

HAPPY NEW YEAR HAPPY NEW YEAR HAPPY NEW YEAR !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

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

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

Monthly Newsletter- December 2015–January 2016



Greetings from the East Brethren!

January provided us an excellent start to the year with the Lodge performing a nearly full scale Lodge of Sorrow to remember those Brothers who have passed on to the Celestial Lodge above during the last two years. Please take a moment and remember those Brother's families in your prayers that God may continue to provide them comfort and solace.

Looking forward into this year I see so many opportunities for this Lodge. Opportunities to be of service to our community in being one of the vital pillars of the community that Freemasonry has so often been for so long. Opportunities to be the face and hands of kind help to the families of our departed Brothers, in discharging the obligations we owe to their memory. Opportunities to be of service to each other in our daily walks of life as we endeavor to shape our rough ashlar with the aid of our Brothers.

Yet, as I look at these opportunities I realize that they cannot be realized by my own work, they cannot even be realized through the work of the officers of the Lodge, it is only through the combined efforts and will of the Brethren of St. James Lodge that we can truly achieve the potential of this Lodge, the potential of Freemasonry, and fulfill the promises we have made to each Man who comes seeking Light.

During this year I'm going to ask for your help with a number of things, some of them will probably be unusual, and may even be outside your comfort zone. Some of them may even be controversial. All I ask is that you view each request with an open mind, and lend whatever support you can. Even if you cannot attend lodge, we have ways that you can help and participate in what we are attempting to do this year.

By the same token, if you consider something I'm asking to be to the detriment of the Lodge I ask that you bring your concerns to me. I am always happy to explain my rationale, and to listen to your concerns. I count on each Brother to provide those much needed words of good counsel!

Your officers and I are working on a number of programs we hope will interest you in the next two months. On February 4th we will be discussing the recent Grand Lodge Session and the symbolism of the scripture used in the Fellowcraft Degree. On February 18th we will celebrate W:Bro. George Washington's birthday with a special program, and meal.

Our first guest night of the year will be held on March 3rd, and will be an open meeting. Don't wait until the last minute to invite someone who is already a Mason by nature to join us and learn more about the Craft. Then on March 17th we will be visited by some of the directors from Maison des Amis, a very worthy local charity working with mentally ill homeless as part of our renewed engagement in the community that directly surrounds us.

I hope to see (or speak) each of you soon, until then I remain,

Fraternally yours,

Jeff Maynor

Worshipful Master 225-485-7069

jmaynor@alumni.lsu.edu

Past EVENTS

Jan 7 — Lodge of Sorrow commemorating the memories of all those members who passed away during 2014 and 2015.

Jan 21 — Reviewed of 2015 financial report, passed 2016 budget, discussion of proposed resolutions for the upcoming Grand Lodge session

Jan 29-31 — Grand Lodge Session

Feb 4 — Discussion of, and voting on, by-laws amendment raising annual dues, followed by discussion of the symbolism contained in the Fellowcraft circumambulation

Upcoming EVENTS

Feb 18 — George Washington's Birthday Celebration

Mar 3 — OPEN Guest Night, invite a good man to join you for an evening of fellowship!

Mar 17th — presentation by Maison des Amis, possible EA Degree

Fulfilling the promise of Masonry

This year's Worshipful Master has chosen "Fulfilling the promise of Masonry" as our theme. But what is the promise, or specifically, what is the promise you seek from Freemasonry? For too many of our members, this is simply a shared experience and a fellowship to live within. Others seek obligations or personal improvement to be fulfilled. We zero in on the phrase such as "...like Brother Mason...", "...within a lodge...", and "...cowans and eaves droppers..." as though there is a division between ourselves and those not members.

However, as the lodge extends from the starry canopy above to the valley below and from East to West and North to South, which encompasses the entire world, this simple train of thought demonstrates that we, as Freemasons, should be striving to improve the entire world. And as we are about to enter the Christian Lenten season and fresh from our annual New Years resolutions, what self improvement or denial of vice have you decided to make? Further, what impact will it have on the world; what will it do to help the poor? That would be one answer to fulfilling the promise of Masonry.

The Education Committee



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

Newsletter
December 2015—January 2016



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

extra copy

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.

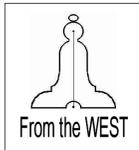
Your article could have been here. Submit articles to Bob Zinn, N5bz@cox.net

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!!!!



My Dear Brothers All:

Fraternally,
 Larry S. Bossier, PM
 Senior Warden

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 a 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.

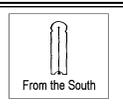
The business was conducted well, and the will of the Grand Lodge (which is made up of the 3 principal officers of each lodge or their proxy) was expressed and the course forward for the next 15 months was determined.

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



Greetings from the South

Greetings Brethren!

It is my belief that good food makes for good fellowship. It is this belief that drives me to ensure that refreshments this year not be rushed or become an afterthought. The other officers and I are working to make each meal delicious and approachable for all of the brethren's various tastes and preferences.

We want and welcome all comments and suggestions concerning refreshments for the lodge! We have some very capable brothers who are willing and able to produce any meal you choose, within reason of course. Please let us know what you would like to see so we can plan accordingly.

I am both honored and surprised to have been elected to serve as Junior Warden this year. I did not ever plan to be a principle officer of a lodge, much less an officer of a lodge with the reputation and traditions of St. James. I will endeavor to serve the lodge to the best of my ability, and continue to learn and grow as I continue my Masonic journey.

Casey Guy
Junior Warden