

Trestleboard

Volume 117

December 2003

Lodge Officers

- Worshipful Master Mike Heidenreich 972 390-1925
- Senior Warden Gene Blackmore 972 222-7879
- Junior Warden Joe Moses 469 450-2964
- Treasurer Warner Richeson 972 422-4268
- Secretary Harry F. Powell II 972 424-7153

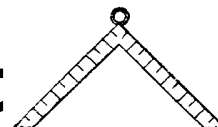
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Please remember our website location
<http://planomasoniclodge.org>



From the East



Brethren,

Hope this finds all of you well and in the holiday spirit. Thanksgiving has passed and I hope it was good for all of you and that you took time to remember all the things you had to be thankful for.

You will find enclosed in this edition of the trestleboard a letter which you will receive with your dues notice explaining the dues increase for next year. If you have any problems with it, please feel free to contact me at 972/390-1925 to discuss. Thanks for your understanding as to why this had to occur.

December will be a slow month for us. We will only have one Thursday for degree work. Our stated meeting will be on December 11 since Grand Lodge is the first weekend. Please remember that our stated meeting for January will be on the first. Hope to see you all there.

Please remember that this is a month for giving. We are

collecting toys to go to the Collin County Children's Advocacy Center. We need to have the toys by the 15th of December to get them to the kids on time. Please do what you can to help out with this worthy cause. Think about all those less fortunate than yourselves, and if you can't bring a toy up to lodge, give to your local church or charity of your choice to help out. There are several food drives and toy drives going on throughout the metroplex, so please help out.

Hope you all have a joyous, merry and prosperous holiday season.

Fraternally,

Mike Heidenreich

PLANO LODGE No. 768, A.F. & A.M.

Michael G. Heidenreich

Worshipful Master
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Allen, TX 75002

R. Gene Blackmore

Senior Warden

Brethren,

Joseph C. Moses

Junior Warden



Warner Richeson

Treasurer

Harry F. Powell, II

Secretary

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Plano, Texas 75086

972-424-7153

This letter is to notify you of a change in the dues for Plano Lodge and the reason behind the change.

As those of you who pay bills are aware, the cost of most everything has increased dramatically over the last few years. Taxes, insurance, utilities, and any maintenance work have skyrocketed. The same holds true for Plano Lodge. We have not been able to get tax relief from any of the taxing bodies we pay to. Our building is getting older and we are continually having expenses for repairs. All of these costs keep adding up. Plano hasn't increased dues in several years and, for the last few years, we have been running in the red and having to make up the difference between our income and expenses by taking money out of our general fund. We can't continue to move in this manner, or our lodge will perish. I didn't feel this was what we wanted to have happen.

I appointed a budget committee this year so we would have a better idea of what we are doing with our money. They compiled the last couple of year's worth of data and helped set up a budget for this Masonic year. Based on what we as a lodge have spent over the last couple of years, we were going to be over \$4,000.00 short again this year. And that is if we have no significant expenses for maintenance to the building or equipment such as air conditioner, kitchen stove or refrigerator. Based on this, a proposal was put before the lodge to increase our dues.

It was decided to raise dues to \$108.00 per year. This is just a little over \$2.00 per week. Brethren, I feel this is a small price to pay to keep our lodge functioning. In talking to other lodges in the area, all are having the same problems and are contemplating the same solution. All are going to have to raise their dues in order to stay alive. So don't feel this is just a Plano problem. As a lodge, we are going to continue to examine our expenses and do what we can to cut costs. With a budget template now laid out, it will be easier for the following officers to track what we are doing and make better plans for how to handle our money.

I want everyone to rest assured that the increase in dues will NOT cause anyone to go suspended for non-pay. If someone has a problem with the increase and feels that they cannot make the payment, please contact either myself or Harry Powell (lodge secretary) to discuss your situation. We will make allowances for those of you that will have a financial hardship with this. We won't lose any members because they can't afford the increase.

For those of you that are endowed members, 50 year members or Life members and are exempt from paying dues, we have included an envelope for those of you who wish to make a voluntary contribution to the general fund to help us out. With the decline in returns from the endowment fund, we aren't generating the income we expected and anything you can do to help out will be appreciated.

Brethren, I appreciate your understanding in why these steps had to be taken. I am more than willing to discuss this issue with anyone who desires more information. The budget is available to anyone who would like to look at it. Thanks again for your understanding and help in keeping Plano Lodge alive and well.

Michael Heidenreich
Worshipful Master Plano Lodge #768
972-390-1925

Toy Drive deadline!

The deadline for donation toys for the annual Christmas toy drive is December 15th. This means that the last opportunity to bring a new unwrapped toy to donate is the December stated meeting, December 11th.

Adopt-a-chair

There are still chairs in the lodge-room available to adopt. Each chair may be bought for \$100.00 which benefits the Plano Lodge building fund. See Larry Kester.

Name tags

Larry Kester is taking orders for name tags. Each name tag costs \$10.00 and is available in blue or blue or blue.

Plano Lodge Blood Donor credits

Plano Lodge traditionally holds blood donor drives each spring and fall. These blood drives are made to benefit the Scottish Rite hospital.

In some cases the scheduled date and time of the Plano Lodge blood drive doesn't fit into our busy schedules. When this happens, you can still give your blood and ensure that Plano Lodge and the Scottish Rite hospital get the proper credit.

Just visit the Carter Blood Center, (or as I have done, the Blood Mobil that visits my office,) and tell them that you want the donations to be credited to Account number 1620-31053.

Calendar of Events: December

Plano Lodge Events

- December 11 – stated meeting
- December 18 – EA degree
- December 25 – Christmas (Plano dark)
- January 1 – January stated meeting

Special Events

- Grand Lodge Of Texas December 4-6th
- Scottish Rite—Valley of Dallas stated meeting December 15th 12:15 PM
- Hella Shrine stated meeting December 18th
- Plano Assembly Rainbow #320, December 9th & December 23th
- Plano Chapter #702 Order Of Eastern Star December 15th

Special thoughts for the season

A Welsh Grace

Let us be thankful for whatever light, laughter, food and affection and friendship that may come our way, and let us be mindful equally of those who at this festive season or some future moment may be sadly without any or all of these good and golden things

Robbie Burns

Thou, who kindly dost provide,
 For every creature's want!
 We bless Thee, God of nature wide,
 For all Thy goodness lent:
 And, if it please Thee, heavenly Guide,
 May never worse be sent;
 But whether granted or denied,
 Lord, bless us with content!

Humorous

From the sin of gluttony,
 and the pain of indigestion,
 may the GAOTU protect us

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