

Oak Plains Lodge No. 789  
F&AM



Trestle-Board  
December  
2018



Volume No. 1962

Issue No. 15

Oak Plains Lodge F&AM #789's Vision Statement:

To create a strong and viable Lodge made up of men who have a strong desire to practice together the principles of Freemasonry, ensuring it becomes relevant to today's society while maintaining its high moral, social and charitable standards, thus making a positive difference in the quality of life in our community.

2018 OFFICERS			
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Chaplin	Vacant		
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Junior Steward	Vacant		
Organist	Vacant		
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Rainbow Advisors	Wor. Jeff Askins, PM	(916) 275-5778	<a href="mailto:labdad2014@gmail.com">labdad2014@gmail.com</a>
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### From The East

David Meneley –Worshipful Master

Greetings Brethren!

Well, here we are at the end of 2018 and the conclusion of my first year as your Worshipful Master. As I reflect over the past 12 months, so much has happened for myself and our lodge. We have received some new members, both by coming through their degrees and by affiliation. We have seen some Brothers leave, but some have returned, which makes me very happy. We have had some great events, some for the first time, others being continuations of some of our most anticipated get togethers. I would like to thank all the Brothers for all you have done to keep our lodge running smoothly as we navigated through 2018. There are some I would like to recognize in this article, in particular the

officers that have supported me as I tried to lead and inspire you:

Eric Parker – Tiler: Brother Eric, your tireless commitment to our lodge and your positive attitude, even as you have faced health challenges, should be an inspiration to us all! You come to every practice, degree, meeting, and every other lodge event, always with a big smile and a warm, friendly handshake for anyone who crosses your path. You may have had a problem with your eyesight recently, but that never robbed you of your joy! Stay strong my Brother, you represent what is special about Oak Plains No. 789!

Maury Hicks – Junior Deacon: Brother Maury, you are a great big man with a great big heart to match. You try your best and you should be commended for that. I have enjoyed our conversations together and have found new ways to look at things thanks to your insight. You are steadfast in your devotion to the lodge and wanting to make Oak Plains a great place to be a Mason. Thank you for all you do for myself and the Brethren!

Mauricio Pasos – Senior Deacon: Brother Mauricio, from leading the charge on Oktoberfest to serving on the Temple Board, you have rolled up your sleeves, jumped right in, and served the lodge in any way you are needed. You made one of my longtime wishes a reality and we now have Oak Plains shirts! You are a pure Mason through and through and Oak Plains is very fortunate that we have you as a Brother! Keep striving and there is no telling how far you will go in the Masonic universe!

Matt DeVilbiss – Marshall: Brother Matt, where can I start? You are truly a Brother and a very close friend. I have watched you transform as you came through your degrees and entered into office to become a great man and example to your Brethren in lodge! Your devotion to your Family, job, and Lodge should be admired. You may not always be with us, but you are never far from our thoughts. You are a big presence in our lodge and when you are gone, either for work

or other issues, you are definitely missed! I am proud to be your friend and Brother in lodge. From one old crusty vet to another: Thank you for all you do!

Mike Perry – Assistant Secretary: Brother Mike, your list of activities in this lodge could fill a couple of books. You took on the Temple Board with so much energy it was incredible! That was only the beginning as you played a crucial role in organizing Oak Plains' first Festive Board back in June. That event was great fun for me to sit over and get to sit next to MW John Cooper, it is not everyday that you sit next to a Past Grand Master and enjoy conversation over dinner. You continue to serve in any capacity needed and you do it without complaining and to the best of your ability. Keep up the great work Brother!

Carroll O Dudley – Treasurer: Brother Carroll, you are the Brother who balances the books and keeps Oak Plain's financial ship righted. You also serve on the Temple Board and spend time on your days off at our building re-staking trees and pulling weeds. On top of that, you chair our annual Crab Feed! You have poured so much of yourself into our lodge over the years, it is no surprise that you have the Hiram Award around your neck! I have heard your passion about Oak Plains and the knowledge of where we came from every time we speak. I look forward to continuing to work with you in the year to come. You are truly a treasured resource here at Oak Plains!

Bill Brewer, PM – Senior Warden: Worshipful Bill, you may not have been officially installed in the West, but it has been very comforting for me as I sit in the East to look across the room and see you sitting there. You are a wealth of knowledge about Masonry, along with several other Brothers. You are always in a good mood when I see you and you never hesitate to give advice when I have asked it. You even have seen opportunities to train our newer officers as we have been working in small groups at practices, I love to see initiative like that! I have enjoyed working with you in the past and I look forward to working with you in the future!

Gene Olson, PM – Chaplin: Worshipful Gene, this year saw you drift away from Oak Plains, but as of my writing this, you are back and I could not be happier! You know so much about this lodge and many of our Brethren both past and present, you are practically a walking history book of Oak Plains! I look forward to walking into lodge and seeing your smiling face! I have always had an idea in my head of what kind of person a chaplain in any organization should be and I must say you fit that mental image very well indeed! I am thrilled to have you back Worshipful and look forward to working with you as I continue in the East!

Steve Brown – Secretary: Brother Steve, it has been said the relationship between a Worshipful Master and his Secretary can make or break a lodge. I am very happy to say that we have a great working relationship. When I come in for stated meeting night and see you at your desk getting things ready, I breathe a sigh of relief knowing the night will run smoothly. I feel a sense of comfort as I sit in the chair and look to my left and see you at your desk. You have no reason to doubt yourself or the work that you do. I look forward to another great year of working together.

Joe Juelch, PM – Inspector: Worshipful Joe, you have proved to be one of my greatest resources as I have navigated my first year in the Master’s Chair. You are tireless as you stepped in to be our officer’s coach for the past year, carried our past master’s vote down to annual communication, and helped out in any other way that you were needed. You wear so many hats in our lodge, sometimes I am not sure which hat you are wearing, but if I am not sure you will remind me. You have helped me in more ways than I can count and for that I am eternally grateful, thank you Worshipful.

Scott Henry – PM (2015-2017): Worshipful Scott, I could not possibly write an article of thanks and not include you. Not only did you help guide me down the path of Masonry to get me to the point where I felt able to serve as Master, but have stayed right there as I have worked my way through being in the East for the first time. Your advice has helped with several difficult decisions and situations I have had to deal with this year. You also have been starting down the path of becoming a Jr. Officers Coach which had been great to see. As much as you have stepped up when asked, you have been happy to step back and allow me to lead, which I greatly appreciate. Thank you again Worshipful, if not for your advice and guidance, I am not sure where I would have wound up this year!

I know I have not mentioned everybody, but it is hard for me to remember everybody and every last contribution you have all made to our lodge. As I close this out it seems only appropriate that my radio is playing the old Dionne Warwick song “That’s What Friends Are For.” Of course we are more than friends, we are Brothers, in the greatest fraternity the world has ever known! Have a safe and joyous holiday season Brethren and here is to a bigger and brighter 2019 for Oak Plains Lodge!

Fraternally,

David V. Meneley

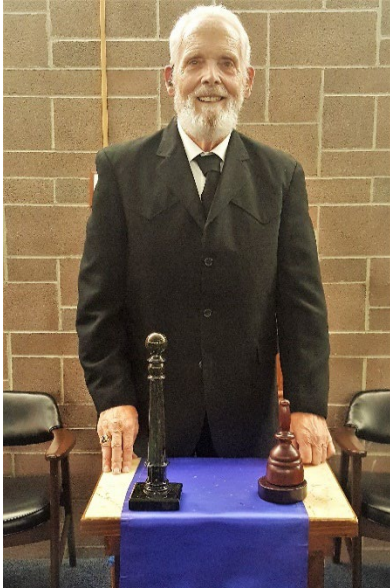
Worshipful Master



## From The West

Wor. William Brewer, PM – Senior Warden

Article was taken from NCRL and wrote by Jordan Yelinek, PM,  
Magnolia Lodge, No. 53



**From the West:** Popular culture has made Masonry into a mythic organization. In Dan Brown's *The Lost Symbol*, the uninitiated eye would believe that in homes, offices and even the United States Capitol, Masons around the world were daily retreating to personal Chambers of Reflection to consider the work at hand. The Chamber of Reflection, however, is a piece of Masonic Ritual rarely practiced in the United States, with only a handful of Lodges utilizing it in Louisiana, New England, California, and other pockets across our country. To brethren in Latin America and Europe, the Chamber of Reflection is a familiar aspect of our Craft, and perhaps it should be considered for more regular use in our lodges.

The Chamber of Reflection, as defined by Mackey in his Encyclopedia of Freemasonry, is "...a small room adjoin the Lodge, in which, preparatory to initiation, the candidate is enclosed for the purpose of indulging in those serious meditations which its somber appearance and the gloomy emblems with which it is furnished are calculated to produce. It is also used in some of the advanced degrees for a similar purpose."

Freemasonry is an initiatic society, and her rituals are transformative. The cultivation of the prospect for our Craft should be the utmost care of our Lodges, and when that prospect is made into a candidate for the mysteries of Freemasonry, it is our duty to ensure that he is indeed duly and truly prepared. The Brethren, on the candidate's entrance into the Lodge, can readily examine the physical preparation of the candidate, yet the mental preparation of the candidate too must be addressed. All too often, a candidate is rushed from his daily, dull cares of life, into the preparation room, where he is physically prepared, but carries with him, into the Lodge, the worries of his day.

An interstitial space between the profane and the initiated, the Chamber of Reflection provides an opportunity for our candidates to separate from the profane world, and ready their hearts and minds for the great work in which they are about to engage themselves.

The form of the Chamber of Reflection varies greatly between different jurisdictions. The most familiar are adorned with alchemical and arcane symbols, together with those of mortality. Still others are adorned with pieces of art, and some are quite plain. In all, the candidate for the Entered Apprentice degree spends some thirty minutes to an hour in the Chamber previous to his Initiation. The end result, in all three cases, if executed with attention and care, is the due and true mental preparation of the candidate.

The origins of the Chamber of Reflection draws themselves from the Pythagorean mystery schools, and even from the Cult of Mithras (perhaps another progenitor of our Craft). Here, novitiates were secreted away in a cave previous to the initiatory observances of these orders. To us, the Chamber is also

reflective of this cave, as seen most closely in the arcane Chamber, which is painted black and small in size, to mirror this experience.

The arcane chamber also commonly possesses the skull, crossbones, scythe, or other emblems of mortality, familiar to us through our third degree. A small plate of bread and glass of water, intended for the candidate to eat and drink, are present, and are a simple food for the work ahead. Alchemical elements, most commonly sulfur, salt and mercury, are drawn upon the walls. To the alchemist, these were the *Tria Prima*, and believed that all substances were, figuratively, formed of these three elements. Again, to the alchemist sulfur is a masculine element, and represents strength; salt is considered neutral, and represents wisdom; and mercury, a feminine element, represents beauty. An hourglass is also present, to mark the time and also for the familiar elements from our third degree. Phrases are sometimes written upon the wall, such as *Perseverance and Vigilance*. A mirror is occasionally present for the physical reflection of the candidate, together with the spiritual.

In all types of chambers, arcane, modern, or plain, a philosophical testament is written, or the candidate answers questions prepared for him in advance. Examples of such questions are:

- In the modern world, in which we live, what drew you to seek membership in the fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons?
- It has often been stated that, simply, the goal of Freemasonry is to make good men better. What is it, in yourself that you are seeking to better, through your experience with the Fraternity?
- One of the principle tenets of Freemasonry is Brotherly Love. How, through the exercise of brotherly love, will you support and enable those around you in seeking to better themselves through the Fraternity?

These questions are then sealed in an envelope, with the candidate's signature across the seal, and presented to the Brother who retrieves him from the Chamber. Some Lodges hold these questions, and return them to the candidate, unopened, on his raising to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason, while others read them in open Lodge before the initiation, to better know their candidate, and best match his experience to his needs and desires. Both are common throughout the fraternity.

Ultimately, the Chamber of Reflection provides an opportunity for the candidate to separate from the profane world as he begins his journey in Masonry. It provides reflection on who he is as a man, what he wishes to accomplish in his life, and how the Craft fits into that path. The symbolism of the arcane chamber, and perhaps either a chamber filled with modern art, or unadorned chamber with a candle, pen or pencil and paper for the candidate to answer his questions upon may provide the optimum experience for the growth of the newest Entered Apprentice. Though, through the use of the Chamber of Reflection, or not, it is our duty as Brethren, to ensure the due preparation of our candidates, both physically and mentally, for the good of our Craft.



## From The South

Vacant-Junior Warden

From The South: Greetings Brethren!

We would like to take the time to mention our next couple of special events: December Stated Dinner and Jed Parker's 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree

Thank you, everyone who helped cooking, preparing and serving the Prime Rib Dinner. The event was a great success and I think everyone went home full and happy. We had 29 people in attendance for the dinner, thank you again for supporting your lodge!

Movie night at Oak Plains was a little small on the attendance side. We had only 5 or 6 people show up for the event, but the show went on as planned. We ordered pizza, had some snacks and drinks. We will keep having these events for everyone. Please come out and have some fun with your Brothers and their families.

The celebration time of year is upon us, this month is our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Tri-tip Dinner we will be whipping up a feast to celebrate the close of 2018! This event is going to have all the fixings and trimmings to include another wonderful dessert prepared by Mrs. Susan Parker. The cost is \$10 per person, and reservations are **REQUIRED** to ensure we have enough food on hand. You can RSVP to Bro. Mike Perry 916-622-7769 or [Oakplains789@gmail.com](mailto:Oakplains789@gmail.com) and Brothers of the lodge can make reservations on the Lodge App.

All these events are for you, the Brethren. This is your Lodge and we need your support for us to be able to continue to have these events. If you would like to suggest a movie, a dinner or event, please let us know. We are trying to create an environment which Brethren and their Families want to come to their Lodge and have some fun with each other. We look forward to seeing you at these events and you are missed!

Fraternally,

Brother Perry





**404<sup>th</sup> Masonic District – Stated Meeting Schedule**

**Oak Plains #789 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday**  
Fellowship – 6:00 PM  
Dinner – 6:30 PM  
Meeting – 8:00 PM

**Bicentennial Daylight #830 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday**  
Fellowship – 11:00 AM  
Lunch – 11:30 AM  
Meeting – 1:00 PM

**Natoma #64 -1<sup>st</sup> Thursday**  
Fellowship – 6:00 PM  
Dinner – 6:30 PM  
Meeting – 8:00 PM

**Inspector of the 404<sup>th</sup> Masonic District: Worshipful Joseph Juelch, PM**

**Temple Board**

Bro. Mike Perry	President	WM David Meneley	Board Member
Bro. Eric Parker	Vice President	Alex Vuckovich	Board Member
Bro. Mauricio Pasos	Treasurer / Secretary	Bro. Carroll O. Dudley, III	Board Member
Wor. Marvin Lien, PM	Board Member	Wor. Eugene Olson	Board Member

**The Temple Board Meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month at 6:30 PM**

The next Temple Board Meeting is December 13th, 2018. There is an open forum for tenants starting at 6:30 p.m. and is open to all tenants. The Temple Board will go into a closed session starting at 7:00 pm.

Phase 1 of the new security system has now been completed by ADT Alarms systems. There are new security procedures for getting into the building. If you have a key, but did not receive an email from me, please contact me immediately, [pmike2351@gmail.com](mailto:pmike2351@gmail.com) or 916-622-7769.

The Hall Board bought a Christmas Tree for all to enjoy, please feel free to add decorations to the tree. This is everyone's tree and it is hoped that all enjoy during the holidays.

Sincerely and Fraternally,

The Oak Plains Masonic Hall Association



### Sweetheart Corner

Sweethearts,

Should you ever need assistance, please call the Master of the Lodge, or Bro. Jeffrey Winch-Warren at 916-208-1628.

### DINNER RESERVATION

Brother's Perry and Pasos are in the kitchen for December! The Menu for the month is a Tri-tip Dinner, salad, bread & butter, dessert & drink! Meal tickets are \$10, make your reservation today they are a **must!** You can email Bro. Perry at [oakplains789@gmail.com](mailto:oakplains789@gmail.com) or call 916-622-7769 or pay on the Lodge App. To save cost we are only making enough food for reservations, so don't delay, make your reservations today!

## December Stated Dinner



- Tri-tip Dinner
  - Salad, vegetables, potatoes, bread and butter and drink
  - Dessert – Provided by Mrs. Susan Parker
- Cost \$10
- Where: Oak Plains starting at 6:30 pm
- Stated Meeting to follow at 8:00 pm
- RSVP is a Must
  - [oakplains789@gmail.com](mailto:oakplains789@gmail.com)
  - Pay on the app
  - 916-622-7769



### **Robert L. Wade Chapter of DeMolay**

You are cordially invited (and encouraged) to attend the events of our very own Chapter of DeMolay, DeMolay meets for dinner every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday. The 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday is reserved for advisory council and the 5<sup>th</sup> Wednesday is game nights. All Masons are welcome to attend all events. All meetings start at 7:00 p.m..

On the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of every month, these young men show up to help our Temple Board and Oak Plains #789 perform the monthly clean up. They help mow, pull weeds, paint and any other duties that need to be completed. A huge thank you goes out to these boys! Please contact Bro. Vuckovich at (916) 215-1117 or [articsophia@yahoo.com](mailto:articsophia@yahoo.com).

### **Camellia Chapter of Rainbow for Girls**



The girls are actively supporting this year's State Service Project, Family's Forward. You can support this project by donating spare change at their stated meetings.

Stated meetings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays at 7pm and the girls always like to see visitors on the sidelines. If you know a young lady between the ages of 11 and 20, we would love to see them join our amazing group of young ladies. Please contact Wor. Jeff Askins [labdad2014@gmail.com](mailto:labdad2014@gmail.com) or Mother Advisor, Gloria Dobson, at (916) 208-1300 or [gdobson49@gmail.com](mailto:gdobson49@gmail.com).

### **Primrose Chapter of Eastern Star**



The Primrose Chapter of Eastern Star meets at the George A. Primrose Masonic Center, 3010 Becerra Way, Sacramento CA 95821 on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday at 12:00 pm. If January 1<sup>st</sup> falls on the first Wednesday, then they will meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday. They are dark July and August. Contact Wor. Joe Juelch at (916) 225-9486 or email [joejuelch@yahoo.com](mailto:joejuelch@yahoo.com).

### **Rising Star Chapter #36 Order of the Eastern Star**

Meets the first Friday of every month at Oak Plains Lodge at 7:30 pm except July and August. Contact Jackie Bozeman at 916-200-8191 for information.

### **Sacramento Scottish Rite**



The Sacramento Scottish Rite meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 6151 H Street, Sacramento. Social Hour starts at 5:30 with the meeting at 6:00 pm followed by a dinner and program at 7:00. Reservations can be made at <https://www.sacramentoscottishrite.org/>

### **Ben Ali Shrine**



The Ben Ali Shrine meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 3262 Marysville Blvd., Sacramento. Social @ 5 and dinner at 6:30. Make reservations at (916) 920-4107. Ben Ali is dark July and August.

### Notes from the Secretary and Assistant Secretary

Brothers, dues notices have been mailed out. Dues for 2019 are \$145.00.

The Oak Plains Lodge app is up and running! Brothers, please install the app using this link <http://ourapp.link/oak-plains-789>. You may ask yourself why do I need another app on my phone? The answer is it is all the Oak Plains information at your fingertips! The calendar, with the ability to RSVP for dinner and soon the ability to pay for dinner, your dues, donate to the lodge or charity instantly; instant communication with the Master, Wardens, Secretary and Treasurer; Online address book to be able to be instantly able to call a Brother, to check on them or coordinate with them.

You may ask is this app secure? The answer is yes. The app is not available to the public in any app store or online. The security lies within the ability to only allow members access by a predetermined roster to have access, this roster is controlled by the App Administrator and a Brother must be approved to access.



**ANNUAL  
MEMBERSHIP  
DUES**

## Birthdays

### **December**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Birthdate</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Birthdate</u>
Albert Skaggs	05- December	Alexander Vuckovich	05- December
Richard Davis	09- December	John Pefley	14- December
Randall Burghgrave	15- December	Marshall "Scott" Henry, PM	15- December
Denny Hudson	19- December	Charles Pratt	26- December

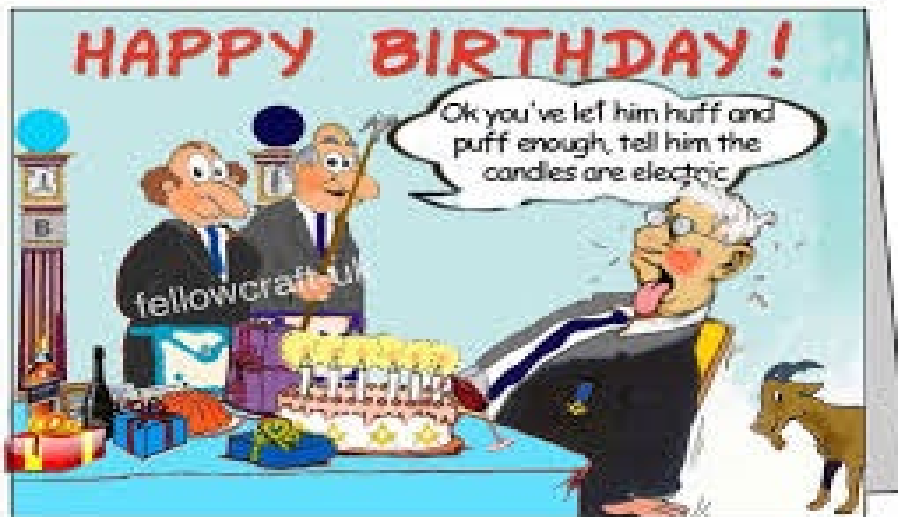


### Master Mason Birthdays

Please join us in congratulating each of the Brothers who are celebrating being raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason in December, Congratulations Brothers!

### **December**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Date Raised</b>	<b>Years</b>
Edward Camillieri	12-13-1982	36
William Cheesebrough	12-14-1981	37
Darren Grove	12-01-2008	10
John Nelson	12-11-1972	46







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## Disaster Appeal For California

Most Worshipful Stuart A. Wright, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of California, has requested the Masonic Service Association of North America to issue a Disaster Relief Appeal. Wildfires have brought unprecedented death and destruction across the state. The Grand Lodge is aiding and assisting their Brothers, their families, and their communities in providing aid and assistance.

Grand Master Wright says, “The wildfires now raging in California are unlike anything we’ve seen before. The 215–square mile Camp Fire in Northern California is the deadliest in California history with over 10,000 structures destroyed and dozens of fatalities. The Woolsey Fire has burned nearly 100,000 acres in Los Angeles and Ventura Counties and has resulted in additional deaths and destroyed structures. Hundreds of Masons, their families, and widows have been evacuated, and many of them have lost their homes. Places of employment and education have been destroyed, making the immediate future of many in our Masonic family very uncertain. “The loss has been great and, unfortunately, it will only become greater before the fires are contained. There is an immediate need for help.”



## Key Dates

### December

- Oak Plains Officer's Practice – December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 pm
- Robert L. Wade Chapter of DeMolay Stated Meeting – December 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm
- Natoma #64 Stated meeting and Dinner – December 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm
- Jed Parker's Third Degree – December 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm
- Oak Plains Work Day – December 13<sup>th</sup> – Contact Bro. Perry if you are attending
- Oak Plains Masonic Building Association Meeting – December 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 – 8:30
- Camellia Assembly of Rainbow Girls Stated Meeting – December 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm
- Trestle Board Articles are due to the Trestle Board Editor
- Oak Plains Stated Dinner and Meeting, menu is Tri-tip dinner, dessert and drink, \$10, please make reservations – December 17<sup>th</sup> – Dinner at 6:30; Meeting at 8:00
- Bicentennial Daylight Lodge #830 – Stated Lunch and Dinner at 11:30 am
- Robert L. Wade Chapter of DeMolay Stated Dinner and Meeting – December 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm
- Christmas Eve – December 24<sup>th</sup>
- Christmas Day – December 25<sup>th</sup>
- Officer's School of Instruction – December 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm (tentative)
- Camellia Assembly of Rainbow Girls Stated Meeting December 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm (tentative)
- New Year's Eve – December 31<sup>st</sup>

