

# Fraternal Updates For Your July Meeting

Dear Lodge FAC,  
Please share the enclosed information  
at your July lodge meeting

## Reserve Your Room Now for the End of Summer Getaway

Good times are in store for you at the Eleventh Annual Corpus Christi Getaway! Make plans now to join old and new friends on August 11-13, 2017 for a fun-filled weekend. Last year, approximately 368 men, women, boys and girls from across the state enjoyed the weekend fraternal celebration.



As in years past, SPJST rooms are blocked at the Emerald Beach Hotel in Corpus Christi. As of June 21, there were 22 rooms with doubles available for both Friday and Saturday and 15 rooms with king beds available. This is out of the 150 – rooms blocked that were set aside for the event. There are seven cabana rooms on the beach that are available. If you have not already done so, please make your reservations as soon as possible by calling the hotel at 361.883.5731 and refer to group code “SPJ” to assure proper room rates. **Rates will change Thursday, July 27 to summer rates.** If you have any problems or concerns while making your reservation please ask to speak with Mary Alice. Please see the enclosed flyer for additional details.

The 2017 celebration officially kicks off with the Friday night Aloha Party. Saturday’s events will once again include sand sculpting, horseshoes, 42 dominoes, bunco, the evening award presentation, and music by Chris Rybak. If you have any questions about the event in general, please contact Frank at [frankh@spjst.com](mailto:frankh@spjst.com) or call 254.534.0681.

## **SPJST Youth Achievement Day**

District Youth Achievement Days are underway. Please go and attend your District YAD and show your support to the SPJST youth. I am sharing the dates and places of your District's Youth Achievement Day. They are as follows:

District One Sunday, July 23, Caldwell Civic Center  
District Two Saturday, July 8, Lodge 47, Seaton  
District Five Sunday, July 23, Lodge 88, Houston  
District Six Sunday, July 16, Taiton Community Center

## **State Youth Achievement Day August 5, 2017**

Mark your calendar to be at the Frank Mayborn Convention Center in Temple, Texas Saturday, August 5, 2017 for SPJST State Youth Achievement Day. Please come out and support our SPJST youth at district and state competition. Our youth are the future leaders of this organization, community and state.

## **SPJST Weekend Retreat**

Great News! — During the April Supreme Lodge meeting it was unanimously approved to have an adult's weekend retreat in 2017 at the SPJST Camp. Plans are in the works for the retreat to be September 22-24. ENC Camp Executive Director Jeb Lapeyrolerie and I will be working on coordinating activities.



We are planning some unique elements for this weekend retreat. Make sure to check your *Vestnik* for updates on the adult camp program and my monthly newsletter.

## July 4, 2017

As we prepare to observe our nation's Independence Day, I want to share some information about Independence Day. The information below can be found on the National Archives webpage <http://www.archives.gov/press/press-releases/2005/nr05-83.html>

Did you know . . . Independence Day should actually be July 2? And other little known facts about The Declaration Of Independence.

**Washington, D.C. . . .** America's revolutionary Charter of Freedom, the Declaration of Independence is a document upon which our nation's founding principles were established. The National Archives will celebrate the 241<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence with its traditional Fourth of July program. History lovers young and old can view the Declaration of Independence, and speak with actors playing those who signed this important document! All programs are free, open to the public, and take place at the National Archives Building on Constitution Avenue between 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Streets, N.W. Washington D.C.

The Declaration of Independence set the course for our nation on a journey of freedom, which also led this historic document on its own journey. For example, did you know . . .

**Who Authored the Declaration of Independence?** Thomas Jefferson wrote the first draft of the Declaration of Independence, which was then edited by John Adams and Benjamin Franklin. Jefferson took their edits and incorporated them into what would become the version finally adopted.

**Independence Day Should Have Been July 2.** – July 2, 1776 is the day that the Continental Congress actually voted for independence. John Adams, in his writings, even noted that July 2 would be remembered in the annals of American history and would be marked with fireworks and celebrations. The written Declaration of Independence was dated July 4 but wasn't actually signed until August 2. Fifty-six delegates eventually signed the document, although all were not present on that day in August.

**Who Signed and In What Order?** – John Hancock signed first, with a large hand right in the middle because he was the President of the Congress. The others signed by state delegation, beginning in the upper right in one column, and then proceeding in five other columns, arranged from the northernmost state (New Hampshire) to the southernmost (Georgia).

**Who Signed Last?** It is believed Thomas McKean of Delaware was the last person to sign. When Congress authorized the printing of an official copy with the names attached in January 1777, McKean's name was not included. He signed after that date, or the printer made a mistake by omitting him. Here is one more fun fact.

**Line of Descent** – Actress Reese Witherspoon is a direct descendant of John Witherspoon, one of the 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence. John Witherspoon is pictured in a Barry Faulkner Mural, entitled "The Declaration of Independence," which

illustrates 28 delegates to the Continental Congress of 1776. This newly restored mural is hanging in the Rotunda of the National Archives.

## **Member Referrals Wanted: Participate in the Monthly Prize Drawing!**

**When it comes to getting new SPJST members, there is no substitute for member referrals.** When an SPJST member refers a friend or family member for membership in the SPJST, he or she is helping to build a stronger and more active lodge. It also qualifies you to participate in the monthly referral card drawing contest.

### **Monthly Contests!**

All referral cards received during a given month will go into a drawing for three (3) \$25 Walmart gift cards. The individual making the referral also benefits the SPJST by helping to build a stronger and more active local lodge.

On a related note, SPJST is looking for men and women who believe in the fraternal ideal and would like to consider the benefits of being an SPJST Sales Agent. Please note the enclosed flyer inviting prospective sales agents to apply.

## **SPJST FAC Assistance**

We are here to help if you need assistance. Please feel free to call me at 254.534.0681, email [frankh@spjst.com](mailto:frankh@spjst.com) or Fraternal Services Specialist Tammy Martinez at 800.727.7578, 254.773.1575 or email [tammym@spjst.com](mailto:tammym@spjst.com). Your District FAC is also available to assist you.

They are as follows:

<b>District 1 – Kyle Skrabanek</b>	<b>979.820.0531</b>
<b>District 2 – Ruth Hanusch</b>	<b>254.771.0193</b>
<b>District 3 – Vicki Sims</b>	<b>214.763.0341</b>
<b>District 4 – Janeece Williams</b>	<b>806.990.3351</b>
<b>District 5 – Don Fruin</b>	<b>832.651.5388</b>
<b>District 6 – Helen Zabransky</b>	<b>361.798.3347</b>
<b>District 7 – Theresa Haag</b>	<b>830.625.8262</b>

Fraternally submitted,



Frank Horak  
State Fraternal Activities Coordinator

# SAVE THE DATE



Make plans now to attend the  
11TH ANNUAL  
CORPUS CHRISTI  
GETAWAY WEEKEND  
AUGUST 11 - 13, 2017

Enjoy a fun-filled weekend  
with family and friends at  
the Emerald Beach Hotel  
in Corpus Christi.

Located at 1102 South Shoreline, the  
Emerald Beach is the only beachfront  
downtown hotel.



Discount Rate:  
\$119 per night  
Applicable taxes apply

To make your reservations,  
please call the hotel directly at  
361-883-5731 and refer to group  
code "SPJ" to assume that you  
receive the proper room rate.

# WANTED



# MEMBER REFERRALS

When it comes to getting new SPJST members, there's no substitute for member referrals. When an SPJST member refers a friend or family member for membership in SPJST, he or she is helping to build a stronger and more active lodge. It also qualifies you to participate in the monthly referral card drawing contest.

## MONTHLY CONTESTS!

The name of each member who sends in a referral card(s) during the month will go into a drawing for three \$25 Walmart gift cards. The referrer also benefits by helping to build a stronger and more active local lodge. Referral cards are available from the SPJST Home Office, at SPJST-sponsored events, and online at [www.spjst.org](http://www.spjst.org).

Please help us to ensure that the leads that you pass on are quality leads. We would not want any sales agent to devote precious time to calling on unqualified leads. A good referral is someone who an SPJST member has spoken with about membership and/or life insurance in SPJST and who has expressed an interest in joining. In visiting with your prospective lead, make sure that he or she knows that an SPJST Sales Agent will call.



2017 Membership Drive