

Alvin Masonic Lodge No. 762 A.F. & A.M.



Nelson Eng, Worshipful Master

Glenn Starkey, Lodge Secretary

Newsletter Editor: AlvinLodge762@gmail.com

JANUARY 2013

NEWSLETTER

The world didn't end like the Mayans expected and another year has passed. The holidays are over, schools are back in session, and everyone has returned to their salt mines of daily work. Within another week, the holidays' peaceful, festive spirits of "goodwill toward our fellow man" will be nothing more than a faded memory once the Christmas trees now lining our street curbs are picked up. Isn't it a shame that peaceful thoughts are boxed and put away with the ornaments?



But it doesn't have to be this way. We're entering a new year and have the opportunity to change ourselves, our environment and self-respect. We can do what is right and carry goodwill in our hearts as we go through each day of our lives. **If you made New Year Resolutions, let this be the first year you actually follow through on them:** (1) Take care of your health, (2) Eat better, (3) Be more positive-minded about your life, (4) attend church, (5) **attend lodge**, (6) volunteer and do something useful which benefits your fellow man. The resolutions are yours. What you do with them defines you.

I'm not clowning around...I'm always looking for good news involving our Masonic family. As you know, I'm a strong advocate of people volunteering to help others. Recently I learned about the activities of two masonic brothers that, although they sought no recognition, warrants everyone's knowledge. On Christmas Day morning, Bro. Marty Haley donned his clown attire and was at Shriner's Burn Center entertaining the unit patients (children.) On Christmas Eve day and the morning of Christmas Day, Bro. Robin Winslett (*with his entire family*) were helping serve food to the needy at George R. Brown Convention Center, then were at Danbury Lodge volunteering with the Kid's Harbor program, and onto helping at the Shriner's Burn Center party where Bro. Haley was. And I don't want to forget Bro. Al Pool who yearly organizes Christmas card trips and takes toys to the children of the Burn Center. To these brothers and those who assisted them, I say, **"Thank you,"** on behalf of the hungry and injured you helped bring smiles to on those days.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

1. **Monday night, January 7th** – "C" School resumes at our lodge.
2. **Thursday night, January 10th** – **Family Night.** Lodge Masons, OES, and DeMolay will be sharing an evening of fellowship! The Bluegrass/Christian musical group "Tempered Steel" will provide the entertainment. Please come and join us. Bring a dish to share. Dinner starts at 6:30 p.m.
3. **Thursday night, January 17th** – **Stated Meeting, Alvin Lodge #762.** Come join your brothers!
4. **Thursday night, February 7th** – **Official Lodge Visit**, RW Dennis Reader, DDGM, District 31-A
5. **Monday night, February 18th** – **Committee on Work**, EXAM, at our lodge
6. **Friday night, February 22nd** – **Grand Master Fish Fry** (more information listed at the end of this newsletter)

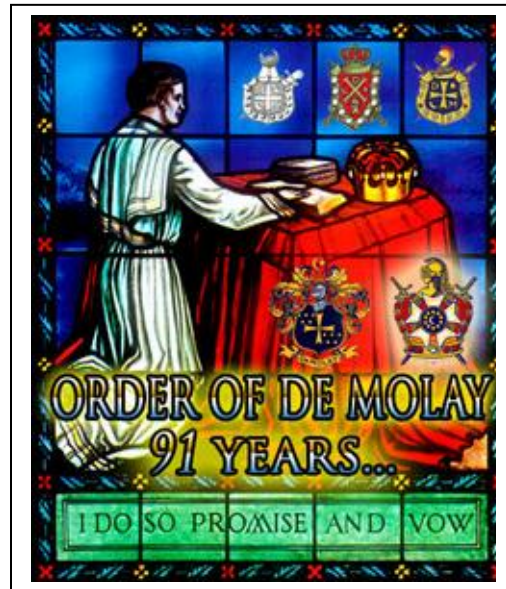
And for those who have not paid yet, it's time to send in your 2013 lodge dues. *Thank You* to endowed members, and all who have promptly paid, sent me address updates, plus sent donations to assist with the postage. Your gift is greatly appreciated. I'm using this opportunity to update our official records and the Grand Lodge records with correct contact information and email addresses. It's amazing how many bad addresses and other wrong data I have found in our records. Having good email addresses allows me to communicate lodge information in the swiftest and most inexpensive manner.

Arlene Squires, Worthy Matron, OES #15



I didn't receive any news announcements from OES for the month of January, but check our website's calendar <http://www.alvinlodge.org/calendar.html> for meeting dates. OES always has worthy activity in progress!

Mark Peebler, Advisor, John Wayne Chap. # 3667



The John Wayne Chapter # 3667 never slows down. Something is always cooking with them whether it's a chili dinner fundraiser or doing a good deed. As an additional note, on December 1, the John Wayne DeMolays and Pearland Rainbows made their own "Toy Run" to the Shriners Burn Hospital in Galveston. They brought some well needed, happy spirit to a lot of kids that have little to be happy about at the moment. Acts such as this displays high personal character in these young people!

Check our lodge website calendar for their posted activity dates or go to their Facebook page noted at the end of this newsletter.

WORDS TO PONDER



**MORE THE KNOWLEDGE
LESSER THE EGO,
LESSER THE KNOWLEDGE
MORE THE EGO... -Albert Einstein**

www.bestimagequotes.com

Have you volunteered lately? Not just at the lodge (although we definitely can always use help in many ways), ***but volunteered to help anywhere or help anyone!*** When we help others without asking anything in return, we are making the world a better place for us, our children, and our children's children. ***Always remember, you CAN make a difference.***

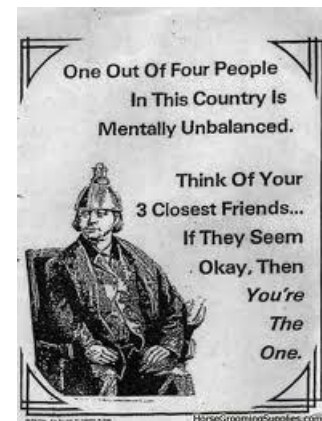
FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK



Sadly, the recent holidays were marred by the tragic shooting of innocent, elementary aged children while they attended school. The shooter was a mentally unstable young man. Like everyone across America, I was greatly angered at the murderer's senseless, unexplainable act. Immediately, all thought raced to my grandson and the elementary school children whom I mentor each week to improve their reading skills. I can't comprehend the depths of mental anguish every parent and teacher from that school is undergoing. I also understand why a dramatic outcry came for action to be taken to prevent such a tragedy from ever occurring again. But of all the fist-shaking, shouts, and demands for bans on firearms, I heard little about the mental illness which lay at the core of this problem.

No, this is not a gun control debate. With my military, law enforcement, and security background, I'll hold my opinions on that issue. My point in this writing is the over-looked issue of mental illness, especially in people prone to have violent tendencies. Overall, mental illness is an issue so long ignored by society and our politicians that it's an embarrassment to America. The avenue for mental illness treatments is no more than a one-way street with a dead end. And insurance assistance is often pathetic.

As a published author I do a lot of research for my novels. In the past, up to the late 1970's, mentally ill people were cast into asylums under the most barbaric of conditions and horrific treatments. Basically, out of sight, out of mind, became the most common answer to the medical problems. Now days, a majority of the mentally ill simply roam the streets, talking to the voices in their heads. I've even been stopped outside the lodge by an unstable man riding his bicycle about town. He appeared to be normal until he spoke.



As a police officer, I dealt with many a disturbed person and quickly discovered little help was available for them to receive proper medical treatment in order to protect them from themselves, or to protect others from their illogical acts. Unfortunately, though years have passed since I worked the streets, little has transpired to provide the needed resources to help families with mentally ill loved ones, or to help mentally ill individuals. If you believe the resources are there, think again because they are quite limited in scope. Only the very affluent in our society can afford humane treatments for their loved ones.

When the tragic shooting occurred, I grew quite frustrated with the brushfire management attitude which prevailed, and with the demands for firearms to be banned as the government's solution to a much deeper problem. As a Master Mason, one whose predecessors historically struggled against ignorance and strongly advocated knowledge, education, and proper leadership, I was disappointed in our elected leaders bypassing a critical point of the tragedy—mental illness—in order to remain in favor with the outcries.

Leadership is a heavy weight to bear. But it comes with the responsibility to evaluate problems and make the right decisions. If our leaders are afraid to lead, then they shouldn't have asked for the job.

Mental illness, at all levels of its spectrum, is as much a problem in our country as cancer. We need to address this illness, not ignore it.

"So Mote It Be"

Grand Masters Fish Fry



2013



Honoring: Grand Master Masons of Texas Walter W. Rogers

Sponsored by the Masters Wardens and Secretaries Association
31st Masonic District

Date and Time:

Friday, February 22, 2013, 6:00 PM

Location:

Jones Hanger / Leavesley Park, 901 Buckingham Drive
Friendswood, Texas 77546

Open to all who wish to attend (family and friends welcome)

Serving: Fish, Shrimp, and Chicken Tenders (for those who wish other than seafood)

Free desserts: Provided by Eastern Star Chapters of District 4, Section 10

Tickets \$15.00 Adults Children under 13 free Casual Dress

For more information contact

Al Pool (713) 806 3841 Chairman, Ppool85@gmail.com
Dennis D. Reader (713) 553-8917, DDGM 31A, ddreader@comcast.com

The following website links are for your use. Our internet presence is very active. We post lodge information there and a large number of people are reading and using them as an informational stop. This technology is helping us get the latest news to you in the swiftest manner!

Alvin Lodge Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Alvin-Lodge-762-Ancient-Free-and-Accepted-Masons/>

Alvin Lodge Website: <http://www.alvinlodge.org/>

Alvin Lodge Calendar of Events: <http://www.alvinlodge.org/calendar.html>

Alvin Lodge Email: AlvinLodge762@gmail.com

John Wayne Chapter # 3667, Order of DeMolay Facebook Page:
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/John-Wayne-Chapter-3667-Order-of-DeMolay-Alvin-Texas/483169650391>

That's all for now. Hope the newsletter provided food for thought. **If you have news you would like to share, send it to me at our lodge email address so I can post it.** I want everyone to know about our Masonic family's accomplishments. Send me your feedback on the newsletter. Something in particular you would like to see in it?

Sincerely and fraternally,

Glenn

