

The Craft's Trestle Board

A Monthly Newsletter from

Lewisville Lodge No. 201

A.F. & A.M.

lewisvillelodge.org

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In This Issue:

Installation of new Officers

Upcoming events

Message from the Master

Musings from Foy and Edna

And much more...

From the Desk of the Editor:

Welcome to the first edition of **The Craft's Trestle Board**, a monthly newsletter from Lewisville Lodge No. 201. We will try to provide you with timely stories and anecdotes of what is happening at the Lodge and in Masonry in Texas. Our goal is to be informative and hopefully bring a smile to your face while perusing the content. We welcome your thoughts and comments.

--The Editor

On June 27, 2015 Lewisville Lodge installed the new officers for the coming Masonic year. The newly elected officers are:

Tom Sanders Worshipful Master

Kacy McCarroll Senior Warden

Steve Trimpe Junior Warden

Bill Jacobs Secretary

Dollar Logsdon Treasurer

The following officers have been appointed by WM Sanders to serve for the coming Masonic year:

Michael Salas Chaplain

Justin Winch Senior Deacon

David Barnett Junior Deacon

John Machado Senior Steward

Charles Langran Junior Steward

Roger Jacobs Marshall

Argus Beggs Master of Ceremonies

Mark Suire Tiler

Larry FitzPatrick Librarian

Gerry Dobson Historian

Congratulations to the newly elected and appointed Officers for 2015-2016. Your commitment and willingness to lead our lodge is greatly appreciated!

The Craft's Trestle Board

Upcoming events and Activities

- ❖ The first Stated Meeting for newly elected Worshipful Master Sanders is July 9, 2015. Meal served by the newly appointed Stewards will begin at 6:30pm. Stated Meeting will start promptly at 7:30pm.
- ❖ The Lewisville Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star meets on the first and third Tuesday of each month. Please welcome the newly installed Worthy Matron Michelle Hickman, and Worthy Patron Cameron Hickman. Brother Hickman is a member of Lewisville 201 and has served as Senior Steward the last two years. We will miss his wonderful menus and expertly prepared meals.
- ❖ Remember to mark your calendars that the third and fourth Mondays of the month are set aside for Masonic Education. Junior Warden Steve Trimpe with the assistance of District Instructor Larry FitzPatrick will provide instruction and enlightenment in the Esoteric and Exoteric studies of Freemasonry.
- ❖ Worshipful Master Sanders is planning to hold a Garage Sale later this summer; more information will be forthcoming as he firms up the

plans and date for this Lodge fundraiser.

- ❖ The Dallas Scottish Rite will hold the Fall Reunion on September 26, October 3, and October 17. This will be the 400th Reunion for the Dallas Scottish Rite and expectations are high for a very memorable gathering of Scottish Rite Masons.



Junior PM Vince Jones presides over his last Officer's Meeting in June. "Oh what a relief it is"

Editor's note: special thanks to PM Jones for letting us use this photo.

The Craft's Trestle Board



A MESSAGE FROM THE WORSHIPFUL MASTER...

The installation of Officers this year afforded us an opportunity to hear from our outgoing Master, Vince Jones, and the new Worshipful Master, Tom Sanders. Their remarks were heartfelt and thoughtful. With their permission, we are providing you with excerpts from each Master's remarks.

PM Vincent Jones:

Every year the outgoing master of the lodge talks about the previous year. I would like to speak briefly about what I have learned from being Master of this lodge for the past year. Passion runs very deep in this lodge. We are a lodge whose brothers have different convictions, beliefs, and sometimes different values. What is the common denominator among us? We are all brothers of the oldest fraternity in history. We are made up of older masons and new masons. We believe we work toward one common goal. We hear the proverbial "in my year". We hear the "I think it needs to be done this way", and

even the "this is how it has to be done". What does all of this really mean? History has documented that the problems we face today in our fraternity, are the same problems faced by the fraternity over one hundred years ago. And yet the fraternity still lives and goes forward. It means that there is a passion for this fraternity from all of us. No one is necessarily right. No one is necessarily wrong. We must respect each other's passions and convictions, while we practice keeping our own passions within due bounds. This is the level ground we must all meet on. We must guard our gates from those who would taint this fraternity. We take good men and make them better. We should not accept in our fraternity a questionable man with the intent on making him good. We must remain open minded and embrace new ideas. We must look towards the future and embrace technology. We must continue to be part of, and support our community. We must respect and embrace each brother's passions. Last but definitely not least, we must discard personal agendas and false pride. In closing I will say that as masons we are always asked what we do. The number one answer has always been "we take good men and make them better". Well my brothers, to the best of men go the responsibilities. If it were easy anyone could do it. So it is each and every one of our responsibilities to know what we must do, respect each other's passions while keeping our own subdued. I want to thank all of you for your support. It has been my honor and privilege to have been master of Lewisville Lodge for the last year.

Thank You,

The Craft's Trestle Board

From WM Sanders:

I want to express my thanks to all my Brothers for the confidence they have demonstrated in me by electing me to be their Worshipful Master. I will do my best to perform my duties in a manner in which you expect and deserve.

To the members of the Lewisville Masonic Lodge, this is your lodge and I ask each of you to be involved in the lodge's proceedings as we all work in the performance of our daily tasks to achieve our goals. We all must work in the spirit of friendship and brotherly love in order to maximize the service we provide to this community. We are only as strong and effective as the level of participation each of you chose to provide. For over 150 years, this lodge has developed and maintained a strong history of credible service to the Lewisville community. In order to continue to be prosperous we have a lot of work to do ahead of us. We must strive to do better and continue to progress and grow. I would like to address the topic of membership and the challenges we face: new membership and re-engaging existing membership. New membership is an issue that not only we face in our lodge, but is faced by our fraternity. You are aware of the declining membership in our fraternity. We owe it to our existence to strive to reverse the trend as best we can.

Other lodges have dealt with this in various ways by implementing membership drives that utilize various community programs. One of the more successful programs is the "Bring a friend to lodge" implemented by Davy Crocket

Lodge in San Antonio. I plan to work closely with our Membership committee to conduct this type of program in our lodge. We must do a better job of keeping our community apprised of what we are doing. One of our better known charities is our student scholarship program, which over the last ten years we have provided over 60 scholarships to students in Lewisville ISD. We must increase the awareness in the community of these lodge activities and create awareness of what our lodge does.

Another area of membership that we should address this year relates to re-engaging existing members. I will work with the membership committee to explore ways to increase the participation of our membership.

For the past couple of years we have worked on improving our lodge building. However we have not completed the task. Hopefully this year we can set forth to remodel our Dining room to bring it up to the standards seen in our lodge room and library. I will meet with the Building and Grounds committee to develop plans and establish cost data to provide the brethren information required to help them make the decisions.

I want to leave you with this thought: we must always look forward because the past is not as important as the future. So together, let's all look ahead and move forward!

Thank you very much.

The Craft's Trestle Board

Musings from Foy and Edna:

We caught up with Brother Foy and his lovely wife Edna after the installation of officers. Foy and Edna have seen many installations of officers over the last half century. Foy was quick to remark that it is “a heck of a deal how the gavel is passed from Worshipful Master to Worshipful Master each year. We can’t lose sight of the long haul and where we are going”. He mused that those who have never sat in the East “ain’t got no clue” how tough the job is. The time it takes to take care of all the little jobs “just adds up” he said. “Plus, you got everyone coming up to you wantin’ this and that, as if you had nothin’ better to do”. Edna chimed in at this point and said the lunch served at this Installation was “bout as good as it gets”. Then she recalled how much time Foy spent at the lodge when he was Worshipful Master: “seems like he was up there 3 or 4 times a week every week”. Edna then said with a devilish grin on her face that “I wish he would have repeated—I kinda liked the fact he wasn’t around the house every evening watching TV and falling asleep in his chair”. Foy mumbled something about “the Ranger game comes on in an hour” and grabbed Edna and headed for the F250.

We always appreciate Foy and Edna’s perspective and look forward to our next encounter...

Scattershooting from the West...

We would like to take a moment to express our appreciation to PM Vince Jones, who just finished his year in the East. Upon taking office he was presented with an unexpected challenge dealing with the lodge operating funds. He quickly with the help of the Treasurer and Secretary developed a plan to address the challenges. It should be noted that he leaves the operating funds in solid shape for incoming WM Sanders. Other notable accomplishments included: adjusting the degree fees to compensate for the costs associated with each degree, and raising the annual dues by \$25 per year. Our dues are a bargain for the value a man receives from Masonry and the Lodge.

We would like to recognize two Brothers from our Lodge for being selected to receive Honors from the Valley of Dallas Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite:

Brother Ralph Choate will be invested as a 32nd Degree Knight Commander of the Court of Honor, and Brother Bill Jacobs will be invested as a 33rd Degree Inspector General Honorary.

Congratulations Brother Choate and Brother Jacobs: you have tirelessly labored in the Vineyards of Masonry for the good of the Craft!

The Craft's Trestle Board

"The great object of Freemasonry is not to tell a man how to think, but to stimulate him to think for himself."

Albert Mackey



The Rear View Mirror:

We have been very busy at the Lodge the last couple of months. The following events and activities were held in April and May:

May 16, 2015 - Lewisville Masonic Lodge's Annual Fish Fry. Nearly 90 folks joined us for some fantastic catfish, fries, coleslaw and all the trimmings for our annual Fish Fry. We want to thank all of you that came out and supported our lodge, and a very special thanks to the Brothers and their families who helped make this a great success.

April 18, 2015 - Bulls Eye Pistol Match. This was the second year for this Lodge Fundraiser. We want to thank all of those who participated and especially those Brothers who helped put this on, and a very special thanks to Brother Ron Reynolds who spearheaded the event. Well done Ron!

April 11, 2015 - Police and Fireman Breakfast. This has become an annual event that the Lodge does to recognize and thank the first responders in our area for all that they do. We had a great turn out from the local Police and Fire Departments as they enjoyed breakfast at the lodge.

Our lodge has been busy. We appreciate the hard work of those who make these events happen. It is not an easy task, and involves a lot of time and coordination.

What we do need from our membership is greater participation. We are blessed with a membership role of over 200 Master Masons, however most of the work is done by about 10% of the membership. We need your help Brother. If it is possible within the length of your cable tow, we could use your help, your experience, and your skills to make our lodge an even better edifice for Freemasonry. We strive to promote our values and principals in the community and help those in need. Please contact the lodge or better yet, come to the next Stated Meeting.

"To talk well and eloquently is a very great art, but that an equally great one is to know the right moment to stop."

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

The Craft's Trestle Board

Spotlight on a Brother

On April 18, 2015 the Lodge presented the Golden Trowel Award to Brother Larry FitzPatrick. The Golden Trowel award is the highest honor that a Masonic Lodge can bestow upon a Brother for his devoted service to Masonic principles in general, or to his Lodge. It is intended for the Brother who, year after year, quietly but actively demonstrates his devotion to the teachings of Freemasonry without the thought of recognition or special honors. Brother FitzPatrick's extensive Masonic Record was read during the ceremony and included his service as Worshipful Master of our Lodge, and his numerous positions held for the Grand Lodge of Texas such as DDGM, District Instructor, and Vice Chairman of the Committee on Masonic Education and Service just to name a few. His Visionary Leadership and Passion for the Craft are some of the attributes that Larry has demonstrated in his efforts to improve the Lodge and Freemasonry. He is a true Masonic Scholar as we marvel at the Light he brings to our lodge. He lives the virtues and values of Freemasonry every day. He is a Mason's Mason.

The award is well deserved and long overdue. We had a great turn out including Past Grand Master Leonard P. Harvey and Past Grand Master Walt Rogers, who assisted in presenting the Award to Brother FitzPatrick.



This is what we do:

Once again this year, the Lewisville Lodge No. 201 has contributed \$4000 to the Lewisville ISD Education Foundation in the form of 8 each \$500 Scholarships. We have been providing money for Scholarships with the help of matching funds from the Texas Masonic Charities Foundation for over 10 years. Funding for these scholarships has come mainly from our primary fundraisers such as the Race for the Children 5K, and the Golf Tournaments. Each year we receive and read in our Stated Meetings, thank you notes and letters from the students who received the scholarships. They are well written and articulate in expressing their gratitude to the lodge for our philanthropic efforts in the community. This is one of the reasons we become Masons...

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Elective and Appointive Officers 2015-16



The Lodge room set up for installation of officers



Our newly elected WM Sanders



The **Craft's Trestle Board** is published monthly by Lewisville Lodge No. 201. Please send your comments and thoughts to: timbrowning@verizon.net