

Volume 158

Trestleboard

May 2007

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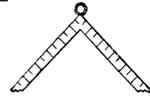
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- Worshipful Master Fred Smith 972-342-0813
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- Junior Warden JJ Miller 214-733-1814
- Treasurer Warner Richeson 972 422-4268
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- Chaplain Brian Chaput 469-831-3993
- Master of Ceremonies Chao Teng 469-417-9300
- Tiler Larry Moyer 214-317-9550

The SMITHsonian



From The East,

May 2007

Signs, prayer, gavels

As we close our Lodge we again exchange the signs or the symbols of our obligations. As we repeat these signs with each other from week to week we are silently repeating our obligations to each other. These symbols and signs are ways that we have for reminding us of the more complicated ideas they represent.

As we all know prayer is an essential part of every lodge stated or called meeting, and is a part of the opening of each lodge, as well as the closing. We are taught that before engaging in any great or laudable undertaking we must first invoke the blessing of deity

Again, the familiar rap of a gavel re-focuses our attention and directs us "to prepare to quit our sacred retreat of friendship and virtue to mix with the world."

So again, we find new meaning in our ceremonies. Let the next closing of the next lodge be, again, a reminder of those first lessons we learned.

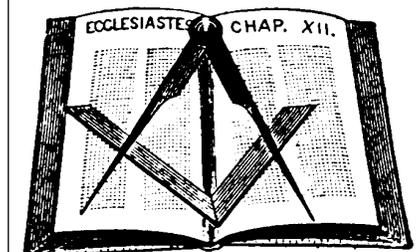
We have firmed up our plans to visit our brothers in Claremore Oklahoma and to confer a Texas style Master Masons degree there. We have dispensation from the Grand Lodge and a candidate. The date of the trip is May 19th. Our degree won't start until afternoon so most of us will probably travel there on Saturday morning, (about 4 1/2 hour drive.) The Claremore lodge will have a dinner for us at the lodge after the degree. If you want to spend the night in Claremore, (most will,) we usually stay at the Days Inn, (918 341-2323,) they would offer a group rate on 10 or more rooms of \$59, single or double.

See you in lodge. We have another busy month ahead.

Fraternally,

Fred Smith

Worshipful Master



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Is the lodge website under your favorites? If not, go to www.planomasoniclodge.org and add it. Visit it often.



The Rhodes Goes on Forever



Brethren,

I feel the need to point out a time this month that I was embarrassed to be a Plano Mason. I have written about this issue before and yet it continues to occur. This time I was not the only one vocal in their disappointment in the Brothers of Plano Lodge. I am speaking of the Fellow Craft evening of passing we had on April 17th. That evening we passed three brothers from Entered Apprentice to Fellow Craft. At dinner (which was wonderful as always) there were many brothers present. When we opened Lodge most of those Brothers has made it inside the door. However, by the time came to close the Lodge, there were barely enough Brothers present to fill the necessary chairs for closing.

As we moved and shifted around so that every one was in the place or station of a part they knew, I had to wonder what the three newly passed Fellow Crafts were thinking. I hope it was not what I or Brother Junior Deacon was thinking. Adam, I would like to thank you for your apology to these newly passed Brothers. I am sure they felt like a burden to the Lodge. You could tell by their remarks before closing. They actually thanked us for staying so late to help them in the advancement of their Masonic Careers. Does this seem right? Shouldn't we be showing them how much their advancement means to us? After all it was only 9:30, where was everyone?

We need to be very careful in Plano Lodge. We initiate, pass, and raise a lot of Brothers. As I said last month, this can sometimes lead to complacency about the degrees. That is not what Masonry is about. I have sat through two Warden's retreats put on by the Grand Lodge of Texas and at both of them I thought how lucky we are to have "too many degrees to perform" when most other Lodges can scarcely get one a month. If we are not careful and keep up this attitude we will not have many more attendees of the Warden's retreats that can say this.

After Lodge was closed some Brothers and I sat in the outer room of the Lodge and discussed why this embarrassment occurred. A couple were quite outspoken on the issue. I was pleased that I was not the only one who thought it was a problem. We tossed around some ideas on how to begin to set this attitude straight, and I think some changes might be in order. I have not fully come to terms with any policy decision I might recommend or try to implement, but I truly feel something is needed to avoid Plano Lodge being embarrassed like this again.

On the Level,

Chris Rhodes

PS – I was very saddened to learn of the passing of Brother H.P. (Mac) McGriff. He was a great Brother to all who knew him and he will be missed. Please keep his family in your prayers during this trying time. –C.

Calendar of Events for September

Plano Lodge Events	Around District 9		Plano Order of the Eastern Star #703
<p>May 3 - Stated meeting "Family night"</p> <p>May 10 - Entered Apprentice</p> <p>May 17 - FellowCraft</p> <p>May 19 - Master Masons degree in Oklahoma.</p> <p>May 24 - Master Mason</p> <p>May 31 - TBA</p> <p>June 7 - Stated meeting and election of officers</p> <p>Please check the Calendar on the website for updates.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stated meetings in District 9 - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thu. 5/3 Plano - 7 p.m. Tue. 5/1 Lebanon - 7 p.m. St. John's - 7:30 p.m. East Fork - 7:30 p.m. Th. 5/10 Lee - 7:30 p.m. Melissa - 7:30 p.m. Empire - 8 p.m. Mo. 5/14 Celina - 7 p.m. Blue Ridge - 7:30 p.m. Tu. 5/8 Allen - 7:30 p.m. Tu. 5/15 Farmersville - 7:30 p.m. Tu. 5/22 Princeton - 7:30p.m. 		<p>May 21 - Stated Meeting</p> <p><i>Remember brethren, any wife, daughter or relative of a mason is eligible for Eastern Star membership. Get them involved</i></p>
<p> The chuck wagon</p>	<p>Adopt a Chair Program</p> <p>ONLY 18 CHAIRS LEFT!!!</p> <p>Remember a loved one forever, and help grow the Plano Lodge Building Fund.</p> <p>Chairs are \$100.00 each and new name tags are available at a special price of \$10.00 each.</p> <p>Contact Larry Kester for more info. <i>lhkester@comcast.net</i></p>		<p>Plano Rainbow Assembly #320</p> <p>May 1 - Board Meeting</p> <p>May 8 - Stated Meeting</p> <p>May 15 - Lodge Clean-up</p> <p>May 22 - Initiation</p> <p><u>Get your daughter or grand-daughter involved in Plano Rainbow</u></p> <p>Please support The rainbow charity of the year by purchasing support bracelets. Plano's very own Jarah Foster, Grand Worthy Advisor for the Rainbow Girls, has selected the Templar Eye Foundation.</p> <p>Bracelets are \$5 each.</p> <p>Donations also accepted.</p>
<p>May 3 - Spaghetti & Meatballs</p> <p>May 10 - Chicken Polou</p> <p>May 17 - Brisket & Sausage</p> <p>May 24 - Mexican Chicken Casserole</p> <p>May 31 - Smothered Porkchops</p> <p>All EA's, Fellowcrafts, and new Master Masons are reminded that they should help in the kitchen at least one week. Talk to the stewards about scheduling a time to help.</p>	<p>Adopt a Bookcase</p> <p>For the Museum & Library \$500</p> <p>Contact JJ at jjmiller768@yahoo.com</p>		
<p>Events for the Super-Mason</p>	<p>Stock the Store Campaign:</p> <p>Brother Clay Smith is continuing the "Stock the Store" campaign which provides the "Country Store" where the residents of the Texas Masonic Retirement Center can pick up personal items - for free. This is where YOU can help. When you buy these types of products for yourselves, please buy one or two extra and bring them to the lodge. Here is a list of items they will always need.</p> <p>Kleenex, Cough Drops, Sugar Free Cough Drops, Talcum and Medicated Talcum, Lectric Pre-shave, Williams Pre-shave, Stockings: Knee-highs, thigh-highs (beige or nude), Aloe Vera and Cocoa Butter creams, Oil of Olay, Cleansing cream, Ponds Cold Cream, Moisturizing Cream (day and night creams), Toner and Astringent, Liquid make up (light color), eye pencils, eye shadow, blush, lipstick, Compacts, loose face powder (light), Chapstick, Cologne: men's and women's, Softsoap, Toothpaste: Colgate, Crest and Sensodyne, Toothbrushes, Individually wrapped snacks and candy (mini candy bars), Trident Gum and regular gum, Sleep caps, Flushable moist wipes, Room deodorizers, aerosol and solid, New and use VHS and DVD movies, Spray Starch, Hair Spray</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scottish Rite Valley of Dallas stated meeting May 14. Plano Shrine Club meeting May 29 Museum & Library History committee, Working meeting May 14th and 28th at 5:30 p.m. Masonic Oak Celebration, Brazoria TX, Registration 9:30 am, Devotional Service 10 am May 16—A presentation by the Plano Police Department at the Plano Lodge detailing safety issues to children. All are welcome 			

Plano Masonic Lodge #768
P. O. Box 860282
Plano, TX 75086

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Brethren there are still 45 members of Plano Lodge whose 2007 dues are delinquent! Check your dues card and if the expiration date is December 31, 2006, then you are in arrears. The automatic suspension date is June 24, 2007 at which time you will be suspended in all Lodges. If you are having difficulty paying these dues please contact the Secretary so that arrangements can be made to assist you.

Send dues (\$108.00) to: Plano Lodge #768
P.O. Box 860282
Plano, TX 75086

or Contact the secretary at (972) 424-7153 or tinypowell@tx.rr.com

Thank you and I look forward to hearing from each of you,

Harry Powell, Secretary