

James A. Smith Lodge No. 395, A. F. & A. M.



12823 DEMETRA
Dallas, Texas 75234



James A. Smith Lodge News Letter

November 2011

Stated Meeting: Second Thursday

Robert F. Bull, W.M.

Hp & Cp 214 938-3988

e-mail chem.crew@yahoo.com

Dinner 6:30 p.m. Meeting 7:30 p.m.

Marvin L. Murphy Jr. Secretary

Hp 972 241-3380 Cp 214 206-6489

e-mail mlmurphy1@juno.com

Editor: Marvin Murphy

FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Your Lodge has been very active in areas of charity, community service and masonic activities. With your help in donations, both from endowed members, dues paying members, Order of The Eastern Star and the relief from ad valorem tax, your Lodge ended the year with a positive cash flow.

The Lodge developed an annual budget for the 2011-2012 masonic year based on a zero based budget approach.. This means that we start with a zero balance on June 24, 2011 In the budget analysis, we are planning on transferring \$3075.00 to the building fund. I will discuss the Annual Return and the Annual Audit in more detail later.

As we look to the future, there are some challenges on the horizon for your Lodge. These challenges have been created by the proposed real estate development in close proximity to the lodge property. This has come about because of the planning and start-up of the lite rail running from the city of Carrollton through Farmers Branch and to the Southeast area of Dallas County. The lite rail station is less than two football fields West of the Lodge. The planned development for the adjacent area is divided up into three phases of which we are in the third phase.

We do have time to do the necessary planning and accumulate the adequate funding, because of the down turn in the economy. **We must start soon.**

On July 9, 2011 we installed the following officers for the 2011-2012 masonic year for James A Smith Lodge #395.

Robert F. Bull, W.M.	Curtis Rhodes, S.D.
Corey Higgins, S.W.	Jack Black, J.D.
Kalvin, Weaver, J.W.	James Spires, S.S.
Rahib Asmar, Treas.	Robert Looney, J.S.
Marvin Murphy, Sec.	Richard Bruckhoff, Mar..
Billie Wilson, Chap.	Brian Burns, M.C.
Kevin Morton, Tiler	Milburn Gravley, Musician

YEAR 2011 LODGE ACTIVITIES

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

The Lodge donated \$500.00 to a widow of a deceased brother and provided \$1000.00 as scholarships to two individuals as follows:

1. Tie Williams, a high school student for \$500.00 plus matching funds of \$500.00 from the Grand Lodge Charities Foundation. Tie was an outstanding student in both sports and his academic studies as well as involved in the school activities.
2. Chasiti Dixon, a graduate student, of the masonic family. She was an outstanding Rainbow Girl and gained her majority status, became active in the Order of Eastern Star, participated in many fund raisers. She obtained her BS degree with a student loan and now trying to obtain her Master's without the use of another loan. The Lodge provided \$500.00 plus matching funds of \$500.00 from the Grand Lodge Charities Foundation.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

During the past twelve months, your Lodge has presented two Community Builders Awards.

1. To Dr. Bobby Burns. Superintendent of Schools for the Carrollton/Farmers School District.
2. To Jeff Fuller over the park facilities of the City of Farmers Branch.

SERVICE CONTRIBUTIONS

Since the Lodge is now a 501C "charity" organization, we are to maintain a record of charity contributions in including hours, milage, and monetary donations. The State of Texas has given the lodges the conversion amount to convert hours and miles to dollars.

Grand Lodge has added a bottom line to the financial audit form to collect total dollars equivalent which members and appendant bodies using the lodge facilities have provided charitable contributions to this past year. Last year, our total service charity converted to dollars was \$20342.28. Individual contributors are as follows:

Brenda Blair	\$ 1355.80
Nelda Davis	679.90
JAS Lodge	11098.50
Pat Looney	1343.05
Marvin Murphy	2356.23
Sandra Thurman	3508.80

MEMBERSHIP STATUS

1. Fifty Year Members (Active)	26
2. Endowed Members	63
3. Life Members	4
4. Dues Paying Members	86
5. Total Membership	175

DECEASE BRETHREN (MIGS)

1. Cleo Randolph Biggs	June 12, 2011
2. Robert Leith Carruthers	Feb. 14, 2011
3. Earl Wilson Johnston	Jan. 24, 2011
4. Billy H. King	July 21, 2011
5. A.R. Mc Manus	June 20, 2011
6. William Rester Mc Rae, Jr.	Nov. 24, 2011
7. Harold Ray Mc Dowell	Jan. 25, 2011
8. Leonard S. Romans	Feb. 17, 2011
9. Kenneth Sangster	Aug. 15, 2011

SUSPENDED MASONS (NPD)

1. Edward C. Polster	6. Cary L. Walker
2. William D. Cardwell	7. Jeffery P. Slater
3. Robert A. Evans	8. Charles Rubens III
4. Rayborn O. Cooke	9. Gregory A. Toy
5. Monte W. Smith	10. Issam Al Rebai

FINANCIAL STATUS

The beginning balance on June 24, 2010 was \$3662.28 and we ended the year with at \$7835.84 on June 23, 2011. Our income and expenditures were as follows:

INCOME		EXPENSES	
Dues & Fees	\$ 10244.00	Charity	1500.00
Member Donations	639.00	Lodge Supplies	635.69
Endowed Donations	2215.00	Secretary's Supplies	628.13
Outside Donations	200.00	Utilities	6255.70
Eastern Star Donations	1850.00	Insurance	2804.00
Fund Raising (G/F)	1857.77	Per Capita	2339.75
Fund Raising (Charity)	523.00	Misc. Expense	252.94
Misc. Income	561.00		
Distress Fund XFR	<u>500.00</u>		
Total	\$18589.77		<u>\$14416.21</u>

Our A/C repair costs last year was negligible as our Building Engineer, Robert Looney has got the unit in good shape with proper maintenance. Our upcoming concern now is finding replacement parts for the unit and the phasing out of the R22 freon which will not be available after three to five years.

It is also our concern that we would want to spend approximately \$25,000.00 for code changes and a new air conditioning unit for the present building for a possible utilization of only three to five years. This is the time frame which has been provided by individuals associated with the area development. As we all know estimates are greatly effected by the condition of the economy.

2011-2012 BUDGET

This years budget ends with a positive cash flow and includes a significant increase in fund raising projects for the general and charity funds. Our operating expenses are to be funded from the general fund dues, fees, Eastern Star Donations and miscellanies donations. In August of this year, we got a surprise from Grand Lodge with a check from the endowment fund of \$1576.00. In this years budget, we are forecasting and hoping to receive \$2200.00 from our endowed members again this year. We must get prepared for the development around the Lodge. These are is scheduled to go to the building fund to accumulate funds for moving the Lodge. Needless to say the future worshipful masters will have to do some significant planning and execution for the inevitable of moving and furnishing a new Lodge.

AREA DEVELOPMENT

This brings up the next topic, the development of the area around the lite rail station. I mentioned earlier, the Lodge is less than two football fields from the lite rail station. The area is divided up into three phases of development of which the Lodge is in the third phase as we have been informed by the City of Farmers Branch. At the present time, the area around the Lodge is zoned for lite retail and up-scale apartments. The Lodge has just received notice from the City of Farmers Branch that Western Securities is requesting certain changes to various Chapters of the Regulating Plan for phases 1,2, & 3. The proposed area of interest for development is in the Northwest portion of Phase 1. We will continue to monitor the activity around the Lodge.

I take this opportunity to wish you a happy holiday season and a very prosperous New Year!

Marvin Murphy, PM
The Editor