



T E X A S

# FREEMASON

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The Grand Lodge Memorial Temple

The Texas Freemason Magazine is an official publication of the Grand Lodge of Texas A. F. & A. M. It is published four times a year for the members of Texas Lodges and subscribers. Spring and winter issues are available in print. Summer and fall issues are available in PDF format at <https://grandlodgeoftexas.org>. Opinions expressed by the Editors and contributing writers do not necessarily reflect official positions of the Grand Lodge of Texas Copyright 2020, by the Trustees of the Grand Lodge of Texas. All rights reserved.

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The Texas Freemason Magazine encourages submission of articles and photographs of general interest to Masons in Texas, reserving the right to edit and use the articles and pictures as needs and policies dictate.

News and articles from around the state will continue to be published in a web-based format on the Grand Lodge of Texas website The Grand Lodge website is accessible at <http://www.grandlodgeoftexas.org>

Please continue to send your articles and Lodge events and news to the Editors of The Texas Freemason Magazine.

The preferred method of submission is via email with an attached Microsoft Word document. Pictures should be separately submitted in JPEG format to [TexasFreemason@grandsecretaryoftx.org](mailto:TexasFreemason@grandsecretaryoftx.org). If you do not have email, submissions may be sent to the Grand Lodge of Texas, Attn: The Editor of The Texas Freemason Magazine, PO Box 446, Waco, Texas 76703. All materials become property of the magazine and cannot be returned.

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### Archives

<https://grandlodgeoftexas.org/texas-freemason-magazine>



## A WORD FROM THE Grand Master



My Brethren,

Greetings. This time last year, I had the privilege to communicate with each of you as Deputy Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas. I spoke of seasonal change (figuratively and literally), my goals for our great fraternity, and our collective duties and responsibilities as Texas Masons. I am now writing to you as the Grand Master of Masons in Texas with a similar and reinforcing message.

September 23, 2023, was the Autumnal Equinox. This was the day in the northern hemisphere when the sun is directly above the celestial Equator just before it descends south. The result is an astronomical balance between day and night. It is no wonder that our Lodges symbolize this form. Our ancient generations recognized this and took part in harvests and celebrations. They recognized the balance between labor and refreshment. They reaped what they so laboriously sowed. As men, and especially as Texas Masons, we are designed to work and to provide glory to our society from our industry. I encourage each of you to continue your good work but be reminded of the third part of the 24-inch gage. Also remember the mosaic pavement, which represents a shield of protection and equilibrium.

Our Order performed many good works in

2023. I believe positive results have already been realized and the future will yield even more. The foundation of our Fraternity is built upon unity, benevolence, and a Code of Honor. We must be unified in our goals of constructing a greater tomorrow and we must be willing to cultivate and leverage our charitable nature, character, and integrity within our Lodges and throughout our society.

I am very proud of the 2023 Investigation Manual. I hope it has brought forward additional education to our Lodges and has provided tools to increase our confidence in performing satisfactory investigations. Each one of us is responsible for guarding the West Gate. We must not resort. Our reputation is too grand, and our future and our children's future are too important.

According to preliminary numbers, the Reinstatement Program has been successful, and we have welcomed back many sojourners. Many of these men simply fell through the cracks or now know the previous season was not the best season for them to contribute. Welcome Back! It has done my heart well to know that our lodges have recognized our many Legacy members. Being recognized before our peers, families, and communities has bestowed honor to many and we should all seek opportunities to celebrate the various forms of Legacy throughout our Fraternity.

I am thankful for the Committee on Work for its laudable undertaking of revising the Texas Monitor. This has been necessary for some time and these men worked countless hours on this edition. They honor each of us for keeping the ritual pure and selflessly serving the Grand Lodge of Texas.

First Lady Teresa and I were pleased to partner with the Texas Masonic Charities Foundation (TXMCF) in 2023. Five-hundred forty Lodges participated in the scholarship matching program. In combination with lodge matching, our Fraternity

provided \$1,260,000 in scholarships and almost \$32,000 in Community Grants. The merchandise, boot bag, and jewelry sales contributed approximately \$55,000. I will be recognizing those lodges who contributed \$10,000 or more in scholarships or ten or more scholarships at the 188th Grand Communications in January 2024. I want to personally thank you, the Texas Masons, for your benevolent heart and your investment into our collective society.

In closing, I want to recognize the Trustees of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas for working so intentionally with me in 2023 and I wish them fortune. I am very proud of the many District Deputy Grand Masters across the state who carried our banner, and to the many men who spent countless hours laboring on the various committees who represent the Grand Lodge when it is at refreshment.

To the Texas Masons: Thank you for electing me as your Grand Master. I am inspired to be a better man because of your nature, character, and integrity. Today, I am a better Texas Mason. Now stand with me and your Grand Lodge as we cultivate a new season of opportunity and growth.

And finally, Brethren, "be ye all of one mind, and may the God of love and peace delight to dwell with and bless you.

G. Clay Smith  
Grand Master 2023





## GRAND LODGE

### A WORD FROM THE Deputy Grand Master



Greetings Brethren,

What an honor and pleasure it has been to represent you, the Grand Lodge of Texas, while visiting other jurisdictions, and to the public this year. I have had the opportunity to see and meet many great Masons this year while traveling to events around the state, and I look forward to what next year has in store!

I hope this note finds you all healthy and working hard to better our great Fraternity! It has been a busy year again, with the 'Cornerstone Ceremonies,' Lodge Visitations, and Lodge Anniversaries; and much of it has been spent finalizing preparations for the future, hoping to enhance your Grand Lodge experience!

2024 will mark the 75th Anniversary of the stupendous edifice that we all enjoy, and so fondly call our home; we will be celebrating the anniversary of the Grand Lodge of Texas Memorial Building, in conjunction with the Grand Lodge Library and Museum Board with a major festival planned for some time next year, but I'll let them give you the details, and in the meantime, I'm proud to say that the GLoT has produced a 'Collector's Coin Set,' including over (200) .999 Pure Silver

coins, and several Bronze coins to honor our great Grand Lodge Memorial Building, which we will be selling at the next Grand Communication, in January, 2024; there will be (75) numbered coins, and several more unnumbered coins for sale, and the total amount of this 'tax-deductible' sale will go directly to the Grand Lodge Library and Museum, a gift from the GLoT to the Grand Lodge Library and Museum.

In 2024, the Grand Lodge of Texas will again be offering an item for sale, which will directly benefit the Texas Masonic Charities Foundation... for a \$100 donation, you will receive a Garment Bag, made of the popular heavy denier nylon, which is much more durable than regular garment bags and water repellent; this garment bag will complement the current 'Boot Bag'

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being offered by the Grand Lodge, also benefiting the Texas Masonic Charities Foundation... Both items will be available in 2024. Please continue to support the TMCF, who do so much to support our Lodges and their needs.

On four different occasions (DDGM Training) in the last three months, I have seen a group of Masons whose dedication and love for our Gentle Fraternity has far exceeded any expectation that anyone had of them, and they all are looking forward to serving you and our Grand Lodge, as District Deputies very soon. These Brethren are only part of the TEAM that is quickly coming together as the Leadership for 2024, and I'm positive that our Grand Lodge will be pleased!

Integrity, Virtue, Character, Responsibility, all traits that we look for in a Leader. We have seen many forms of these characteristics over the last few years, and our Grand Lodge deserves only the best of what we can offer it! We have always been told to be vigilant and 'To Guard Well the West Gate,' Brethren, now, is no different, as we progress into 2024 and forward, be true to our Grand Lodge and the precepts it was founded upon.

Many plans have been made for 2024 and the excitement is building, and I hope that you will be a part of it too; I look forward to seeing you all in Waco, in January!

Sincerely and Fraternally,  
H. Bart Henderson  
Deputy Grand Master



## A WORD FROM THE Grand Secretary



Brethren,

Preparations for the 188th Grand Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Texas are underway. A schedule covering activities at the upcoming annual communication can be found in this edition of the Texas Freemason Magazine. Pre-registration for the Annual Communication opened November 1 at 10:00am and will close January 1 at 10:00 am. I would encourage you to pre-register to avoid the inconvenience of registering onsite. You can also purchase tickets for the Grand Master's Banquet and the Ladies' Luncheon and Painting with a Twist when you register. Brethren from the Waco area will be operating shuttle vans from the Waco Hilton and Courtyard Hotels Friday and Saturday. I have also arranged for a golf cart to pick up Brothers who park downtown near the Memorial Temple. The Brothers from Waco Lodge No. 92 will be downstairs making sure we have hot coffee and lunch available Thursday – Saturday. The staff in the Library and Museum have made some wonderful changes to some of the museum exhibits and I would encourage you to take a tour while you're in town.

Due to the diligent efforts of the Committee on Work, my office has been able to print a small bound version of the Lodge Monitor. These copies will be available for purchase outside my office at the end of the main foyer.

As I close out my service as Grand Secretary, I remain grateful to all those who have come before me. I am grateful to those men who have provided their council to me along the way and have always been willing to extend the hand of friendship. I offer my thanks and gratitude to the faithful staff in the Grand Secretary's office for all they do each day to serve the Masons of Texas. My service as Grand Secretary has taken me to every part of our State, and during these travels I've been blessed to meet with Brethren and listen to how we can improve the Grand Secretary's office both in how the office operates and interacts with our members. Through these visits I have implemented programs and policies that I believe will benefit the Masons of Texas and our Grand Lodge for years to come. Change always seems to come far too fast for some and dreadfully slow for others.

For 186 years, Texas Masons have come together annually to discuss the business affairs of this Fraternity. In good times and bad, men from all walks of life have set aside those things which tend to ferment division among men and have united together to solve the common problems we face. That is my fervent hope for this upcoming Annual Communication. Let us all remember the lesson of the trowel, the principal working tool of Master Masons, which reminds us to spread the cement of brotherly love and affection. Without it, our institution will surely crumble. With it, our fraternity will be stronger and more

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vibrant, assuring us that we will be able to assemble in Grand Lodge for many years to come, enjoying the annual recurrence of this auspicious solemnity. God bless you all and may God bless the Grand Lodge of Texas.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

Justin B. Duty  
Grand Secretary

# 2024 Grand Annual Communication

## DAY ONE

### FIRST SESSION

Thursday Afternoon  
January 18, 2024

- 1:00 p.m. Musical Prelude, W.⚔ Michael J. Coté, Grand Musician
- 1:30 p.m. Pre-formal Opening Ceremonies, R.⚔ W.⚔ Wendell P. Miller, Past Grand Master, Presiding
- 1:45 p.m. Formal Opening Ceremonies, M.⚔ W.⚔ G. Clay Smith, Grand Master, Presiding
  - Masonic Service Awards, M.⚔ W.⚔ G. Clay Smith, Grand Master
  - Vanguard Lodges Awards, M.⚔ W.⚔ G. Clay Smith, Grand Master
  - Memorial Service W.⚔ Joseph A. Taylor, Chairman, Committee on Memorials
- 6:00 p.m. Grand Master's Banquet @ Lee Lockwood Scottish Rite Library & Museum. Tickets required.
  - W. B. & Brandon Carrell Humanitarian Award, M.⚔ W.⚔ G. Clay Smith, Grand Master
  - Sam Houston Medal Award, M.⚔ W.⚔ G. Clay Smith, Grand Master
  - William M. Beck Award, M.⚔ W.⚔ G. Clay Smith, Grand Master

## DAY TWO

### SECOND SESSION

Friday Morning  
January 19, 2024

- 9:00 a.m. Opening of the One Hundred Eighty-Eighth Grand Annual Communication of The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas, by M.⚔ W.⚔ G. Clay Smith, Grand Master

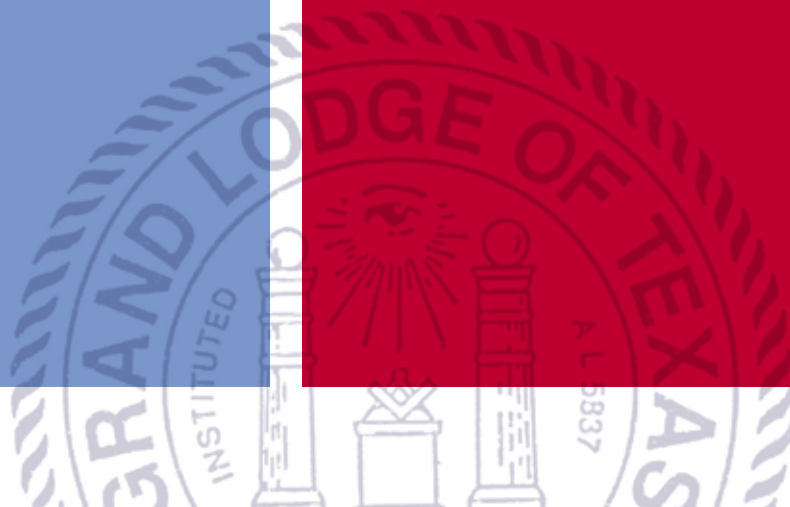
11:30 a.m. Ladies Luncheon and Activity – George's Waco – Painting with Twist

Noon\* Grand Lodge Called from Labor  
Sam Houston Hall of Fame Luncheon

### THIRD SESSION

Friday Afternoon  
January 19, 2024

- 1:00 p.m. Prelude of Percussion Music by W.⚔ Michael J. Coté, Grand Musician
- 1:15 p.m. Grand Oration by R.⚔ W.⚔ David A. Gower, Grand Orator
- 2:00 p.m. Grand Lodge called from Refreshment to Labor
- 5:00 p.m.\* Grand Lodge Called from Labor



## DAY THREE

### FOURTH SESSION

Saturday Morning  
January 20, 2024

8:30 a.m. Grand Lodge Called from Refreshment to Labor (Elections at 10:00 am)

9:00 a.m. Coffee honoring Teresa Smith and Linda Henderson in the Lower Level, Grand Lodge Building. All Ladies are invited.

### FIFTH SESSION

Saturday Afternoon  
January 20, 2023

1:30 p.m. Musical Prelude

2:00 p.m. Open Installation of Officers

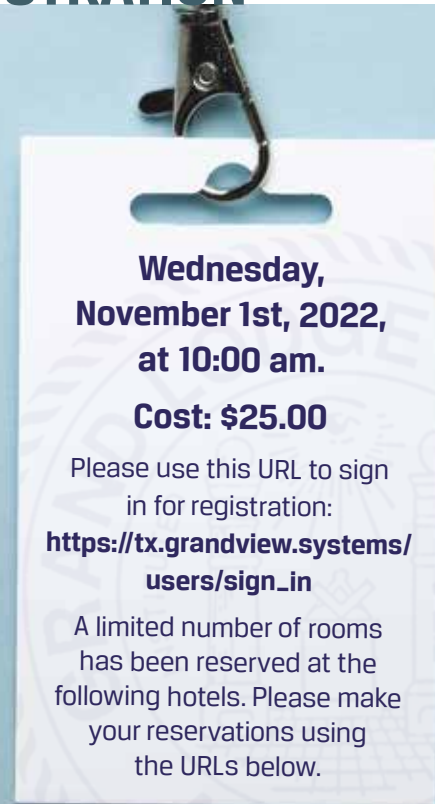
Remarks by the Most Worshipful  
Grand Master

Closing of Open Installation by  
M. W. H. Bart Henderson, Grand Master

Grand Lodge Called From Refreshment to Labor

Closing of the One Hundred Eighty-eighth Grand Annual Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas by the M. W. H. Bart Henderson, Grand Master

## REGISTRATION



**Wednesday,  
November 1st, 2022,  
at 10:00 am.**

**Cost: \$25.00**

Please use this URL to sign  
in for registration:

**[https://tx.grandview.systems/  
users/sign\\_in](https://tx.grandview.systems/users/sign_in)**

A limited number of rooms  
has been reserved at the  
following hotels. Please make  
your reservations using  
the URLs below.

**Waco Hilton** – \$169 per night  
113 S University Parks Dr., Waco, TX 76701

Please use this URL to book your room:  
**[https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/  
actwhhf-gl24-18b311aa-8dce-4dc3-9fc4-  
28c315895a2e/](https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/actwhhf-gl24-18b311aa-8dce-4dc3-9fc4-28c315895a2e/)**

**Courtyard by Marriot Waco** – \$149 per night  
101 Washington Ave., Waco, TX 76701

Please use this URL to book your room:  
**[https://www.marriott.com/event-res-  
ervations/reservation-link.  
mi?id=1696965576072&key=GRP&app=resvlink](https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1696965576072&key=GRP&app=resvlink)**

Shuttle service from these Hotels to the Grand Lodge Memorial Temple will be available on Friday and Saturday.



## GRAND LODGE

### 2023-2024 Summary of Proposed Resolutions

**Resolution No. 1:** A resolution relating to a program to initiate, pass, and raise a Mason in one day.

**Resolution No. 2:** A resolution relating to reconfiguring the number of blackballs required to reject a petition for the degrees.

**Resolution No. 3:** A resolution relating to the prohibition of Masonic charges after dismissal or acquittal.

**Resolution No. 4:** A resolution relating to the call of Special Communication of the Grand Lodge upon petition of the subordinate lodges.

**Resolution No. 5:** A resolution relating to the responsibilities of management of the Memorial Masonic Grand Lodge Temple.

**Resolution No. 6:** A resolution relating to the distribution and approval of minutes of the lodge.

**Resolution No. 7:** A resolution relating to the production of a summary of the proposed resolutions and their effects.

**Resolution No. 8:** A resolution relating to a vote for reinstatement after definite time suspension for Masonic offenses.

**Resolution No. 9:** A resolution relating to the possession and consumption of alcoholic beverages on lodge premises.

**NOTE:** Since this subject matter was considered within the last three (3) years, a preliminary vote requiring approval of two-thirds majority of the lodges and members present is required to consider the resolution (Art. 172 paragraph 2).

**Resolution No. 10:** A resolution relating to the Grand Lodge's jurisdiction over certain individuals accused of un-Masonic conduct.

**Resolution No. 11:** A resolution relating to the paraphernalia used in the subordinate lodges.

**Resolution No. 12:** A resolution relating to subordinate lodge sponsorship of other organizations.

**Resolution No. 13:** A resolution relating to requirements for lodge instructors for the L.I.F.E. Program.

**Resolution No. 14:** A resolution relating to an apron for Golden Trowel recipients.

**Resolution No. 15:** A resolution relating to disposition of funds of certain Endowed Memberships in demised lodges.

**Resolution No. 16:** A resolution relating to the disqualification of felons to receive the degrees.

## Statements of Availability



**KEVIN T. BINDER**  
For Grand Junior Warden

### Temple Lodge No. 4

Raised September 7, 1999  
Worshipful Master 2003 – 04  
Worshipful Master 2014 – 15  
Treasurer 2015 – Present  
Endowed Member 2003  
Golden Trowel recipient

### Eagle Lake Lodge No. 366

Worshipful Master 2023 – 2024  
Secretary 2021 – 23  
Endowed Member 2023

### Tranquillity Lodge No. 2000

Endowed Member 2022

### Grand Lodge of Texas

Internet Committee 2004  
Memorials 2021 – Present,  
Chairman: 2021  
District Instructor - 30B: 2008-11  
District Deputy Grand  
Master - 30A: 2017 – 18  
District Communications  
Officer - 30A: 2018 – 19  
District Deputy Grand Master  
at Large: 2021 – 22  
Grand Master's Regional  
Coordinator: 2021  
Grand Junior Steward: 2022 – 23  
District Instructor - 33: 2023 – Present  
Esoteric A Certificate: 2002 – Present

2024 Grand Masters Planning Team  
2025 Grand Masters Planning Team

### Education

University of Houston Professional  
Degree from the Gemological Insti-  
tute of America with Certifications in:  
Diamonds, Diamond Grading, Colored  
Stones & Colored Stone Grading

### Personal / Professional / Civic

Owner/Vice President of Sid Binder's  
Fine Jewelry  
Owner of Binder's Jewelry & Loan &  
International Fidelity Auctioneers  
Owner of BPS Commercial Services  
2012 - Present  
Board of Directors of the Houston  
Scottish Rite: 2021 – Present  
Board of Directors of Bellaire Little  
League: 2002

Bellaire Little League coach:  
1997 – 2009

Youth Activities Coach 1997-2009  
Meals on Wheels volunteer  
Volunteered by feeding the homeless  
Houston Food Bank volunteer  
Retirement Home volunteer –  
provided flowers to residents,  
picked up & delivered medications  
to residents, taught computer skills  
to residents, picked up & delivered  
groceries for residents & helped  
with genealogy projects.

### Family

Bryan – Son  
Brandon – Son



# Statements of Availability



**JUSTIN B. DUTY**  
For Grand Junior Warden

**M. Denton Stanford Lodge No. 594**

Raised - August 28, 2004  
Worshipful Master - 2010-2011  
Secretary - 2011-2015  
Treasurer - 2017-2019  
Endowed Member  
Golden Trowel - 2016

**Z.S Teague Moody Lodge No. 568**

Worshipful Master: 2013  
Endowed Member

**Crawford Lodge No. 585**

Endowed Member

**Union Lodge No. 82**

Reconstituting charter member  
Treasurer - 2020-2022

**Ocean Lodge No. 230**

**Tranquility Lodge No. 2000**

Endowed Member

**Sweet Home Lodge No. 576**

Endowed Member

**Texas Lodge of Research**

Associate Member

**Grand Lodge of Texas**

Grand Secretary - 2021-Present  
Acting Grand Secretary - November 30, 2020 - January 16, 2021  
Gold Seal Patron of the Grand Lodge Library and Museum - 2022  
Patron of the Grand Lodge Library and Museum - 2020  
Masonic Grand Lodge Library & Museum of Texas - Ex officio Board Member  
Esoteric A Certificate - 2017-present  
District Instructor - Masonic District No. 45 - 2020  
District Instructor - Masonic District No. 61C - 2021  
District Deputy Grand Master - Masonic District 61A - 2014  
District Education Officer - Masonic District 61A - 2018  
Member - Grand Lodge Credentials Committee - 2018-2019  
Chairman - Grand Lodge Credentials Committee - 2020

Vice Chairman - 185th Grand Annual Communication Special Committee  
Member - Grand Lodge Special Assignments Committee - 2020  
Member Grand Masters Planning Team - 2020  
Member Grand Masters Planning Team - 2022  
Texas Masonic Charities Foundation - Board Member  
Texas Masonic Charities Foundation - Treasurer 2022-2023  
Grand Representative - Grand Lodge of Virginia  
President - MWSA District 61 2010  
Secretary - MWSA District 61 2011  
Sam Houston Hall of Fame - 2015

**Education**

Tarleton State university - bachelor's degree - Business Occupations

**Personal Profile / Professional Profile / Civic Involvement**

Poppa Rollo's Pizza-Hewitt - Owner 2010-present  
900 Degrees Pizzeria - Owner 2011-present  
First Baptist Church Woodway - Member  
AOPA Aircraft Owners and Pilots Assn. - Member  
Experimental Aircraft Assoc. - Member  
FAA Ratings - Instrument Rated Private Pilot, Airplane - Single Engine Land  
Waco Restaurant Association - President 2005  
Texas Restaurant Association Austin, TX - State Board Member 2005-2006

**Family**

Neeley Duty - Wife  
Declan Duty - Son  
Jonah Duty - Son  
Piper Duty - Daughter

Grand Lodge Constitution Article IV, Section 6 Disclosure: Has received reimbursement for budgeted operating expenses as Grand Secretary.



**H. N. "CHIP" GREEN JR.**  
For Grand Junior Warden

**Tarkington Prairie Lodge No. 498**

Raised April 21, 2008  
Endowed Member  
Worshipful Master, 2012-2013  
Treasurer, 2017-Present  
Golden Trowel: 2018

**Bedias Lodge No. 651**

Endowed Member

**Tranquility Lodge No. 2000**

Endowed Member

**Humble Lodge No. 979**

Endowed Member

**Washington Lodge No. 18**

Endowed Member  
Texas Lodge of Research  
Endowed Member  
Masters Wardens & Secretaries Association  
27th Masonic District, President 2015  
30th Masonic District 2020

**Grand Lodge of Texas**

District Deputy Grand Master 2015 - District 27  
District Education Officer, 2018  
District Deputy Grand Master 2020 - At Large  
Grand Pursuivant - 2021  
Dime-A-Day 2008-Present  
Sam Houston Hall of Fame, 2015  
Patron Grand Lodge Library and Museum, 2018: Gold Seal 2020  
Public Education Committee 2020 - Present-Chairman  
Grand Master Conference Regional Coordinator -2021  
Texas Masonic Charities Foundation 2021- Present- Board Member  
Assistant State Coordinator 2023  
Special Assignments Committee 2023-2024

**Education**

Tarkington High School Graduate 1979

**Personal Profile / Professional Profile / Civic Involvement**

Worked at Union Tank Car Co. Area Manager - 1980 - 2010 Retired  
Roundhouse 2010-Present - Part Time  
Cleveland Livestock Show - 1991- President 1997  
Trinity Valley Exposition - 1991-2015: Vice President of Grounds and Logistics 2008-2015  
Texas FFA Alumni Council - Area IX Representative 1997-2000  
Liberty County Appraisal Review Board 2016-2022: Chairman 2017-2021  
Houston Livestock Show Life Member  
Ducks Unlimited - Major Sponsor

**Family**

Sonda Green - Wife  
Brandon - Son  
Tiffany - Daughter

## Statements of Availability



**GEORGE D. MOXLEY**  
For Grand Junior Warden

**T. Neal Porter Lodge No. 1354**  
Raised - September 18, 1974  
Worshipful Master, 1978 - 1979,  
2018 - 2019  
Secretary, 2009 - 2018, 2019 to  
Present.  
Endowed Member, 2011  
Golden Trowel Award, 2012  
25-Year Service Award, 1999  
40-Year Service Award, 2014

**Sweet Home Lodge No. 576**  
Endowed Member

**Gunsight Lodge No. 838**  
Endowed Member

**Freedom Lodge No. 100**  
Endowed Member

**Tranquility Lodge No. 2000**  
Endowed Member

**Texas Lodge of Research**  
Endowed Member

**Grand Lodge of Texas**  
District Deputy Grand Master, District  
50, 2013  
District Instructor, District 50, 2014 -  
Present  
Grand Lodge Special Assignments  
Committee, 2015 - 2018  
Texas History Committee, 2019 -  
Present  
Texas History Committee, Vice  
Chairman, 2019  
Texas History Committee, Chairman,  
2023  
Grand Lodge Security Committee,  
2019 - Present  
Regional Coordinator, 2020  
Grand Master's Planning Team, 2022  
Conference Coordinator, 2023  
Sam Houston Hall of Fame, Full  
Member  
Grand Lodge of Texas Library and  
Museum, Member

### Education

Sidney Lanier High School, Austin,  
Texas 1968

University of Texas at Austin,  
1968 - 1972

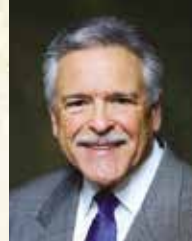
### Personal Profile / Professional Profile / Civic Involvement

Austin Police Department, Police  
Officer, 1972 - 1998, Retired  
Austin Independent School District  
Police Department, 1999 - 2004  
Austin Police Department, Background  
Investigator, 2005 - 2017, Retired  
Austin Police Department, Security,  
2020 - Present  
Founder and operator, American  
Karate of Austin, 1999 - Present  
Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Chil-  
dren, Board of Trustees 2015 - Present  
Member University of Texas Longhorn  
Alumni Band, 1972 - Present  
President, University of Texas  
Longhorn Alumni Band, 2005 - 2006  
Austin Area Representative, University  
of Texas Longhorn Alumni Band, 1985  
- Present

Longhorn Alumni Band Board of Direc-  
tors, 2000 - 2004, President 2004  
Longhorn Alumni Band Board of  
Trustees, 2006 -2010  
Life Member University of Texas  
Alumni Association  
Member Austin Police Association  
Member Austin Police Retired Officers  
Association

### Family

Linda Sevigny Moxley - Wife  
Garrett Moxley - Son  
Ashley Bruno - Daughter  
Brandon Moxley - Son  
Grandchildren:  
Ethan  
Yalena  
Gwenyth  
Colin  
Brayden  
Blake  
Charlotte



**JOHN M. WILKERSON**  
For Grand Junior Warden

### Allen Lodge No. 1435

Raised; June 29, 1982  
Worshipful Master; 1989 - 1990  
Treasurer; 1983, 1990 - 1994, 2001 - 2004  
Endowed Member; 1989  
Life Member; 1990  
Golden Trowel; 1994

### Melissa Lodge No. 569

**Claude L. Austin No. 1450**  
Endowed Member

**Masters', Wardens' and Secretaries' Associations**  
9th Masonic District

### Grand Lodge of Texas

District Communications Officer; 1990 - 1992, 1993  
District Deputy; 1995  
District Deputy; 2014  
Committee on Grievances and Appeals; 2001  
Committee on Petitions and Returns of Lodges UD; 2008 - 2010  
Grand Masters Planning Team; 1995, 1998

### Personal Profile/Professional Profile/Civic Involvement

Owner Creative Lighting

### Education

Tyler Junior College; associate degree in Drafting

### Family

Maureen Wilkerson - Wife



# Statements of Availability



**BRAD S. BILLINGS**  
For Grand Secretary

**Trinity Valley Lodge No. 1048**

Raised: February 21, 2007  
Worshipful Master, 2012  
Endowed Member

**Texas Lodge of Research**

Worshipful Master, 2015  
Full Member  
Endowed Member

**Grapevine Lodge No. 288**

Endowed Member

**J.F. Brumit-Sunshine Lodge No. 341**

Endowed Member  
Life Member

**Crawford Lodge No. 585**

Endowed Member

**Sweet Home Lodge No. 576**

Endowed Member

**Tranquility Lodge No. 2000**

Endowed Member

**Northern Star Lodge No. 377**

Reconstituting Charter Member  
Endowed Member

**Claud L. Austin Lodge No. 1450**

Endowed Member

**Tyrian Lodge No. 187**

Reconstituting Charter Member  
Endowed Member

**Huffman Lodge No. 1428**

Endowed Member

**Blanco Lodge No. 216**

Endowed Member

**Masters', Wardens' and Secretaries' Associations**

14th Masonic District of Texas  
President, 2013  
Vice President, 2012  
Secretary / Treasurer, 2011

Dallas Masonic Service Bureau  
President - 2019  
Vice-President - 2018  
Grand Lodge of Texas  
Grand Master, 2022  
Deputy Grand Master, 2021

Grand Senior Warden, 2020  
Grand Junior Warden, 2019  
Grand Junior Steward, 2015  
District Deputy Grand Master, District 64-B, 2017  
District Education Officer, District 14-E - 2018  
Purposes & Policies Committee, 2013-2018  
Vice-Chairman, 2018  
Special Assignments Committee, 2018  
Grand Master's Planning Team, 2018  
Grand Master's DDGM Training Team: 2018  
Esoteric B Certificate, 2008 - 2013  
Esoteric A Certificate, 2013 - Present  
Sam Houston Hall of Fame Member, 2018  
Briscoe Workshop Coordinator  
Districts 14 & 64, 2017, 2018

**Personal Profile/ Professional Profile/ Civic Involvement**

Sales Executive - Big Wave Energy  
Compass Christian Church - member  
Stephen F. Austin Chapter 6, Sons of the Republic of Texas Honorary Member  
Texas Navy - Admiral  
Alcalde de San Antonio  
Hidalgo de Bexar  
Keys to the cities of Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico and Seagraves, Texas  
John B. Jones Masonic Rangering Company - Major

**Education**

Seagraves High School, Seagraves, Texas  
Bachelor of Business Administration: Finance, Economics and International Business, Rawls College of Business, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas: 2006

**Family**

Brittany Billings - Wife  
Grayson Bexar Billings - Son



**JASON P. COFFELT**  
For Grand Secretary

**J. H. Gurley Lodge No. 337**

Raised: November 11, 2010  
Worshipful Master, 2015 - 2016, 2017 - 2018  
Secretary, 2018 - Present  
Endowed Member  
Golden Trowel Award, 2021

**White Rock Lodge No. 347**

Worshipful Master, 2021 - 2022

**Grand Lodge of Texas**

Grand Representative, Grand Lodge of Benin, Africa, 2018- Present  
District Deputy Grand Master, 61-C, 2019  
Waco Grand Master's Conference Coordinator, 2019  
Grand Junior Steward, 2020  
Committee on Youth Activities, 2021 - Present  
Vice Chairman, 2022 - Present  
Waco Grand Master's Conference Coordinator, 2023

**Personal Profile/ Professional Profile/ Civic Involvement**

Masonic Grand Lodge of Texas, Waco, Texas  
Administrative Assistant, 2016 - 2021  
Office Manager, 2021 - Present  
Scottish Rite Foundation of Texas, 2011 - 2016  
Bosqueville Methodist Church  
Board of Trustees, Secretary  
Technology Committee, Chairman  
Lay Leding Nominations Committee  
History Committee, Member  
Bulletin Editor  
Young Adults Representative  
Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC)  
Education  
Waco High School, Waco, Texas 2009  
National Honor Society  
McLennan Community College, Waco, Texas, 2014  
Certificate in Business Management  
Associate degree in business management

**Family**

Leslie Michelle Coffelt - Wife

## Statements of Availability



**RICHARD B. DANIEL**  
For Grand Secretary

**Orient Lodge No. 905**

Raised: May 27, 1985  
Endowed Member

**Allen Lodge No. 1435**

Worshipful Master: 1992 – 1993  
Secretary: 1993 - 1995  
Endowed Member  
Golden Trowel Award, 1995

**San Andres Lodge No. 170**

**Grand Lodge of Texas**

District Communications Officer: 1996, 1997, 1998  
District Deputy Grand Master, District 64-C, 2009  
Communications Committee, member: 2008-2015  
Texas Masonic Charities Foundation Board of Directors: 2012 – Present  
Board President: 2020 – 2023  
Secretary: 2023 - Present

**Personal Profile/ Professional Profile/ Civic Involvement**

Texas Instruments IT Management: 1986 - 1997  
Citigroup IT Director (retired): 1997 – 2017  
USAA AVP IT Operations (retired): 2017 – 2021  
Past Board Member, Northwest ISD School Board: 2011  
Past Board Member and President, Northwest Education Foundation: 2011 - 2017  
Director, Classic Bank Board of Directors: 2023

**Education**

Tarleton State University, Bachelor of Business Administration -  
Accounting: 1986

**Family**

Sherri Daniel – Wife  
Victoria – Daughter  
Kathrine – Daughter



**MARK DIECKMANN**  
For Grand Secretary

**Houston Lodge No. 1189**

Raised: May 1, 1990  
Worshipful Master, 1994  
Secretary: 1998-2011, 2020-Present  
Endowed Member: 1995  
Golden Trowel Award, 2003

**30th District Masters', Wardens' & Secretaries' Associations**

President: 2004

**Grand Lodge of Texas**

District Deputy Grand Master 2003-04  
Grand Representative New Brunswick 2011  
Credentials Committee: 2004 - 2011, 2012 - 2019, 2021 - 2024  
Chairman 2009, 2012-17, 2018-22

**Personal Profile/ Professional Profile/ Civic Involvement**

Chevron USA – Drilling Representative and Engineer.  
Amoco Production Co. – Sr. Production Engineer.  
Anadarko Petroleum Corp. – Sr. Manager Operations  
Optimization and Engineering Advisor.  
Concho Oil and Gas – Sr. Career Development Engineer Registered  
Professional Engineer:  
State of Colorado, 1987 to present Former member of the Board of Directors  
Sam Houston Council, Boy Scouts of America

**Education**

The University of Missouri-Rolla  
Bachelor of Science (BS) and Master of Science (MS): Petroleum Engineering

**Family**

Sherry Dieckmann – Wife  
Jedidiah Dieckmann – Son  
Joshua Dieckmann – Son



## Statements of Availability



**JOHN L. W. PETERS**  
For The Committee on Work

**New Braunfels Lodge No. 1109**

Raised: May 21, 2005  
Endowed Member  
Worshipful Master: 2008 - 2009, 2009 - 2010

**Austin Lodge No. 12**

Endowed Member  
Secretary: 2012-16

**San Gabriel Lodge No. 89**

Endowed Member

**Henry Thomas Lodge No. 278**

Endowed Member  
Worshipful Master: 2016 - 2017

**Bertram Lodge No. 583**

Endowed Member  
Worshipful Master: 2021-22  
Davy Crockett Lodge No. 1225

**Grand Lodge of Texas**

District Deputy Grand Master: District 35-B (2019)  
District Instructor at Large: 2017 - Present  
Class A Certificate: 2006 - Present

**Personal Profile/ Professional Profile/ Civic Involvement**

Life Member - University of Texas Ex-Students Association  
Member and current Deacon of First Presbyterian Church, San Antonio

**Education**

B.S. - The University of Texas at Austin (1998)



**PAUL D. JONES**  
For The Committee on Work

**Corpus Christi Masonic Lodge No. 189**

Raised - August 14, 1978  
Worshipful Master - 1983-1984  
Endowed Member

**Fredericksburg Masonic Lodge No. 794**

Worshipful Master, 2022 - 2023  
Endowed Member

**Kendall Masonic Lodge No.897**

**Grand Lodge of Texas**

Class A Certificate - 1982-1996, 2022-Present  
District Instructor, District 37-A - 1986-1992  
District Deputy Grand Master, District 37-A - 1992

**Personal Profile/ Professional Profile/ Civic Involvement**

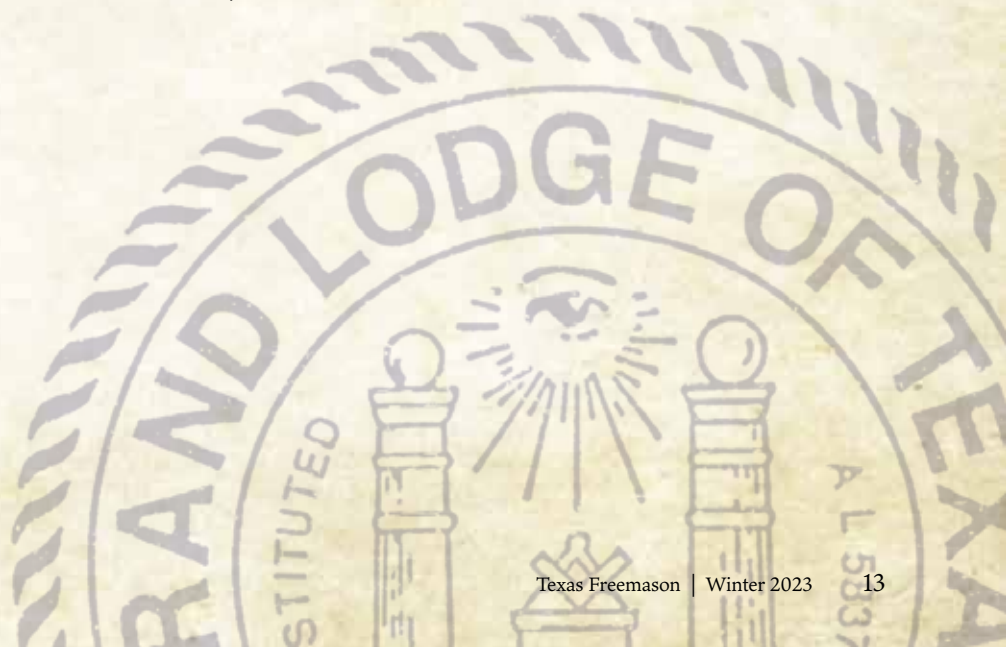
Senior Director, Operational Smart Grids, Avangrid

**Education**

Texas A&M Corpus Christi, TX  
BBA in Business Administration, Summa Cum Laude  
Del Mar College, Corpus Christi, TX  
AAS in Electrical Engineering, Summa Cum Laude  
AAS in Electronic Engineering, Summa Cum Laude

**Family**

Silvia Jones - Wife  
Christina Jones - Daughter  
Philip Jones - Son



## Statements of Availability



**MICHAEL L. WIGGINS**  
For The Grand Lodge Library  
and Museum of Texas

### **Liberty Lodge No. 48**

Raised – June 8, 1978  
Worshipful Master – 1984-1985  
Treasurer – 1981-1982  
Endowed Member – 1985  
Golden Trowel Award – 2007

### **Texas Lodge of Research**

Full Member – 1989  
Worshipful Master – 1995-1996  
Endowed Member – 1996  
St. Alban's Lodge No. 1455

### **Grand Lodge of Texas**

Grand Master – 2015  
Deputy Grand Master – 2014  
Grand Senior Warden – 2013  
Grand Junior Warden – 2012  
District Deputy Grand Master –  
Masonic District No. 107 – 1987  
Grand Pursuivant – 2005  
Committee on Masonic Education  
and Service – 1999-2005  
Chairman – 2002-2005  
Committee on Purposes and Policies –  
2007-2011, 2019-2020  
Grand Representative to Ireland –  
2016-Present  
Grand Representative to New South  
Wales – 2007-2015  
Masonic District No. 107 MWSA –  
Charter Member 1983  
President – 1984-1985  
Grand Master's Planning Team –  
2002, 2004, 2007  
Sam Houston Hall of Fame Member  
– 2005  
Grand Lodge Library and Museum  
Patron – 2009

### **Personal Profile/ Professional Profile/ Civic Involvement**

William M. Cobb & Associates, Inc.,  
Dallas, Texas  
President – 2011-2013, Vice President  
– 2006-2010, 2016-Present  
University of Oklahoma, Norman,  
Oklahoma  
Professor of Petroleum & Geological

Engineering (Tenured) – 1991-2006  
Engineering Dean's Advisory  
Committee – 1999-2000, 2003-2004  
Engaged in the oil and gas industry  
since 1979 as a petroleum engineer  
Society of Petroleum Engineers  
International – 1975-Present  
Board of Directors – 2004-2006  
Elected Distinguished Member – 2003  
Boy Scouts of America Adult Leader –  
1994-2006  
Meals on Wheels – 1999-2005  
Liberty County Historical Commission  
– 1985-1987  
Texas Historical Commission Citation  
for Distinguished Service – 1988

### **Education**

Liberty High School, Magna Cum  
Laude, Liberty, Texas – 1975  
Texas A&M University, College Station,  
Texas  
Bachelor of Science Cum Laude,  
Petroleum Engineering – 1979  
Master of Engineering, Petroleum  
Engineering – 1988  
Doctor of Philosophy, Petroleum  
Engineering – 1991  
Elected to Pi Epsilon Tau Honor Society  
– 1978

### **Family**

Tanya Steed Wiggins – Wife  
Daughter Jordan Lopez – Daughter  
Married to Donelo Lopez, Jr.  
Joel Wiggins – Son  
Married to Melinda Colin Wiggins



**TOMMY F. CHAPMAN**  
For The Masonic Home and  
School of Texas

### **Nederland Lodge No. 1368**

Raised May 10, 1983  
Endowed Member  
Worshipful Master 1990-1991  
Golden Trowel 2002  
40 Year Service Award 2023

### **Tyrian Lodge No. 187**

Worshipful Master 2021-2022

### **Sweet Home Lodge No. 576**

**Park Place Lodge No. 1172**  
Endowed Member

### **Grand Lodge of Texas**

Grand Master, 2018  
Deputy Grand Master, 2017  
Grand Senior Warden, 2016  
Grand Junior Warden, 2015  
Sam Houston Hall of Fame  
Full Member 1-4-2019  
Class A Life Certificate 2022  
Class A Three Year Certificate Expires  
2025  
District Deputy Grand Master, Dist.  
26-A, 1995  
Special Deputy to Grand Master 2013.  
Grand Master Conference Chairman  
2003.  
Area Coordinator 2006  
Grand Representative to the Grand  
Lodge of Benin Africa 2006-2018.  
Grand Representative to the Grand  
Lodge of Florida 2018-Present.  
Petitions #2 Committee 1992  
Youth Activities Committee 2005-2011,  
2013-2014  
Chairman - 2008, 2010, 2011, 2013,  
2014  
Vice Chairman 2009  
Special Assignments Committee  
2009,  
Vice Chairman 2010  
Masonic Home and School  
Board of Directors 2020-Present  
Vice President 2021-Present

### **Personal Profile/ Professional Profile/ Civic Involvement**

Jefferson County Sheriff Department  
May 1, 1985- May 31, 2019.  
Jefferson County Sheriff's Academy.  
Texas Commission on Law  
Enforcement Officer Standards  
and Education:  
Master Peace Officer Certificate  
Master Jailer Certificate

### **Family**

Kathy Chapman – Wife  
1 Daughter  
1 Son  
1 Son in law  
3 Grandchildren





**MASONIC**  
CHILDREN &  
FAMILY SERVICES  
— OF TEXAS —



# Holiday Fund Drive

## **MAKING LIFE MERRY FOR FAMILIES IN NEED**

**Throughout the year, our programs continued to make a positive impact on the families we serve.**

- Fantastic Teeth Fan Club partnered with 637 Lodges and 1,784 elementary schools to provide 149,221 dental hygiene kits to Texas children, bringing our grand total to date to 1,425,745.
- Child and Family Program provided services to 866 children for medical care, dental treatments, and procedures, autism-related therapies, basic needs such as rent and utilities, and more.
- MCFS Scholarship Program grew tremendously. The first year we awarded \$2500 scholarships to 30 Texas High School Seniors. The second year, we provided 150 scholarships.
- Blue Slipper Program supports the widows of Master Masons. The program aims to improve the lives of widows by providing assistance for dental and medical services and accessibility modifications. Additionally, the program helps with essential services such as counseling, durable medical equipment, food, clothing, and utilities.



Sebastian's family suffered after his Father had a horrific traffic accident, and a lengthy stay in the hospital. Unexpected medical expenses combined with loss of income created financial strain for this family. When MCFS stepped in to help with housing expenses, we lifted a burden and made sure they could focus on the future.

## **PLEASE CONSIDER MAKING A DONATION TO OUR HOLIDAY FUND DRIVE.**

Your donations make a difference and enable us to continue to provide valuable services to those less fortunate.

Additionally, because this is our **125th Anniversary** year of helping children and families in need, all donations \$250 and over will have donor name added to our new anniversary wall plaque that commemorates the historical landmark in our history. The plaque will be placed in our lobby once completed.

Masonic Children & Family Services of Texas • 1240 Keller Parkway, Suite 200 • Keller, TX 76248

[www.mcfstx.org](http://www.mcfstx.org)

# Whispers of the Ancient Servant

By Michael N. Gallegos, Entered Apprentice

*In the realm of creation, where wonders hold sway,  
Three humble companions embark on their play.  
Chalk, charcoal, and clay, in harmony reside,  
Bound by a dance, where life and death collide.*

*Chalk, the whispering spirit in our heart,  
Fragile and delicate, it dreams to take flight.  
With a touch, it inscribes tales on the blackened slate,  
Etching the paths of life, before it meets its fate.*

*Charcoal, the somber shadow, dark as night's cloak,  
In its depths, mysteries and secrets evoke.  
With bold strokes, it paints the twilight's haunting face,  
Capturing essence and essence's waning grace.*

*Clay, the malleable soul,  
both humble and vast from its core.  
Is it a symphony from God?  
It molds life's sculptures, with hands wise and kind,  
Breathing into stillness, a story intertwined.*

*Life and death entwined, a cosmic ballet,  
Where chalk births stories, charcoal sketches the way,  
And clay, in its hands, holds both beginnings and ends,  
Weaving the tapestry where existence transcends.*

*For life emerges from chalk's fragile embrace,  
And charcoal's dark strokes, death's shadows to trace.  
Yet clay, ever patient, offers rebirth anew,  
From dust to flesh, in cycles life continues within you.*

*Oh, chalk, charcoal, and clay, what lessons you bear,  
As life blossoms, withers, and yields to despair.  
In your union, we witness the Supreme Architect at work,  
Where beauty dances on a unique form.*

*So let us learn from these humble triad's might,  
To embrace life's hues, and darkness' chilling night.  
For in their union, we find beauty profound,  
Where life and death's harmony forever resound.*





**APPLICATIONS OPEN**  
**January 1, 2024**

**APPLICATIONS DEADLINE**  
**March 31, 2024**

**CHECKS WILL BE MAILED BY**  
**May 1, 2024**

**APPLY ONLINE**  
**<https://txmcf.org/>**

**CHECKS MUST BE CASHED BY**  
**June 1, 2024**

Phone: 254-300-1375

## **SCHOLARSHIP MATCHING PROGRAM**

**Match = \$1,000**  
Benefitting Texas High  
School Seniors

## **COMMUNITY GRANTS**

**Match = \$250**  
Benefitting Texas  
Communities

## **TEACHER HONORARIUMS**

**Match = \$250**  
Benefitting Guardians Of  
Our Society

## **QUESTIONS**

Cody Cockroft  
Richard Daniel  
Sam Gibbins  
Craig Enderli

# Across the State with Grand Master G. Clay Smith

By Dean Bryant, Staff Writer

Most Worshipful G. Clay Smith, Grand Master of Texas Masons enjoying several anniversaries of Lodges in Texas.

**February 11, 2023**

**Conference at Pine Tree Lodge No. 1396, Longview, Texas**



There was a large turnout for the Grand Master Conference, it was so good to see this support for our Grand Master and our fraternity.

In 1962, a group of Master Masons received a warrant and dispensation from the Grand Lodge of Texas Ancient Free & Accepted Masons to form a subsequent Lodge in Longview, Texas (Longview Lodge No. 404 was located downtown). The Lodge took up residence in the Pine Tree Community of Longview and was called Pine Tree Lodge. In December, at the Grand Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Texas, Pine Tree Lodge was chartered as the one thousand three hundred ninety-sixth Masonic Lodge in Texas. Thus, Pine Tree Lodge No. 1396 was born. The Lodge moved into a two-story residential structure on Premier Road. A new Lodge building was erected on Pine Tree Road in 1977, which still serves as the Lodge's meeting place today.



Worshipful Brother J.W. Irick, Grand Marshal and Right Worshipful William Farmer, District Deputy Grand Master

Since 1962, the small Lodge on the outskirts of Longview has become the strongest and most active Lodge in East Texas. Today, more than three hundred Master Masons call Pine Tree Lodge home.

The Lodge maintains its ties to the community by supporting Public Schools and honoring those

committed to public service. Each year, the Lodge sponsors the Take Time to Read Program at Pine Tree Primary School, Spring Hill Primary School, and White Oak Primary School. Additionally, the Lodge awards the Mirabeau Bonaparte Lamar Medal of Educational Excellence and a collegiate college scholarship to a graduating senior from Pine Tree High School, Spring Hill High School, and White Oak High School. The Lodge also honors a

deserving member of the community with the Community Builder Award. This award was developed to recognize non-Masons who have gone the extra mile in providing community service. Past recipients have been elected officials, educators, pastors, and community organizers. (Information from Pine Lodge No. 1396 website)

**February 11, 2023**

**Conference in Tyler, hosted by Sharon Shrine**

There was an impressive turnout for the Grand Masters Tyler Conference at the Sharon Shrine Center, with many Brethren traveling long distances to attend this conference. The Nobles in attendance were wonderful hosts and ensured that all went according to plan.

A bit of trivia, just for fun. What is the name, location, and date of the first Shriners temple in the USA? (See the bottom of this article for the answer)



There was a large turnout for the Grand Master Conference, it was so good to see this support for our Grand Master and our fraternity.



Right Worshipful Cody Cockcroft, District Deputy Grand Master at Large providing the attendees an insight into Officer Leadership, MWSA, and Investigations program.

Trivia answers. Name: Mecca Shriners, Location: New York City, Date: September 26, 1872



**April 22, 2023**

**Conference in Houston, hosted by Arabia Shrine Center**



Did everyone sign in for the Grand Masters Conference? Right Worshipful J.W. Irick Grand Marshal alongside Right Worshipful Cecil Vaden, District Deputy Grand Master of District 28, at the registration desk ensuring all attendees sign in, while enjoying fellowship with Brother Charles Murchison Grand Senior Deacon, Right Worshipful Charlie Craig, District Deputy Grand Master of District 30-H and Thomas Merchant, District Education Officer of District 31-H.



Most Worshipful G. Clay Smith, addressing the attendees at Arabia Shrine Center in Houston. There were approximately 110 in attendance for the Grand Masters visit. This was a huge turnout to visit our Grand Lodge Officers.

**June 17, 2023**

**Yantis Lodge No. 382, Celebrating 150 years of Masonry**

Yantis is at the intersection of State Highway 154 and Farm Road 17, near the Lake Fork Reservoir, twelve miles north of Quitman in northwest Wood County. Harry M. Matthews was said to have settled the area as early as 1860, and by 1870, a gristmill and cotton gin were being run in the area by J. Singleton. The community was served by the Quitman post office before receiving its own in 1885. Yantis was named for its first postmaster, George R. Yantis, who by 1890 was also running a gristmill and gin at the community of thirty-five people. The population climbed to fifty



The fifty plus attendees gathered at Yantis Lodge No. 382 to enjoy the 150 celebration along with wonderful fellowship

by 1892 and to sixty by 1896, by which time the community had at least fifteen businesses, including a mason and two gristmills and gins. At that time Yantis also had a sheriff, a justice of the peace and bailiff, two churches, and five schools that served 251 students. By 1914 the town of three hundred had a phone connection and twenty-one businesses, including the Yantis State Bank. The population peaked at five hundred in the early 1930s then fell to four hundred by 1943. The June 1947 discovery of the Yantis oilfield nearby apparently had no lasting effect on the community, as around that time the population again fell to 350, then 290 by 1949. By the late 1960s Yantis had incorporated. The town had a population of 174 and three businesses in 1968. In 1988 Yantis reported a population of 209 and eight businesses. In 1990 the population was 210. The population reached 321 in 2000. (Information from Texas State Historical Association)



Thank you to the Merchandise Team for giving us all the opportunity to purchase Grand Lodge goods. This team is very active and provides incredible support to the Masons of Texas.

## EDUCATION AND COMMITMENT

# Ancient Mysteries and Modern Masonry; The Collected Writings of Jewel P. Lightfoot

Edited by Billy J. Hamilton, Jr. and reviewed by Chuck Springer

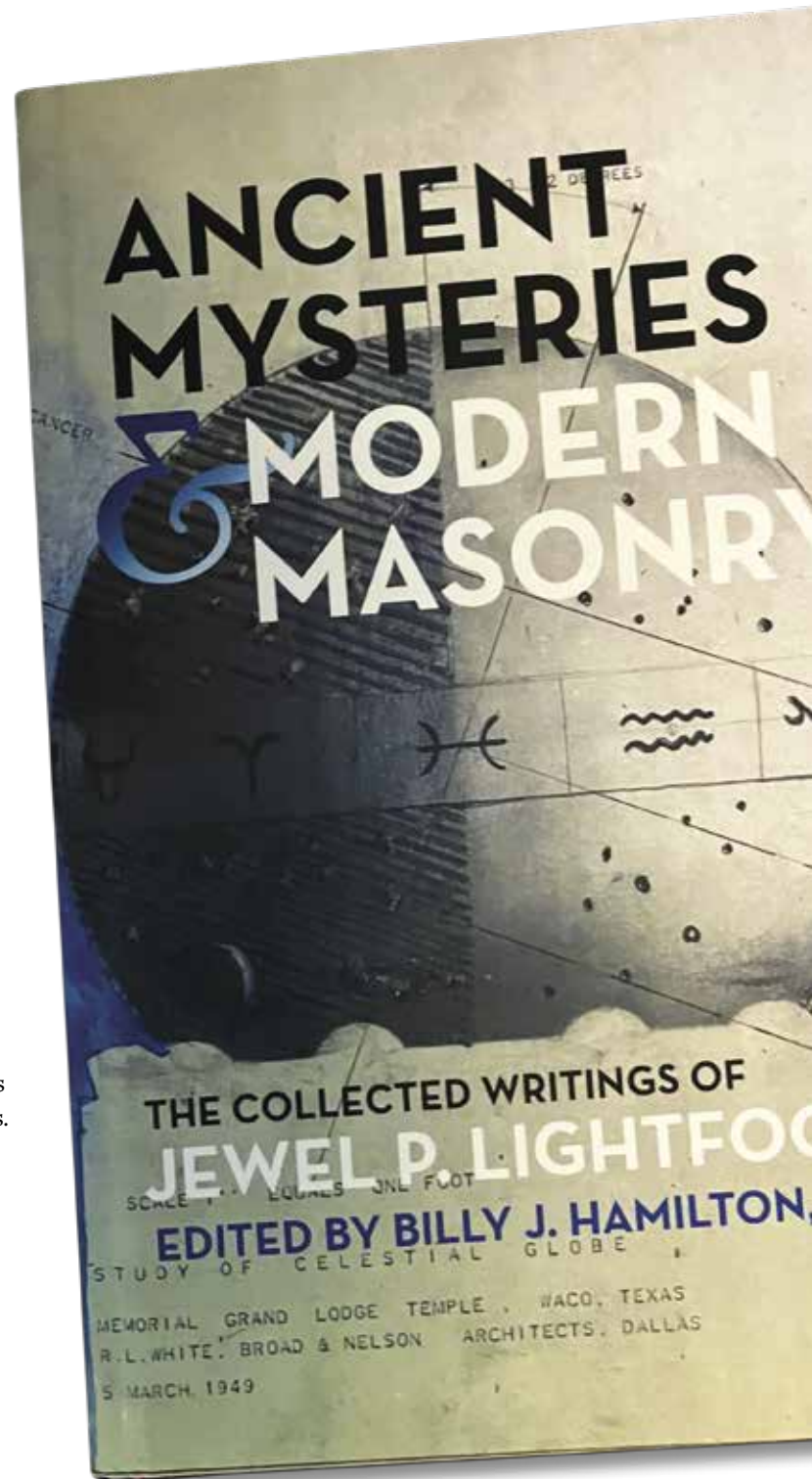
During his tenure as the General Manager for the Grand Lodge Library and Museum of Texas, Brother Billy J. Hamilton undertook the role of custodian, affording him the opportunity to peruse a wide array of records. Within his various responsibilities, he chanced upon a container that held the unpublished writings of Past Grand Master Jewel P. Lightfoot—a collection bestowed upon the Grand Lodge for safekeeping by his spouse. The presence of these personal writings within the museum and library is a rare occurrence, warranting our heartfelt acknowledgment of Mrs. Lightfoot's meticulous stewardship. Her foresight in preserving her husband's legacy by offering this repository of invaluable writings and insights is commendable.

In his introductory remarks, Brother Hamilton adeptly underscores that Past Grand Master Lightfoot's intellectual development underwent influence by the prevalent theories of his era. While specific theories of that time became discredited, their dissolution does not undermine the significance of Lightfoot's assembled work.

Brother Hamilton adeptly assembles a brief biography of Past Grand Master Lightfoot, then effectively collates this newly discovered series of sixteen lectures and assorted writings that PGM Lightfoot crafted to serve as educational building blocks for the fraternity.

PGM Lightfoot accentuates the significance of grasping symbolism, asserting that these allegories and symbols encompass multiple ideas, summarizing both a beautiful art and a defined science. The present reality, however, is that he believed that the greater proportion of brethren adorned with the title of Master Mason resides in ignorance concerning these concealed reservoirs of wisdom embedded within our rituals, ceremonies, and symbols.

Furthermore, in another lecture, PGM Lightfoot stresses that the transformative journey of initiation is neither instantaneous nor a consequence of ceremonial investiture. Instead, it is an evolution caused by continuous growth, involving the practical application of knowledge, the continuous quest for enlightenment, and the unwavering commitment to suppress one's evil inclinations while succeeding over personal shortcomings. These writings underscore PGM Lightfoot's steadfast conviction that the mantle of a Master Mason represents not a destination, but a continuing journey that necessitates unwavering dedication, making intentional choices, and a reflective contemplation at day's end.





PGM Lightfoot expends significant effort delving into the realm of geometry, especially sacred geometry while inspecting ancient ceremonies and traditions across various cultures, encompassing the Hindus, the Magi, the Egyptians, and the Jewish heritage. His explorative view unveils an uncanny continuity of these traditions and symbols across the ages, thereby stimulating reflection concerning the truthfulness and relevance of these sacred writings.

PGM Lightfoot expends significant effort delving into the realm of geometry, especially sacred geometry while inspecting ancient ceremonies and traditions across various cultures, encompassing the Hindus, the Magi, the Egyptians, and the Jewish heritage. His explorative view unveils an uncanny continuity of these traditions and symbols across the ages, thereby stimulating reflection concerning the truthfulness and relevance of these sacred writings.

This volume stands as an enlightening fountain of insight, resonating particularly with Masons who aspire to unravel the elaborate historical, philosophical, and psychological tapestry interwoven within the fraternity's fabric. Every lecture within this book offers a plethora of valuable concepts that can be adapted into our comprehension, spanning additional subjects ranging from systems of measurement to the significance of liberty, and even encompassing virtues. The culmination of these writings ends with a candle lighting ritual, a solemn observance that pays homage to age-old traditions and the evolutionary journey through history. Most recently, I was able to witness members of Fort Worth Masonic Lodge No. 148

reverently enact this illuminating ceremony at their Festive Board prior to the annual Masonicon, thus enhancing the narrative within this book. Bearing witness to the contents of this volume, along with the visual portrayal of the candle lighting ceremony, imparts a renewed level of perspective and reverence to the legacy of our Past Grand Master.

On an ending note, what I found particularly insightful was PGM Lightfoot stating that *"Masonry claims to be the sole survivor of the ancient mysteries, and the heir of the secret doctrine, divine science, royal art, and sublime truths, and inculcated in the Mystic sanctuaries of these ancient temples."*

His passion for history, Masonic symbolism, and more importantly his contributions to the Grand Lodge of Texas, clearly come through in these writings eloquently compiled, and continues to inspire Masons. I am grateful for the opportunity to have read this book, delved into its contents and be reinvigorated by its teachings.



## The Good, The Truth, And The Salt Grass

By James C. "Chris" Williams IV, Staff Writer



I don't know if I ever told y'all, but my Lodge has what we call a "Philosophic Roundtable" every quarter where we meet at a local restaurant and have dinner and good Masonic fellowship. After dinner we pose a question or problem about some facet of Masonry and allow every Brother to address the group on his personal views concerning the selected topic. The topic being revealed only just before the discussion makes the discussion more spontaneous and elicits some very interesting and varied responses. Bottom line, it's a heck of a lot of fun as well as interesting Masonic education. Anyway, there we were.... sixteen of my Brothers and me just sitting down for dinner at the local Salt Grass Steakhouse, when my phone went off. I looked at the display and saw that it was John and I figured he was calling to tell me he would be in town for lunch the next day. I answered, "Hello this is the overeating hotline..... would you like to talk to a counselor?" I waited and there was only silence and then the line went dead. I broke out laughing and everyone who was standing next to me wanted to know what the heck was going on. I started to tell them when the phone rang again. Seeing it was John again I answered the same way and again the line went dead. Every Brother within earshot had heard what I said, and they all wanted to know who I was talking to. I told them it was Big John Deacon just as it rang again and as soon as I answered, before I could say anything,

he growled, "You can't fool me a third time cause I looked at the number before I dialed it this time. Now if you will tell me where you are so I can meet you this evening I will spare you any more of my wrath." "Hey John," I said, a little surprised. "I didn't know you were in town. You should have called me earlier." I told him where I was, and he was adamant about coming to the discussion and having dinner.... especially when I told him we were at the Salt Grass Steakhouse. I hung up and apologized to everyone that John was going to be joining us. They all seemed glad that he was coming, and a few hadn't met him yet. It sure didn't take him long to get there and I introduced him around and put him at the end of the table so he would have a little more room. He promptly waved at our waiter and ordered range rattlers, a rack of BBQ ribs, and the large chicken fried steak.... with extra gravy and those garlic mashed potatoes. Most of the guys at the table couldn't hear what he ordered but when the food came there was shock on their faces as they saw what he was going to eat for dinner. John had been carrying on a conversation with several Brothers at his end of the table but as soon as he got his food he lapsed into total silence while he ate. Actually, the food was darn good and the conversation between everyone had slowed to almost nothing. We got through dinner without incident which was surprising. I got up to lay out the topic and question for the discussion and laid out the rules. Now, one of the rules is that what is said inside that room in the discussion is not to leave the room. Not that there are any earth-shattering comments made usually, but it is so that every Brother will feel comfortable sharing whatever point of view he has on the subject. So, keeping that in mind I am going to just allude vaguely to what transpired. First, the topic/question had to do with explaining your thoughts on a certain part of the Master's degree. I realized early on that it was a pretty deep subject as a couple of Brothers bypassed their turn so they could collect their thoughts a bit. The comments were as different and as varied as you could imagine. We now have a total of eighteen Brothers there and just as many opinions it seemed and several strayed from the original topic and went off in a different direction. When it came to John's turn, I told him that since it was his first time he didn't have to participate. He shook his head and said, "I would like to say a few things, but I am going to off the subject a little." In all the time I had spent with John I had come to know that he was both a literal, as well as a philosophic thinker, but I really didn't know what to expect from him in this situation.

Visit <https://grandlodgeoftexas.org/texas-freemason-magazine> for the rest of the story.





## A Look Back

# The Building and Maintaining of the Ship of State. A Study in Masonic Citizenship

By M. A. Childers, Grand Oration of 1923

Most Worshipful Grand Master, Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master, Right Worshipful Grand Senior and Junior Wardens, and Brethren, of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas:

No great edifice, whether it be ship or temple, bridge, or castle, is ever successfully constructed except in accordance with some well-defined plans, drawn by competent architects, with some prototype as a guide, either already in existence, or wrought out in the artist's mind.

The plans for our Ship of State were drawn by Master Masons, upon a Masonic trestle-board with the spirit of Masonry as a prototype. The spirit of Masonry is characterized by three outstanding attributes,

**viz:**

1. An unyielding demand for truth and justice.
2. An unwavering protest against all wrongs and all forms of intolerance and injustice of whatsoever kind or character; and
3. An unfaltering trust in and devotion to Almighty God. The nation that possesses these qualities in its governmental fabric, and exhibits them in its political operation, approaches nearest the Masonic ideal; and the nation whose citizens exemplify in their lives and conduct these same qualities is a nation that will weather the storms. Masonic citizenship, therefore, is the art of building and maintaining a nation based upon the spirit of Masonry. The measure of a Mason's citizenship is his ability to engraft the spirit of Masonry into his political life and thereby make his government more useful and efficient and enrich society with those gifts and graces with which his mind and soul, as a Mason, should be polished and adorned. Faith, Hope, and Love, are the rounds on the ladder by which a Mason climbs to his task. His wages is the satisfaction of a well-grounded hope and a well spent life.

Our Fathers of the Revolution applied that program to the problem of building a nation. The wrongs and injustices, based largely on intolerance, heaped upon them as colonists, stirred them to action. The Declaration of Independence was an unyielding demand for truth and justice as well as an unwavering protest against wrongs and injustice.

As a fitting conclusion to their demands and protests they added:

“And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledged to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor.”

Their unfaltering trust in God thus expressed in the same document was exemplified in every crisis in their career as builders of the Ship of State.

The next step in the building of the Ship of State was the writing of the Constitution. Upon the return to peace the Articles of Federation that had held them in such remarkable unity during the war proved inadequate. Internal strife arose and threatened for a time to destroy that for which they had contended as revolutionists. The Constitutional Convention was called as an emergency problem. For five months they labored, daily invoking the aid of Heaven on their deliberations, and in September 1787, they launched the Ship which their Masonic hearts and intellects had created.

The framers of this document were sons of the Revolution. Having offered their lives and their fortunes upon the altar of their country's freedom, they were clothed with authority to announce to the world the principles for which they were establishing this government.

Listen to their declaration of purposes:

### Preamble

“We, the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union; establish Justice, insure Domestic Tranquility; provide for the Common Defence; promote the General Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.”

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## TEXAS FREEMASON

The Grand Lodge of Texas  
715 Columbus Ave  
Waco, TX 76701



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**APRIL 1838**



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