

St. James Lodge No. 47 F. & A.M.

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Stated Communications: 1st & 3rd Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.

Monthly Newsletter- January 2016–February 2016



Greetings from the East Brethren!

Most dictionaries number 1 definition of the word brotherhood is “the condition or quality of being a brother or brothers”.

On March 3rd St James Lodge will host the first of our two annual “guest nights”, which provide the opportunity to invite good men to come, join us for fellowship and to learn a bit more about the Craft of Freemasonry.

Freemasonry has long had a tradition of not recruiting new members, and over time the strictness of this interpretation has gone back and forth as to what defines “recruiting”, but for most of history this was really a non-issue as most of the public at large knew some general things about “the Masons” and they came in droves to join the Brotherhood.

Across much of the country Freemasonry is experiencing a renaissance of sorts, more men are approaching Lodges, seeking something they feel is missing from their lives. These men are of all ages, some have come later to the craft having retired and seeking something to take a place of fulfillment formerly filled by work. Some are young and come seeking things they have heard and read about from generations back. The common thread is that they all come seeking. Perhaps they come seeking a group based on the second definition of the word brotherhood “the quality of being brotherly: fellowship”, or perhaps they come seeking the last definition in most dictionaries “the belief that all people should act with warmth and equality toward one another, regardless of differences in nationality, creed, ethnicity, etc.”.

As we take the opportunity to meet men who have approached our doors seeking something, let us take the time to understand what they are seeking, and then follow up and ensure that we help them find that.

I'd also ask that each of us take a moment for introspection, ask yourself what you were seeking when you joined the Lodge. Did you find it? If not, how can I help you find that path and continue the search? Did you discover that what you were seeking changed after you joined? I'd like to hear from every member regarding their thoughts on this question. Please feel free to drop me an email or give me a call.

In the Entered Apprentice Charge we have made a pact to both seek and give knowledge as our ability allows. Let us all seek to help each other on this walk.

I hope to see you all soon!

Fraternally yours,

Jeff Maynor
Worshipful Master

Past EVENTS

February 4th — the Lodge voted on previously submitted amendments to change the Lodge dues structure (see separate article) and received a report on the recently concluded Grand Lodge Session.

February 18th — the Lodge acted on 2 petitions for plural membership, and 1 petition for degrees, all of which passed. Welcome to new plural members, Brothers Philemon St. Amant and Joshua Tucker.

Upcoming EVENTS

March 3rd — OPEN meeting for Guest Night.
Dinner 6:30 PM, program 7:30 PM.

March 8th — possible Special communication for a Master Mason Degree

March 17th — Dinner will be served at 6:30 PM, during which a presentation will be given by directors from Maison des Amis, a local downtown charity. The meeting will commence at 7:30 PM and will include an Entered Apprentice Degree.

Greetings Brethren,

At the stated communication of St. James Lodge No. 47 held on February 4th the Lodge considered two resolutions altering the dues of the Lodge which had originally been received in November of 2015 and were noticed to the membership in January of 2016.

After a presentation of the potentially financial impacts of the changes, the proposed amendments were discussed in detail and amendments were offered to the submitted wording.

When the vote was tallied a resolution raising the lodge dues to \$80/year plus any Grand Lodge per capita and fees, effective January 1, 2017 was adopted by greater than the necessary 2/3rds vote.

I want to take a moment to thank all of those members who attended for their thoughtful questions and discussion of these important issues. I deeply appreciate the Masonic manner in which this was conducted.

I also want to make clear that this change does not impact the Lodge's ability to remit any portion of a member's dues if there are any issues with this new amount. If you are concerned about the new dues cost please let me know, we are more than willing to work with any Brother to ensure that this change does not cause undue financial stress.

If you have any questions about the increase please do not hesitate to ask.

Fraternally yours,

Jeff Maynor
Worshipful Master



St. James Lodge No. 47
 Post Office Box 444
 Baton Rouge, LA 70821-0444

Newsletter
January 2016—February 2016

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Other Masonic Events

Acacia Shrine meets at 7:00 PM every 3rd Wednesday at 7991 S. Commerce Ave. Dinner is served at 6:00 p.m.
 Downtown York Rite Bodies meet on the 1st Saturday of each month at 8:00 a.m. with breakfast at 7:30 a.m. at St. James Lodge.

NOTES

Membership Rosters are available in the Tyler's room when you attend Lodge or can be emailed by making a request to Bro Richard Black at rwblack@gmail.com Please inform him of changes in your mailing address, email address or phone numbers.
 If you received a copy of this newsletter by US Postal Service, have computer access with an e-mail address and want to help the Lodge save money, please send your e-mail address to Bro Richard Black at rwblack@gmail.com so that he can update the database.
 You will then receive an e-mail each month with a link that you can follow to read the latest news letter on line.

Lodge of the Nine Muses #9, F&AM, meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at St. James Lodge. The meeting starts at 6:30 PM. If you are interested in visiting, contact one of the members for dress code and other details.

Livingston Certificate Association meets at 6:30 P.M on the first Friday of each month, with dinner at 6 P.M., at Pine Grove Lodge # 288 on Pine Street, in Ponchatoula, LA.

Scottish Rite Baton Rouge Valley meets on the 2nd Monday of each month, dinner at 6:30 PM, meeting at 7:30 PM, at the Consistory on Florida Boulevard. The Advisory Council meets at the Consistory at 6:00 P.M. on the 2nd Monday of the month, prior to the normal stated meeting.

Baton Rouge Certificate Association meets at 7 P.M. with dinner at 6:30 P.M. on the third Friday of each month at Trinity Union Lodge # 372.

Your article could have been here. Submit articles to Bob Zinn, N5bz@cox.net

DEADLINE FOR ARTICLE SUBMISSION: 3 days after the 2nd regular meeting of the month!

If it isn't in my e-mail box by then it won't go in the newsletter for that month.

Request To Membership:

Please notify our Secretary, W: Bro Mark Paxton, and Bro Richard Black rwblack@gmail.com of any change in your postal address, email address, or phone number!!!!

Greetings from Alexandria Brethren!

As I write this article the Grand Lodge of Louisiana has just completed its 205th Annual Communication with the installation of a group of officers who will serve until June of 2017, the longest non-war extended term in the history of the Grand Lodge of Louisiana.

Our Grand Master, M:W: William J. Mollere, presided over a session that featured a number of notable things. For the first time ever, electronic voting was used in the Grand Lodge of Louisiana. Each voting delegate was given an electronic device with which to record their votes. This eliminated the usual shouting of votes, restricted the voting to only those eligible, and shortened the time required for the entire process. The benefit was clearly shown on a very close vote to receive and lay over a constitutional amendment, which passed by only 3 votes. The process of voting with paper in the past would have taken 30-40 minutes, but was conducted in a manner of less than 60 seconds.

However, the most notable event of session was the Grand Master, immediately following the official opening, asking to be reobligated in the Master Mason degree, and asking all who wished to do the same to join him at the altar. Imagine the scene of over 400 Brothers gathered in a sea around our Grand Master, reciting those words, which hold so much meaning to every Master Mason. I get chills just remembering it. It was this event that, I believe, set the tone for the entire session.

St. James Lodge was very well represented at the Session with the Worshipful Master, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Senior Deacon, Junior Deacon, Master of Ceremonies, Senior Steward, and Tyler all in attendance.

W:Bro. Nick Auck, PM did an outstanding job conducting the public opening in his office as Grand Marshall, Bro. Cody Cifelli was able to participate in the public opening as one of the newest member of the Baton Rouge Chapter of the Knights of St. Andrew, and Bro. Brandon Lively was introduced among the visiting dignitaries in his office as Monarch of Al-Azar Grotto.

The business was conducted well, and the will of the Grand Lodge (which is made up of the 3 principal officers of each lodge or their proxy) was expressed and the course forward for the next 15 months was determined.

R:W: Bro. Will P. Gray, Deputy Grand Master was elected to serve as our Grand Master for 2016 and on into 2017. We certainly wish M:W: Gray success in all of his endeavors and look forward to his official visit to St. James Lodge on May 19th to participate in our Night of Masonic Renewal.

R:W: Bro. Guy A. Jenkins, a member of Central Lodge, was elected to serve as Deputy Grand Master, R:W: Bro. John T. Williamson was elected to serve as Grand Senior Warden, and R:W: Bro. Steven A. Pence, was elected to serve as Grand Junior Warden. R:W: Bro. Pence of course has a very special connection to St. James Lodge, and we look forward to his advancement through the Grand Lodge line in coming years and wish him the best in his endeavors.

Fraternally yours,

Jeff Maynor
 Worshipful Master

Submitted by W. Bro. Larry Wade, PM, acting for the Masonic Education Committee:
Management And Freemasonry

Allen E. Roberts, President of the Philalethes Society from 1984 – 1986, wrote, “Good management is the key to Freemasonry’s Growth.” Roberts further wrote, “I firmly believe it is [Freemasonry] the one ORGANIZATION in existence that can bring about the Brotherhood of Man under the Fatherhood of God throughout the world.”

Peter Drucker, whose best known book is *The Effective Executive*. wrote and taught extensively about the need for management to be EFFECTIVE. Drucker emphasized the need for the EXECUTIVE to be EFFECTIVE and the need for the ORGANIZATION to be EFFECTIVE.

The statement of an organization’s principle goal is customarily embodied in the organization’s MISSION STATEMENT. Here are sample “Mission Statements” from some Masonic organizations –

Mission Statement: Griffith [Indiana] Lodge # 735, Free and Accepted Masons has accepted as its mission the enrichment of all good men through the application of the fundamental tenets of Freemasonry.

The Mission of the Freemasons of Minnesota is to engage and inspire good men, who believe in a Supreme Being, to live according to the Masonic tenets of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth.

The Minnesota Grand Lodge stipulates the process of “engagement” of good men.

At the Louisiana Wardens’ Conference in 2002, Bro. W. A. Morris reminded us that, “... new Freemasons can only come from outside the Lodges.”

Similarly, Peter Drucker emphasizes, “Specifically, there are no results within the organization. All the results are on the outside...Unless [the executive] makes special efforts to gain direct access to outside reality, he will become increasingly inside-focused.” (By Drucker’s definition, most members of Lodges are EXECUTIVES.)

Every Christian Freemason is familiar with The Parable of the Talents, in which a master departs on a journey to a distant land, leaving his assets unevenly distributed among his three servants – one receiving five talents, another two talents, and a third one talent.

Upon his return, the master is pleased with the productivity of the first two servants. To both, he proclaims the immortal words, “Well done, thou¹ good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.” The master heaps scorn, though, on the head of the third servant, saying, “Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed: Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury. Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents.”

On June 24, 1717, the GAOTU left a few “talents” in the hands of a few men who had gathered at The Goose and Gridiron Ale House, in London. These were “good and faithful servants”. In an era when a man could have lost his freedom (or even his head), for simply taking a stand against tradition, these men and many others like them dared to create a new world – a world of freedom and human rights, the likes of which had not previously existed. They courageously discussed philosophical and public policy issues, under the microscope of Reason, and they then courageously acted upon them. They were OUTWARDLY DIRECTED.

Like the servants in the Biblical parable, succeeding generations of Freemasons have been left a very remarkable bequest. Many generations of Masons managed their bequest in such a way that the end result was a measurable increase in that bequest: from 1717 until 1960, Masonry grew remarkably, in the numbers of members and (we might reasonably infer) in its impact on the morality of the community at large in which it existed. Thus, under their MANAGEMENT, Freemasonry was EFFECTIVE, because it was OUTWARDLY DIRECTED.

On the other hand, the generations of Masons since 1960 might be likened to the third servant – the “slothful” servant. Our careful, risk-avoidant, secretive approach to the MANAGEMENT of our bequest has resulted in great loss. We have been mesmerized by the beauty of Masonic ritual and ceremony, by the elegance of the Masonic system of Morality, by the power of Masonic tradition; we are INWARDLY FOCUSED.

We say that, “There never was a greater need for the wise and skillful use of the Trowel than there is in the world today”; but do we apply that Trowel OUTSIDE the ORGANIZATION? Are we so INWARDLY FOCUSED that our “talents” have not multiplied? How much have we, our Craft, and our society lost, due to our lack of OUTWARD FOCUS?

Perhaps, we would be wise to apply the thoughts of Bro. Allen E. Roberts, of Bro. W. A. Morris, and of Peter Drucker to our understanding of The Craft. Perhaps we should evaluate the need for Freemasonry to be more OUTWARDLY FOCUSED.

¹ This “thou” absent, in the case of the second servant.