

Kendall Masonic Lodge No. 897 AF & AM
897 East Blanco Road • Boerne, Texas 78006

November 2013



FROM THE EAST

Greetings Brethren,

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!! I hope everyone has a great Thanksgiving holiday with family and friends. The lodge will be dark from Wednesday November 27th through Sunday December 1st to allow all members the opportunity to spend time with family and friends. I urge everyone to be careful in their travels and watch out for the other driver.

October was another very busy and productive month. On October 5th we hosted the Grand Masters Workshop for the 51st and 52nd Districts and it was a great success. PM Chris Williams conducted the workshop, and the attendees participated in the exercises with great enthusiasm. On one level or another everyone departed our lodge with new knowledge.

The BBQ Brisket and Sausage fall fund raiser conducted on October 19th was a great success!! Everyone I spoke to said they loved the new menu of brisket with the sausage this year. We did experience a short period when we ran out of brisket, but the problem was quickly resolved and we continued to serve. I would like to apologize to those who were had to wait for their brisket or had a second sausage as a substitute. I want to thank all those who worked so hard to plan, prepare, serve, and clean up for this event. As much as I would like to list everyone by name and job they did, space does not allow it. However, I do want to acknowledge Brother Dow Mathis who worked so hard as committee chair, Brother Billy Lieck who worked so hard to cook all the meat, and Brother Lewis Gimbel who donated all the beans for the event.

The October dinner and stated meeting was a another success!! Our Stewards prepared and served a wonderful meal consisting of beef stroganoff, green beans, salad, bread, and iced tea. A local physician, Dr. Victor Vela spoke to members and guests about Diabetes—its Causes and Compli-

cations. Dr. Vela's presentation was excellent, and he was deluged with questions during the Q&A period.

PM Chris Williams, from the Grand Lodge of Texas Masonic Education and Service Committee, delivered the meeting's Masonic education with a presentation entitled "There Is No Texas Without Freemasonry". PM Williams' presentation was so complete and entertaining that he drew a strong standing ovation at its conclusion.

I want to again acknowledge Brothers Clarence Smith, Billy Lieck, Duane Garza, and Phillip Archilla for all the hard work they have done in the kitchen remodeling. New stainless steel counter tops are installed and the kitchen drawers are almost finished. These Brethren are working extremely hard and dedicating many hours to make our kitchen attractive, modern, convenient and practical. Future efforts include caulking, some ceiling tile replacement, and minor trim work. The kitchen is really looking good and all this work will be enjoyed for decades to come.

We are currently about \$2,400 short of fully covering the expenses of the AC replacement and kitchen remodeling projects. **I most certainly want to thank all those who have donated to date.** It is through the generosity and benevolence of our members that we have completed these projects without dipping into our emergency funds. As our building ages, it will require more and more maintenance such as roof replacement, electrical repairs, etc. We need to be financially prepared to deal with these items. Our Funds Preservation Committee is working with the Finance and Budget Committee to establish a process to begin setting aside a portion of our operating income to the Building and Maintenance Fund. Doing this will hopefully preclude having to ask members in the future to donate for major repairs. When the details for the program are complete, it will be presented to the membership for review and approval. The membership will then

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vote to make the savings program a formal Standing Rule. When proposed, we will publish the new Standing Rule in the *Trestle Board*. In the meantime, **it is our hope that we will continue to receive donations to cover the current AC and kitchen expenses.**

At our November stated meeting dinner, Ms Kathy Bandujo will speak to members and guests about a charity new to our area: *Blessings in a Backpack*. At the end of August, she had requested our lodge to consider supporting their program. I established a committee to investigate and report back to the membership. During the October Stated meeting, the committee chair Brother Scott Hoiberg, reported that the organization is legitimate, and is seeking food and financial support to provide weekend food for Boerne ISD's needy children. Many of these children go hungry on the days they are not in school. A motion was made that for the present, we establish a box in the foyer for donations of food that will be distributed by that organization. The motion was seconded, discussed, and approved.

Brother Charlie Lloyd is scheduled in November to present the more interesting points of our lodge's history. Our history is significant and it should be considered an element of our Masonic education. I really look forward to Brother Lloyd's presentation.

One of our lodge Brothers called me last month prior to the fund raiser and asked if we were selling children's tickets. I explained to the Brother that we did not plan for nor print children's tickets for this fundraiser and that it was too late to change things. I thanked the Brother for his inquiry and told him that I would research the issue for future fund raisers. On asking, I found that the lodge did sell children's tickets some years back, and the logistics and meal control were a significant problem at the time. I am asking the chair of our spring Fish Fry Dinner to consider children's tickets and children's meals in the planning. When the committee reports their plan, I will publish the results.

A couple of weeks ago another Brother stopped by the lodge to inquire about our scholarship program to see if his grand daughter would qualify. The Scholarship Committee is currently working to update and produce a document that will detail the process for applying, the guidelines for receiving,

and the lodge's involvement in awarding the scholarships. Copies of this document will be available for anyone (Mason or not) who is interested in the process. We will also publish the procedure in the Trestle Board and on our website

Speaking of scholarships, we are currently selling raffle tickets to fund these awards and other local charities. The lodge voted last year to award a scholarship to a senior at each of the three high schools in Kendall County—Comfort, Boerne, and Champion. Adding the third scholarship increases the funds needed to support these awards. I am asking the members to help with this effort in any manner you can. **Members may contact our secretary to purchase or sign out tickets to sell.** Each ticket is eligible to win one of four outstanding prize packages listed in this Trestle Board. If you are receiving this Trestle Board via eMail, color photos of the prizes are included.

I would like to thank our Stewards, Brother Duane Garza and Billy Lieck, for the great meal served at our October stated meeting and for the other amenities they provide during called meetings and other functions. These Brothers work hard to support the lodge. If you have not participated in any of the stated meeting dinners, I urge you to come and enjoy their culinary skills.

One of my priorities is to keep the membership informed about lodge activities and I think publication of the monthly Trestle Board does the job. We have received many positive comments and **I urge you to let us know how we are doing.** If you would like to provide an article for future editions, please contact the secretary or me.

If you have an eMail address but are receiving this by "snail mail", I ask you to forward it to the Secretary. It will not be shared with anyone other than Grand Lodge.

We have started serving the stated meeting dinners at 6:15 PM instead of 6:30 to allow the scheduling of guest speakers prior to the meeting. They present topics pertinent to members and community.

I urge each member who has not recently attended lodge, to come to the next stated meeting or just stop by and visit with your brethren.

Please feel free to contact me or the secretary

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about any issue you feel important to the lodge or membership, and we will address it the best we can. You can contact the secretary through the lodge telephone at (830) 249-8917 or by email at kendall897@gvvc.com. You can contact me at my cell (210) 241-5268 or my email at qualchg@gvvc.com.

Robert “Bob” Easterling
Worshipful Master

**PLEASE SEE LAST PAGE FOR
 RAFFLE DETAILS**

SUPER SCHOLARSHIP RAFFLE!

For Kendall County High School Seniors

Kendall Masonic Lodge No. 897

Four tickets will be drawn; One for each of the following:

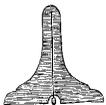
1. Two nights for two at Tapatio Springs Resort w/breakfasts, horseback rides, golf, massages. Plus \$340 Dick's Sporting Goods Certificate
2. \$430 Fredericksburg Bed & Breakfast Service Certificate for Lodging, Food, Wine Tours, and/or Spa. Plus \$100 for One-time hair cut, color, style
3. Sony Playstation 4
4. Handmade Desk Set made with rare & legally sourced Brazilian Rosewood. Plus a beautiful antique Buffet/Desk

Specimen

Need Not Be Present to Win

0000

Drawings to be held 7:00 pm, December 16, 2013
 897 E Blanco, Boerne, Texas 78006
 One Chance for \$10 or Five for \$40



FROM THE WEST

In writing this article, I call upon my experience as an agent with the Farm Bureau over the last thirty-seven years to explain certain ideas and practices which need to be addressed. As an agent I help others plan for their needs, both immediate and future. As Masons, we need to address some current and future concerns.

I believe that we, as Masons, are “going through on someone else’s push”. For those who have never driven through a ranch “bump gate”, it works something like this: you approach the gate with caution, you bump the gate with your front bumper and it opens, allowing you to pass through without getting out of the vehicle to open and close the gate. There

is a counter weight that will close the gate slowly behind you—and, if they are lucky, the second or third vehicle driving behind you. Because the second and third vehicle used no effort in opening the gate, they call it “passing through on someone else’s push”. I seriously believe we (as members of society and as Masons) have been driving through our financial responsibilities “on someone else’s push”. **That gate is about to hit us on the backside.**

I believe that there are three areas in our Masonic endeavors to which we can apply this “bump gate” principal: our finances, our Masonic foundations, as well as in our esoteric work. It is worth the time and effort to look at each of these areas.

Today I would like to concentrate on our finances within the Masonic Fraternity. Like many not-for-profit organizations, we have a history of spending most of our income on operations and rarely have an ‘intentional plan’ for future needs, such as building maintenance and other contingencies. We have recently heard this activity described as “kicking the can down the road”. We are not alone in this less than desirable practice. Just take a look around at churches, libraries, school districts, or museums and you will notice that many of these organizations fail to financially prepare for future needs, physical or otherwise. Even our magnificent Grand Lodge of Texas in Waco has the same need for capital, in order to maintain and preserve the gift given by our forefathers.

This is exactly what I refer to when mentioning that we are “going through on someone else’s push”. Have we been that second or third vehicle that has passed effortlessly through that financial “push gate” of those who built and funded our lodge? I believe we have. We can appreciate those who have laid the foundation on which we practice our Masonry today. We need to take responsibility, both in plan and practice, and take ‘financial’ care of what we have.

This article is a call to action. We need a plan!

(To be continued)

Respectfully submitted,
David K. Bruton
Senior Warden



FROM THE SOUTH

Brethren,

This month's meal for the November stated meeting will be a Thanksgiving Feast. Turkey & Dressing with all the trimmings.

PROCEDURE FOR CREATING A NEW BY-LAW FOR A LODGE

Any Master Mason can make a motion for a new By-Law in the lodge. After the motion is made and discussed at a stated meeting, the Worshipful Master may require a committee be formed to write the By-Law and present it to the lodge at the next Stated Meeting. All new By-Laws require that the new Law be discussed and amended, if necessary, at a Stated meeting after it is presented to the lodge members.

Then at the next Stated Meeting the By-Law must be voted on without further amendment. A majority vote of the members present shall be necessary to adopt the By-Law.

If approved, the By-Law must be submitted to the Grand Lodge Secretary's Office for approval no later than September 1st. The Grand Lodge By-Laws Committee must review and return to said lodge with any changes/corrections no later than October 1st.

The Lodge will then make needed changes and return them to the Grand Secretary's Office no later than November 10th, noting that the changes have been incorporated into the lodge's By-Laws.

No new By-Law will be approved until the Grand Secretary receives a corrected copy and the By-Laws Committee has verified the changes/corrections were made.

As you can see, adopting a new By-Law is not an easy or simple thing to do. As a general rule, Lodges will adopt new policies by creating new rules under their Standing Rules. These Rules can be voted in and changed without the approval of the Grand Lodge as long as they conform to Grand Lodge policies.

Ref: The Laws of The Grand Lodge of Texas on pages 121-122, Article #'s 218-221.

Bill Carder
Junior Warden



FROM THE SECRETARY'S CORNER

Brethren... this month I wanted to talk with you about our Scholarships Raffle. This is the third one that we have held and all of the money goes into a separate charitable account which we can only use for charitable donations. The four prizes for this raffle are for all of the family. They are:

1. **Two People for Two Nights at Tapatio Springs Resort. Includes breakfasts, golfing, etc. plus a \$340 gift certificate from Dick's Sporting Goods.**
2. **A \$430 Fredericksburg Bed & Breakfast Service Certificate plus a \$100 Hair Care Certificate for her (or you).**
3. **A Sony PlayStation 4.**
4. **A Handmade Desk Set made of rare (and legally sourced) Brazilian Rosewood plus an Antique Buffet/Desk.**

Think about how you, your wife, your kids or your grandkids could enjoy one of those prizes. There will be four drawings... one for each prize and you don't have to be present to win.

We have Brethren selling tickets and they are going pretty good, but we need more. IN FACT, we need **YOU!** Raffle tickets must, by state law, be sold by members of the organization holding the Raffle. **Tickets are \$10 per ticket or \$40 for 5 tickets.** Brethren this Raffle funds the lodge portion of Kendall Lodge Scholarships for Kendall County High School Seniors.

We need you to come by the Lodge and sign out some Raffle tickets and sell them to family and friends. Kendall Lodge needs **Two Hundred Thirty Plus** Salesmen out there, not just a few dozen no matter how dedicated they are. So come by, give us a hand, and be a part of our Masonic philanthropy to Kendall County. Also whoever sells the most gets a \$100 gift certificate.

We have several opportunities for you to come and see what's going on during the next 30 to 45 days or so. We have the following events coming up:

- **On Monday, December 2nd** Kendall Lodge will

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hold its Fellowcraft Education Night at 7:00 PM. As part of this evening's activities, W.M. Drew Elson of Medina Lodge No. 1319 will exemplify the second part of a Fellowcraft Degree in the Grand Lodge of Florida's work. Come and join us.

- **On Monday, December 9th** Kendall Lodge will honor its members who have achieved the level of 25 or 40 years of Masonic Service. Our District Deputy Grand Master will present Brothers Maurice Rose and Don Edmondson with their 50-Year Grand Lodge of Texas Service Award pins and certificates. Come and celebrate with them, their families, and our Brethren.

So there you have it for this month. Don't forget our Dinner and Stated Meeting on the third Monday. We're looking forward to seeing all of you soon.

Gary L. Bausell
Secretary

THE MEASURE OF A MAN

Anonymous

Not - How did he die? But - How did he live?
Not - What did he gain? But - What did he give?
These are the things that measure the worth
Of a man as a man, regardless of birth.

Not - What was his station? But - had he a heart?
And - How did he play his God-given part?
Was he ever ready with a word of good cheer?
To bring back a smile, to banish a tear?

Not - What was his church?
Not - What was his creed?
But - Had he befriended those really in need?

Not - What did the sketch in the newspaper say?
But - How many were sorry when he passed away?

These are the things that measure the worth
Of a man as a man, regardless of birth.

THE OLD MASTERS WAGES

I met a dear old man today,
who wore a Masonic pin,
It was old and faded like the man,
It's edges were worn quite thin.

I approached the park bench where he sat,
To give the old brother his due,
I said, "I see you've traveled east,"
He said, "I have, have you?"

I said, "I have,
and in my day before the all seeing sun,
I played in the rubble,
with Jubala, Jubalo, and Jubalum."

He shouted, "don't laugh at the work my son,
It's good and sweet and true,
And if you've traveled as you said,
You should give these things their due."

The word, the sign, the token,
The sweet Masonic prayer,
The vow that all have taken,
Who've climbed the inner stair.

The wages of a Mason,
are never paid in gold,
but the gain comes from contentment,
when you're weak and growing old.

You see, I've carried my obligations,
For almost fifty years,
It has helped me through the hardships
and the failures full of tears.

Now I'm losing my mind and body,
Death is near but I don't despair,
I've lived my life upon the level,
And I'm dying upon the square.

Sometimes the greatest lessons
Are those that are learned anew,
And the old man in the park today
has changed my point of view.

To all Masonic brothers,
The only secret is to care,
May you live your life upon the level,
May you part upon the square.

**MAY YOU LIVE YOUR LIFE UPON
THE LEVEL, MAY YOU PART UPON
THE SQUARE**

Kendall Masonic Lodge #897

(830) 249-8917

897 E. BLANCO RD, BOERNE, TEXAS

Four Prize Raffle!

Four tickets will be drawn!

One for each of the following!



Prize Package 1

Two Nights for Two at Tapatio Springs Resort
+
\$340 Gift Certificate for Dick's Sporting Goods



Prize Package 2

\$430 Gift Certificate for Fredericksburg (Texas) Bed & Breakfast Service (Lodging, Food, Wine Tours, Spa)
+
\$100 One-time Hair Cut/Color/Style



Prize Package 3

Sony Playstation (PS4)



Prize Package 4

Handmade Desk Set (Rare/Legal Brazilian Rosewood)
+
Beautiful Antique Buffet/Desk



Drawings to be held 7:00 pm, December 16, 2013, at 897 E Blanco Rd, Boerne, TX 78006
(For Kendall County High School Seniors' Scholarships)