

DISTRICT 50 CALENDAR

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

MARCH

- 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.

David Peavy, Secretary
Post Office Box 2046
Austin, TX 78768-2046



T R O W E L

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

from the east—chris schonaerts



Brethren, it's that time of year when we seek the joy of the season and our attention turns to family and friends. We reflect on the year passed, ponder the year to come and give thanks to the Great architect of the Universe for the many blessings bestowed upon us.

I am so proud to be a Mason. A part of a society of great men who care deeply about the fraternity and what that fraternity represents—community. We do good work because it is our nature to do so. We give whenever we are able to do so. We share a common bond. It is who we are. We are Masons.

The trials that life presents are received as gifts by us. We don't shy away when situations become challenging. Rather, we welcome challenges for the value found in their many lessons.

I am so blessed. My wife and I are expecting twins any day now and we are elated with promise of new life coming into our home. Just think, I'm going to be a father—the greatest trial and gift that life can provide to any man. The wonderous rite of passage which transforms beauty and strength into wisdom.

It is easy in times of distress to lose focus on the things that make life rich and rewarding. And certainly, the many challenges that we are currently enduring are testimony to that. The economy in the tank, massive job losses, the instability of world safety and security, and sadly, the hatred and ignorance which pervades our very existence.

In spite of this, we must remain in good cheer and remember those things that are truly important. We must do what we are able to help create an omnipresent positive energy in the world.

That's we do best. Because we are good men striving to be better and helping to make the world a better place.

Have a happy, joyous and safe holiday.

—Chris Schonaerts, Worshipful Master

from the west—corey snyder



Brethren, The year draws to a close. The sunlight sharpens and the air feels harder, clearer. Winter approaches. We look toward finishing up our work—if only for a day or two—to celebrate holidays with family.

We find satisfaction closing the books on the year. We enjoy our rest. I always feel renewed after a few lazy days with family, thumbing through books, making sandwiches, and daydreaming. My mind is then clear to build a vision for a new season.

The new year presents us new opportunities as men and as Masons. I enjoin all Brothers of Parsons lodge to set aside some time this holiday season to think fondly of this old Lodge. Active Members or Long-lost Brothers, from our Senior Past Master to our Youngest Entered Apprentice, ask yourself: What has Parsons Lodge meant to you? How has it changed you? How has it challenged you? And, most importantly, what should Parsons Lodge 222 be in the future? Let us seize the opportunities of the new year, and ensure a strong, healthy Lodge for generations of future Texas Masons.

Take the initiative, my Brethren. Be bold enough to dream the future of your Lodge, and have the fortitude to bring it to be. Do not allow the lessons of your degrees to become rote—learn them through action. It is in our work together, shoulder-to-shoulder, that Masonry most readily proves its worth.

Now, in this cold season, is the time to plan, to daydream. In a few months, as the June election of officers approaches, step forward, speak up for that committee membership. Volunteer your talents. Play a part—no matter how small—in the future of your Lodge. Invest yourself in Masonry and you will no doubt be repaid. There will be much work to do in the new year. In the meantime, take time to rest, to appreciate those blessings of the deepest heart, and to hope for the future.

Sincerely and fraternally,

—Corey Snyder, Senior Warden

from the south—paul bullock



Brethren, what keeps a lodge running? The answer is simple, yet complex. It requires work by it's members. It requires it's members to actively

participate in the various functions that keep the lodge vibrant and alive.

I often think about the members that contribute to the success of Parsons Lodge 222 and we have many unsung heros. Members that serve Parsons in many ways, some of which are readily apparent, others just seem to happen. But, do we realize how the contributions of our members keep Parsons functioning month after month.

First, we have the secretary, one of the most important positions in the lodge, who diligently works long hours—most of which take place outside of the lodge—to ensure that a correct record of our proceedings is maintained. To ensure that all transactions are recorded and that our bills are paid. It is the secretary that makes sure that dues reminders are sent and dues collected every year and it is the secretary that reports these findings to Grand Lodge. It is the secretary that develops the agenda for the meeting and communicates this to the Worshipful Master for corrections and approval. It is the secretary that works closely with the Treasurer to ensure that the records of both the Treasurer and the Secretary are reflected accurately in the minutes. It is a daunting task to keep up with everything that a secretary does. Without a competent secretary, Parsons simply would not operate as well as it does.

Then there are the stewards. These brothers sacrifice many hours of their time each month to ensure that our membership has a decent meal to eat before our stated meetings. Typically, the stewards arrive at the lodge by noon on the day of our stated meeting. And prior to this, they have been at the grocery store shopping the meal. They cook the food, prepare the dining room and clean the kitchen and dining room after the meal is finished. They are usually last to attend the meeting and last to leave the lodge



Is there anything upon your desk, Brother Secretary?

Those of you in attendance at the November stated meeting may have heard your Secretary mention while reading Masonic anniversaries, “yours truly on the eighth of oh three.” Thus at the end of the fifth year in the Craft, your Secretary will have six years of Masonic Secretarial experience. How you may ask is this possible? (I ask that of myself frequently) Well, at years end I’ll have put in three at the Thistle, two at Robert Burns 127, and one at Parsons.

Is serving as Secretary of multiple organizations a lot of work? To be certain. And it can from time to time cause one to pause and check to see which hat you’re wearing. Moreover it is an honor indeed and a privilege to serve ones Brethren and the Craft in this capacity. It affords the one cheerfully discharging the duties of the office a range of experiences, the vast majority of which are positive indeed and quite fulfilling. As well, it causes one to employ or otherwise rapidly develop organizational processes that are universally applicable.

One thing I think is really neat about being Secretary occurs immediately before the Lodge is opened and after the Lodge is closed. Invariable there are several Brothers in formation about the Secretary’s desk to dispose of a varying degree of business matters. The conversations transpiring in this local are always interesting and really give a sense of the mood of the Lodge. The next interesting bit is the mad dash from the desk in the Lodge Room to the office in the basement. Upon this trek multiple requests are usually made and executed with varying degrees of accuracy and timeliness.

Which brings meet to a point of housekeeping and the conclusion of this little memoir: Email it! Please please email it. An ancient Chinese proverb, *The faintest ink is better than the keenest memory.* As a physician updating a patient’s chart would tell you, “If you didn’t write it down, it didn’t happen.” A HR director at Fortune Twenty company once told me, “Email is forever.” “Isn’t email a wonderfully effective way to stay in touch,” said Dr. Joby Dixon. “[email] is also my work queue,” for Brother Frank Gray Stevenson, Jr.

—Dave Peavy, Secretary

Christmas, also referred to as Christmas Day or Christmastide, is an annual holiday celebrated on December 25 that marks and honors the birth of Jesus of Nazareth, His birth, which is the basis for the Anno Domini system of dating, has been determined by modern historians as having occurred between 7 and 2 BC. The date of celebration is not thought to be Jesus’ actual date of birth, and may have been chosen to coincide with ancient Roman solar festivals that were held on December 25.



Religious Symbolism of the 12 Days of Christmas

- 1 True Love refers to God. A Partridge in a Pear Tree refers to the bounty of God.
- 2 Turtle Doves refers to the Old and New Testaments.
- 3 French Hens refers to Faith, Hope and Charity, the Theological Virtues.
- 4 Calling Birds refers to the Four Gospels and/or the Four Evangelists.
- 5 Golden Rings refers to the first Five Books of the Old Testament, the *Pentateuch*, which gives the history of man’s fall from grace.
- 6 Geese A-laying refers to the six days of creation.
- 7 Swans A-swimming refers to the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, the seven sacraments.
- 8 Maids A-milking refers to the eight beatitudes.
- 9 Ladies Dancing refers to the nine Fruits of the Holy Spirit.
- 10 Lords A-leaping refers to the ten commandments.
- 11 Pipers Piping refers to the eleven faithful apostles.
- 12 Drummers Drumming refers to the twelve points of doctrine in the Apostle’s Creed.

from the south—paul bullock

after it is closed. By the time everything required by the stewards is completed, they will have clocked well over ten hours of their time each month. Over the past several years, Parsons has become known for the quality of their meals and this is due to the efforts of our stewards.

Then there are the committees. I don't think anyone realizes how much work goes into conducting a successful committee. Take the finance committee for example. They have to coordinate with the secretary and treasurer to obtain the minutes and transactional records of the lodge for examination. Then, they must painstakingly compare that which is written in the minutes with the records of both the treasurer and bank statements to find any and all errors and/or omissions. Finally, they must communicate with each other and compile a report for the lodge with their findings. It takes a great deal of time to assemble this data and produce a quality financial audit of lodge transactions.

And the finance committee is but one of many committees that Parsons must have in order for it to operate properly. Fraternal Assistance, Sickness, and Arbitration, Awards, and Communications committees are required as well. And these are just the standing committees.

Finally, there are the degree teams who make new Masons. Without question, this is one of the most important duties a Mason can perform. Parsons leads a charmed existence having members that are consistently willing to dedicate their time towards providing good degrees for our newest brothers, bringing them from darkness to the light.

Dovetailing the degree teams are the lodge instructors who, year after year, candidate after candidate, perform the honorable duty of teaching the work. Lodge instructors are the backbone of our membership. Without them, we would be unable to make new Masons. Do you remember how incredible it was meeting with your lodge instructor those many evenings and learning the first words of Masonry from mouth to ear. And being proficient enough to teach the work represents many hours of study and practice.

So, as I reflect on this eve of Thanksgiving, we have much to be thankful for. Parsons is a great lodge, we have a very active membership and I wanted to thank you for the dedication, hard work, friendship and fellowship which you have provided.

—Paul Bullock, Junior Warden

Parsons.com Update

The most valuable website statistic is how many unique visitors have perused your website. Below is a weekly count of unique visitors to Parsons website since its launch in October:

Week Start	Unique Visitors
Nov 22, 2008 09:25	33
Nov 15, 2008 09:25	60
Nov 8, 2008 09:25	59
Nov 1, 2008 10:25	37
Oct 25, 2008 10:25	37
Oct 18, 2008 10:25	26
Oct 11, 2008 10:25	28

So, not a huge volume of unique visitors, but, we are getting hits, which is good.

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. Gallaway

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