

Volume 5 Issue 11

November 1, 2016

This Month's Feature Stories

Keeping Brethren Interested



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Keeping Brethren Interested by Bro. Ken H. Dennis

I have noticed that often lodges are able to get quite a few new members initiated, but over the next few months or first year their participation wanes and they end up leaving the craft. I have discussed this topic with quite a few brethren in some detail and I'm going to weigh in on what I believe are some mistakes we might be making and offer my suggestions.

Brotherhood

As a freemason we afford each other a certain implicit trust and friendship knowing that we are all good men who are striving for the same purpose. Being a brother is more than just showing up to meetings or shaking a few hands it's about genuinely taking an interest in your brethren and opening up your life experiences and feelings to each other. True

friends are always there for each other, they share their passions, desires, aspirations and pain knowing you will always be there to support them. Recite to yourself the 5 PoF and you will understand how important and ingrained this should be.

Participation in Lodge

One thing that really appealed to me at my mother lodge was how the worshipful master encouraged all brethren to participate in the ritual work. We would break up some of the longer lectures, or feed out some small bits such as the lesser lights to brethren that we not in the chairs. This really helped to encourage me personally to be active in lodge, in practice sessions and to feel like I have contributed; it became "my" lodge, not just a lodge that I had joined.

Outside of the Lodge

I have lived in small towns and big cities and one thing which I have noticed is the level of interaction with brethren outside of lodge is drastically different. Small town masonry, like small towns seems to be more of a tight knit group. It wouldn't be uncommon to pop in at a brothers business and chat, to meet for coffee, or share a beer or two (perhaps in a certain brothers' wood working shop). But these niceties are rare indeed for big city masonry. I believe that openness and welcoming nature of small town masonry is a wonderful thing and I hope that we can have more social functions, informal meetings and friendly greetings even in the big city environment.

Education and Development

We regularly profess to new

Programs & Announcements



In the spirit of the holidays, the November and December stated meetings will be conducted in the EA degree so that all may attend.

At this month's stated meeting, Friday November 11 we will share news regarding the sale

of the lodge building. Much more to discuss at this month's stated meeting in preparation for the Grand Communication in January in Waco. All local Masons, friends and their families are invited to attend our dinner as well.

The Scottish Rite will be hosting a Masonic Thanksgiving holiday dinner on Saturday, November 19, 2016 at 6PM at

the Scottish Rite Building, 1101 70th St, where you may join and other area blue lodges and appendant bodies, friends and families for this special event.

SHARE THE HOLIDAYS WITH YOUR BROTHERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

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



From the East
Worshipful Master John Rosser

On July 4, 1776, our forefathers brought to this Continent a new nation conceived in liberty and dedicated to the equality of all men. The fact that these principles mirror those of Masonry should not be lost to us. Several leaders were Masons, including John Hancock, President of the Continental Congress of 1776. The Declaration brought about a change in leadership to this Continent. It is fitting

that we find our leadership is changing at this time of year. Our ideals include the brotherhood of man, no matter that man's station in life. We are not concerned with the external, but with the internal – the mind and character of the man. However, our lawfulness has increasingly turned to lawlessness: selflessness to selfishness and generosity to greed. Is this what our forefathers risked their lives to

create? We are living in a period where police officers cannot effectively do their job for fear of lawsuit or fear of death threats putting their families in danger.

With all this going on it is imperative you vote on November 8th.



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

Washington



From The West -
Senior Warden Jerry Hendrick

As I sit here pondering what to say, I think back to an earlier time when looking back to when lodges were full. Now as the years have gone by the ranks are thinning. We need to remember we are the future and strive to get the Brothers who have gone by the way-side to return. So let's get creative and think of ways to increase our numbers. I know that several of us have a few prospects, let's not forget that we need to keep them involved while they

are going through the application process. Lets make sure we involve them in as many function as possible. Let's not forget we were once in their shoes, waiting for our chance to be part of something that has great meaning, so that we can pass it on to others who are willing to learn.



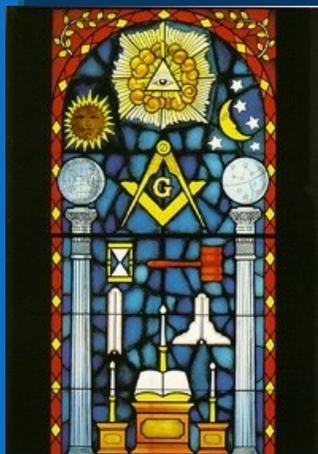
From the South — **THE SECRET BALLOT**
Junior Warden Coke Etgen

After a man has applied for Masonic membership, and his background has been investigated, the lodge members vote by secret ballot to accept or to reject him for membership.

Masonry's secret ballot is one of its ancient customs. It has been rather aptly said that when a petitioner is voted upon for Masonic membership he undergoes the "Ordeal

of the Secret Ballot". To be elected, he must receive an affirmative vote from each and every member present at that meeting. Just three members out of all present and there could be twenty, or fifty, or a hundred members present, can drop the black cube and deny him membership. Considering the moral yardstick by which Masons measure petitioners and that only

three negative votes can reject a petitioner, one could assume that a large proportion of petitioners would be rejected for membership. But that is not the case. Many more are elected than are rejected. That fact is testimony to the good judgment of those who recommend applicants, and it also indicates that the fraternity, by and large, attracts good men.



"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 Harrold Loveless *Taking Care of Business*

Dues for the 2017 masonic year are going to \$75.00. Please get your dues in as soon as possible. This will help us to keep our doors open. If you decide to pay early, you are more than welcome to do so.

We had our Open House on Oct. 23rd from 2:00pm to 4:00pm. We may have added three possible candidates for the degrees.

Everyone needs to attend Tuesday night and meet our new petitioners. First impressions are most important, so everyone please come in early for floor practice and get to know them better. After all, they came looking for us, to find a place where they may grow as a man, to better themselves, with those of similar values. We

are more than a fraternity, we are a brotherhood. "Making good men better" is what we should strive for.



From the Senior Deacon Justin Robbins *Visiting Brothers & Prospects*

We would like to thank the brothers and visitors that attended last months stated meeting.

At our stated meeting we had the following visitors: Bob Clemmons, 33°, PM; Glenn Ashcraft; and Rolan Pirtle, from Yellowhouse Lodge #841; and Jason Jones from Alvin Lodge #762.

We hope to see you at our

next stated meeting on Friday, November 11th at 7:30 pm (dinner at 6:30 pm) and encourage anyone interested in getting involved with the degree team to attend floor practice every Tuesday at 7:00 pm.

I would like to take a moment to encourage you to think about some members that you have not seen at lodge

lately . . . then call them up and ask them where they've been and tell them you look forward to seeing them again. ☺



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*

November is usually the month that we all gather around and appreciate everything that we are thankful for. It doesn't matter who all you thank but just tell someone thank you for what they do for you. Also this month is the month we recognize all Veterans that choose to take on the oath of all services and one thing I know for sure is that we as veterans do take the oath to heart till they day we

die.

A Thanksgiving Prayer:

Gracious and Great God Almighty, the Masonic cornerstone lies in the northeast corner, between the north, the place of darkness, and the east, the place of light. Thus it reminds us that we are ever to be progressing from darkness to light, from ignorance to knowledge. Help us in the next twelve months to enable

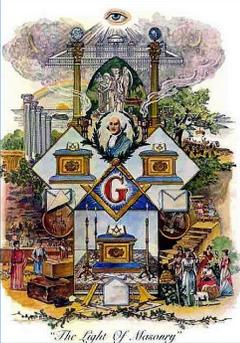
those of our fraternity on whose lives the shadow of our influence may fall to know more about Freemasonry. Guide the leadership we will elect today so that nothing may interrupt the light which flows from the Great Light in Masonry upon the Holy Altar to the station of the Master in the East. We pray all of this for Your name's sake, Amen.



Upcoming Menu for November

- Roasted Turkey**
- Corn bread dressing**
- Whole green beans**
- Giblet Gravy**
- Dinner roll**
- Pumpkin pie**
- Assorted beverages**

Keeping Brethren Interested - Con't from page 1 True Thanksgiving is More



applicants that we are a society of men who use allegorical and metaphorical stories to pass on great truths, that when studied and put in to action will help us on our eastward journey. But I ask you honestly, do you feel that you have learned our rituals, have you studied our texts; could you do more than merely repeat some ancient scripture verbatim? Many men join for the allure of learning about these lessons and truisms, but how can we teach them if we ourselves are only superficially aware of their meaning? I have heard from numerous brethren and demitted brethren that they thought and hoped they would learn from freemasonry which they haven't been taught elsewhere, but they were sadly mistaken when time and again their peers did not support, encourage and nurture their interests.

Visitation

Perhaps the most amazing aspect of freemasonry is visitation. Being welcomed to a lodge is a wonderful experience, but for the new freemason visiting a strange lodge and not knowing any brethren could be a very daunting idea. Often new brethren will visit lodges that reside in the same building as their mother lodge, but many will not drive to another city or town to visit a totally unfamiliar lodge without support. I suggest that if you are going to visit a lodge that you offer to take the new brother, pick him up from home, or meet him there. This will help to foster that friendship in your own lodge, as well as introduce him to process of visitation and how wonderful an experience it can be.

These are a few topics that I believe could use some improve-

ment in our lodges and I submit them to you for your discussion, consideration and comment.

Source: Bro. Ken .H. Dennis
via myfreemasonry.com

True Thanksgiving is More



At the end of the first harvest in the new world, the Pilgrims at Plymouth along with Chief Massasoit and a party of 90 friendly Indians joined in a celebratory act that consisted of "three days of prayer and feasting."

The Mayflower passengers that signed the agreement that became known as the "Mayflower Compact" stated they had come to the New World to escape religious persecution and "for the Glory of God, and Advancement of the Christian faith." They endured a stormy voyage across the Atlantic Ocean at the worst possible time of the year and later participated in that festival to give thanks to Almighty God. The Pilgrims were thankful they had survived a stormy voyage, endured a terrible winter, and had been blessed with a good harvest that provided them with food.

Food was scarce during that terrible winter, their first in the new world. Hezekiah Butterworth, an American author of the last half of the nineteenth century, passed on information that the daily ration of food was five grains of parched corn. During that winter, 47 members of the original 102 died, and

at any one time, only "six or seven were in proper condition to attend the sick and bury the dead" on Cole's Hill. Yet, in spite of the hardships they endured and the sufferings they experienced, those sturdy Pilgrims at Plymouth, after inviting the friendly natives to join them, paused to celebrate and to give thanks to God for his providential care.



Lest we forget, this is the heritage the Pilgrims passed on to us.

A national holiday, celebrated with a festive turkey feast, commemorates it, but the heritage of those sturdy Pilgrims reminds us that true thanksgiving is more. While surrounded by an abundance of things which are the accoutrements of an affluent society, we must not forget that back of these things there is the providential care of Almighty God, and like the Pilgrims, we are recipients of that care.

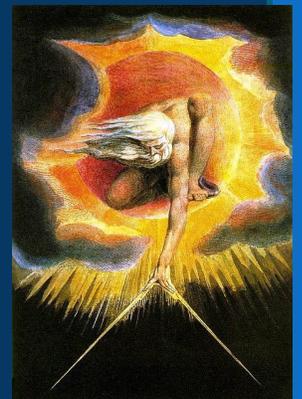
To see life from this perspective is to see that God's mercies, new every morning and fresh every evening, are more than we can number. So, gratitude rises in the heart, and we are thankful.

Author: W. Howard Coop, KCCH
via myfreemasonry.com

Lubbock 1392 in Action—November 2016



Give thanks for unknown blessings already on their way!
 - Native American Saying



LUBBOCK MASONIC LODGE

#1392

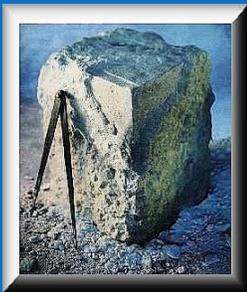
MASONIC DIST 93-A

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.

www.lubbockmasoniclodge.org



Brotherly Love, Relief & Truth

This Month's Sickness & Distress



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

Justin Robbins	11/1
Anthony Rumpel	11/22



in Modern English, "So may it ever be".

The Quarry: Our Esoteric Work By Bro. Coke Etgen

PRAYER IN LODGE

No Lodge can be opened or be closed without prayer, which is offered by the Master or Chaplain. The prayer is universal in nature, and not peculiar to any one religion or faith. But the act of invoking the blessings of Deity is a central Masonic practice. At the end of prayer, each member responds with the words "So Mote it Be", which means



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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