



July 2017

FROM THE EAST



Greeting Brethren,

Words cannot express the honor I feel when I think of the trust that the brethren of Kendall Lodge have placed in me. I hope that your trust will turn out to be well-founded and that together we can do good work this year. I'd also like to thank all of the officers who agreed to serve with me, and especially PM Smith. You are a hard act to follow.

As this is a new experience for me, I'm reminded of another time when I did something new. About six and a half years ago, I stood at a door and knocked. The decision to knock on that door, and the trust that it required both in myself and in others, began a change that has progressed and still progresses today. This continuing change brings to mind the second question of the Entered Apprentice catechism, "What came ye here to do?" The answer is, in part, "To Learn."

When I think of the word "learning", other words come to mind. Knowledge. Wisdom. Light. As I was given Light, then Further Light, and finally More Light through the lodge, I found that the more I received the more I wanted. That thirst for more light is a thirst that can never be quenched and I am thankful to the fraternity for helping me remember what I had forgotten, that there is no greater pleasure for me than the pursuit of knowledge; the search for wisdom; the reaching out for more light. And you know the greatest thing about this pursuit, or search, or journey? It's that it never ends. Every revelation leads to more questions. Every time I think I've got something all

figured out, I discover that I'm really just scratching the surface.

Perhaps the greatest gift that masonry can bestow is the ability to learn, whether it's from a teacher, through the ritual, working in degrees, or what have you. Long ago, when our fraternal ancestors were first joined together into guilds and lodges, they were some of the few who could read and write. They were keepers of hidden knowledge, at least as far as the common man was concerned, for these masons kept the secrets of geometry, of engineering. Without these secrets the grand cathedrals, castles, and palaces of Europe and the British Isles would never have been.

This year I'm hoping to expand the amount of light that is cast in our lodge. I'd like to bring in some speakers to educate us at our stated meetings. If you have a recommendation, either of a subject that you'd like to have discussed or a speaker that you'd like to have come, please let me know, and the sooner, the better. There's so much to see, so much to learn as we travel on the level of time. Let's make the journey a memorable one.



New Worshipful Master Dow Mathis Receives Gavel From R.:W.: Gene Carnes, PGM



FROM THE WEST



It was a pleasure serving the lodge in the capacity of Junior Warden this past Masonic year. I have learned a great deal during this term, and look forward to continuing to serve the lodge and our community. As this year comes to an end, thus our journey through the various religions and their respective virtues comes to a close. If you followed my articles throughout this year you may have asked the question “what does this have to do with Masonry?”; well brethren, I am about to wrap up a very long and drawn out point to which I urge you to deeply consider.

At the beginning of the year I wrote about various systems of morals in which I argued that our system of morals was one concerning virtues, of which we subscribe to four: temperance, fortitude, prudence and justice. Without rehashing that entire article, a moral system based on virtues is solely interested in the development of an individual which is in contrast to most of the other moral systems that are seemingly more interested in the development of society and “the greatest good” for such. In virtue based moral systems there is a consistency in what is moral and immoral whereas in other systems based on “the greater good” of society argument, morals change with the ebb and flow of emotions (and profits). To illustrate this point we have all seen the “norms” within society change from time to time, what is right today could be wrong tomorrow, and the other way around. Moral virtues prepare an individual to be a self-governing, self-responsible member of society (to act with virtue), while the latter would prepare an individual to be governed by the emotional dictates of an ever-changing society. One creates independence while the other creates dependency.

Throughout the last year we journeyed through many religions exploring the virtues within to show that all the religions teach individual virtues. It can therefore be surmised that religions, in their most basic form, inherently subscribe to the theory of moral virtue. That they hold the development of individual moral character in the highest esteem is very clear. Additionally, if you followed the articles, no matter what religion is being covered it echoed, or expanded on the virtues of the last. It quickly became apparent that, although differing in their respective dogma, every religion teaches and holds sacred the same moral laws and principles. The question then arises, if that’s the case, why is our society or for that matter, the world, seemingly spinning out of control. Seems pretty clear, at least to me, that mankind is the problem at least in the sense that individual interpretation, which inherently carries with it personal agenda, and the perpetuation of dogma, usually devoid of natural moral laws, is the ultimate problem. The moral virtues taught within each and EVERY religion serves the purpose to develop an individual with moral virtue, and to prepare each to act according to the ultimate virtue of the golden rule.

As the saying goes, “Masonry is not a religion, but a society of religious men”, joined together in universal brotherhood for the betterment of society and each other. To accomplish this, I would argue, Masonry employs a system of morals which subscribes to virtues, not just any virtues, but the most practical ones found in common with every religion which allows us to dwell together in unity despite our diversity.

Hold fast to the virtues within your chosen religion, disregard the dogma, extremism, and the lackadaisical attitudes in practices we all see within each, and allow the light to shine in allowing us to see we are all not so different after all. Practice those most sacred virtues taught to you as an Entered Apprentice, no matter how much knowledge you may obtain never stray from the basics. Maybe then we can all live up to the greatest virtue of all, to do unto others as we wish done unto ourselves.



FROM THE SOUTH



Brethren,

I am honored to start my position this year in the south. With full excitement and anticipation, I can easily say, without a shadow of doubt, I feel like a new born baby!! Humor me and see my point of view...

Sure I have been in masonry for a while, been attending a bit more regularly, and learning new things, but when I was asked if I would serve in the South...I said "Really?...me?". I was told I was believed in and I would do a great job. Little did I know, thoughts and new realizations began growing in me faster than I realized.

If you think about it, South on a compass is at the bottom and if you want to move from this one position...you have to progressively move (regardless of side to side, diagonal, or up). Now this makes sense and sounds pretty simple. Consequently, is it really that simple to move? This is more of an intrinsic question which only you yourself can answer.

If you are willing to move, or rather grow, in a direction, you have to make yourself vulnerable. This means one will have to invest in himself and

step out of their comfort zone (which we all get complacent with and need to be reminded of). The minute one starts the process of advancing within themselves, they begin to escalate within to a new level of awareness. This can be awareness about accepting something about yourself you want to change regardless if it is a good or bad. Regardless if it is a good thing or a bad thing you want to change about yourself, it is still great because you have now acknowledged what you want to improve. You are moving in a direction!

Now since you are moving, what then? Well, now comes your investment to yourself. Like money, stock, projects, or farming...the more you put into something, there will be growth. Maybe the results are making more money, getting recognition on a project, producing a plentiful product, or maybe simple peace within you. It could be a positive result or a negative result, the growth is what you make or accept of it.

Yes, you are absolutely right on this being an everyday, life long process. Funny, if you think about, that isn't the challenge. The challenge is rather if one can even admit they need to start the process. It all starts out with growing. Can you imagine a baby being born and just taking off running?? We were not physically made that way. Consequently, we weren't cognitively made that way either. For me, growing is an everyday, every minute process, which is directed and driven by my self-conviction. I don't think I am alone in this, because as a Mason, we are good men trying to become better.



Kendall Masonic Lodge #897's New 2017—2018 Leaders With Installing Officers



SECRETARY'S CORNER



Brethren...June is always a busy month and this year was no different. We went from holding our Past Master's Night on June 5th with 17 Past Masters present, to closing the 2016-2017 Lodge of Sorrow on the 17th, to our Stated on the 19th honoring our scholarship winners, which was followed by having our Installation on June 24th. **What a month!**



First things first, I would like to **congratulate our newly installed 2017-2018 officers led by Worshipful Master Dow Mathis from the East, Matt Archilla from the West, and Ovidio Flores from the South.** No changes in the Northeast and Southeast as Abb and I were asked to continue in our current positions. We have new officers in our elected line as well as several in our appointed positions. I believe that everyone is looking forward to a great year! **Remember that with those new offices come new responsibilities.** *Come to practices and meetings*, learn the ritual and floor work, and practice with us. We're here Monday evenings at 6:30 PM, Wednesday and Saturday mornings after 9:00 AM and we have Past Master's and Brethren who can work with you.

Here are a few things to put on your calendar for July:



Monday, July 17th, will be our **July Stated Meeting** with Dinner starting at 6:30 PM, Food and Fellowship last until 7:20 PM or so, and our Stated Meeting starts at 7:30 PM. Some of our wives stay in the Banquet Room during the meeting so bring your wife and/or other family members and come to the dinner and meeting. At this meeting we hope to present our 2017 Lamar Medal to Mary Wanetta Hill of the Champion High School Staff. She has been recovering from knee replacement surgery.



On **Wednesday, July 26th** the **M. C. Holman Masters, Wardens and Secretaries Association of the 51st Masonic District, Grand Lodge of Texas** will meet in Fredericksburg Lodge No. 794 in Fredericksburg, TX. Light dinner at 6:30

PM with a short meeting at 7:00 PM. Come check us out and wives or visitors are welcome to attend.



Our congratulations to Robert Webb (Bandera 1123) for leading the Association this year and also **congratulations to Bill Lynn (Kerrville 697)** for being elevated to the **Presidency for the 2017-2018 Masonic Year.** **Our Worshipful Master Dow Mathis (Kendall 897)** will be installed as the **incoming President-Elect.** Come to the Installation of Officers at the July Stated Meeting at Fredericksburg Lodge No. 794 on July 26th. All Masons and guests are encouraged to attend. Welcome aboard!

Brethren... as I had been warning since the first of the year, **three (3) of our Brethren were suspended for non-payment of dues.** This is not something I like to recommend, but after three (3) mailed notices since November, emails, and phone calls and they're still not paid, it was necessary. **It is incumbent on us as Masons to see that either our dues are paid each year** or we can decide to purchase an Endowed Membership. **We also support our Lodge(s) and the Grand Lodge of Texas,** as well as their fundraisers and philanthropies, **with our time, effort, and money.**

PUT ON YOUR CALENDAR:



Also thank you for your congratulations to **Cindy Bausell as Worthy Matron and me as Worthy Patron.** We were installed on June 2nd in **Boerne Chapter No. 200, Order of the Eastern Star.** We'll enjoy continuing to work with the Lodge. Due to the Tuesday, July 4th Independence Day holiday, their Stated Meeting they will hold their Stated Meeting on Tuesday, July 18th.



Boerne Shrine Club we meet on Wednesday, July 19th this month. If you would like to attend we'll be dining at El Rio Mexican Restaurant on Wednesday, July 19th with Fellowship Hour at 6:00 PM and the Business Meeting at 7:00 PM. Come and join us.

Don't say that there is nothing going on at the lodge for you. We always have something going on that you can be a part of.

Gary L. Bausell
Secretary



<i>July Birthdays</i>	
Brother	Date
Morris C. Jernigan	7/1
Aaron M. Heidbreder	7/2
Thomas L. Taylor	7/4
Shawn L. Dunham	7/5
Kyle G. Jackson	7/5
Jeffery L. Clark	7/5
Robert E. Messerli	7/6
Todd J. Caron	7/7
James K. Hardin	7/9
Garth W. Gombert	7/9
Douglas R. Babbitt	7/10
James L. Baker	7/18
Alfred G. Gray	7/18
Brian H. Rittimann	7/19
Robert D. Easterling	7/20
Clifford R. Rick	7/21
Howard H. Hutsell Jr.	7/21
Gilbert W. Alexander	7/22
Paul S. Lemon	7/22
Charles T. Whitehead	7/22
Marvil L. Agold	7/22
Edward A. Heath	7/22
Charles B. O'Brien	7/23
Brandt C. Klutts	7/24
Randall J. Stahl	7/25
Bradley D. Pecor	7/25
Marc J. McDonald	7/26
Johan I. Kala	7/27
Rudolph Aue III	7/31

<i>July Service Anniversaries</i>	
Brother	Years MM
Charley A. Taylor	57
John W. Uecker	55
Thomas B. Fuller	47
Lyndon R. Herridge	43
Herman H. Haas	43
Kenneth O. Booth	42
Charles T. Whitehead	38
David K. Bruton	37
Robert E. Magers	34
Lon J. Jett III	26
Frank W. Lieck	15
Marc J. McDonald	8
Ovidio M. Flores	8
Jimmie B. Black II	8
James R. Lloyd	7



Right: Installing Marshal, Bob Tucker, PM Declares Kendall Officers Regularly Installed