

Volume 3 Issue 7

July 1, 2015

**THIS MONTH'S
FEATURE STORIES**

**Increasing Lodge
Attendance**

**Hidden Lessons
From Ritual
Work**



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Increasing Lodge Attendance—Part 1

THERE are few more vexatious problems which the Worshipful Master has to meet than that of increasing the attendance in a lodge in which the members have to some extent, at least, lost interest.

It is a fact no less true than sad that, on the average, an attendance of ten per cent of the membership is looked upon as a "good" turnout. Yet there are lodges which have a much greater number at almost every communication.

It is the natural and laudable desire of all Worshipful Master so to conduct the affairs of the lodge as to make all its meetings so interesting that members will desire to fill the benches.

As a general principle, the way to arouse interest is to do something different from what

is normally done in lodge. A lodge which is overburdened with degree work can increase attendance by holding some special meetings for purely social and Fraternal purposes. A lodge in which a speaker from another lodge and better, another Grand Jurisdiction is seldom heard, may increase its attendance by making such addresses a feature. A lodge in which Masonic education is unknown and untried may increase attendance by the preparation and putting on of an educational programs A lodge which has small interest for its members because it appears to be set off, isolated, from the life of the community, may increase not only attendance but stimulate the desire for membership among non-Masons by taking part in some civic activity.

THE Worshipful Master is faced at the start of the preparation of any entertainment with two conflicting principles: the more of his own members he can persuade to work in and take part in the entertainment, the more interest he can arouse among them and their friends; the more he goes outside the lodge for amusement and instruction, the more he is apt to interest all its members, most of whom have seen or heard the home talent before.

In arranging for any program, whether it be one of entertainment or instruction, Masonic or otherwise, it is wise to put the entire affair in the hands of a competent chairman of a committee, give him plenty of assistance, and then let him run it without interference. Some Worshipful Masters,

Programs & Announcements

Elections last month yielded the following new slate of officers for 2014-15: WM - Kevin Rush; SW - John Rosser; JW - Charles Straub; Treasurer - Finus Branham; Secretary - Jerry Hendrick; Senior Deacon - Steven Polley; Junior Deacon - Harrold Loveless; Senior Steward - Luis Ramos; Junior Steward Francis Gaal; Marshal - Heath Morgan; Chaplain -

Dwayne Collins; We will ProTem the Tiler position this year.

Installation was held on July 7. Be sure and congratulate them and wish them well for the upcoming year.

The first meeting of this Masonic year will be July 10 and will be a full one with committee appointments, discussion

on our budget, as well as a program.

For the stated meeting in August, our District Deputy Grand Master Bob Lindley will be making his second official visit. Start the new year off right and be sure not to miss these meetings.



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



From the East
Worshipful Master Kevin Rush

I want to express my deep and sincere gratitude to the members of Lubbock Lodge for allowing me to SERVE YOU this year as Master of the Lodge. I promise to do my very best to be worthy of the trust that you have placed in me.

A new Masonic year is upon us with new hope, new opportunities and new challenges . . . and some new members! We have had a busy and rewarding year

that could very well culminate in another Vanguard Award for the Lodge. Let's hope that will be the case.

NOTHING happens without the support of all. I look forward to working WITH each of you to set the craft to labor for upcoming year. With your input, I hope to bring something new to our stated meetings and ritual work.

I am proud to have an out-

standing line this year working with me to move the lodge forward with new challenges and opportunities.

Speaking of opportunities, Freedom Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star has offered to help support us this year in our charitable endeavors.

I hope to see you soon at Lodge!

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

W. Washington



From the West
Senior Warden John Rosser

My wife, Sara, gave me a small paperback book entitled "As a Man Thinketh" by James Allen. I want to share a paragraph from "As a Man Thinketh" with all of you.

Men do not attract that which they want, but that which they are. Their whims, fancies, and ambitions are thwarted at every step, but their inmost thoughts and desires are fed with their own

food, be it foul or clean. The "divinity that shapes our ends" is in ourselves; it is our very self. Only himself manacles man: thought and action are the gaolers (jailer) of Fate – they imprison, being base; they are also the angels of Freedom – they liberate, being noble. Not what he wishes and prays for does a man get, but what he justly earns. His wishes and prayers are

only gratified and answered when they harmonize with his thoughts and actions.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Senior Warden this year. I hope you are looking forward to the upcoming Masonic year as much as I.



From the South
Junior Warden Charles Straub

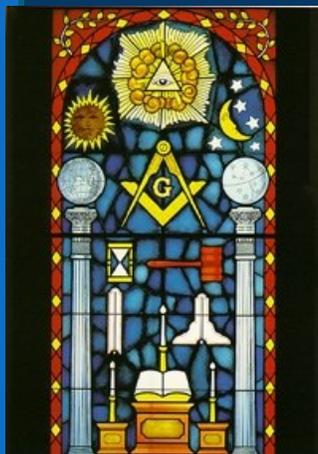
I am so looking forward to the ensuing Masonic year. I want to thank the Lodge for allowing me a reserved seat in the South. It's a most humbling experience and I will try to be worthy.

Now for a bit of Lodge law trivia: Article 338 of the Grand Lodge of Texas states: The minutes of the Lodge are the private records of the Lodge and no copy of same or any part thereof,

shall be made or used for other than Masonic purposes. They shall be securely kept and preserved by the Secretary, and shall be open for inspection at reasonable times by the officers and other members of the Lodge, or by such other Masons as have an appropriate reason thereof, but not under any circumstances by those who are not Masons.

Come take an active part in

our Lodge and be included in the minutes of the next meeting.



"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—What is Dotage?

Dotage:

Dotage, may be defined as impotence of the mind. It begins as no special year; it is that time in a man's life when his mental powers deteriorate. The greatest mentality may decline in dotage to complete lack of responsibility. Some men enter dotage

(OK, . . . we get the idea—
Thanks Jerry. . .)



From the Senior Deacon Steven Polley
Visiting Brothers & Prospects

On Friday, June 12th, 2015, Lubbock Lodge #1392, our visiting Brethren were as follows: Bob Clemons, Past Master & Chaplain of Yellowhouse Lodge #841; Red Armstrong, Mackenzie Lodge #1327; and Tim Spruce, Mackenzie Lodge #1327.

On Saturday, June 20th, 2015 we held our Annual Fish Fry for the announcement of our

scholarship recipients. A big thank you goes to the brothers who spent all afternoon outside frying all the food for everyone! We had a huge turnout and celebrated three awesome scholarship recipients.

As the incoming Senior Deacon, I want everyone to know that I am, first, humbled. Thank you for the opportuni-

ty to serve our Lodge. Secondly, I there are any activities or ideas that any brother has, please do not hesitate to come to me about them.



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

Mark Twain



From the Senior Steward Luis Ramos
Food, Flowers & Frolic

July 2015 brings us to celebrate July 4th commemorating the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, declaring independence from Great Britain. Independence Day is commonly associated with fireworks, pa-

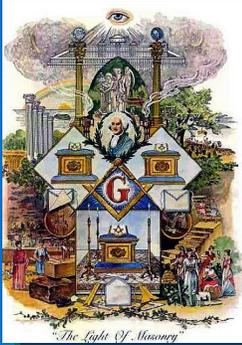
rades, barbecues, carnivals, fairs, picnics, concerts, baseball games, but we should use this time be with family and friends and reach out to all of the armed forces veterans, you never know you might just make someone day.



Upcoming Menu for July:

Chopped BBQ sandwiches, potato chips, pickles, onions, Assorted drinks and Dessert.

Increasing Lodge Attendance con't from page 1



with the best intentions in the world are so unwise as to appoint a chairman of a committee and then attempt to do his work, or dictate how it should be done. A chairman should be a willing worker, and in sympathy with the ideas of the Worshipful Master, but unless he has some ideas and initiative of his own, he is not qualified to be a chairman; if he has ideas and initiative, he is not being properly used unless he is allowed to employ them.

AS a general rule, a small committee is better than a large one; if the plans are elaborate, the committee may divide itself into subcommittees with sub-chairmen, who may call to their assistance all the help they need. But a large central committee is unwieldy and difficult to handle; there are too many ideas, and too conflicting desires, to make such an organization a success. Individual lodges differ largely, but as a rule an entertainment committee of three or five at the most is sufficiently large.

He is a well advised Worshipful Master who does not consider Masonic dignity and honors as the first requisite in an entertainment committee chairman. The senior Past Master has not necessarily the most original mind; the Senior Warden may be an excellent officer and a prospective Master of charm and ability, without being constituted by nature and training to be a good chairman of an educational committee. A wise Master doesn't hesitate to use the brains and enthusiasm of the younger members. It is easy to gain the cooperation of the older members, and of those the lodge has honored, by asking them to give way to the young and untried that these may show their quali-

ty.

A few plans which have been tried and proved successful in increasing attendance will be presented next month.

Source: SHORT TALK BULLETIN - Vol.VI October, 1928 No.10

Hidden Lessons From Ritual Work

So many times we seem to look at Ritual Work as not being that important, and that it doesn't have to be done that well. We feel that just need to have more Masons for our Lodges. If we fail to share the teachings properly, who do you think loses?



I would like to have you think back to that first night, it could of been a warm or cool night, that we all share. That night we were so apprehensive, or for the sake of better words, confused as to what was going to happen. Those first words you heard said at the Lodge door, asking questions and wanting answers of you, and how you were treated was only the start of your Masonic life. That life

that leads most of us on a continuous journey of Masonic travel the rest of our lives.

For some of us, who had to memorize the Degree and Obligations, we share something that no one else can understand. This task of learning them, that we choose to do, and we did. This struggle teaches us what we all can do with hard work and a true desire to accomplish things.

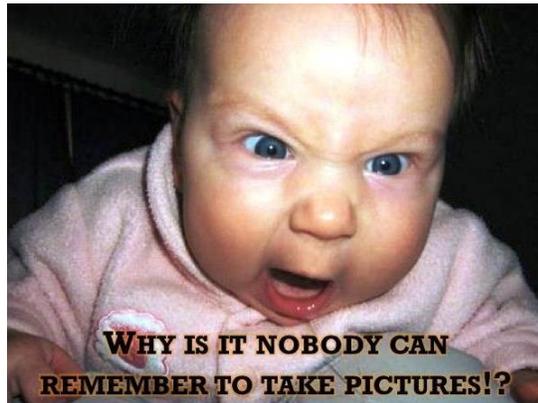
So many times I have listened to the lectures, and still I find them as interesting as the first time I heard them. Every time I hear them, I find a new perspective that I have missed before. I fear for those that do not choose to listen to them in this way, as they will never find the lessons that are taught there in Masonry.



And as for those that give those grand lectures, they learn as well. They learn how it feels to give that perfect lecture and also when they don't get it perfectly right! Most of the time just stopping for a moment to think or to taking a breath. I think we can all learn hidden lessons here too. How we should overlook everyone's little mistakes that we all make in life. Also to remember sometimes the best intentions go wrong by accident

Source: Bro. Micheal Mayer

Lubbock 1392 in Action
Installation of 2015-16 Officers
Shrine Golf
Scholarship Recipients



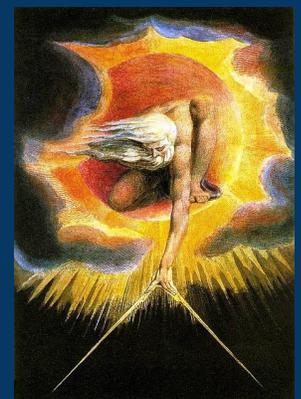
Installation 2015-16 Line: The incoming line for the 2015-16 year: WM - Kevin Rush; SW - John Rosser; JW - Charles Straub; Treasurer - Finus Branham; Secretary - Jerry Hendrick; Senior Deacon - Steven Polley; Junior Deacon - Harrold Loveless; Senior Steward - Luis Ramos; Junior Steward Francis Gaal; Marshal - Heath Morgan; Chaplain - Dwayne Collins; We will ProTem the Tiler position this year.



Our 2015 Scholarship Winners: Kristal Abigail Garcia, Lubbock High School; Kasey Lynne Porr, Margaret Talkington School for Young Women Leaders; Isido Manual Rodriguez, Jr. Estacado High School, and Ariana Yvette Anthony, Estacado High School, . Also pictured are Finus Branham, PM and Dewain Collins, PM, both of the Scholarship Committee



Rick Harris, Victor Munoz, Tim Spence Tom Mann, Allen Jolly, John Rosser and Kevin Rush recently played in the Shriner's Golf Tournament, June 15, 2015 at the Rawls Course to benefit the Shriner's Hospitals.



LUBBOCK MASONIC LODGE #1392

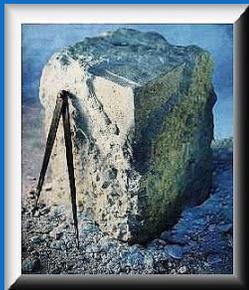
MASONIC DIST 93-A

4539 Brownfield Dr
Lubbock, TX
79410-1721

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

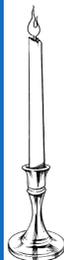
Floor School:
Every Tuesday @ 7p.m.

lubbockmasoniclodge.org



Brotherly Love, Relief & Truth

This Month's Sickness & Distress



**Harrold Loveless
Allen Jolly
John Rosser**



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.

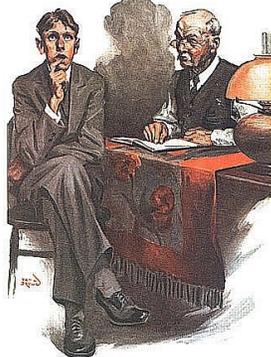
This Month's Brothers & Birthdays

Jerry Eastham 7/25
Michael Hooten 7/27

The Quarry: Our Esoteric Work By Bro. Coke Etgen

One of the problems that most often plagues Masonry is poor ritual. By this, I don't just mean getting the words wrong -- I mean ritual that is drab and uninspiring, which fails to actually *teach* a candidate. Ritual is often mediocre, and it doesn't have to be; anyone can do ritual well, provided he knows a little about acting.

It isn't hard, actually; it's



mostly a matter of knowing how to do it, plus a lot of practice. It doesn't demand a lot of time, or any particular talent, just a little drive to do well. Read it and play with it. With some practice, you should be able to use these techniques to good effect in our Lodge.



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."

Blaise Pascal

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