

CLAUD L. AUSTIN LODGE NO. 1450

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STATED MEETING

We only have them quarterly, but they seem to come around really fast, don't they? Well, we are, at this writing, only 10 days away from our next one. Mark your calendars and plan to attend, that we may welcome our District Deputy Grand Master R:W: Bill Irving with a large crowd.

That meeting will be held on Monday, February 25th. As usual, it will be in the Green Room of the Scottish Rite at 12:00 noon. Lunch will follow.

FESTIVE BOARD

It seems that we usually have the Festive Boards preceding the Stated Meeting. The mold is broken as we will have our Winter Festive Board on Friday, February 29th.

As usual, it is Dining Members only, and will be at the DAC Country Club. Attitude adjustments begin at 6:15pm with a Call to Table at 6:45pm.

Always a good convivial time, make sure you have called or e-mailed your RSVP to Zola by the 22nd. His contact information is 972-661-8977 and/or zbblick@aol.com.

RAYMOND ALBERT BLALACK APM

1915 - 2008

We regret the passing of our Charter Member Raymond Blalack after a relatively short illness on January 15th. A lifelong resident of Sherman, Raymond was Mr. Mason in that area. He loved the Festive Boards and we will miss his smile and big (unlit) cigar.

May his memory endure the test of time.

THINGS NOT HEARD MUCH ANYMORE

Be sure and refill the ice trays, we are going to have company after while.

Watch for the postman, I want to get this letter in the mail today.

Quit slamming that screen door!

Be sure to pull the windows down when you leave, it looks like it might rain -- and bring in the clothes on the line, too.

Don't forget to wind the clock before you go to bed.

Why can't you remember to roll up your pants legs? Getting them caught in the bicycle chain so many times is tearing them up.

Go comb your hair. It looks like the rats have nested in it all night.

Be sure and pour the cream off the top of the milk when you open the new bottle. I need it for baking and Pa's coffee.

GRAND LODGE HAPPENINGS

Besides the usual change of guard at the top, our newly installed Grand Junior Warden is Gene Carnes, a sixth generation Mason residing in Pipe Creek (still in Texas). He is a Past Chairman of the Committee on Work and has served on several other Committees and as Grand Marshal for Mike Gower PGM.

A couple of passing resolutions to note:

- Cipher books are now legal

- There is a motorcycle club, predicating its membership on Masonic membership, that is now recognized
- Masons may wear aprons as pallbearers when non-Masons are pallbearers
- The Worshipful Master may, at his option, do business in an Entered Apprentice or Fellowcraft's Lodge; but only Master Masons may vote

MAKE GOOD HABITS AND THE'LL MAKE YOU

All of the great leaders I've known, or read about, share a common belief...If you make good habits, good habits will make you. This wisdom has been around since ancient times. In fact, it was Aristotle who said, "Excellence is not an act...it's a habit."

Here's a little test to display the power of our habits. Cross your arms as you normally would, and look down to see which one is on top. When I do this exercise with audiences, invariably about half of the audience members will have their right arm on top (I do) and the other half will have their left on top. When you crossed your arms for the very first time, you might have been still in your playpen, and you've been crossing your arms the same way ever since. Now, cross your arms again, but this time put the wrong arm on top. It feels extremely weird! If I were to challenge you to cross your arms the "wrong" way for the rest of your life, could you do it? Probably. Would it be difficult? You bet it would!

Here's the point: Habits – good or bad – are difficult to break. Therefore, the challenge for every leader is to determine the good habits that will drive the success of their organization. Once the desired habits are identified, good training and continual reinforcement are critical in making them part of your organization's culture.

Food for Thought...

I am your constant companion.

I am your greatest asset or heaviest burden.
I will push you up to success or down to disappointment.
I am at your command.
Half the things you do might just as well be turned over to me,
For I can do them quickly, correctly, and profitably.
I am easily managed; just be firm with me.
Those who are great, I have made great.
Those who are failures, I have made failures.
I am not a machine, though I work with the precision of a machine and the intelligence of a person.
You can run me for profit, or you can run me for ruin.
Show me how you want it done. Educate me.
Train me.
Lead me. Reward me.
And I will then...do it automatically.
I am your servant.
Who am I?
I am a habit.

KNOWN TO BE ON THE MEND

Ron Greene WM
Herb Hale PM
Richard Farr APM
Bobby Heard PM
Chuck Broadnax
Clara Hoffman (Leonard)
Laurie Blicher (Zola)
Tulie Pardue (Billy)

REMEMBER THE ALAMO

March 6, 1836 - After fighting for 13 days, 3,000 Mexicans defeated 182 Texans at the Alamo.

A few days earlier, this message was sent:
February 24, 1836,

"Commandancy of the Alamo

To the people of Texas & all Americans in the world –

Fellow citizens & compatriots --

I am besieged by a thousand or more of the Mexicans under Santa Anna-- I have sustained a continual Bombardment & cannonade for 24 hours and have not lost a man --

The enemy has demanded a surrender at discretion, otherwise, the garrison are to be put to the sword, if the fort is taken. I have answered the demand with a cannon shot, and our flag still waves proudly from the walls --

I shall never surrender or retreat. Then I call on you in the name of Liberty, of patriotism & everything dear to the American character, to come to our aid, with all dispatch --

The enemy is receiving reinforcements daily & will no doubt increase to three or four thousand in four or five days. If this call is neglected, I am determined to sustain as long as possible & die like a soldier who never forgets what is due to his own honor & that of his country --

VICTORY OR DEATH

William Barrett Travis
Lt. Col. comdt.

P.S. The Lord is on our side --
When the enemy appeared in sight we had not three bushels of corn-

We have since found in deserted houses 80 or 90 bushels and got into the walls 20 or 30 head Beeves --

Travis

CALENDAR

Friday, 2-29 Festive Board

Friday, 5-16 Festive Board

Tuesday, 5-27

Stated Meeting
Election of Officers

Monday, 6-30

Installation

Monday, 8-25

Stated Meeting

Friday, 8-29

Festive Board

Friday, 11-21

Festive Board

Monday, 11-24

Stated Meeting

Thu-Sat, 12-4 – 12-6

Grand Lodge

Saturday, 12-13

Holiday Brunch

THE MASONIC OAK



The granite marker on the grounds of the old Masonic Oak reads as follows:

"Here on a day in March 1835 Brothers Anson Jones, John A. Wharton, Asa Brigham, J.A.E. Phelps, Alex Russell and J. P. Caldwell met and resolved to petition the Grand Lodge of Louisiana for a dispensation to form a Lodge of Freemasons. Their prayer was granted and Holland Lodge began work. Lodges were later formed at Nacogdoches and San Augustine, and on December 20th, 1837, these three

Lodges created the Grand Lodge of the Republic of Texas with M.W. Anson Jones as the first Grand Master of Masons in Texas."

TEXAS LODGE OF RESEARCH HONORS PLEZ TRANSOU APM

On Saturday, January 19th, in a meeting hosted by Claud L. Austin Lodge, the Texas Lodge of Research held their quarterly meeting in the Green Room.

Besides their regular agenda, Worshipful Master Ray Bronk led the tribute to Plez, who not only served as their Worshipful Master and long-term Secretary, began their book sales effort, written multiple papers, published at least one book but also is a Fellow – the highest designation and honor they can bestow upon a member.

The attendance, approximately 68, being amongst the highest in many moons according to several active members of TLR, can be attributed to the fact that they were honoring the best of the best in their Lodge. We know that in Claud L. Austin Lodge already.

VARIATIONS ENTERTAINS AT HOLIDAY BRUNCH

A song and dance group of some 40+ young men and women from Woodrow Wilson High School entertained the dining members and their ladies, plus several widows of members, with almost an hour and a half of non-stop, choreographed songs. It was really refreshing to see this kind of effort from today's youth and worth every penny of our donation to their organization. No one slept.....or left!

LIVING LIFE

1. No man or woman is worth your tears, and the one who is, won't make you cry.
2. Just because someone doesn't love you the

way you want them to, doesn't mean they don't love you with all they have.

3. A true friend is someone who reaches for your hand and touches your heart.
4. The worst way to miss someone is to be sitting right beside them knowing you can't have them.
5. Never frown, even when you are sad, because you never know who is falling in love with your smile.
6. To the world you may be one person, but to one person you may be the world.
7. Don't waste your time on a man/woman, who isn't willing to waste their time on you.
8. Maybe God wants us to meet a few wrong people before meeting the right one, so that when we finally meet the person, we will know how to be grateful.
9. Don't cry because it is over, smile because it happened.
10. There's always going to be people that hurt you so what you have to do is keep on trusting and just be more careful about who you trust next time around.

11. Make yourself a better person and know who you are before you try and know someone else and expect them to know you.

12. Don't try so hard, the best things come when you least expect them to.

**REMEMBER: WHATEVER HAPPENS,
HAPPENS FOR A REASON.**

