

DISTRICT 50 CALENDAR

DECEMBER

- 1 T.Neal Porter 1354
- 2 Hill City 456
- 3 Austin Scottish Rite
- 4 Onion Creek 220
University 1190
Grand Lodge Communication
(December 4th through the 6th)
- 5 OES 304
- 8 Colorado Commandery
- 10 Parsons 222**
- 11 Lone Star Chapter, Austin Council
- 12 Ben Hur Shrine
- 13 Masonic Family Weekend—Arlington
- 15 Austin 12
Colorado 96
- 17 Parsons Practice & Degrees**
- 18 Sojourner's Business Meeting
Noon - BAE Cafeteria
- 24 Sojourner's Stated Meeting
18:00 - BAE Cafeteria

JANUARY

- 1 Onion Creek 220
University 1190
- 2 OES 304
- 5 T.Neal Porter 1354
- 6 Hill City 456
- 7 Austin Scottish Rite
- 8 Lone Star Chapter, Austin Council
- 9 Ben Hur Shrine
- 12 Colorado Commandery
- 14 Parsons 222**
- 15 Sojourner's Business Meeting
Noon - BAE Cafeteria
- 19 Austin 12
Colorado 96
- 21 Parsons Practice & Degrees**
- 28 Sojourner's Stated Meeting
18:00 - BAE Cafeteria

FEBRUARY

- 2 T.Neal Porter 1354
- 3 Hill City 456
- 4 Austin Scottish Rite
- 5 Onion Creek 220
University 1190
- 6 OES 304
- 9 Colorado Commandery
- 11 Parsons 222**
- 12 Lone Star Chapter, Austin Council
- 13 Ben Hur Shrine
- 16 Austin 12
Colorado 96
- 18 Parsons Practice & Degrees**
- 19 Sojourner's Business Meeting
Noon - BAE Cafeteria
- 25 Sojourner's Stated Meeting
18:00 - BAE Cafeteria

Parsons Lodge No.222,A.F. & A.M.

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Career and Technology Education Department

T R O W E L

THE NEWSLETTER OF PARSONS MASONIC LODGE NO. 222, ANCIENT FREE & ACCEPTED MASONS

TEXAS SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF CTE TAKES OVER PRINTING FOR PARSONS

The expense of running a lodge can be daunting: Grand Lodge returns, rent, Masonic supplies, newsletter printing, postage, food and more. For example, printing 12 issues of the Trowel at Kinkos cost approximately \$876. Add an additional \$738 for postage, and the cost of printing and mailing the Trowel is approximately \$1600 annually. As members of Parsons, this great little lodge that we love so much, we are always looking for ways to reduce the cost of doing business.

At the Warden's retreat earlier this year, I met Miquel Marler, Junior Warden at University Lodge. We were tasked in the afternoon breakout session to find ways to improve lodge communications. The usual ideas of developing a website, newsletter and email were suggested. In

discussing the newsletter, Miquel said that University printed extra copies and left them in public places like the Capital building and other public and Masonic buildings. He also told us about working with the Texas School for the Deaf CTE program to print their newsletter. CTE stands for Career and Technology Education. The program gets teenage students involved with contemporary technology and teaches them skills relevant to technology jobs in the world

today. CTE has a state of the art print shop which provides training in computer based publishing.

Miquel said that University was getting a better quality product printed through CTE at substantial savings.

I asked him if they needed additional projects for students to work with and he said yes. Further, he said that he would contact CTE to confirm this and provided he provided me with a contact at the school.

After several emails, we made arrangements with CTE to have the Trowel printed through their publishing program for Parsons. \$40 per issue for 175 copies. And, the best news, CTE prints in full color.

Kinkos, while they were very responsive and did a good job, cost \$72 per issue printed in black and white.

Working with CTE, the cost of printing the Trowel per year will be reduced by \$338 and the quality of printing is significantly better.



Rigoberto feeds the folding machine.

The next task is to reduce mailing cost. Over the years we have casually approached the topic of trying to reduce mailings and save money on postage. We can do this, but only with the cooperation of the membership. Not all members have an email address, but, for those that do, emailing the Trowel will cost us nothing and we should be doing this. Even if we only reduce the mailing by 25%, this will save us an additional \$184.



Heather Goff, print shop teacher for the T.S.D. CTE program.



Valeria sets up the Trowel for direct printing to CTE's state of the art Xerox press.



CTE's Xerox digital direct press.



Rigoberto and Valeria examine folded copies for errors.

Parsons is a small lodge. We do not have multi-million dollar endowments and the meager investments we do have need to be protected to ensure our own solvency. There's an old saying: *We do not own the earth, we borrow it from our children.* In a way, the same is true for Parsons. The decisions we make today will directly affect the health of Parsons for generations to come.

Finally, I wanted to emphasize the value of the Warden's retreat. The program is filled with great training and the contacts made and networking that takes place is invaluable.

— Paul Bullock, Junior Warden



Pictured above: Post Oak Masonic Lodge 181 on the corner of Plum and Main in Beakiss, Texas

A VISIT TO BEAUTIFUL DOWNTOWN BEAUKISS, TEXAS—HOME OF POST OAK 181

Sunday morning, November 2nd was quiet. My wife and I were following our usual rhythm of reading and enjoying the recent blessing of cooler temperatures. But we were antsy. Having been cooped up all week, we decided that this was the perfect opportunity for a road trip. But where to go? Linda asked: *where do you want to go?* I responded: *I don't know, where do you want to go?* Anyone married will recognize this dialogue as standard protocol for decision making in all matters social. Finally, after several sorties of indecision, I challenged: *Let's drive to beautiful downtown Beakiss.* Linda put on her best puzzled expression and replied dryly: *where in the heck is Beakiss?* I said, *oh it's not far, just outside of Elgin.*

So, we loaded up the Honda with camera, books, dogs and map and we were off.

Our quest: Beakiss or bust.

The route seemed convincingly easy enough: 290 East 5 miles past Elgin, left on 696 towards Lexington, five miles later, left on 619 towards Taylor and then five miles later, on the corner of Plum and Main we were destined to find Beakiss and the beautiful country lodge, revered as Mecca in District 47, known as Post Oak Masonic Lodge 181.

The journey went smoothly, at first, negotiating the turn on 696 and 619 easily. At the turn for 619, there was a large Masonic sign indicating that we were on the right path for Post Oak 181. Five miles later, we found a road again marked with a Masonic sign indicating that we should turn right, which we did. Then we drove and drove and drove. The scenery was beautiful; gentle rolling hills, ancient live oaks, country farms and homes. 4 or 5 more miles later, we reached a T in the road. To the left, a dead end, to the right, a gate. Hmm. I looked at Linda and said, *We must have taken the wrong road, I didn't see a City Limit sign for Beakiss, did you?* No, she replied, prying herself from her latest Swedish detective mystery, *I didn't see anything that looked like a town to me.*

Alright, backtrack. So, we turned around, drove slowly, looking for clandestine roads we might have missed and anything that resembled a town. Eventually, we found ourselves at the same corner where we had turned right 15 minutes earlier. Perplexed, I put the Honda in park and proceeded to examine the map. According to Google and our Rand McNally Texas map, we should be there. But where was it? Linda was looking out of the passenger side window and said:

What's that building over there? I glanced and said, *Oh, that looks like a country farm house.* Then, I looked again. On the porch railing, I could scarcely make out a Masonic square and compass.

I backed up, turned down the road leading to the building, and wouldn't you know it; I found myself in the middle of beautiful downtown Beakiss. We parked the car and walked around the building. On the porch railing, in addition to the Masonic square and compass, there were welded letters and numbers flanking both sides of the wooden stairs leading to the porch: P O 181. We had arrived.

Post Oak Masonic Lodge 181 holds their stated meeting on the first Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. I have heard many times from Right Worshipful Archie Scott, that 181 always has a good crowd for their meetings. I would love to visit and share fellowship with them. If any of Parsons members would be interested in attending the December meeting with me, please contact me and we can arrange carpooling.

I can assure you that I know the way to beautiful downtown Beakiss.

—Paul Bullock, Junior Warden

VETERANS DAY

As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.

—John Fitzgerald Kennedy

In the beginning of a change, the patriot is a scarce man, and brave, and hated and scorned. When his cause succeeds, the timid join him, for then it costs nothing to be a patriot.—Mark Twain, Notebook, 1935

PARSONS NEW WEBSITE

For those of you who are not aware, Parsons has a brand new website. One of the goals of the communication committee this year was to revamp the website with a focus on attracting new members and improving our search results score with various search engines, such as Google and Yahoo.

To improve our position on Google was not an easy task. It required adding two metatags, description and keywords, making individual page names meaningful, adding links from other websites to ours and making the content of our website relevant to the metatags and page names. Currently, we are bouncing between page one and two on Google search results when you search using criteria like: "masonic lodge Austin" or "Parsons Lodge."

Our website currently contains information on what it means to be a Mason, how to become a Mason, a downloadable PDF form of the Grand Lodge membership petition, Officers of Parsons Lodge, their contact information, a dynamic calendar of Masonic events in District 50, past issues of Parsons' newsletter Trowel in PDF format and links to other Masonic entities.

The site is complete with the exception of Parsons history which Past Master Keye Perry is currently editing to a one page document. This will be added to Parsons website in the near future.

The really good news is that because of the intense competition between internet service providers, we were able to register our domain and get one year of hosting for just over \$18.

Take a peek when you have a moment.

<http://www.parsonsmasoniclodge222.org>

GRAND LODGE, 2008

The 173rd Grand Lodge communication will take place from December 4-6th in Waco. Primary officers should attend. All Masons interesting in Masonic government and parliamentary procedure, should attend.

Family members and friends are welcome to attend as well. Portions of the communication will be available to all.

Pre-registration deadline is November 17, 2008. The pre-registration form is available for download from the G.L. website at:

<http://www.grandlodgeoftexas.org/>

Living Past Masters

2007-08	Konrad Riley
2006-07	Mark Dermit
2005-06	George Schalles
2004-05	Jim King
2003-04	Jerry Yelvington
2002-03	Jerry L. Martin
2001-02	Jeffry N. Deitrich
1999-00	Robert E. Emrie
1998-99	Octavio T. Garza
1997-98	Andrew J. McVeigh, III
1996-97	Bobby R. Antilley
1994-95	George M. Robbins
1993-94	Cecil C. Goodwin Jr.
1989-90	John Rewjuk
1988-89	James M. Lindsey
1987-88	Stephen E. Lovell
1986-87	Stuart M. Smith
1981-82	Russel Edward Hain
1979-80	Curtis V. Peterson
1978-79	William R. Banks
1977-78	James G. Dougherty
1976-77	Forest C. Roan, Jr.
1975-76	David B. McCormick
1974-75	David L. Sikes
1973-74	David L. Herrington
1972-73	James L. Finto
1971-72	Ollie C. Jones
1970-71	Glen E. Page
1968-69	Victor Y. Armstrong, Jr.
1967-68	Richard E. Allen
1963-64	Joe E. Shuberg
1959-60	Loss W. Carroll
1948-49	Ira L. Galloway

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