

Volume 6 Issue 3

March 1, 2017

This Month's Feature Stories

- The Traditional Observance Lodge Explained



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The Traditional Observance Lodge Explained

While many Masons may have heard about European Concept lodges, which are themselves a relatively new concept in American Freemasonry, few have heard of the Traditional Observance lodge. Traditional Observance lodges are similar to European Concept lodges in that they also incorporate higher dues, festive boards, a strict dress code and higher standards of ritual, but differ in that they choose to follow a close observance of the traditional initiatic elements of Continental European and South American Freemasonry.

This observance is characterized by a solemn approach to holding stated communications and conferring degrees, the use of the Chamber of Reflection as part of the initiation ceremony, forming the Chain of Union after the meetings, longer time between degrees

and the requirement for candidates to present a paper before the lodge on the lessons of each degree prior to advancement. Traditional Observance lodges are also more likely to use the term Agape rather than Festive Board to describe the meal which follows the meetings. Agape is the ancient Greek word for "love," and in Freemasonry the term signifies a meal eaten in common by a congregation of Masons in token of Brotherly Love.

A non-profit organization working to promote the study and understanding of traditional Freemasonry called the Masonic Restoration Foundation (MRF) provides education and support for Traditional Observance lodges in recognized jurisdictions. The MRF seeks to foster a network of lodges and individuals of strong spiritual and intellectu-

al character that will help preserve the initiatic tradition within American Freemasonry for future generations.

Members of Traditional Observance lodges believe very strongly that the foremost purpose of Freemasonry is to provide an atmosphere where good men can unite together in a common pursuit of virtue in service to God. The "work" of a Traditional Observance lodge is not to review minutes or bills, or plan social or philanthropic activities, but rather to create an atmosphere where the members can learn the lessons of Freemasonry and how they can be inculcated into their daily lives. This is referred to as Masonic Formation, which is the ever continuing process of spiritual and intellectual formation that all Freemasons must undergo in order to improve them-

Programs & Announcements



Looks like the Groundhog was wrong! - Seems like Early Spring. to us

This month our District Deputy Grand Master Kevin Rush will be here for his official visit so you don't want to miss that important message. This month, Yellowhouse Ma-

sonic Lodge will be hosting the Grand Master's Conference on Saturday, March 11 with registration beginning at 1PM and the program starting at 2PM. **THIS CONFERENCE WILL BE RESTRICTED TO MASTER MASONS ONLY**

Our newsletter now has a distribution of 184! Now that doesn't seem like much but, many of these are WAY far

away from Lubbock, Texas USA!. If you are one of those reading this let us hear from you. We read your emails at our stated meetings.

Next month we will have a table at the gun show— April 29 - 30, 2017 to heighten our presence in the community. Drop by and check it out! Lubbock Civic Center.

RESET CLOCKS MARCH 12

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



A Message From the East
Worshipful Master John Rosser



John has been away dealing with the illness of his mother and her subsequent passing. He will be back next month



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

W. Washington



A Message From the West
Senior Warden Jerry Hendrick

Here's a question: "Why did you become a Mason?" My answer was simple; I grew up around Masonry. It all started with joining DeMolay, from there I learned what the inside of the Lodge looked like and I asked a lot of questions as to why the members referred to the lodge as a "Blue Lodge". The answer I got was not what I expected; "You have to join to get the answer". This piqued my interest. Some of the questions that I asked were answered while I participated in DeMolay. For many Masons who visit other Lodges you

may find some object that is not in your Lodge, and you ask what does that mean? I remember asking why there were two large stones sitting on the floor in the east. One was rough and uncut, the other was cut and squared, I asked why and was told that they referred to one of the degrees in masonry. So being in DeMolay was a stepping stone to becoming a Mason. My questions as a young DeMolay have now been answered. When I joined masonry it was because I wanted to do something more with my

life, I do believe that Masonry has made me better as a man, husband and father. If you asked my mother, according to her it was expected of me, Masonry has been in my family for many generations. I belong to a Family that has a solid masonic background. My whole family in some aspect has been part of the Masonic Family for many years. So I ask you "Why did you become a Mason"? Write your answer in a journal or book and keep it for others to see or so for you and remember why you became a MASON.

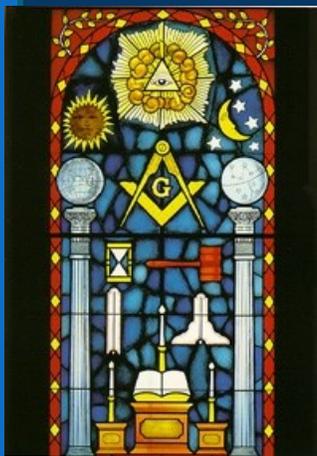


From the South—Article 342 Lodge Property
Junior Warden Coke Etgen

As a Mason, you are to regard the volume of the Sacred Law as the great light in your profession; to consider it as the unerring standard of truth and justice; and to regulate your actions by the divine precepts it contains. In it you will learn the important duties which you owe to God, your neighbor, and yourself. To God, by never mentioning His name but with that awe and reverence which are due from the creature to his' Crea-

tor; by imploring His aid in all your lawful undertakings; and by looking up to Him in every emergency for comfort and support. To your neighbor, by acting with him upon the Square; by rendering him every kind office which justice or mercy may require; by relieving his distresses and soothing his afflictions; and by doing to him as, in similar cases, you would that he should do unto you. And to yourself, by such a prudent

and well-regulated course of discipline as may best conduce to the preservation of your corporeal and mental faculties in their fullest energy; thereby enabling you to exert the talents wherewith God has blessed you, as well to His glory as to the welfare of your fellow creatures.



"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."

Benj. Franklin



From the Secretary Harrold Loveless
Taking Care of Business



We will be receiving R.W. Kevin Rush DDGM of Masonic Dis-

trict #93A of The Grand Lodge of Texas at our Stated Meeting on March 10th, 2017. Please make a special effort to be at the meeting. We will also be graded on opening and closing that night by Br.

Bob Clemmons, District Instructor for #93A. The WM has asked that all officers and brethren please be dressed appropriately and wear a tie.

There will be a Grand Master's Conference at Yellowhouse Lodge Saturday March 11th, 2017 at 1:00pm. If three of our five principle offers attend, it may be applied toward the Vanguard Award.

As of this posting, I still have ten brothers who have not paid dues for the Masonic year. If you are reading this and realize you are one of the ten, please contact me.



From the Senior Deacon Justin Robbins
Visiting Brothers & Prospects

We would like to thank the brothers, wives, significant others, and visitors that attended our stated meeting and Valentines event for February. At our stated meeting, we had the following visitors: Bob Clemmons, 33°, PM, Rolan Pirtle, and Glenn Ashcraft from Yellowhouse Lodge

#841; Bob Chesser from Daylight Lodge #1443; and Jason Jones from Alvin Lodge #762.

We hope to see you at our next stated meeting on Friday, March 10th at 7:30 pm when we will be receiving the District Deputy Grand Master who will be delivering the Grand Mas-

ter's message (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.



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

March is upon us and so is summer. Every month as I am a Mason makes me feel that this was one of the best decision and experiences in my life. It has brought me closer to who I am and has made me some great and wonderful friends for life. This is one adventure in my life time

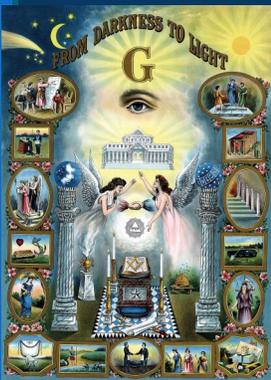
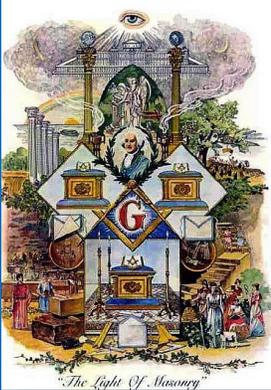
that I can honestly say it was well worth it. I hope and pray that other masons feel the same as I do. All of the members at Lubbock lodge have and will always be part of my extended family.



Upcoming Menu for March:

- Breaded chicken sandwich*
- Lettuce, tomato, onion*
- Asst chips*
- Beverage*

(con't from page 1)



selves in Masonry. This term differs from Masonic Education in that it refers to a process of growth concerned with much more than intellectual faculties. Masonic Formation is the process of fitting the rough ashlar of the imperfect being into the perfect ashlar fit for the divine temple. It is a constant transformation through the use of Masonic symbols, rituals, and teachings.

Everything that occurs in a Traditional Observance lodge is undertaken within this context. Success is viewed as effectively imparting the traditional teachings hidden within Masonic symbols and the spiritual unification of the brethren in such a pursuit. Successful Traditional Observance lodges, though usually maintaining a small membership of less than 50 brothers, retain and engage their members with meaningful human fellowship, stimulating discourse and enriching programs.

Traditional Observance lodges endeavor to make Masonic teachings and philosophy accessible and interesting to the members and do not shy away from dealing with the spiritual issues and questions that many men begin to find more meaningful as they mature. The Traditional Observance lodge seeks to create an ambience where true learning can occur by taking the members inward to the core of their being rather than outward toward the profane elements of life.

A typical meeting of such a lodge may go as follows. The brethren, all properly dressed according to the dress code (at minimum black suit, white shirt and black tie), will arrive at the lodge hall, which will be dimly lit by candlelight, with classical music softly playing in

the background. If there is a degree the brethren will maintain complete silence prior to the ceremony. Otherwise they will converse quietly over some light refreshments before entering the lodge room and being properly seated. Once the lodge officers have ceremoniously marched in and the lodge formally opened, the Worshipful Master will call for a period of silence, usually lasting several minutes. Following this the Master will call for the scheduled papers and pieces of music to be presented in an arranged order. During the meeting there will be no reading of the minutes or any administrative business of any sort (if allowed in the jurisdiction). The music that is presented is usually of a contemplative nature and is viewed as an important component of every meeting as it contributes to the overall beauty and solemnity of the atmosphere. The music is also intended to acquaint the brethren with the spectrum of Masonic music composed during the 18th Century and to educate them on the profound history of the classical musical tradition and its relationship to the Masonic Mysteries.

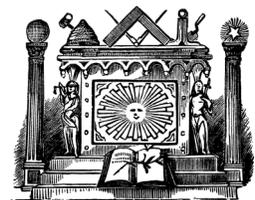
The presentation of papers is viewed as an essential aspect of the life of the lodge and promotes the continued study of Masonic lessons by the brethren. The topic of the papers must be relevant to the interests of the lodge and papers of a strictly historical or biographical nature are rarely entertained in the lodge room, though they may be presented during the Agape. Topics considered appropriate for the lodge room are symbolism, initiation, ritual, metaphysics, philosophy and art. These topics and their relationship to

Masonry can be found in the context of the major world religions, esoteric movements such as Gnosticism, Hermeticism, Neoplatonism, Rosicrucianism, Kabbalah and many other Western and Eastern traditions.

Before closing the lodge the Worshipful Master will call for another period of silence. Once the lodge has been formally closed the brethren will gather around the altar for a ceremony known as the Chain of Union, which is meant to symbolize the common commitment to Masonic ideals and connection with other Masons from all over the world. The brethren will then retire to the Agape, which is usually a catered meal with formal toasts and where a discussion of the main paper presented earlier will take place.

In conclusion, Traditional Observance lodges give their members the opportunity to partake in a ritual and sociability that they cannot find anywhere else. Traditional Masonry allows brothers to move their minds from the mundane to the mystical, away from life's petty particulars to attention on its transcendent meaning. While Traditional Freemasonry may not appeal to everyone, it is proving to be a success in more and more jurisdictions around the United States.

Dennis V. Chornenky
President, Masonic Restoration
Foundation



Lubbock 1392 in Action

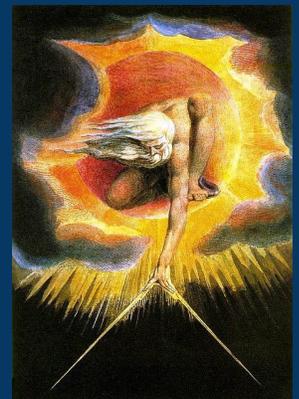
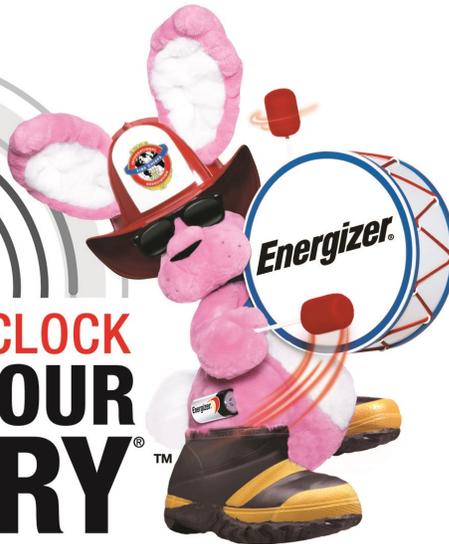


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**CHANGE YOUR CLOCK
CHANGE YOUR
BATTERY**™





Lubbock Masonic Lodge #1392

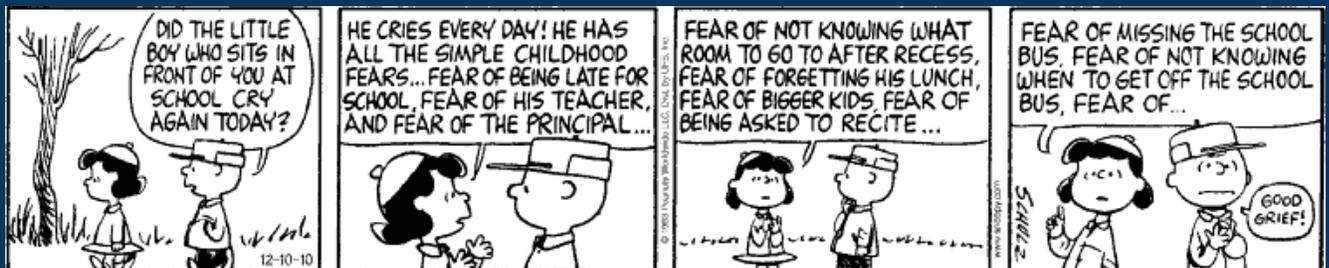
Masonic Calendar

Hilltop Meeting - April 29

March 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
		Tx Public Schools Week FLOOR PRACTICE	1 Tx Public Schools Week	2 Tx Public Schools Week	3 Tx Public Schools Week YELLOWHOUSE MTG	4	
5	6	7 WOLFFORTH FRENSHIP FLOOR PRACTICE	8	9 ABERNATHY LODGE COUNCIL	10 STATED MEETING Resolutions due GS Office DDGM Visit	11 GRAND MASTER'S CONFERENCE - YELLOWHOUSE	
12 Daylight Saving Time Begins	13 EMMA LODGE COMMANDERY	14 LUBBOCK OES FLOOR PRACTICE	15	16 SLATON LODGE FREEDOM OES	17	18 DAYLIGHT LODGE	
19	20 CROSBYTON LODGE	21 MACKENZIE LODGE FLOOR PRACTICE	22 SCOTTISH RITE	23	24	25	
26	27 HILLTOP MEETING	28 FLOOR PRACTICE	29	30	31		
		February 2017 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28			April 2017 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30		

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"If you have knowledge, let others light their candles with it."

Winston Churchill

LUBBOCK MASONIC LODGE #1392

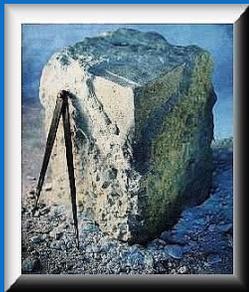
MASONIC DIST 93-A

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



WM John Rosser & family



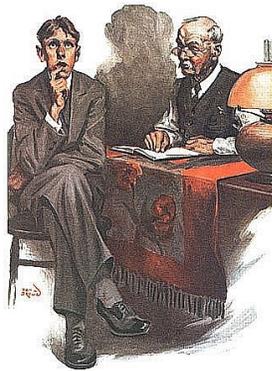
Please take the time to visit our sick and distressed; send them cards or call them on the phone, and be sure to keep them in your prayers.
If you know of sickness or distress with a brother or his family, please let us know.

This Month's Brothers & Birthdays

Clifford Hopping 3/2	James Parker 3/12
Robert Werner 3/2	Finus Branham 3/21
Richard Maddox 3/5	
Brandon Gould 3/11	

The Quarry: Our Esoteric Work By Bro. Elmer "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 in Modern English, "So may it ever be".



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

E-Mail: info@lubbockmasoniclodge.org