

CLAUD L. AUSTIN LODGE NO. 1450

Donnie Swango, Secretary cla1450@aol.com
May, 2006

FESTIVE BOARDS

The February Festive Board (Winter) went off without a hitch. However, we sadly report that that there are only about half of the Lodge who participate as Dining Members and half who don't participate at all. What makes this sad is the fact that we were formed to be a "Table Lodge"....one where we could enjoy Masonic conviviality (call it Brotherhood) around a table of food and beverage.

The attendance was quite good and we enjoyed a great dinner followed by a talk and slide show by Brother Dr. Bob Williams, a forensic dentist who gave a lot of his time and effort to the Hurricane Katrina victims.

The next Festive Board (Spring) will also be held at DAC Country Club on Friday, May 12. A little earlier time has been set: appetizers – 6:00pm; Festive Board – 7:00pm. Another great menu is already set by our super Chairman, Zola Blicher. The speaker will not be a speaker at all. Rather, it'll be a video on the Grand Lodge of England (Freemasons' Hall). No guarantees, but it should not put you to sleep! If it does, enjoy the rest.

We ask, time and time again, for you to R.S.V.P., but many leave us in the dark -- every time. Light, Brethren, is what we seek -- in the form of timely reservations.

Ya hear?

Please R.S.V.P. (either way) to:

Zola Blicher, Chairman
972-387-8806
zbblicker@aol.com

If you are not a Dining Member, you are missing what this Lodge is all about. And that, dear Brethren, is real Masonry.

LODGE NOTES

Our quarterly Stated Meeting was held on February 27. There were 21 in attendance, about one third of our membership. Could be better! How about it, Brethren? Only four times a year?

The DDGM made his first Official Visit and said we were in good shape. Even though we always know what we are doing (haha), it's always a sweat! No need to worry, though, he's scheduled to return in August for a second look.

The annual BBQ, hosted by Billy and Tulie Pardue was great, as usual. We had a good crowd and good food. Interesting – we noticed that none of those who are non-Dining Members attended. You were invited. It's your Lodge and it doesn't make sense.

IN MEMORIAM

Dee Brown Walker APM

Born December 3, 1912

Died April 27, 2006

Past Master of Dallas Lodge No. 760

Charter Member of Claud Austin No. 1450

Tiler Emeritus

Red Apron

Margaret Bobbie Smith

Born October 13, 1921

Died April 27, 2006

Married for 58 years to Sam I. Smith APM

God's finger touched them, and they slept.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Friday, May 12

6:00pm

Festive Board

DAC Country Club

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

Monday, May 22 12:00pm
Stated Meeting/Elections Green Room
LUNCH TO FOLLOW

Monday, June 26 12:00pm
Installation Green Room
LUNCH TO FOLLOW

Monday, August 21 12:00pm
Stated Meeting/DDGM 2nd Green Room
LUNCH TO FOLLOW

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

As noted above, our up-coming Stated Meeting includes in the agenda the election of officers for the ensuing Masonic year. We all should know how important this event is – for it sets the team who will lead our Lodge for the next year and brings the leadership for the following two years into play.

Many of us have been there, and have done that. It is hoped that you remember the excitement, the nervousness and the pride that came with the territory. For those who have not been there before, we should all help them to feel those feelings and experience that, usually, once in a lifetime thrill. Without it, boredom becomes the norm, and we stagnate.

That's not what we need, nor what we want. So you are encouraged, ten-fold, to attend this important Stated Meeting to vote for the good of the Lodge and bring excitement to those elected. Maybe it will be catching. We certainly need that!

THE LODGE FUNERAL

From a 1982 issue of *The Texas Freemason*:

It seems as though the Grand Master heard that one of his Lodges had not met the required number of times during the year to keep its charter under the law of the Jurisdiction. He investigated and found that for all practical purposes the Lodge was defunct. In order to dramatize the event, he called for a funeral to be held for the Lodge in issued a special invitation for all the brethren to attend.

On the appointed date and time, the grand Lodge Officers appeared and carried a casket into the Lodge room, led by the Grand Master. The room was packed with members. The Grand Master opened the Lodge with the closed casket next to the altar. He announced the purpose of the meeting was "to perform the Masonic burial service for the Lodge." He performed the service with the necessary modifications, then ordered the Deacons to open the casket and said:

"Brethren, I want each of you to see the reason that this Lodge died. Each of you will pass by the casket and look in."

The Brethren slowly passed by the casket and as each Brother looked in, he saw his own image defined in the mirror on the floor of the casket.

PERSONAL INFORMATION IN MOTION

Always a problem, seldom reported. Please help us keep current if you have had any changes, e.g., home address, phone numbers, e-mail address, etc. These changes happen all the time, and we are the last to know.

ONE MORE TIME

"In the first place we should insist that the immigrant who comes here in good faith becomes an American and assimilates himself to us, he shall be treated on an exact equity with everyone else, for it is an outrage to discriminate against any such man because of creed, or birthplace or origin. But this is predicated upon the man's becoming an American and nothing but an American. There can be no divided allegiance here. Any man who says he is an American but something else also, isn't an American at all. We have room for but one flag, the American flag, and this excludes the red flag which symbolizes all wars against liberty and civilization, just as much as it excludes any flag of a nation to which we are hostile. We have room for but one language here, and that is the English language...and we have room for but one sole loyalty and that is a loyalty to the American people."
Theodore Roosevelt