

ALAMO LODGE #44

July 2009 Trestle board



Alamo Lodge #44 2009-2010 Elected

Officers:

WM: Lawrence McNamee

SW: Scott Mikos PM

JW: Gregory Wright

Tres: James Higdon, PM

Sec: Ron Havens, PM

Chap: Edward O'Banion, PM

SD: Adrian Juarez

JD: Brady Johnson

MoC: John Pena

Tiler: David Powell

SS: Alberto Cortez

JS: George Trumbo, PM

Upcoming Events:

July 1st 2009- Called Meeting

- 6:30pm, Dinner
- 7pm, EA Degree

July 8th, 2009- Stated Meeting

- 6:30pm , Dinner
- 7pm, Meeting

July 10th, 2009- Installation of Officers (Friday)

- 7pm, in the Alamo Lodge Room
- This is an "Open" Installation
- Please bring your families; a short reception will follow the Installation Ceremony.

July 15th, 2009- Floor Practice

- 6:30pm

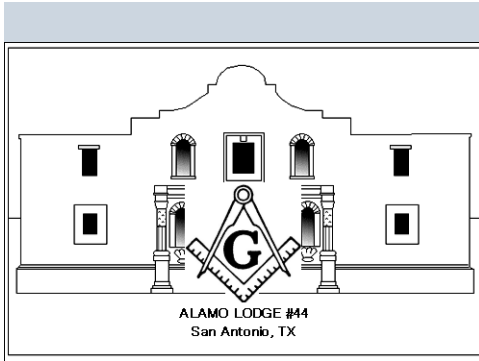
July 22th, 2009- Open House

- 6:30pm, all interested men can attend for an informative Q & A session.

July 29th, 2009- Family Night

- TBD

Brief History of Alamo Lodge #44



161 year old Lodge

(Charter granted January 15, 1848)

Lodge Address: [308 Avenue E @ 4th St.](#), San Antonio 78205

Mailing Address: PO Box 824,
San Antonio, 78293-0824

Meetings: 2nd Wed @ 7:00 pm

Meal: 6:15 pm

Lodge Phone: 210-225-7072

Alamo Lodge No. 44, honored by a plaque on the south wall of the Long Barrack, was granted a charter from the Grand Lodge of Texas on January 15, 1848. The Master of the Lodge was Captain James H. Ralston, an Assistant Quartermaster of U.S. Volunteers. Born in Kentucky, Captain Ralston resided in Illinois at the time he received his commission, which he held from June 26, 1846 until March 3, 1849. Original members of the Lodge were mainly army officers who were already Masons. The Lodge held its meetings for several months in an upper-story room of the Long Barrack until it moved into its own hall on Alamo Plaza on June 24, 1848. (1)

Choices and Second Chances

Freemasonry in both the operative and speculative modes has placed a great emphasis on the rights and responsibility of freedom of choice for its members and those wishing to join the Fraternity. Being free of outside influences and motivated by a personal desire to improve morally and spiritually are critical qualities that mark a future Mason. It is not without reason that a petitioner is tested in these areas, for there is a direct relationship between freedom and responsibility, in that the freer one is, the more personally he is responsible for his actions.

One must choose to become a Mason, rather than be chosen, for the members cannot look within the heart of a person and gauge their motives. The individual must look within themselves and determine how much they are willing to give in order to pursue a higher path and seek more Light in their lives. The initiate must make that first step and exercise their freedom of choice to seek Light.

But beyond the first step, there follow many points where choices must be made. For the initiate there are questions of trust, mastery of lessons, and willingness to continue found throughout his journey to becoming a Mason. To be a man and Mason, one must choose wisely and truthfully. Words of obligation are essential to the bonds being formed and the commitments to be a Brother are a part of that mystic tie.

There is much freedom in the conduct of a Brother, but there are rules and expectations found within the Constitution and Laws of the Grand Lodge governing how he is expected to live. He is free to choose, but accept the responsibility of choosing unwisely. To be moral and upright at all times requires constant attention and conscience. Masonry must have men of such character.

Frequently Masons are raised and accepted within their Lodges and choose to become immersed in outside demands to the extent they forget their work or some of their obligations. Perhaps they even choose to quit attending or "drop out" for any of a number of reasons, but time passes and they recall, or are reminded, of the uncertainty of life, and wish to return. Here is another moment of the freedom to choose and depth of the Fraternity.

One does not have only one chance at Masonry, rather there are always second chances to resume the journey. The key is to desire to do so and to act. The doors to each Lodge are open and welcome Brothers at all times. Like the Prodigal Son, Brotherly Love and understanding are what unite the Fraternity.

And so it is that the opportunities of choice, the freedom to choose, and the responsibilities of being a Man seeking to build a Temple, are gifts of the Great Architect given to each seeking to be a Freemason. Be it outside the door, inside the Lodge, at Labor, or at Refreshment, choices and second chances are ours. Choose well.

Email Ed O'Banion for any Business related comments or questions regarding Alamo Lodge #44 @

alamolodgesect@yahoo.com

If you know of a brother that is no longer active in the lodge, please call or visit him and get his contact information. If you can print out this Trestle board and show him our activities, it might start the fire again. There is plenty of Light to go around.

Secretary's Corner:

Brethren, should you move please let the Secretary know so we can update the lodge database.

Fraternally,
Brother Ed. O'banion

FROM THE EAST

Greetings from the East. It took me a long time and a lot of work to get here, but any good mason will tell you that the honor of serving of Worshipful Master of their lodge is well worth it. I want to take this opportunity to thank the many bothers from Alamo # 44 and our sister lodges here in San Antonio, who have helped me on my journey to the East. I could not address you from the East without a special thanks to our newest Past Master, Brother Mike Goodrich, who has supported me along the way from serving on my investigation committee in the beginning to offering good counsel to me in the West during this past year.

I also need to thank our past masters and remind the lodge how lucky we are to have so many of them active in our ranks. A lodge is supported by the three pillars of masonry, wisdom, strength, and beauty and the past masters represent our collective wisdom. I am grateful as the new Worshipful Master to have a strong team of officers who represent all three of these pillars. My Secretary, Treasurer, Chaplain, and Junior Steward are all past masters. As for a pillar of strength, my Senior and Junior Wardens are experienced master masons from the sunshine state of Florida, who are supported by a team of junior officers whose experience in and zeal for masonry are impressive. They represent the second pillar of masonry: Strength. I am proud to have a Senior Deacon, Senior Steward, and Marshal, who are relatively "newly minted" master masons. These brothers represent beauty, but not beauty as we are accustomed to thinking of it. We speak sometimes of the beauty of the women in our lives, beauty in art, music, and nature, and the beauty of fine design. These brothers, our newer members represent the beauty of hope for our future. That future is insured by reliance on these three pillars, the past masters, the senior members, and the new masons. If they all do their part, the lodge can meet its primary objective.

That objective is the collective effort we must make to as a lodge move toward those goals which we individually, took solemn obligations in each degree that we would fulfill. Someone once told me that Elvis Presley wore three rings on one hand which bore the letters T, C, and B. When asked what they stood for, Elvis answered, "Takin' care of business!" I want Alamo Lodge to preserve its traditions of the past, honor its obligations of the present, and look to its place in the future, thus taking care of business in the fullest sense. I require your trust and I will ask for your time and good counsel over the coming Masonic year. I have heard some of aspiring Worshipful Masters overuse the term "my year." I will use it from time to time, but I want you to remember that this is OUR YEAR! As I like to tell my American History students here in San Antonio at the end of a term, "Now you know some history--go make some!" I want to invite you to make some history at Alamo Lodge with me this year.

Hello from your new Jr. Warden (elect) for the coming Masonic year.

I appreciate your confidence in me and will work hard to ensure it is well founded. It has been a privilege to be a member of this lodge, and I am so very proud of our affiliation with the Alamo shrine. I don't think you can ask for a more noble connection, than our connection to the "Cradle of Texas Liberty".

During my brief time here, Alamo Lodge #44 really has become my "Home Lodge". As such you have inspired me to become involved in the activities and functions of this Lodge and to take an active interest in her future as well. This future, I believe depends heavily on rebuilding her membership, not just with members on the role, but with actual attending brothers who desire to be active partners in "this thing of ours".

One of the main areas where I believe we can improve is in how we involve and utilize our new Masons. I believe this area is key to retaining the new brothers and fostering their desire to become more involved, both in the Line as well as in event/degree planning and performance. I have a few ideas as to how best to approach this problem, such as encouraging them to work in parts during degree practice, or ask them to serve on various committees, however I would really appreciate your ideas concerning this issue: Please give it some thought and if you happen to come up with a few ideas of your own, feel free to pass them to me in Lodge (on paper if possible - my memory isn't what it should be!) or send them to me anytime, via email. You can also bring them up to the lodge in general at one of our stated or called meetings.

My brothers, thank you for being a part of the Alamo Lodge #44 family. If you haven't been here in a while, please consider making us a part of your regular schedule again. You can come join us for dinner at our stated business meetings, or for one of our upcoming degrees or practices. We are at the lodge almost every Wednesday evening from 6:30-9:00PM and welcome your presence as both friends and brothers.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,
Gregory D. Wright

Senior Deacon's greeting:

I would like to thank our "Consistently Attending Brethren," your attendance makes this Lodge a better place to be a part of, even if it's just for floor practice. Please take some time to encourage others to attend as well, not pressure but encourage a brother we haven't seen in a while or get his email address so I can establish a line of communication to him with Lodge related information. I would also, ask that each brother makes an attempt to replace himself in the lodge this year. Our lodge is seeing a steady growth from the Alamo Lodge website, but candidates from within our internal brethren are even more welcomed.

I would like to take time to thank two Brothers and GREAT friends: Jimmy Sinclair and Ed O'bannion, you Sirs are fine men; words can't begin to tell you how much I appreciate your friendship and brotherly love. Your guidance and advice have been a **HUGE** value to me in my Masonic life and within life in general. I tell the fellas at work all the time that my two best buddies are 92 and 73 years old...only in the Masons can that be possible. Jimmy, you are the definition of a good Mason and I'm not quite sure if I'll ever be able to meet your standard but I'm sure as heck going to try. Edwardo, you have been a great friend and mentor and have given me great advice time and time again. These are examples of two great Men in a group of really good men.

I would like to congratulate the line officers of Alamo; I know all of you will do a GREAT job. I am honored to be a member of the line of Alamo Lodge #44 and will work hard for you during this Masonic year.

Senior Deacon Elect: Brother Adrian Juarez

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Junior Deacon's Welcome

Brothers, I would like to take this opportunity to thank each of you for your confidence in electing me as your Junior Deacon. I have enjoyed my time in masonry and especially my time with the brothers of Alamo Lodge #44. I look forward to working with each of you during this upcoming Masonic year.

Fraternally Yours,

Brady Johnson

Senior Steward's Greeting:

This is an exciting year for all of us at Alamo Lodge #44. I am honored to be appointed as Senior Steward of the "Mother Lodge of Texas" and look forward to service our existing members and welcome all visitors to see what Masonry is all about.

Alberto Cortez
Senior Steward – 2009-2010