

From the Trestleboard

Grand Lodge Highlights

Some of the resolutions that directly affect us are: It was voted to raise the per capita from \$10 per year per member to \$15, effective in 2004. This increase was made to benefit the Masonic Home and School.

It was voted to raise the Master Masons degree fee (to the Grand Lodge) by \$15, from \$10 to \$25, to be used to benefit the Masonic Home and School.

The waiting period between degrees has been reinstated. It is now required that there be 14 days between degrees.

It was voted that a serviceman on active duty who is a POW, or within a combat theatre, shall not be suspended for non-payment of dues.

Our new Grand Master is M:W: M. Boyd Patterson, Jr. Our new Grand Junior Warden is R:W: Brian Dodson.

Fiat Lux Conference

“If Masonry in Texas is going to flourish in the 21st Century, our fraternity must be willing to change and adjust to modern times” These are the introductory words Grand

Master M. Boyd Patterson Jr. uses to introduce his commitment to “Advanced Masonic Education”.

The Grand Master is bringing together the best and brightest Masons from all over Texas to participate in a conference that will take Masonic Education to the next level. This Conference will be limited to the first 228 Worshipful Masters and/or Past Masters of Lodges in Texas and their Ladies. For additional information on this program, e-mail webmason@duckcreeklodge.org or call Bro. Herb Cook at 972-675-6407.

Lodge Bulletin

Over the last several months it has proven to be very difficult to produce a bulletin on a regular basis. I solicit everyone out there interested in contributing, to provide additional material and/or assistance in producing the bulletin. Articles and/or contributions should be submitted in electronic format (I would really NOT like to re-type a submittal). Almost any type of word processing or text based format will work. E-mail it to

webmason@duckcreeklodge.org . If you would like to receive the bulletin via e-mail, let me know and I will put together a bulletin list. The bulletin will also be on the website: www.duckcreeklodge.org .

Together Against Drugs

The Together Against Drugs program is proceeding well this year under the leadership of Senior Deacon Woody Wetherington. Officer Joe Privitt is doing an outstanding job working with the 5th Graders at Centerville Elementary School. They have just finished their fourth lesson. They are now looking to schedule their visit to Judge Boyd Patterson's court.

District Deputy Grand Master

R: W: Larry D. Ravert made his official visit to Duck Creek Masonic Lodge on January 13, 2003. He did a very good job of presenting the Grand Masters

message to the Lodge. This year the Grand Master's principal message is “Education”.

Website Update

After several years of devoted service, Brother Dick Brown has stepped down as “WebMason” of the Duck Creek Lodge website. Dick has taken on many new responsibilities with the Grand Lodge and with assisting other Lodges with their website development. Thank you very much Brother Dick. P. M. Nick Oliver will be taking over those duties. Your input and ideas are earnestly solicited in order to keep the website up-to-date. Please go to the website and check it out. Any suggestions should be e-mailed to: webmason@duckcreeklodge.org .

Upcoming Masters Degrees

We have two Masters Degrees coming up VERY soon. They will be on Saturday morning, January 25, 2003. Breakfast will be served beginning at 6:30am. The degrees will begin after breakfast. Please come on out and support your Brothers.

Public Relations Committee

Duck Creek Lodge has formed a committee, in conjunction and cooperation with Garland Lodge #441, charged with improving our Lodge's relations with the leaders of our community. The members of this committee are Affiliated P. M. John McDonald, P. M. Herschel Costlow and P. M. Randy Davis. At their first meeting they established the mission and charter for the committee, established priorities for Masonic Community Relations and assigned actions items for the team, to be discussed at the team's next meeting. The committee will brief the Lodge at our next Stated Meeting.

Secretary's Corner

Brethren, dues are required to be in by June 23rd. If you do not get your dues in by that time you will go suspended. Please contact Brother Herb Cook at 214-675-6407 or secretary@duckcreeklodge.org for details. Please remember that if you have any changes in your physical address, e-mail address or phone number, please contact Brother Herb.

The Lodge telephone number has changed. Please note that the new number is (214)-675-6407.

Sickness and Distress

Our deepest sympathies go out to our departed Brethren, Past Master Guadalupe Moreno, who passed to the House Not Made With Hands on August 22, 2002, and to Brother Robert Finklea, who passed on August 18, 2002. Please extend your prayers for Past Master Alexander Moreno, who suffered a heart attack recently and is recuperating at home. Gary Harvey continues in his cancer treatments, and Dan Cobb, Affiliated P. M. of Garland Lodge 441, is continuing to recover from cancer. Bro. Larry Tennyson recently had a leg removed due to a blood clot, but is home and is doing very well. Brother Burton Wright is still in Doctors Hospital with double pneumonia and is currently on life support. He continues to improve thanks to everyone's prayers.

NEXT STATED MEETING, MONDAY February 10, 2003 at 7:30pm