

The Craft's Trestle Board

A Monthly Newsletter from

Lewisville Lodge No. 201

A.F. & A.M.

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From the Desk of the Editor:

Welcome to the Holiday edition of the **Craft's Trestle Board**. It is December and Christmas is nigh upon us. We wish you a very Merry Christmas and safe travels during this busy Holiday season. Also in this edition we sat down with Brother Jerry Donahue in our Spotlight on a Brother series. And we hear from Foy and Edna on their Christmas memories. 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 December will be on Thursday, December 10. A review of the Grand Communication just completed in Waco will be reported including the results of the various resolutions, recommendations and elections. Meal served at 6:30pm. Stated Meeting will start promptly at 7:30pm.
- ❖ The Lodge, in association with the Carter Blood Care folks, will be conducting a Blood Drive on Saturday, December 12 from 9am to 1pm. The location is at I-35E and

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Hwy 121 in front of the Lewisville Gun show. Donors will be given a free ticket to the gun show and a t-shirt. We need help working this important event. All Brothers interested in helping should meet at the Lodge at 7:30am.

This benefits the children of the Scottish Rite Hospital in Dallas. It is also a great way for our lodge to have visibility in the community. Please see Brother Ralph Choate who once again is leading the charge on this very important lodge event.

- ❖ **The Lodge Annual Christmas Program will be Saturday December 12. A Holiday Dinner will be served at 6:30pm, with the Christmas program to follow. Bring the kids and grandkids because Old Saint Nick should be dropping in with some Stocking stuffers.**



- ❖ The Lodge will be dark from December 23, 2015 thru Jan 1, 2016.
- ❖ Coming up in January will be the Lodge Chili Supper. Scheduled for Saturday evening, January 23 at 6:30pm. Bring your best Chili for all to enjoy!
- ❖ The First Annual Lewisville Lodge Bowling Tournament is planned for January 27, 2016. This is a new lodge fund raiser being spearheaded by our fund raising committee. Mark your calendar – more details to come.
- ❖ 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.

Lodge Garage Sale a great success!

The lodge conducted a Garage sale in November and thru the hard work of many brothers and friends

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was able to raise nearly \$1500.

There were a number of Brothers and their families involved with making the garage sale a success this year. Below is the list of those that either donated their time or their things:

Tom & Betty Sanders

Ralph Choate

Larry FitzPatrick

Jimmy Black

John Machado

Dollar Logsdan

Justin & Beth Winch

Tim & Barbara Browning

David Barnett

Charles Langran

Mark Suire

Terry Broome

Kacy McCarroll

Brian Kline

Davis Watkins

Steve Trempe

Waylon & Sara Nash

Michele Hickman

Eric Terwilliger

We appreciate all who contributed their time and donated their articles to this lodge fund raiser.

Lodge holds its first Bring a Friend to Lodge program

The Lodge conducted its first Bring a Friend to Lodge program on Saturday, November 14. It was deemed a success by all accounts. We had eleven visitors show up to see what our fraternity and Freemasonry was all about. The program included a short video followed by presentations on Masonic History in Texas by Chris Williams, Masonic philanthropy by Ralph Choate, a Philosophical discussion led by Brad Kohanke, a presentation on the ritual by Larry FitzPatrick, and a presentation on the Altar by Tim Browning. Jerry Donahue conducted the program as Master of Ceremonies.



Larry FitzPatrick, Chris Williams, Tim Browning, Jerry Donahue, Brad Kohanke, and Ralph Choate were the program team



Chris Williams with History of Texas Masonry

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Our Stewards, John Machado and Charles Langran provided a terrific lunch consisting of homemade stew and sandwiches. A special thanks to Brothers Chris Williams and Brad Kohanke from Davy Crockett Lodge in San Antonio for coming up and helping us with the program. Chris and Brad were instrumental in the development of this idea initially and have successfully produced several programs in the San Antonio area.



Larry FitzPatrick- Ritual Aspects of Freemasonry

And finally, a very special thank you to SW Kacy McCarroll for coordinating and planning this event.



Spotlight on a Brother

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

Jerry was raised a Master Mason in October 1994 in Lewisville Lodge. He is a Past Master of Lewisville Lodge, and is a recipient of the Golden Trowel Award in 2010. He was appointed District Deputy Grand Master in 2010. He is also a 32nd Scottish Rite Mason in the Valley of Dallas. Jerry and Leigh, his lovely wife of 22 years, retired a couple of years ago and moved to east Texas, where Jerry has joined

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Flora Lodge No 119. He currently is serving as Jr Warden and expects to move up to Sr. Warden next year. He is a "B" Certificate holder in the work, and enjoys conferring the three degrees.

Asked why he became a Mason, Jerry replied that it was part curiosity and part impulsive. Some of his most memorable Masonic experiences include: presenting a Masonic ring to a newly raised master mason with his Dad and Grandfather (who provided the ring) present—a very emotional experience for all. He also remembers being a Santa's helper at a couple of the Lodge Christmas programs, but feels he lost the job because he just could not fill the position fully (Jerry's Santa suit had quite a lot of room to fill let's say).

Another memorable experience was when Jerry had the opportunity to present Brother Virgil McClary with an unexpected gift of an endowed membership—again Jerry playing Santa Clause.

Jerry also said that one of the most humbling experiences for him was when he received the Golden Trowel award from the Lodge. Jerry is known for his wry sense of humor: like loosening the handle on the

gavel- unbeknownst to the man using the gavel as the head flies off...

Jerry retired from Harris Methodist Hospital in Fort Worth where he was a Biomed engineer for 33 years!

He enjoys fishing, living on Lake Fork, and traveling with Leigh. He is also a pretty darn good handyman, having brought his tools and skills to our Lodge to repair the ceiling in the Library—looks great Jerry!

Jerry and Leigh are both active in several volunteer organizations including: Pilot club International which focuses on brain health issues, Wood County Child Welfare Board, and the Special Olympics which Leigh chairs the chapter there in east Texas.

One of Jerry's pet peeves is when there are multiple prompters during a degree... According to Jerry, *"one is quite sufficient; I don't need three people telling me I left a word out"*

Jerry talked about the hat he wore when he sat in the East. It had belonged to Leigh's Grandfather. By happenstance, they found it in a box one day, and he decided to wear it while sitting as the Master of the Lodge. It is a Fedora that those in

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the lodge will recognize because Jerry has worn it for nearly fifteen years conferring degrees.

Jerry is proud to be a Mason and proud of Lewisville Lodge. He recently participated in the Bring a Friend to Lodge program acting as the Master of Ceremony. The next time you see Jerry, please thank him for his years of service to the Lodge and his continuing work in the fraternity.

Musings from Foy and Edna

Foy called the other day needing help with the Christmas lights. When we got there, the entire front yard had Christmas lights strung out in one big tangled mess. Edna was supervising (as she has a tendency to do) and Foy was sitting down trying to figure out which cord worked. It looked like tempers were about to flare, so we suggested we take a break and get a cold Dr. Pepper while we contemplated on the situation.

Edna began to reminisce about Christmas pasts and told us about the time when she was 10 years old, she received a new bicycle for Christmas. It was the best gift she could remember as a child. She and her brother (who also received a new bike) got to ride them to their Mammaw and Pappaw's house down in Buttermilk Flats (the old east side of Lewisville down by the Peanut Mill). Edna said: *"you sure could not do that now day, what with the traffic and everything."* Lewisville then was a small farming community with one traffic signal (at Mill and Main St), and it was no big deal for two young children to ride their bikes all over town without fear.

Foy, feeling refreshed from the DP, began to tell us about his favorite Christmas. It was when he and Edna were young parents with two kids who still looked forward to opening gifts on Christmas morning. The two young brothers had opened up the various gifts and yet were disappointed because they had asked Santa for the new

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Nintendo game. Well it appeared that they were not getting it when Foy said to the boys: take a look back behind the tree—there it was. Santa had brought a new Nintendo game with the Super Mario Brothers game included.

The look on the kids' faces was unforgettable Foy said. It is a Christmas memory that he still cherishes today. As Edna looked off in the distance, she replied that she remembers that Christmas day like it was yesterday. *"it just goes to show, that the Christmas spirit is about giving rather than receiving."*

Foy headed back outside to the tangled mess of Christmas lights then disappeared for a moment into the garage. A couple of minutes later, he comes back with a large Christmas Angel. He said: *"we have had these for years, but haven't used them in a while, as we tried to keep up with the neighbors and see who could string the most lights..."*

Edna then took the Angel and positioned it in the middle of the front yard and pronounced it as "just right". The Christmas Spirit had returned to Foy and Edna.

It was getting late, so we wished them Merry Christmas and headed back home, with our own Christmas memories in our heads.

We hope your Christmas is memorable, with family and friends getting together to create memories that will be remembered for many years.

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