



Cooke-Peavy Lodge #1162

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COOKE-PEAVY LODGE #1162 A.F. and A.M.

Cooke-Peavy News and More

In this edition a message from the Worshipful Master

We are now just a few days from the end of December, the end of 2010 and the end of the first half of this Masonic year. As Worshipful Master, I wanted to take this time to catch the members up on the activities of the Lodge, the plans for the balance of the year and more.

First, I want to thank the members of Cooke-Peavy Lodge for electing me Master. What an honor; when one looks at the history of Cooke-Peavy Lodge, being Worshipful Master here puts a man in some elite company. Cooke-Peavy Lodge, named for one Past Grand Master (W. Steve Cooke) and one Past Grand Treasurer (W.W.Peavy). PGM Cooke also served as Worshipful Master of this Lodge, was a Past Potentate of Moslah Shrine and was the "Father" of the Fort Worth Masonic Temple. Cooke-Peavy has provided the Grand Lodge of Texas with many officers over the years; Moslah Shrine with more than one Potentate and both the York Rite and Scottish Rite with numerous Officers, Committee Members and it has 2 Sam Houston Awards. One APM is now the Potentate-Elect for Moslah Shrine.

Despite the heritage, Cooke-Peavy was seeing some rough times. The turnaround started last year under PM Robert Franklin; during my time in the East, the plan was to finish his turnaround and build on the foundation PM Franklin had established. I am pleased to report, there is and continues to be significant progress. Under PM Franklin, Cooke-Peavy conferred its first Master Mason degree with its own members in more than 5 years. We now have more officers in office than in any point in more than 3 years and have a solid line of potential officers for the next 5-6 years. The Senior Officers were all voted proficient by the Lodge to Open and Close prior to their election and continue to improve. Lodge attendance is higher than at any time in the past few years. We currently have 4 active petitioners, one is elected to receive the degrees and 3 are in the process.

All of the Senior Officers and two of the Jr. Officers have been to at least one Warden's retreat through the Grand Lodge. Three of them have completed the LIFE program for Texas Masonic Officers and two more are working to complete that program. We have held floor school and /or instruction twice per week, every week for more than a year now. The Junior Warden was tapped to confer an EA and a FC degree at another lodge and the Worshipful Master has done the same in addition to sitting pro tem in other lodges during his travels. Several of the Cooke-Peavy Officers are now regular workers for the Masonic Service Bureau, handling funeral duties across the 64th District. PM Franklin and Tiler David Kisselburg are busy several times per month and the Worshipful Master and Secretary PM Scottie L. Clark have worked several as well.

Cooke-Peavy started the year with a flash. Our installation was well attended; it was accomplished with all the Officers in Tuxedos and White gloves. Attendance was strong with the Lodge providing a catered dinner for 85 guests. The installation was officiated by PM Kirk Reed of Lexington Lodge and Austin #12. The Marshall was APM and incoming Moslah Potentate Richard P. Evans. In attendance were three District Deputy Grand Masters, the General Secretary of the Fort Worth Scottish Rite Valley and Masons from Hereford Texas and Huntsville, Alabama along with DeMolay and Rainbow members from Fort Worth. At this installation, there were Masons who are members of Southside, Handley, Poly, Tarrant, Panther City, Julian Feild, Eureka and Fort Worth 148.

From there Cooke-Peavy never looked back; at our first meeting we added a new member through affiliation who was so impressed with the installation his comment was, "I saw that installation, felt the emotion and energy and I want to be a part of that". Our Senior Deacon has taken on the responsibility of tracing some missing members; our Secretary has been Noticing the Meetings as was the custom of Masonry is the "good old days"; the website is updated, accurate and supplemented by postings on Twitter as well. Our Junior Warden has been studying diligently the laws and reporting on those and the 3 Senior officers have been working on a multi-year development strategy to improve the

membership numbers, enhance Masonic knowledge and build new Lodge traditions for Cooke-Peavy while the Senior Warden and Secretary are working to uncover those that have been lost. In fact the Secretary PM Scottie Clark located the son of one of the past compilers of the history of Cooke-Peavy lodge and was able to get access to one of the remaining few books and copy that for the Lodge, Lodge Officers and several members.

The process is working. We have recently had returning members and Past Masters who have not been to Lodge (at least at Cooke-Peavy) in years and some cases decades. Their motivation? Curiosity about the Lodge that is suddenly on the Net, on Twitter, on and in the news and in their mailbox; drawing people and comments for the upbeat meetings and dedication to the Masonic heritage while establishing relevance in 21st century Tarrant County.

Cooke-Peavy has also been fulfilling its role in the community as well, not just in the Lodgeroom. Cooke-Peavy presented its first Community Builder award in more than 4 years to Tarrant County Commissioner Marti VanRavenswaay during a Tarrant County Commissioners Court Meeting in October. The presentation was attended by several Cooke-Peavy Members, and at least two elected Officials who are also members of the fraternity. The county public information officer said the Fort Worth Star-telegram and Channel 11 news were in attendance as well. Cooke-Peavy also provided sponsorship for 3 of the students of the All Church Home, (which has taken over the care for some of the students from the Masonic Home and School) at its recent Christmas party at the Temple.

Our members are active in other Masonic organizations. The Senior Warden is the Secretary of the 64th District Masters, Wardens and Secretary's Association (MWSA); Treasurer, PM Robert Franklin is Secretary of the Masonic Temple Library and Museum Board of Directors and a member of the Executive Committee. The Junior Deacon is Vice-President of the Moslah Shrine Motor Corp; and one of our newest Members is active in the Moslah Flying Fez. Additionally the Worshipful Master is the current High Priest in Texas Chapter 362, of Royal Arch Masons; Thrice Illustrious Master of Texas Council 321 Royal and Select Masters, Senior Warden in Panther City Lodge #1183 and Generalissimo of Worth Commandery. He is also on Grand Lodge and Grand Commandery committees. However, he is not the exception. The Senior Warden is one-step behind him in Chapter and Council and two chairs in Commandery. Brother Senior Warden is the new Senior Warden at Worth Commandery and President of the Worth Commandery Drill Team. Almost every member of the officer line is in line in more than one Masonic body or Lodge; we have an outstanding group of leaders ready to carry on the new/old traditions of leadership for which Cooke-Peavy has long been known.

Beginning in January and continuing through May, Cooke-Peavy will be hosting the "Cooke-Peavy Masonic Education Series". This series will be presented in a less formal atmosphere than a Lodgeroom and encourage discussion among attendees with short presentations by specially selected Masons. The goal is to provide a vehicle for the dissemination, construction and presentation of accurate, timely esoteric Masonic education in a participant driven format. The Preliminary Agenda and further information will be posted on our website by the end of December and mailed to numerous Lodges in the 64th District.

Cooke-Peavy is also working on programs for presentation of the Lamar Medal, at least one Scholarship and other sustainable activities that will continue to build over the coming years. If all this sounds like the Lodge is headed in the right direction, we think you are correct. There is renewed interest in the fraternity; there are petitioners who will become candidates who will need all of us to provide degrees, proficiency training, mentorship and leadership. The only thing missing is you, the member we haven't seen yet. There is no time like now to get back involved. We don't care why you haven't been in attendance; our only concern is that you do not continue to leave us all alone. Come back to Cooke-Peavy, come back to the future, the future of Cooke-Peavy and the future of Texas Masonry. We needed you when we raised you and we still need you now. And, when you come, bring a completed petition for someone you know with you. You or they can download it from our website, www.cooke-peavy1162.com. What are you waiting for? This is literally your written invitation. We are here waiting for you, waiting for you to contribute, waiting for you to bring our new brother to Lodge.

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