

Onion Creek Masonic Lodge #220
AF&AM
Post Office Box 150727
Austin, TX. 78715-0727

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Organization
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Austin, Texas
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May 2012

The Beacon

Onion Creek Masonic Lodge #220
Ancient Free and Accepted Masons
Chartered by the Grand Lodge of Texas – June 16, 1858
Visit our website at <http://www.onioncreek lodge220.org>



Lodge Officers 2011 - 2012

WM: Dennis J. Ross
SW: Adrian W. Edmundson
JW: Raul J. Scully
Treas: Dennis C. Kestner, PM
Sec: J. Roland Brown
Chap: John W. Turner, PM
SD: Ben B. Rauschke
JD: Curtis A. Gilgan
SS: Brett M. Chandler-Finch
JS: Jeff J. Carroll
Mar: Joe V. Seguin, PM
MC: Javier R. Gonzalez, PM
Mus: Chris R. Dawson
Tiler: Chris J. Walterscheidt

Living Onion Creek Lodge Past Masters

1969- Tommie J. Conner
1970- Ralph L. Cearley
1971- W. David Johnson
1974- Jimmy M. Hodges
1977- Roy L. Hamor
1978- Bobby J. Doherty
1980- Ronald B. Norwood
1981- Howard D. Hall
1982- Alan L. Karotkin
1984- Matias H. Ruiz
1985- Richard A. Frazer
1986- Jose V. Seguin
1987- Elliott R. Wilson
1988- Jerry T. Jarmon
1989- Dennis C. Kestner
1991- Ronnie H. Lee
1993- Albert A. Mehlhaff
1994- Walter H. Argall
1995- Javier R. Gonzalez
1996- Kenneth P. Wood
1997- William S. Lear
1998- John W. Turner
1999- James F. Keese
2000- Walter E. Sanders
2001- Jonathan D. Walker
2002- Robert L. Roda
2003- Ricky J. Tindell
2004- Eljio Arjona, Jr.
2005- Hamilton B. Carter
2006- Russell M. Tidwell II
2007- Michael E. Sanders
2008- Daniel E. Barber
2009- Dale L. Flatt
2010- Tony M. Ramirez

Living Affiliated Past Masters

Jesus A. Araiza
Jimmie L. Banks
Don R. Cowley
Gerald T. Dawson
Allen W. Deaver
Carlton L. Edwards
Elbert I. Franks
O. Tripp Garza
Reagan W. Hammett
Ronald D. Holton
Bennie L. Hudson
Gordon W. Kelso
James M. King
Don R. Long
Bobby J. Norris
Boyce V. Oakes
Gene C. Payne
L. Bruce Roberson
Eugene A. Sassman
William W. Winnie III



May Birthdays

Matias H. Ruiz 1; Kenneth R. Wenrich, Joseph E. Simpson 2; Don R. Cowley 4; David C. Heard, Richard P. Rayborn, James E. Greybeck 5; Pablo L. Ureste 7; Felix R. Vickers 8; Andres F. Garza 10; Harrell McCaslin, Sr., Alfred R. Bell II 12; Orlando Perez 13; James W. Shelton 14; Allen W. Deaver 15; Sherrell D. Cole, Laurian V. Stoicoviciu, Richard S. Currier 16; James L. Brown, John J. Jordan, Thomas W. Marr 18; Charles F. Thomas, Jr., Vernon W. Miears, Dennis J. Ross, Terrence P. Murphy, Kenneth P. Wood 19; Dewey F. Savell 20; Robert D. Boddy 22; Daniel V. Andrade 23; G. Henry Galarza, Jr., Christopher R. Gaines 24; Robert Ray, Jack M. Hurt, Larry I. Korts 25; Donnie F. Carter 26; Billy L. Penry, Rodney W. Angell 28; Kenneth E. Loveless, Johnny G. Camarillo 29; Ronald B. Norwood 30; Norman L. Smith III and Greg Johnson 31.

Masonic Birthdays; raised in May (year):

James E. Milligan 52; Larry L. Korts 54; Floyd Brizendine, Leroy Mann, Charles C. Jennings 56; Robert L. Fleming, James L. Sherrard 58; G. Henry Galarza, Jr. 60; George A. Webb 61; Jack Brassil 64; Billy R. Capps, Geraldine Bailey 65; Tommy R. Teykl 66; Carl H. Robinson, Sr. 67; Barney W. Lewis 69; Ronald B. Norwood, Raymond M. Williams 73; David M. Prescott 74; Arthur N. Wagner 76; Samuel T. Hill 78; Buddy Wilson 79; Albert A. Mehlhaff 83; William H. Barginier, Jr. 85; Harrell E. McCaslin, Jr. 86; Daniel V. Andrade 88; Dennis L. Warner 93; Jahn H. Schlueter II 94; James R. Robinson II, Gregory S. Self 95; Eljio Arjona, Jr., Frank C. Hankins 98; Fransisco Reyes, Jr., Mike Salinas, Jr., Philip D. Sughrue 01; Troy J. Shugart 07; Chaz A. Grumbles, Patrick D. Farley 09; Daniel W. McCarter 10 and James C. Wells 11.

And God said “Let there be light,”
and there was light!

Happy Birthday, Brothers! May the Supreme Architect bless
you with many more...

Onion Creek Lodge Committee Chairmen:

Ill & Visitation	<u>Dennis J. Ross</u>
Building	<u>Curtis Gilgan</u>
Historian	<u>Max Fisher</u>
Beacon Editor	<u>Chris Dawson</u>
Hospital	<u>Bart Tuthill</u>
Cemetery	<u>Dale Flatt</u>

Stated Meeting

First Thursday
May 3rd, 2012

Entered Apprentice
Lodge
Family Night

Meal at 6:30 pm
Meeting at 7:30 pm

Notes from the East...

On March 31st, Onion Creek Lodge facilitated and participated in a Masonic Cornerstone Leveling for the new Manchaca Fire Station, No. 501.

On that same day, 3 of the 5 major officers of Onion Creek Lodge were also in attendance at the Grand Master's Conference, held at the Ben Hur Shrine in Austin.

Don't forget: the Spring Breakfast will be on Saturday, April 28th, from 8:00am to 12:00pm. All you can eat for 7 bucks! It's a full meal deal!

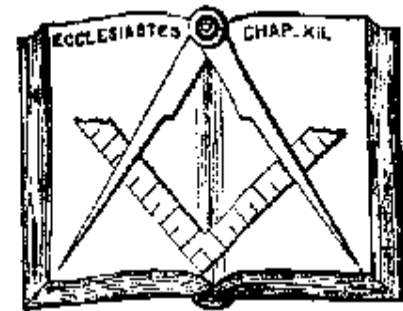
At our May Stated Meeting, we will be having an open Golden Trowel presentation. Also, during the month of May, we will be presenting the Community Builder Award to APD Chief Art Acevedo – but we are still working out the date and time. Lastly we will also be honoring an Outstanding Fifth-Grader, from Pleasant Hill Elementary School, with the Lamar Medal.

The Lodge Garage Sale will be May 19th. If you're interested in bringing something to sell, come on out and bring some stuff with you.

On May 26th we will be having our first Horseshoe tournament and mixer. This will be a family-friendly event, so bring the whole family. We will have horseshoes and washers, as well as camp games and a water slide/pool. Also, we will be serving hot dogs, salad, beans, potato salad, and homemade ice cream. It will cost 5 bucks to enter the tournament but that's simply to cover food costs and add a little excitement to the tournament. We would like to invite other district lodges next year, so let's take advantage of this time to get our Dream Team together.

Within the next month, we will be holding meetings with the Financial and Cemetery committees to finalize cemetery guidelines and to review finances. Advisory committee members are invited to both. Emails with dates and times will be emailed soon, so keep your eyes on your inbox!

Worshipful Master Dennis Ross



*Called to The
Celestial Lodge:*

John A. Spillar
03-26-2012

Origins of Memorial Day and a Masonic Connection

Despite the fact that President Lyndon B. Johnson, in 1966, declared the birthplace and birth date of Memorial Day to be Waterloo, New York, on 5 May 1866 – there remains much mystery and variety of opinions concerning the actual first observance of what is now known as Memorial Day. It may come as a shock to some to learn that the origins of the day may have actually been of primarily Southern and Confederate invention. There are recorded observances of some sort of days of remembrance in such places as Columbus, Mississippi; Macon, Georgia; and Richmond, Virginia – all taking place in 1866. The one in Columbus, Mississippi, was recorded as taking place on 25 April 1866 when women decorated the graves of Confederate – and later – Union soldiers.

In all likelihood, Memorial Day was probably born from several events that took place in the North and South. Several Southern states still observe Memorial Days specifically set aside to honor their Confederate dead.

John A. Logan gets primary credit for institutionalizing Memorial Day. A Union Major General – Logan, as national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, proclaimed a day of remembrance for 30 May 1868. Logan was a Master Mason from Illinois, having been raised in Mitchell Lodge No. 85 in Pinckneyville, Illinois, well before the beginning of the War Between the States.

Regardless of the origins of this day – let us all pause, reflect, and honor the memories of those that have made the ultimate sacrifice.

The Palmetto Mason Blog

Ill, Recovering, and Shut-in Brethren and Family

Please remember the following people in your prayers as they seek comfort and healing. They are or have been ill, recovering from medical procedures, or have limited mobility: Walter Boyd, Judy (Roland) Brown, Johnny Camarillo, Bob Caudill, David Curry, Max Ehrlich, Dick Frazer, Roger Gaby, Tripp Garza, George Henry, David Johnson, Alan Karotkin, Rita and Gordon Kelso, Marvin Langley, Rodney Lay, Johnnie (Don) Long, Randy Martin, James Milligan, Rodney Montfort, Bobby Norris, Jackie and Kenneth Patton, Tom Peters, Tom Richardson, Dewey Savell, and Philip Sughrue. *If you know of others who should be on this list, please contact WM Dennis Ross or Chaplain John Turner.*

Being Good Neighbors – Part Two

Last month we reported on the Fantastic Teeth Program of the Masonic Children and Family Services of Texas (MCFS). This program has helped thousands of Texas first-graders learn to properly care for their teeth – a valuable lesson that lasts a lifetime.

Onion Creek Lodge 220 recently partnered with Texana Lodge 123 to provide over 500 kits for 7 Austin-area elementary schools, and had fun doing it! Perhaps next time, we should follow the example of Masonic District 52, and think BIGGER.

In a coordinated effort, all 7 lodges in District 52 received and distributed 2100 kits to the first-graders of Hays and Blanco counties. That is community involvement on a grand scale! Under the guidelines, each participating lodge may receive up to 300 free kits for distribution. By cooperating in the event, these spread-out lodges covering two counties set an outstanding example of what can be done.

District 50, the Austin/Travis County Masonic District, has 8 lodges. Because our territory is so much more compact than that of our two neighboring counties, we can help even more deserving children with less effort! The first step is to say YES.

The kits contain a toothbrush, toothpaste, dental floss, a 2 minute timer, a brightly colored sticker, and instructions in both English and Spanish. The items are free to the lodges, and only need to be put into small containers by lodge volunteers; MCFS even orders free pizza for all volunteers! And - this lifetime gift to the kids is a fun social event for lodge members and wives.

Onion Creek Lodge has ample space to meet and put these kits together, and we offer that space and encourage every lodge in District 50 to contact us and help us make this happen for many needy kids in the Capitol City. For more information, or better yet, to sign up with us, email Secretary@OnionCreekLodge220.org.

Roland Brown, Secretary

May Family Night Menu and Food Committee

May Food Committee Co-chairmen Todd Reynolds and Ralph Cearley have announced the menu for this family night meal: smoked sausage, beans, cole slaw, bread, iced tea, coffee, and dessert. Other members of the May team are Hamilton Carter, Brett Finch, Allen Deaver, Adrian Edmundson, Dale Platt, David Heard, and Joe Hurtado. Also helping will be David Karhi, Jimmy Mills, Jonathan Ramirez, Aaron Robertson, Troy Shugart, Russ Tidwell, and Ricky Tindell.

A Worthy Cause...

During our April Stated Meeting, Treasurer Dennis Kestner offered an incentive to members of Onion Creek Lodge: For each brother that learns the Masonic Funeral Ceremony, Dennis will donate \$1000.00 to Onion Creek.

These donations will go to the Building and Repair fund upon completion of the memory work and at least one service performed for a departed brother.

After the initial service is completed, he will donate 100 dollars for each service performed by that lodge member.

There are no limits to the number of brethren who can earn this donation, except they must be members of OCL.

The offer will remain standing as long as he is alive or, after passing, if so directed by his estate.

Chris Dawson, Editor

Congratulations are in order...

Congratulations to WM Dennis Ross, who recently earned his “A” Certificate in Esoteric Work. For the last several years, WM Ross has been an Onion Creek instructor, having trained several Masons including the present officers of Onion Creek and our newly raised Master Masons.

We would also like to applaud PM Jose Seguin. Jose has trained all these Masons and has, himself, has earned a life “A” Certificate.

This brings us to a total of 8 Onion Creek members who have earned “A” Certificates, which are certified by the Grand Lodge of Texas’ Committee on Work.

Onion Creek Lodge is proud to have raised 6 Master Masons in 2012. They are: Gary P. Bernfeld, Orlando Perez, J.R. Ghaddar, Steve Murray, Patrick Williams, and Larry Haney.

Thanks to everyone for their outstanding work in Masonry!

Chris Dawson, Editor

SAMC Hospital Volunteers

In March, a total of 17 Masons, wives, and friends contributed 252 hours to St. David's South Austin Medical Center. Becky & Ron Moreau delivered a whopping 83 hours during March! Heavy hitters Doug and Carol Cheape put in 52 hours and Walter and Linda Boyd logged 23 hours. Our other couples team, Carl and Jeanine Robinson, worked 13 hours this month.

Glen Broddrick, Max Fisher, Norm Hayes, and Charlie Jennings each worked about 4 hours during March. Larry Korts led the individuals group with 22 hours while Ken Loveless put in 7 hours. Ben Rauschke had over 7 hours and Ricky Tindell had 5 ½. To wrap it up, Bobby Tiner and Bart Tuthill each worked about 13 hours. Thanks to everyone for all your hard work during March!