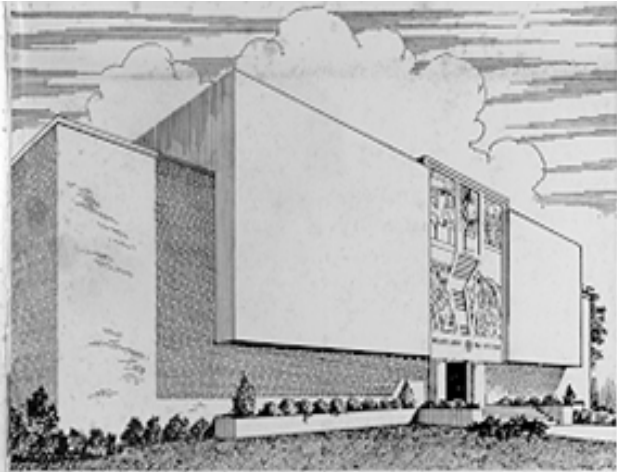


The Alpha

Holland Lodge No. 1 A.F. & A.M.
4911 Montrose Boulevard,
Houston TX 77006
(713) 529-0912
www.hollandlodge.org
December 2004
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Bill Sessums, Jr. P.M. – Editor



December Stated Meeting

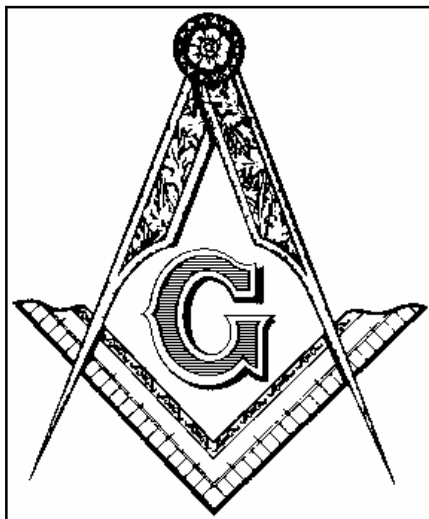
will be held on

December 8, 2004

Dinner at 6:30 P.M.

Meeting Starts at 7:30 P.M.

**Join us for an update of
Grand Lodge Activities.**



From the East...

The November Stated was a very special meeting for all the Brethren who were in attendance. The rest of you missed a great meeting. Brother Bob Ehlers, a vexilologist, gave an emotional history of our National Flag, "Old Glory", "Stars & Stripes" "Grand Old Flag" which touched everyone in the audience. We then recognized VETERANS from World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Desert Storm and everywhere in between. Introductions, memories, mementoes and pictures we passed around - a true sharing among Brothers in Masonry who are also Brothers in Arms for the benefit of our Great Nation. Our Chaplain, Max Bernstein, a WWII bomber co-pilot, gave a special prayer for all those in "harm's way" and those who made the total sacrifice and Gave Their Today so WE could have a Tomorrow.

We also had a Master Masons Exam from our newest Master Mason, Brother Robert Carpenter. His proficiency along with the Senior Deacon was what we have learned to expect at Holland Lodge - EXCELLENT

Saturday, November 6th was Right Worshipful Tommy Griffin's last Forum and Exam in his region. It was attended by over 100 Brethren, including three Past Grand Masters. Eighteen of these brethren were making their first visit to Holland Lodge.

Some of the visitors from other Lodges stated that it was the best forum of its type they had ever seen and/or been involved in— in fact it was Outstanding.

When you read this, the Grand Lodge Resolutions will have been voted on by Holland and Grand Lodge in Waco on December 2, 3, 4, 2004. Our Junior Warden, Duncan Chapman will have the results at our December Stated on December 8th and present them to the Lodge. Our schedule is somewhat modified for the Holiday Season, but on Wednesday December 22, 2004 will be a "Cajun Holiday Feast open to all Brothers and their families (no meeting - just food & fellowship) at 6:00pm. The menu is Cajun Fried Turkey (some baked also) "Sout Luisianna" dressing, Sweet Potatoes with "Pecan Prailene Sauce", Green Bean with "ONYON" and pies of various nationalities. All prepared under supervision of the Worshipful Master - who was talked into it by the Senior Steward and a few Brothers.

Happy Holidays to you and your families, come to Lodge for more LIGHT and...

Bring an appetite on December 22 - Le Bon-Ton Roulette

Fraternally, Earl Thompson, W.M.

Essentials of Risk Management Process, defines risk management as "the process of making and carrying out decisions that will minimize the adverse effects of accidental losses upon an organization.

The five steps in the risk management process are:

1. Risk Control to stop losses.
2. Examining the feasibility of alternative techniques to deal with the loss.
3. Selecting the apparent best technique.
4. Implementing the chosen technique
5. Monitor and improving the risk management program.

In today's litigious society, it is important that standards that are in place throughout society are also utilized to protect lodge members and visitors

Brethren,

The above paragraph is straight out of the Worshipful Master's Lodge Leadership manual from The Grand Lodge of Texas, 2004.

Every day I worry that someone may get hurt trying to gain access to our building, If that should happen the lodge will be held responsible and our cost could be extremely high. I have watched a visitor in a wheelchair, being carried up four feet of steps by two brethren, one slip or misstep would have been disastrous. I have watched a Brother struggle to get up the steps because he wanted to attend lodge. A safe means of entrance into and out of our building is but one of our responsibility's. We have a responsibility to keep the premises safe.

With that being said, **I am asking for your support and donation for the installation of a chair lift.** Your donations will be accounted for by Sect. Phillip von Stephens and should we not be able to complete this project your donation will be returned to you.

The lift will be installed in the back entrance north of the elevator, in the existing double doors. The lift will be installed by the Marchal/Stevenson Elevator Co, Inc. We have received a preliminary quote of \$10,000 for this project. It will be a Vertical Platform, gated lift, manufactured by The National Wheel-o-Vator Co. It will be installed by removing a part of the first step (5 foot left to right) and will leave a 26 plus inch door opening to the left of the lift for regular use with a 38 inch plus stair opening.

You will be able to walk or wheelchair into the lift, push a button, be lifted to the next floor level and exit into the foyer where you can then take the existing elevator to the upper floors & Lodge Rooms.

I have a design drawing and unit pictures for anyone to see. There is a unit in operation at the children's museum if you would like to see it in operation.

Your Lodge is asking for your donation (any amount) and support of this very important addition to the building. We currently have collected \$960.00

Please make your check payable to Holland Lodge.

Thank You for your support, you are doing a good thing for your lodge.

**Duncan Chapman, J.W. and
President of the Masonic Building Association**

Happy Holidays!

As we celebrate the holidays this season let's not forget those who need our prayers and support. Keep those who we hold dear and those who are serving our Country safe and out of harm's way.

God Bless Us All and God Bless America!

David Crockett King of the Wilderness

A legend in his own time, by 1836 Davy Crockett shared billing with Jim Bowie as one of the two most famous men west of the Appalachians, Born on August 17, 1786, in northeastern Tennessee, he ran away from home at age twelve because of his dislike of school. He returned home three years later and paid for his own education.

Crockett was the archetype of the American frontiersman, and was famous for his ability to shoot the flame off a candle at 100 yards. He once killed 105 bears in a single season, some with a knife.

After serving two terms in the state Legislature, Crockett was elected to the U.S. Congress in 1827, 1829 and 1833. Popular for his honesty and homespun forthrightness, he loudly opposed President Jackson's mistreatment of the Indians. Following his defeat in the election of 1835, an angry Crockett told his Tennessee constituents, "You all can go to hell—I'm goin' to Texas!"

On February 8, 1836 Davy and his twelve "Tennessee Boys" rode into the Alamo. His tall tales and quick wit held the morale of the men high during the worst days of the siege. On the morning of March 6, as the Mexicans finally overwhelmed the Alamo garrison, Davy Crockett was the last to die.

Proof that Crockett was a Mason is based mainly on the survival of his Masonic Apron, made for him by Mrs. A.C. Massie of Washington, D.C., during his tenure in Congress. Before leaving for Texas, he entrusted the apron to the sheriff of Weakley County, Tennessee, and it was inherited and preserved by the sheriff's nephew, W.M. Taylor of Paducah, Kentucky. The lodge at Weakley County, near the Crockett home, burned during the Civil War destroying all the lodge records.

*From *The Texas Mason*, By Pete Normand, PM

From the Secretary

In the October Stated Meeting we discussed the installation of a lift at Holland Lodge for our handicapped Brethren and others. So far \$960 has been raised for this much needed addition to the building. Please consider making a donation to support this project.

The Life Cycle

We will miss our departed Brothers...

Emmett M. Bradberry
Raised July 27, 1945
Died April 30, 2003

Thomas D. Hollingsworth
Raised August 3, 19967
Died October 25, 2004

**Are you an Endowed Member?
Remember, only \$500 for an
Endowed Membership!**

Are you online?

Have you been to www.HollandLodge.org ?
Do you get the e-Alpha notices on your email?
Send you email address to billjr@insper.com
and get online with your Lodge!

Lodge Activities/Calendar

December 1	Dark	December 22	Worshipful Master Fries Cajun Turkeys Open for Dinner and Fellowship!
December 2-5	Grand Lodge in Waco	December 27	Dark
December 6	Dark	December 29	EA and FC Instruction
December 8	Stated Meeting	January 3	Masters Mason Degree
December 13	Dark	January 5	Dark
December 15	EA Degree Practice	January 10	Stated Meeting
December 20	School of instruction		

Officers Of Holland Lodge No. 1

		HOME	OFFICE	e-mail
Worshipful Master	Earl A. Thompson	(713) 466-8452	(281) 376-5530	WorshipfulMaster@HollandLodge.org
Senior Warden	Tom Behrman	(713) 721-6003	(713) 863-2234	SeniorWarden@HollandLodge.org
Junior Warden	Duncan Chapman	(281) 447-8200	(832) 212-3181	JuniorWarden@HollandLodge.org
Treasurer	Emile A. Bussemey	(713) 729-1348	(713) 260-7453	Treasurer@HollandLodge.org
Secretary	Phillip von Stephens	(713) 723-2009	(713) 723-2009	Secretary@hollandlodge.org
Chaplain	Max Bernstein	(713) 667-5697		max.bernstein@lswc.net
Senior Deacon	Patrick Porter	(713) 796-1131	(713) 316-4961	SeniorDeacon@HollandLodge.org
Junior Deacon	Jerry B. Jones	(713) 667-2817	(713) 201-0366	JuniorDeacon@HollandLodge.org
Senior Steward	Wael Semaan	(713) 530-9786		SeniorSteward@HollandLodge.org
Marshal	Robert Welch, II	(713) 526-0026	(713) 941-7800	Marshall@HollandLodge.org
Mstr. Of Ceremonies	Michael Orr, Jr.	(713) 290-1934	(713) 613-2830	MasterCeremonies@HollandLodge.org
Musician	Rodney Elliot	(713) 236-0359		Rodney@CommerceStreet.org
Tiler	Budd Baumgardner	(713) 666-3625		
Immediate PM	Patrick D. Mahoney	(713) 932-1993	(713) 552-1700	Patrick@mahoney-associates.com

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