

Report of the Grand Treasurer 2026

Development at Grand Lodge and possible opportunity for all lodges in Texas

Annual per capita has risen from \$14.25 to \$27.50 per member paid by the lodges to Grand Lodge and others during the last few years. Grand Lodge investment accounts totaled \$11 million at the end of 2013 and were \$27 million at the end of 2025. This is an increase of \$16 million during 12 years. This increase resulted from large cash surpluses in the first years and investment earnings during the last few years. This growth would have been easier to see and monitor if investment earnings were included in the annual budget.

Grand Lodge has no fixed assets, the building, furniture, and fixtures belong to the Library and Museum. Almost all Grand Lodge assets are either investment accounts at Vanguard or money in the Waco bank. Research needs to be done into probable uses of Grand Lodge funds in the foreseeable future.

I believe payments by lodges to the Grand Lodge of more than its expected needs is wrong. I also believe the annual amount paid by the lodges to the Grand Lodge might be significantly reduced. It would not necessarily affect the amounts paid to the various charities each year by the lodges.

This would be a long-term solution and benefit the lodges. The lodges would also benefit from the investment success of the Grand Lodge.

I intend to form a committee of experienced and thoughtful masons who would study the situation and opportunity during the next several months and come up with a plan. This plan might very well be in the form of a resolution to be considered at next year's grand communication.

Rick Townsend

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