



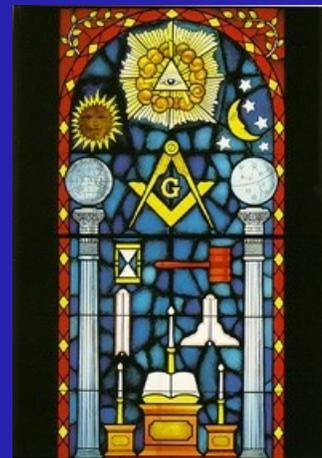
DECEMBER 1, 2017

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 12

Lubbock's Light

The Newsletter of Lubbock Masonic Lodge #1392

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



Why Freemasons Leave Freemasonry by Bro. Jeff Peace

If you're easily offended, or feel that Freemasonry is perfect as it is, then this post will only act to upset you. Click here to remain oblivious to reality.

In my earlier post Life Cycles of Lodges I began the process of addressing the many issues faced by modern Freemasonry. This post is a continuation of those ideas, but it focuses on the serious problem of membership retention. While many openly admit that there's a membership problem, they assume it's due to a lack of interest in Freemasonry. However, the statistics reveal that the real problem isn't obtaining new members, but retaining them. The fraternity loses roughly 90% of all new members within 24 months. Why?

ANIMAL FARM MASONRY

People join the Masonic fraternity for a wide variety of reasons, but in the end they expect it to be a brotherhood based on moral principles and equality. What they soon discover is something more akin to George

Orwell's Animal Farm.



They are told that all Masons are equal, and that they meet on the Level and part on the Square, but they soon observe that all Masons are equal, only some are more equal than others. The plethora of honorary degrees, titles, and invitational organizations has resulted in an elite class of Masons who feel entitled to more privilege than that of the lowly Master Ma-

PROGRAMS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



We had an attempted burglary last month which damaged our door but, we are able to continue and so far have dodged a huge bill to replace the door thanks to PM Coke Etgen

Start making plans now to attend the Grand Annual Conference which will be held in the Grand Lodge Building, in Waco, TX January 18-20, 2018. There are 75-100 rooms reserved in some of the area motels with a deadline of December 15th to turn them back. Call Taylor, 254-753-7395, if you need a room (first come ba-

sis). If you live too far to travel on a daily basis, please make an effort to attend the Saturday events.

The deadline for pre-registration is December 28, 2017 and a \$25.00 check or money order must accompany the form.

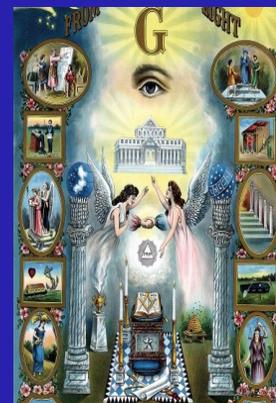
We also have a gun show to staff for next month.



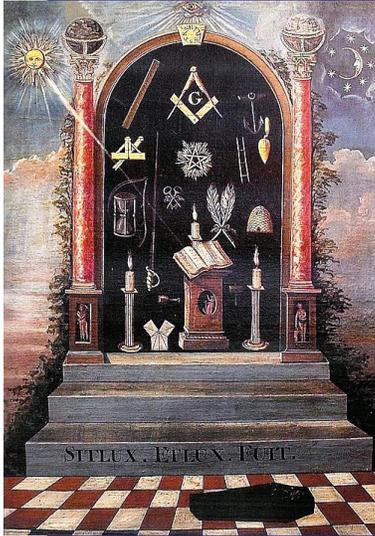
“Remember not only to say the right thing in the right place, but far more difficult still, to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment.”

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Why Freemasons Leave Freemasonry — *con't from page 1* Being a Mentor



son. Due to this, Freemasonry has devolved from the ideal of a brotherhood of all mankind into a quest for honors, titles and privilege. Ironically, every candidate is informed that Freemasonry is not a place to seek after frivolous honors, titles, and privileges.

While this system may have served the fraternity well during the 19th century, it is a boat anchor in the age of social networking. It makes the high ideals of Freemasonry appear to be nothing more than a convenient lie. This in turn brings into question the moral credibility of the entire institution.

Millennials and Generation X members walk away in disgust and tell their friends about Animal Farm Freemasonry, but not the true spirit of Freemasonry, because they never had the opportunity to experienced

BULLY MASONS



Every lodge has one or more bullies who feel it is their right to not only criticize new members, but control every facet of how a lodge operates. They all use familiar arguments such as “We’ve always done it this way.” When confronted with changes their threat of last resort is “I’m calling the Grand Lodge!” These men are not real Masons. They don’t even understand the meaning of brotherhood. The only solution to this problem is to expel the bullies, thereby restoring a sense of brotherhood in the lodges.

The bully problem is closely connected to the Animal Farm mentality that has been accepted as

the norm in modern Freemasonry. The bullies are almost always a part of some elite or supposedly honorary Masonic body. There are, however, other cases where the bully takes great pride in being a simple “Master Mason”, and because he has not allowed himself to become “polluted” by the doctrine of elitism, he becomes the self-sacrificing man that demands honor and privilege for his sacrifice.

Bullies, in any form, destroy the spirit of brotherhood, and thereby Freemasonry.

UGLY POLITICS



Ugly lodge politics is closely related to both of the problems listed above. The result is always a loss of members.

New members are almost always rushed into the officer line of the lodge and presented with the idea that if they do all the memory work they will advance to the chair in the east. Unfortunately, this isn’t always they case. Sometimes they get voted out of the line because they have advocated for changes or upset a Past Master.

If someone has spent years memorizing the work and they are stopped from advancing they will feel cheated. What kind of brotherhood cheats its members out of things they have worked hard to achieve?

The rules forbid politics in lodge. Enforce the rules and expel those who bring ugly politics into your lodge.

UNWILLINGNESS TO CHANGE



The world has changed tremendously since 1717, and Freemasonry continued to evolved along with it up until approximately 1963. At this point in time “Change” became a dirty word to Freemasons. The result has been catastrophic.

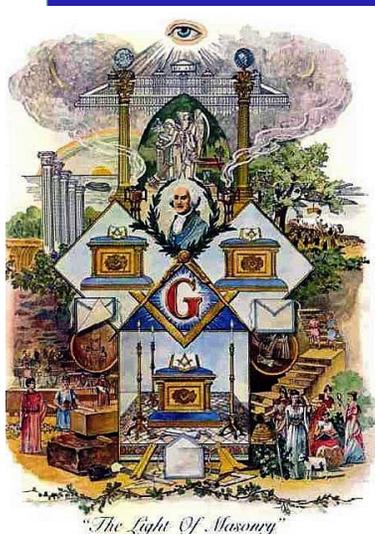
Freemasonry needs to adapt to the society in which it exists, or face being ignored and persecuted for folly. While the high ideals of brotherhood and morality should never be sacrificed, archaic ideas and old conventions must be abandoned to make way for the new. Life itself is a constant flow of changes. Why do some Freemasons feel that Freemasonry is exempt from change?

CONCLUSION

Animal Farm Freemasonry, Masonic Bullies, and Unwillingness to Change are the three top reasons why modern Freemasonry has a membership retention problem. Solving these problems requires a great deal of soul searching on the part of the leadership of the fraternity, and a willingness to take meaningful action on the part of the membership. The future can be bright if Masons are willing to face the challenges ahead with an open mind and a firm resolve to do what’s required for success.

People want to be part of a true brotherhood that operates with moral conviction, and expresses a philosophy that leads to virtue and self-improvement. Freemasonry can be that brotherhood if enough Masons want it to be.

Posted at <http://www.noahlodge357.org/forum.html>, December 15, 2015



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

L. Washington

Being a Mentor

Being a Mentor

All too often a newly made Mason, usually at the Entered Apprentice and Fellow Craft stages in his Masonic career, drops out and eventually demits or receives a non-payment of dues suspension. Is it his fault??? No, it is yours!!! You, as his sponsor and mentor, began ignoring him the minute the ink from your signature had dried on his petition for initiation. You were not there for his initiation, passing or raising. You failed to assist him with his memory work. You failed to introduce him throughout your jurisdiction by not inviting him out to visit other lodges with you. You failed to phone him on a regular basis or visit him, to ensure he is not having any difficulties with his memory work. You failed to invite him and his wife out to a ladies night, to ensure his wife felt part of the Masonic community. He probably does not know the protocol for these types of social functions as of yet and never assume he does. Basically, you left him standing alone, thus leaving him with the feeling he is not part of the Masonic fraternity, subsequently losing interest in his lodge and never returning.

This, my brethren, is OUR fault, not the members who lose interest. They lose interest because they are not stimulated in lodge, their sponsors forget their obligations and most of all, they are being ignored/disregarded amongst the lodge members who should be taking these new members under their wing and making him feel welcomed and part of the circle. It is estimated that there is an alarming rate of approximately 20% of new members, usually EA or FC, who have lost interest in the lodge and have demitted, or not returned.

It is your duty as a sponsor/

mentor to ensure, once you petition someone, that you strive to stay with him throughout the entire process. You should be ensuring that the new member is cared for, support and directed throughout the process. This must continue until such time he is either accepted into the circle, which should be automatic, considering our purpose, or until they are comfortable enough on their own to build their own friendships amongst the brethren.



Don't just assume that because he receives his monthly summons he should feel welcome to attend the stated meetings. Ensure you remind him of the meetings and offer to drive him there for the first few. Be there from his entering the lodge, signing the porch book, introducing him to members he has not yet met and sit with him. After the close of the lodge, sit with him at the festive board until it is time to leave.

I have heard of an incident. A friend of mine moved from one province to another. When he visited a lodge in that jurisdiction, he was surprised to see one of his sponsors from his mother lodge, who also moved away. His sponsor did not recognize him at first and asked him if he would have a problem with a board of

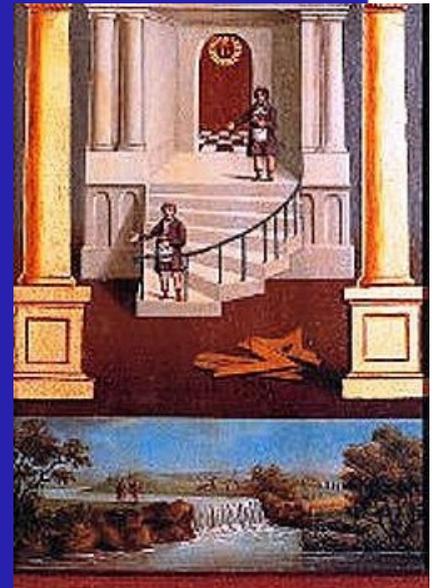
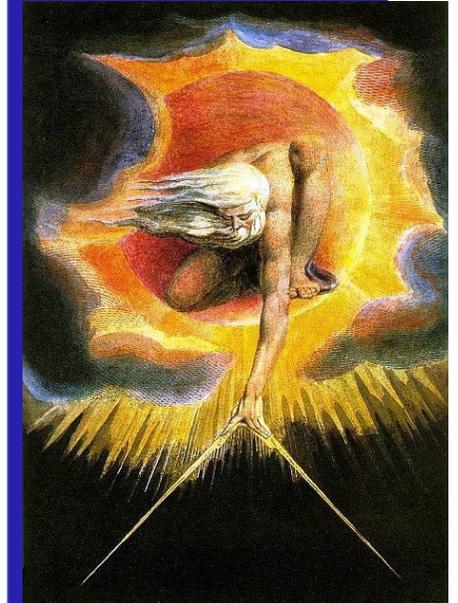
trial. Another friend of mine was sponsored a few years ago and one of his sponsors lived across the street from him. Not once did his sponsor visit or phone him to see how his memory work was or if he required assistance. Luckily, this newly made Mason was a fast learner, a keen member and went through all the degrees by himself, without any assistance from his sponsors at all.

In closing brethren, if you are going to sponsor someone, be there for him after the ink on his petition dries, from start to finish. I realize that many of us, due to family and work commitments, cannot be there all of the time. But there is always that second person who affixed his signature on that petition and has the same obligation as you do.

Just remember that every new member we lose, we are also losing the possibility of the ten people he may of sponsored throughout his Masonic career and so on. If we, as a fraternity, are to survive, we must remember the duties and obligations owed to our new members. Just remember before you sponsor someone - will you be there for him?

Source: Bro. Donald M. Scandrett

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“Take everything you like seriously, except yourselves.”

Rudyard Kipling



WORSHIPFUL MASTER JERRY HENDRICK
From the East – “Lodge of the Holy Sts. John”

In his progress through the degrees, every candidate for Freemasonry comes face-to-face with a lesson of staggering implications. Through symbolic teaching, he discovers that the bounds of a Lodge are as long as from East to West; as broad as from North to South’ as high as from earth to heaven; as deep as from its surface to its center.

We claim these large dimensions to denote the universality of Freemasonry, and that a Mason’s charity, or brotherhood, should be equally extensive. In other words, there is a place to start the practice of brotherhood, but there is no place to stop. That is what Freemasonry tells us. That is why one of the basic tenants of a Mason’s profession is Relief.

The candidate for Freemasonry is taught in his preliminary instructions that Masonry is not a charitable

institution as such. The Fraternity does not ensure its members against old age or misfortune; pays no sick or death benefits. What Masonry does, we hope and trust, is to give its members the inspiration, the challenge to practice charity of their own accord, to extend a helping hand to those less fortunate – not because we have to, but because we want to.

WHAT CONSTITUTES MASONIC CHARITY? THERE NO LIMITS - E X C E P T - THOSE WE SET IN OUR HEARTS.



SENIOR WARDEN HEATH MORGAN
From the West



‘Tis the season, right? During this time of the year I always argue with myself on the meaning of the holidays. Most of us are so wrapped up in the commercial aspect that we even see where people are trampled, intentionally injured, even killed for that once in a lifetime deal. I can’t help but wonder what the world would be like if the same fervency were applied to truly helping those in need, opening our doors to our neighbors, or genuinely loving others as ourselves. As masons, we should all keep in mind the lesson we learned in the northwest corner during our initiation especially when the outside world continues to escalate in its depravity. It is our calling to

stand apart from that aspect of the world to show that it is indeed possible for those of different creeds, religions, or races can stand together in peace, to work for the common good. Maybe, just maybe through or actions and the actions of others like us, the world can change for the better.

Peace, Love, Happy Holidays



JUNIOR WARDEN JUSTIN ROBBINS
From the South

Continuing from last months article on Title V, I would like to discuss what constitutes a masonic disciplinary action, automatic suspensions/expulsions, and “Form 3”. A common question among master masons is, “What is considered a masonic disciplinary violation?”. This question is best answered by referring to Article 507 and 508 of Chapter 2 (located on pages 272-276). Article 507 pertains to violations of obligations and laws while article 508 describes certain other masonic disciplinary violations. While both of these articles are important, article 508 provides more specific violations that apply to lodges, committees (or any combination of Masons), and individual masons.

suspended or expelled without trial upon conviction of a felony (in any state of the United States) or upon the discovery of an undisclosed or concealed felony conviction prior to becoming a Mason (Art. 509). Additionally, a Mason can be automatically expelled following his completion of Masonic Form 3 (Art. 510). Masonic Form 3 more specifically is a waiver of Masonic trial and consent to expulsion. For more details, Masonic Form 3 can be found in the masonic forms section near the end of the law book.

I hope everyone has a great month and I look forward to continuing our journey into understanding Title V.

“Live in such a way that you would not be ashamed to sell your parrot to the town gossip.”

Will Rogers



FROM THE SECRETARY HARROLD LOVELESS
Taking Care of Business

Dues notices for the 2018 Masonic Year went out on November 27th. Dues are unchanged from last year and are \$75 payable on or before January 1st as outlined in Title II, Chapter 18, Article 319 in the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas.

For our Endowed and 50-year Exempt brethren, you will be receiving your cards in the mail within the next couple of weeks.

If anyone knows their address has changed from last year, please contact me so I may correct it in the Secretary Database.

Lubbock Commandery #60 is looking for cash donations to support the Templars With Toys for Girls and Boys campaign to benefit children at UMC in the hospital over Christmas. Contact a Commandery member for details.



FROM THE SENIOR DEACON BRANDON GOULD
Visiting Brothers and Prospects

We would like to thank the brothers and visitors that attended our stated meeting for September. At our stated meeting, we had the following visitors: WM Bob Clemmons, 33° and SW Bob Lindley from Wolfforth Lodge, Jason Jones from Alvin Lodge; Robert Von Swedler from Madison Lodge, and WM Rolan Pirtle from a Yellowhouse lodge. Also, we would like to thank Jason Jones for providing us with our program.

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.



We hope to see you at our next stated meeting on Friday, December 8th at 7:30



FROM THE SENIOR STEWARD LUIS RAMOS
Food, Flowers & Frolic

Holy and merciful God, who answerest prayer and dost not scorn the petition of the humblest of Thy children, bestow upon us in our parting that spirit of affection which can resist the selfishness of the world and cause us to remember our obligations to each other and to Thee. Grant that we may be permitted with loving hearts to assemble here again for Thine honor, for our instruction, and for the good of our fellow man. All of which we ask for Thy name's sake. Amen



Upcoming Menu for December:

- Salisbury steak
- Mashed potatoes
- Grilled green beans
- Brownies
- Dinner rolls
- Asst drinks

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

Mark Twain

LUBBOCK LODGE DECEMBER CALENDAR



Lubbock Masonic Lodge #1392
Masonic Calendar

December 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Yellowhouse Stated Mtg	2
3	4	5 FLOOR PRACTICE Wolfforth Stated Mtg	6	7 Rainbow Girls	8 STATED MEETING	9
10	11 Emma Lodge Commandery	12 FLOOR PRACTICE Lubbock OES	13 Scottish Rite	14 Slaton Stated Mtg Freedom OES	15	16 Daylight Stated Mtg
17	18 Crosbyton Lodge	19 FLOOR PRACTICE Mackenzie Stated Mtg	20	21	22	23
24 CHRISTMAS EVE	25 CHRISTMAS	26 FLOOR PRACTICE	27	28	29	30
31		November 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		January 2018 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 31		

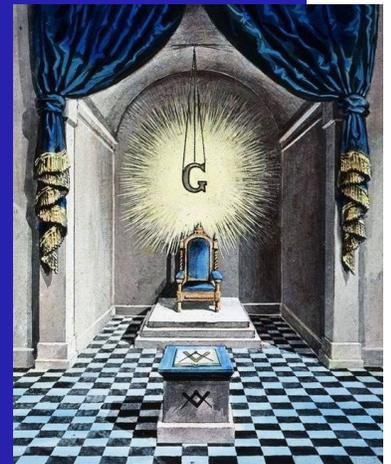
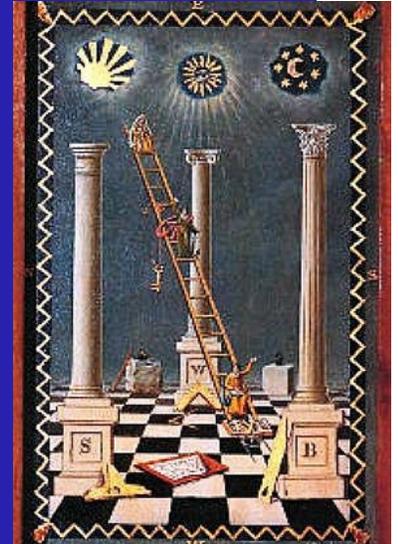
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<http://www.vertex42.com/calendars/>



“Freemasonry is an institution calculated to benefit mankind”

Andrew Jackson

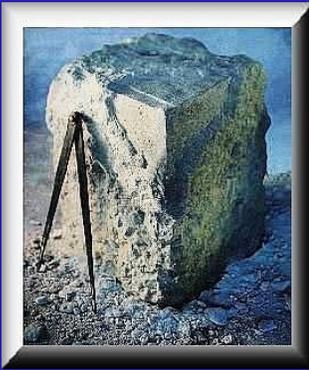
Season's Greetings



“To educate a man in mind and not in morals is to educate a menace to society.”

Theodore Roosevelt

LUBBOCK
MASONIC LODGE
#1392
MASONIC DIST 93-A



For more information visit
lubbockmasoniclodge.org



SICKNESS AND DISTRESS



Joyce Branham, wife of PM
Finus Branham

Betty Etgen, wife of PM Coke
Etgen



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.

“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.”

Blaine Fable

This Month's Brothers' Birthdays

Alvie Ivey 12/6

Norris Rumsey 12/31

Alton Utsey 12/18

Clyde Hildebrand 12/20

Christopher Yeoman 12/20

Randy Henson 12/26

4539 BROWNFIELD DR
LUBBOCK, TX
79410-1721

MEETINGS:
SECOND FRIDAY OF EACH
MONTH, 7:30 P.M.
MEAL: 6:30PM
FLOOR SCHOOL:



The Quarry: Our Esoteric Work By Bro. Coke Etgen, PM

LOW TWELVE

In ancient symbolism, the number twelve denoted completion. This sign arose from the twelve signs of the Zodiac being a complete circle and the twelve edges of the cube being a symbol of the earth. The number twelve denoted fulfillment of a deed, and was therefore an emblem of human life. High Twelve corresponds to noon, with the sun at its zenith, while Low Twelve denotes midnight, the blackest time of the night.



E-Mail: admin@lubbockmasoniclodge.org