



**THE TRESTLEBOARD
SAM DAVIS LODGE
NO. 661 F. & A. M.**



Stated Meetings
1st Thursday at 7:00 PM
Gary Wayne Leffew – Worshipful Master

P.O. Box 364
Smyrna, Tennessee
459-4576
JUNE 2009

Practice and Degrees
Tuesday Nights at 7:00 PM
Charles Percy - Secretary

FROM THE EAST

Brothers, once again it was my pleasure to award a 50-year pin to a worthy Brother. Brother Leon Whitmore, raised as a Master Mason on May 22, 1959, received this special award at the June stated meeting. Congratulations Brother Whitmore for this outstanding achievement.

Our official visit is scheduled for June 18 and is fast approaching. I urge everyone to attend. We will eat at 6 and begin the meeting at 7. This is a covered dish dinner with the lodge supplying the main course. Also, don't forget our trip to Coosa, Georgia on June 26. This should be a lot of fun and I'm certain that Brother Grider will provide the "in-flight" entertainment.

Brothers, we'll host a Family Day at Sam Davis Lodge on Saturday, September 19. We'll be working out the details with the ladies of the Eastern Star—more to follow in the July Trestleboard.

Finally, I'd like to thank all the Brothers that donate their time to continue the improvements on our lodge. These Brothers are not seeking accolades but I think it's important to recognize them. A special thanks go out to Brothers Larry Hooper, Harold Grider, Doug Frazier, Larry Morgan, Charlie Percy, and Edward Waldron.

Fraternally, Gary Wayne Leffew, Worshipful Master

BALLOTING

How are a Masonic Lodge and a Business alike? One way is that a business can either grow and prosper or fail. Neither can remain the same. Both suffer from inflation and increased expense. If the business fails to meet the needs of the customer it fails and passes away just as though it never existed in the first place.

Consider this question, "Are we growing and prospering at Sam Davis Lodge?" Each time we have a death or demit to another lodge we lose members. We are not having enough petitions to replace our losses. We are not electing a sufficient number of the new petitions or petitions for affiliation to replace our losses. We are widely thought of as a lodge that turns down candidates who are worthy. I truly hope that we do not deserve this conspicuous distinction.

Each Master Mason has the privilege of voting on all candidates. Entered Apprentices or Fellow Crafts have not earned that high honor. With this privilege is inherited the responsibility to vote for the good of freemasonry and Sam Davis Lodge. It is absolutely correct and required to vote against any candidate who is not a good moral man, who does not support his family, who is not a good citizen of this country, who does not have the respect of his neighbors, who abuses drugs or alcohol, engages in illegal acts, and who is not just and upright in all his actions. It is a failure of our responsibility as individual masons to vote against a person who is a good moral man, supports his family, a good citizen, abides by the laws, and is just, and upright in all his actions. Any such action brings disgrace to Freemasonry as a whole and in particular, Sam Davis Lodge.

If any member abuses his responsibility to vote in favor of a good person for selfish reasons, spite, an unresolved disagreement, political views, just seeing things differently, thinking a person should not make it on the first ballot, or anything not based on the qualifications of a good moral man, then that member is obligated to search his heart and determine whether his association with men of good character has had the proper impact on his life and if he has effectively learned the moral lessons inculcated in our various degrees. Tests and trials are established, if properly implemented, to ensure only good candidates enter. We do not have the right to make up others.

If there are not enough men of good character left to fill the voids left in our Lodge, then we like the business are doomed to pass away forever, and that is as it should be. If we reject our precepts and unjustly deny membership to "men of good character", who come our way for unjust reasons we tarnish the name of "Freemasonry" and should not continue to flourish or even exist. "Remember your obligation and vote for the good of the order."

Larry Hooper, Senior Warden

Proficiency Card Renewals due at June 18th Official Visit

Henry Wayne Bain	Darrell Steven Bell	William Steven Bell
Floyd Bracy Dennis Sr	Henry Ray Faust	Michael Lee Ferrell
Harold Davis Grider	Joseph Noel Lebeau III	Gary Wayne Leffew
David Michael Oldham	James Wilson Smith	Bob Frank Stephenson
Van Gary Tenpenny Sr	Terry Levon Thompson	Robert Warren Waldron Sr

Happy June birthday to the following brothers:

Jerry Wayne Chrisman	6/24
Jerry Lamar Chunn	6/15
Fred Oplen Corbell	6/3
Conley Morgan Dykes	6/24
Jacob Artermus Ford	6/3
Larry Lee Fraley	6/8
Richard Thomas Goslee	6/28
Bobby Lee Harper	6/4
Charles Daniel Henderson Jr	6/15
Thomas Dewey Hoss	6/4
Aubrey Dale Jackson	6/22
Jerry Lamont Laney Sr	6/14
James William Lewis	6/16
Kenneth Lane Lewis	6/20
Paul Douglas Norfleet	6/21
Samuel Arthur Peterson	6/1
Timothy Wayne Robison	6/19
Warren Gene Russell Jr	6/24
William Michael Smith	6/1
James Marion Yearwood	6/11
George Titus Erdel	6/18
Thomas Lee Hickerson	6/23

Happy Masonic Birthday to the following brothers:

Michael Thomas Allen	6/4/79
Jackie Lynn Beeler	6/9/92
James Alfred Bricker II	6/3/86
Phillip Evans Chapman	6/25/73
David Leroy Hallock	6/20/72
Charles Daniel Henderson Jr	6/15/02
Raymond Clark Hutton Jr	6/12/84
Robert Alan Jackson	6/27/00
Phillip Wayne Lampley	6/18/82
Thomas William McGhee	6/29/91
Cletues Delrue McGowan	6/29/87
John Edward Moore	6/15/65
Jeffery Michael Muth	6/8/93
Ronald Eugene Neely Sr	6/4/64
Charles Ray Norfleet	6/29/96
Richard Joseph Popolillo	6/14/80
Barney Lee Raines	6/23/61
James Douglas Schmidt	6/4/57
Billy Joe Sells	6/18/02
Prim Hershel Shelton Jr	6/21/77
Robert Hershel Spearman Jr	6/27/72
John Murphy Taylor Jr	6/25/63
Larry Wayne Ward	6/24/03
Clarence Robert Winters	6/21/53
Jackie William Wood	6/26/65

What is the meaning of Dotage, nonage, Fool?

Dotage, feebleness of mind due to advanced years; senility. Old English, doten, dotien, silly. Dotage means no partical age, men live to the century mark with full possession of their minds and reasoning faculties; mental deterioration and senility may come in early years. Dotage thus refers to a ``state`` of mind and not to a ``year`` of mind. A man in his dtoage is not be confused with a fool.

A fool is one whose mind has never developed with his body; who is still

a child mentally although a man physically.

The man in dotage has been sensible and his sense has now deserted him;

the fool has never had good or common sense.

Nonage, of ``no age`` meaning not yet a man, still a boy, without legal

years. Nonage is an age less than that of manhood, universally in this country, the age of twenty-one years.

Larry Smith, PM, Historian

Upcoming Events:

9 June – Entered Apprentice Degrees

16 June – Entered Apprentice Degrees

18 June – Official Visit by Bro. K.I. Wright

19 Sept – Family Day

Every Fri. night – Line dancing at 7:00 PM

The Fourth of July

We will be celebrating the 4th of July very soon. We are all aware that Thomas Jefferson framed the Declaration of Independence at the behest of John Adams, but were you aware that both of these patriots died within hours of each other on the 4th of July, 1826 – 50 years after the signing.

AFFILIATE BODIES MEETINGS:

ORDER OF THE EASTER STAR 2nd Thursdays. Covered Dish at 6:00 p.m., Open at 7:00 p.m

YORK RITE MURFREESBORO 2nd Mondays at 7:00 p.m.

SMYRNA-LAVERGNE SHRINE CLUB 4TH Thursdays at Jim and Nicks BBQ in Smyrna

SICK

Brother J.T. Burnette, PM is in Mayfield Manor Nursing Home, Room 100. He would be most appreciative of your visit with him. Also, we're sure that George Kersey would appreciate a visit as he doesn't get out to the lodge as often as he would like. Also, please keep Doug Frazier in your prayers as he's been down with his back of late. Keep them in your prayers.

WEB SITE

Check out our web site at <http://samdavislodge.home.comcast.net/~samdavislodge/> A special thank you to Brother Floyd Dennis, Jr., our webmaster, for all of his great ideas and the time that he has donated in order for us to be on-line.

TRESTLEBOARD INFORMATION

If you have any information or announcements that you would like in the Trestleboard, call Mike Ferrell at 615-223-0379 or send him an email at Leefer@comcast.net