

The Craft's Trestle Board

A Monthly Newsletter from

Lewisville Lodge No. 201

A.F. & A.M.

lewisvillelodge.org

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From the Desk of the Editor:

Happy New Year from **The Craft's Trestle Board**. We turn the calendar to a new year, as 2015 fades into the rear view mirror and the dawn of 2016 is upon us. In this edition, we take a peek into 2016. Also we sat down with Brother Gerry Dobson in Spotlight on a Brother, and of course we hear from Foy and Edna on their New Year's Resolutions.

As always, we welcome your feedback on the newsletter. Please let us know if you would like to see other features or information that we are not including.

--The Editor

Upcoming events and Activities

- ❖ The Stated Meeting for January will be on Thursday, January 14. Meal served at 6:30pm. Stated Meeting will start promptly at 7:30pm.
- ❖ The Lodge Chili Supper will be held on Saturday January 9 at 6:30pm. Bring your best Chili for all to enjoy!
- ❖ Lewisville Lodge's First Annual Stonecutter Bowling Tournament will be on Saturday, January 30th at the AMF Lewisville Lanes, 1398 West Main Street. Sign-in starts at 5:30pm and bowling begins at 6:30pm. This is one of the Lodge's new fundraiser events and looks like a fun way to spend a Saturday evening. For more information on teams and sponsorship opportunities, or to sign up, please go to: www.lewisvillelodge.org/bowling Contact a member of the lodge for more information. This is a great opportunity to support the lodge

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and enjoy a fun evening rolling strikes and picking up spares.

- ❖ Remember to mark your calendars for the third and fourth Mondays of the month which 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.

The Lodge's annual Christmas Party was a smashing success. Over one hundred folks were there to enjoy a great meal prepared by Brother Cameron Hickman and the Stewards. A visit by Old Saint Nick was enjoyed by both children and adults. We were treated to a presentation from Micah Pinsion, a young man who has developed and implemented a program that has distributed over 13,000 toys to needy

children. He spoke about his gratification for the Freemasons that has inspired him in his endeavors.



Micah Pinsion

We also presented a bicycle that had been rebuilt and donated by Brother Glen Luster to a very happy young boy.

We were entertained by Robert Jones who performed his very funny Christmas music

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program. It was a great night at the Lodge for family and friends as we gathered to celebrate Christmas and the spirit of the Season.



Christmas 2015 at the Lodge

*Be at war with your vices,
at peace with your
neighbors, and let every
new year find you a better
man.*

Benjamin Franklin

Masons at Work

A special thanks to the following brothers who hand delivered Poinsettias to our Widows before Christmas:

Justin Winch, WM Tom Sanders, John Machado, Mike Wilburn, and Charles Langran. Please give these brothers a hardy thank you for this fine work.



Spotlight on a Brother

We sat down with Brother Gerry Dobson for a few minutes and he shared with us his thoughts on being a Mason.

Gerry (Gerard) was raised a Master Mason in 1956 in Cloud Lodge in New Jersey. He had been initiated as an Entered

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Apprentice in Sarasota Lodge No. 147 in Florida the previous year, but had taken a teaching job in Pennsylvania which led to his attending lodge in Gloucester, New Jersey. After moving to Texas, he joined Justin Lodge, and later he joined Lewisville Lodge in 2005.

Gerry has served as the Lodge Historian and takes the position with a seriousness that underscores his passion for history. Many of us have had the pleasure of hearing Gerry's presentations on Masonic History during the Stated Meetings. He has done extensive research on our lodge, going back to the early years where he has written about the first generation of Worshipful Masters of Lewisville Lodge following the civil war.

Gerry is a graduate of Florida Southern and began his journey in academia teaching math and algebra for 3 years. After returning to graduate school at Florida State, where he received his PhD in Organic Chemistry in 1962, he served as an Associate Professor at the University of

Georgia and later at the University of South Dakota.

The realization that he now had a family to support, or as only Gerry can describe the revelation as "Scales falling from my eyes", he took a job at the University of North Texas.

He began teaching at the University of North Texas in 1969, where he was a professor of Chemistry for 30 years. One of his accomplishments at UNT was being named "Regents Professor of Chemistry".

Gerry married his wife Kay in 1962. He has three children and eight grandchildren (7 girls and 1 boy).

A native New Yorker, he moved with his family to Florida in 1950 because "there were too many laws" in New York according to Gerry.

A couple of the more memorable Masonic experiences for Gerry were his initiation as an Entered Apprentice Mason, and receiving his 25 year Service Award at Justin Lodge.

His hobbies and past times include: genealogy, traveling,

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and writing. He enjoys researching what he calls “micro history” or the “lives of the ordinary”.

Gerry took a sabbatical from UNT in 1986 to live in England for six months.

You may find Gerry in the Lodge Library working on his next presentation or doing research on a Mason from Italy or South America. Take a few minutes to chat with him—a time well spent!



Lodge Blood Drive Exceeds Expectations

The Lodge held a blood drive on December 12, partnering with Carter BloodCare. Thirty pints were collected, exceeding the projections, and it has been reported that several donors were unable to give due to the restraints of

the mobile blood center facility. The Lodge has held several blood drives over the last few years, and it should be noted that Brother Ralph Choate has spearheaded this activity each time. This year's blood drive was held at the Lewisville Gun Show, with donors receiving free admission into the show. Activities such as this afford the Lodge an opportunity to show the community some of the things Masons do, and provide needed visibility in our city. In addition to Brother Choate, the following brothers helped with this noble endeavor: WM Tom Sanders, Justin Winch, Bill Jacobs, Kacy McCarroll, Jerry Pate, Steve Trimpe, Eric Terwilliger, Dave and Stacy Barnett, Dollar and Nora Logsdon, and Charles Langran. The children of the Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children benefitted from the efforts of Lewisville Lodge and Carter BloodCare.

Highlights from the Grand Lodge of Texas Grand Communication

Wendell P. Miller was elected Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Texas at this year's Grand Communication.

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Orville O'Neil was elected Grand Secretary replacing Tommy Guest who stepped down after serving ten years as the Grand Secretary. Terry Stogner was elected Junior Grand Warden. One of the resolutions approved by the Grand West was to move the date for the Grand Communication from the first Thursday of each December, to the second Thursday of each January in order to avoid a continuing conflict with Baylor football and a shortage of hotel rooms. The next Grand Communication will be held in January 2017.

Musings from Foy and Edna

As we gathered at Foy and Edna's house on New Year's Day for some of Edna's black eye peas and Hanukkah potato latkes, the conversation turned to New Year's Resolutions. Foy says he gave up on the typical resolutions of losing weight and exercising more several years ago... Edna gave him one of her looks and shook her head as only Edna can do. Following an awkward silence around the table, Foy rebounded from the earlier rebuke, and began working on a list of resolutions for the lodge this year. After much discussion,

we present the following resolutions for consideration (courtesy of Foy and Edna).

1. Work on a plan for upgrading the dining and kitchen areas including a new floor.
2. Put together a Degree Team and conduct a graded degree.
3. Schedule more Bring a Friend to Lodge programs.
4. Engage the many existing members of the lodge that we seldom see and inspire them to come to a Stated Meeting or Degree.
5. Improve our outreach to our widows by remembering them on their birthdays with a card or flowers. It is the little acts of kindness that make a big difference in people's lives.
6. May peace and harmony always prevail in our lodge as we practice the principles of Freemasonry.

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