



ARMSTRONG LODGE #445 Newsletter

Issue 9

June 2010

The Year in Review.....

Thank you for all your support over the past year. The way the brethren work together here, makes everything so much easier.

As a recap of this past year, we have had 2 candidates go through all three degrees plus turn in their work. Even now these young men are stepping into leadership roles in our lodge.

The extra office space has been leased to wonderful renters. Our booth at the P&M Festival was a great success. We raised enough money to give a worthy

student a \$1000.00 scholarship. In November, the Lodge assisted the community by winterizing automobiles for people who could not do this for themselves. This gave them an extra sense of security knowing that there vehicles did not have any dangerous issues going into the cold weather season. The Christmas baskets for our Masonic widows is another tradition that keeps getting better and is looked forward to every year. We also celebrated our widows by honoring them at our annual Christmas supper.

Joe Beach was the deserving Golden Trowel honoree for 2010 and we had a great turn-out for this celebration.

We celebrated our 20th year honoring our teachers with a "teachers breakfast."

AND we have brand new flooring in our hallways, bathrooms and eating area.

This is by no means an exhaustive list so forgive me if I have left something out. But.... You get the idea.

THANK YOU for all you have done this year!!

A very busy June....

Our regular stated meeting will be Tuesday June 1st. Please try to be in attendance as this will be election night. We look forward to seeing you there!

Mark your calendars for June 12-13. We will be

hosting a CASI Chili Cook-off at our lodge. We will need tasters on both days. You will be surprised how much fun you will have. For more information call Brother Pacheco at 734-5164. On Saturday, June 19th

we will have our first annual Masonic Family Picnic. Bring your family and friends. Masons and non-Masons. We ask that lodge members would bring either a side dish or a dessert. Bring your lawn chairs.

Freemasonry
Values In Action



Masonic Moment

Knowing Masonry - background history and stories, adds value to your Masonry How many degrees were in the original Blue Lodge?

Two. Entered Apprentice and Fellow Craft; Master Masons were senior Fellow Crafts; this is the reason why the secrets were imparted upon the points of FELLOWSHIP, not APPRENTICESHIP or MASTERSHIP.

Sometime around 1711 in we begin to see a new

“high” degree. This was called the Master Mason degree.

There were 2 different representations in the MM degree depending on your local. Noah and Hiram. Over time, the Noahchite legend succumbed to the legend of Hiram Abiff.

It should be noted that both Noah and Hiram are both mentioned in the Medieval Old Charges. The earliest one found is the Regis Manuscript circa 1390.

Some VERY Good Info On Growing Your Lodge By Jim Allen 32° KCCH

Thank you for your interest and your service. I have never held an office in the Lodge, although I have held most offices in The Scottish Rite and retired General Secretary of the Scottish Rite. I point this out to show it wasn't my ideas on membership growth. I have observed the Lodges I have belonged to and helped make some changes.

I have argued with Grand Masters for several years over "To be one ask one". I'm not advocating advertising for members. Over the last 15 years I have top line signed over 60 new members. My (Masonic approved) method? I've put myself in the position to talk about Freemasonry at every chance to explain what we do. I explain our policy of, "Every member asked us to join", and follow up by saying, " Now, if you ask me, I'll tell you anything you want to know. I've always been amazed at the responses I get.

We open our Lodge to any group that wants a tour. (You have to tell them, write a letter offering tours) Our building was built in 1928. We have a large number of organizations that are thrilled to get a tour and a briefing on Masonry. Most every adult in America knows about Masonry, a least something. Most feel we are a secret organization. Very few even know you have to be a Mason to be a Shriner or York or Scottish Rite. Most have relatives that were Masons, but because its a secret, they seldom get a chance to ask, How do I join? I have talked to many men who are sons of Masons and their fathers never told them about the Masons because "its a secret". We have very few secrets left. Anyone with a internet connection can find out about just about anything they want, including our degrees.

Some of the challenges I've fielded are:

Your restricted to men only, Answer, Have you ever known of a fraternity that had female members? or a sorority that had male members?

I don't trust secret organizations, Neither do I. Did your club give you directions to get here today? Yes. Did it have this address on it? Yes. Was the name on the building? Yes.

If it was a secret, do you think we would tell everyone

where we meet or for that matter, publish when we meet?

The lady that asked this question is the one that called and ask if I would come and explain, the Masons, to her husband and son, who are now both Masons and she is now in Eastern Star. I could go on for days about this one.

Other areas! Blow your own horn!!! If you do something tell the papers. Learn how to do press releases and use them. I will guarantee the library has a book on how to do this. No, its not easy. 60% of all news releases never get published because they were not written well and get thrown away.) Have a Masonic open house at the Lodge, prepare it well and advertise it. Dan Brown and National Treasure has done a great deal to give us free publicity, capitalize on it. Hold a Masonic information night at the Lodge.

Use what you have. What do you have? You have a vast warehouse of knowledge. Ask your members for their ideas. Some will be good and some will be bad. Every apple on your apple tree will not be good, just don't eat the bad ones. But remember, if its their idea, they are more likely to help. Past Masters are always Past Masters. That means they are always obligated to assist the Lodge. Appoint them the task of turning things around.

I've done a great deal of reading and study on Freemasonry and I have never seen any research on the connection to Masonry of the most used statement in history, "we tried that in 1976 and it didn't work".

De Vinci invented many things that didn't work. Not at that time anyway. They did work when tried again.

One last thing. At every stated meeting, your attending members sign the book. Compare it to your membership roster, then have a committee to call everyone absent. Be ready to field the answers you get., i.e..

I'm 92 years old and can't get out. They wont let me drive anymore. Ask them if you can help. Keep the answers and study them. People have the habit of answering direct questions but you need to be prepared to listen to those answers.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



We're on the web!
www.armstronglodge.org

Con't from page 2

Don't let your committee call them the next month only to get the same answer. Be prepared to say you called to ask if he's feeling any better, etc. Its important to maintain communications with you members. Another last thing, if you find your short of officers for a degree, call the other Lodges in you area and ask for help. They are qualified and will give the assistance you need. I hope I haven't overburdened you with my ramblings. I am always here and am always interested in anyone that is interested in the future of Freemasonry. Thank you for asking.
Jim Allen, 32° KCCH

Upcoming Items of Interest

Armstrong Lodge stated meeting

1st Tuesday at 6:30 pm

Esoteric practice

Thursdays 6:00 pm

Order of the Eastern Star

2nd Monday at 6:30 pm

Tri-County Scottish Rite Meeting

5th Tuesdays at 6:30 pm

Fort Worth Scottish Rite Meeting

3rd Thursday at 6:30 pm

York Rite Chapter & Council

4th Mondays at 6:00 pm

York Rite Commandery in Granbury

3rd Wednesday at 6:30 pm

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