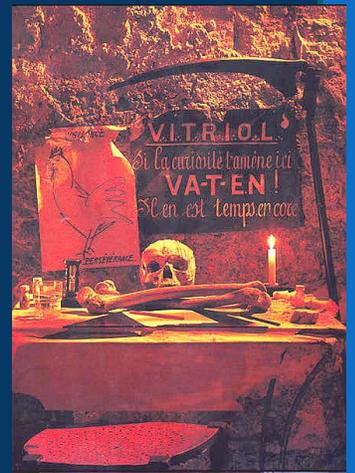
2 time Past Master George Buchanan is this year's Golden Trowel Award recipient for Lubbock Lodge #1392.

George is the only member to have served twice in the East.



PM and Endowed Member Richard Bruns is also a member of Crosbyton Lodge # 1020 and was this year's recipient of their lodge's Golden Trowel Award.

Congratulations to Richard!



LUBBOCK MASONIC LODGE #1392

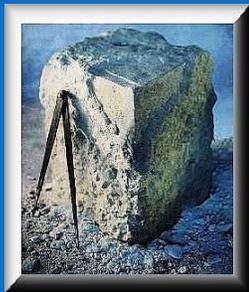
MASONIC DIST 93-A

4539 Brownfield Dr
Lubbock, TX
79410-1721

Meetings:
Second Friday of each
month, 7:30 p.m.
Meal: 6:30pm

Floor School:
Every Tuesday @ 7p.m.

lubbockmasoniclodge.org



Brotherly Love, Relief & Truth

This Month's Sickness & Distress



George Buchanan



Please take the time to visit our sick and distressed; send them cards or call them on the phone, and be sure to keep them in your prayers.

If you know of sickness or distress with a brother or his family, please let us know.

This Month's Brothers & Birthdays

Winfred E. Medlock	6/9	Peter Mitchell	6/27
Randy Schoor	6/16		
George VanSlyke	6/12		
George Buchanan	6/24		

The Quarry: Our Esoteric Work By Bro. Bob Clemmons District 93A Instructor

THE WARDEN'S COLUMNS

Have you ever wondered why there are columns in the Junior and Senior Warden's stations? Why are they raised and lowered at different times? I have been asked these questions on numerous occasions, but could not give a definite reason. It seems that all attending brothers will notice immediately that one or both columns have not raised or lowered at the appropriate time after opening and closing a lodge.

Truncheons or Columns are

the Warden's emblems of authority, and their positions are of great interest. When the lodge is at work (during a meeting), the Senior Warden's column stands upright, and the Junior Warden's column is laid on its side, showing that the Senior Warden is now in charge of the Craftsmen. When the work is concluded and the lodge retires to refreshment, the Junior Warden's column is raised, and the Senior Warden's is laid down, showing that the Craftsmen are now under the supervision of the Junior Warden.

The raising and lowering of the Warden's columns made their first appearance in Masonic ritual as late as 1760. There has been very little written

about the Warden's columns and when they were allocated to these officers or how and when they should be raised and lowered.

It has been stated in Mackey's Encyclopedia, that the Senior Warden's column represents the pillar Jachin and the Junior Warden's column represents the pillar Boaz.

In checking the reference to Jachin and Boaz in I Kings. Chapter 7 Verse 21 states the pillar on the right was called Jachin and the pillar on the left was called Boaz.

In Coil's Masonic Encyclopedia, "The two warden's columns, it is possible but is not certain that these represent Jachin and Boaz."

The things a man has to have are hope and confidence in himself against odds, and sometimes he needs somebody, his pal or his mother or his wife or God, to give him that confidence. He's got to have some inner standards worth fighting for or there won't be any way to bring him into conflict. And he must be ready to choose death before dishonor without making too much song and dance about it. That's all there is to it."

Blair Fable

E-Mail: info@lubbockmasoniclodge.org