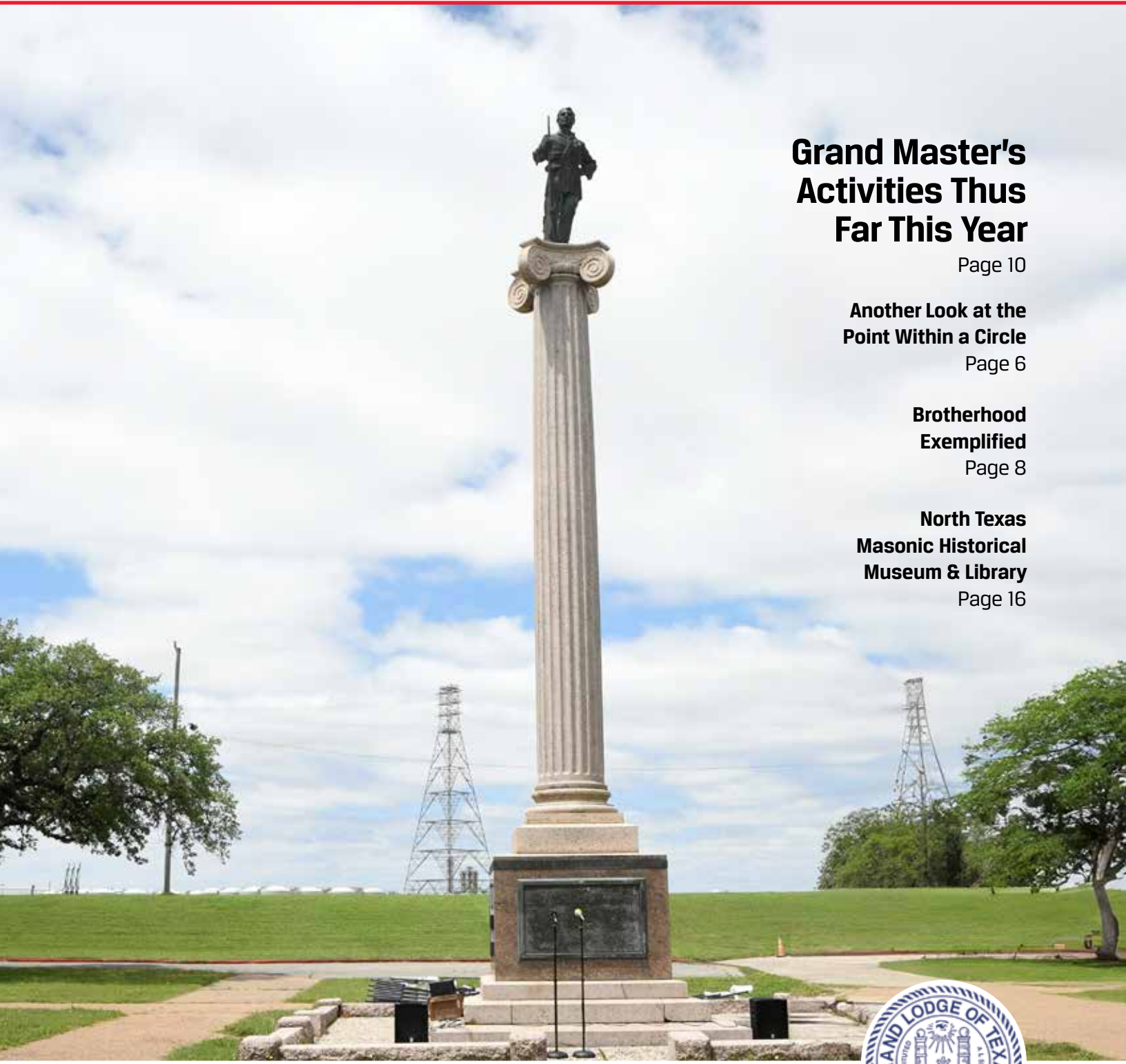




T E X A S

FREEMASON



Grand Master's Activities Thus Far This Year

Page 10

Another Look at the Point Within a Circle

Page 6

Brotherhood Exemplified

Page 8

North Texas Masonic Historical Museum & Library

Page 16



CONTENTS

SUMMER 2024



Grand Master's Activities

The Grand Lodge, and Masons of Texas gathered at the Alamo to honor the Freemasons who lost their lives during the Battle of the Alamo in 1836.

GRAND LODGE

- 3 A Word from the Grand Master
- 4 A Word from the Grand Secretary
- 5 Empowering Engagement

EDUCATION & COMMITMENT

- 6 Another Look at the Point within a Circle
- 8 Brotherhood Exemplified
- 9 Banding Together for Kids
- 15 Texas Masonic Charities Foundation
- 19 High Twelve
- 20 Helping Kids and Families in Need

2 The Grand Lodge of Texas

FEATURE

- 10 Grand Master's Activities Thus Far This Year

ACROSS THE STATE

- 16 North Texas Masonic Historical Museum & Library

IN EVERY ISSUE

- 13 The Profound Pontifications of Brother John Deacon
- 14 A Look Back

ON THE COVER

San Jacinto Masonic Monument, "A tribute to the fidelity of pioneer Masons under whose outstanding leadership was laid the cornerstone of The Republic of Texas."

TEXAS FREEMASON

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 2024, by the Trustees of the Grand Lodge of Texas. All rights reserved.

Publisher

The Trustees of The Grand Lodge of Texas

Editor

Larry FitzPatrick

Associate Editor

Bill Crow

Staff Writers

Dean Bryant, Nathan Giesenschlag, Jim Hoffpauir, Roger Landry, Jerome Weilmuenster, James C. "Chris" Williams IV

Contributing Writers

Chance Crane, Scott Emerine

Image Credits

Cover - Charles Broussard, Grand Master's Activities - Mrs. Lisa Newberry, Howard Pham, North Texas Historical Masonic Museum & Library - NTMHM&L

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. 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.

Submissions

texasfreemasonmag@gmail.com

Subscriptions

\$12.50 per year U.S. and Canada, \$31.25 for three years; \$20.00 per year in foreign countries, \$50.00 for three years

Permission to Reprint

Permission to reprint original articles appearing in The Texas Mason Magazine is granted to all recognized Masonic publications, provided that credit is given to the author and attribution to The Texas Freemason Magazine.

Archives

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

A WORD FROM THE Grand Master



...reflect on the words and charges to each officer contained in this beautiful ceremony.

My Brethren,

We are fast approaching our Installation season and some of the most encouraging words for the officers and members of lodges can be found in the Monitor of The Lodge of the Grand Lodge of Texas. I encourage every Mason in our Texas lodges to read the Installation Ceremony For A Constituent Lodge found in our monitor and reflect on the words and charges to each officer contained in the beautiful ceremony. Below is the charge to the members given by the Installing Officer just prior to the proclamation of our Installation Ceremony. Please read this beautiful

passage and reflect on the words. At the Installation of Officers of your lodges please listen to them again along with the entire ceremony. The words of our Installation Ceremony are very meaningful and helpful as we begin a new Masonic year filled with excitement and with goals for our lodges for a new year.

May God Bless The United States of America, the Great State of Texas, Freemasonry, and each and every one of you.

Fraternally,

Tommy F. Chapman
Most Worshipful Grand Master 2024



A WORD FROM THE Grand Secretary



What is a lifetime of service worth?

As many of you know, May 1st opens the usual window to order 50+ Service Awards through GrandView. As your Lodge makes plans to present these awards in the coming months, I would like to reflect on something I experienced following a recent ceremony.

I arrived at a Lodge and began the ritual to honor four of our Brothers, who had a combined 230 years of service. What stood out in this particular instance was the stark contrast between their levels of service. While one Brother had been extremely active, serving several times as Worshipful Master and a former DDGM, the other three records simply showed the dates that the recipients were initiated, passed, and raised. Each Brother was then offered the floor and given an opportunity to express anything upon his heart. Afterwards, I felt a tinge of regret that many long-term Brothers have such limited connections with their Lodge.

As I thought more about it, however, I developed a different perspective. What if the Lodge used these rare occasions as an opportunity to honor men who have given their “time and substance” by offering each deserved Brother his own night of honor? We accord special honor to each candidate on the night of his degree. Should we



not accord that same kind of honor to the Brother who helped sustain his Lodge for five decades or more? After all, a Brother who is fortunate enough to combine years of life with years of service will only experience this once.

In the weeks leading up to the ceremony, the Master of Ceremonies could call the Brother to be honored and ask him why he joined, why it was important for him to remain a part of our Craft, any relevant family history, career, and travels, as well as any special Masonic memories he may have. Such a conversation will not only help prepare both the recipient and the MC for the coming ceremony, but it will also create a bond between two Masons who may have never met.

Service Awards should not be viewed as some burden imposed upon a Lodge’s busy calendar. They truly are unique opportunities to connect and reflect.

Additionally, we should embrace the idea that these ceremonies do not just serve as

a “thank you” for long-term membership. They give us an additional opportunity to connect with and learn from these Brothers. It also provides a public forum to reach out to family and friends, showing not only respect for one of our own but our recognition of that man as a valuable addition to his family and his community.

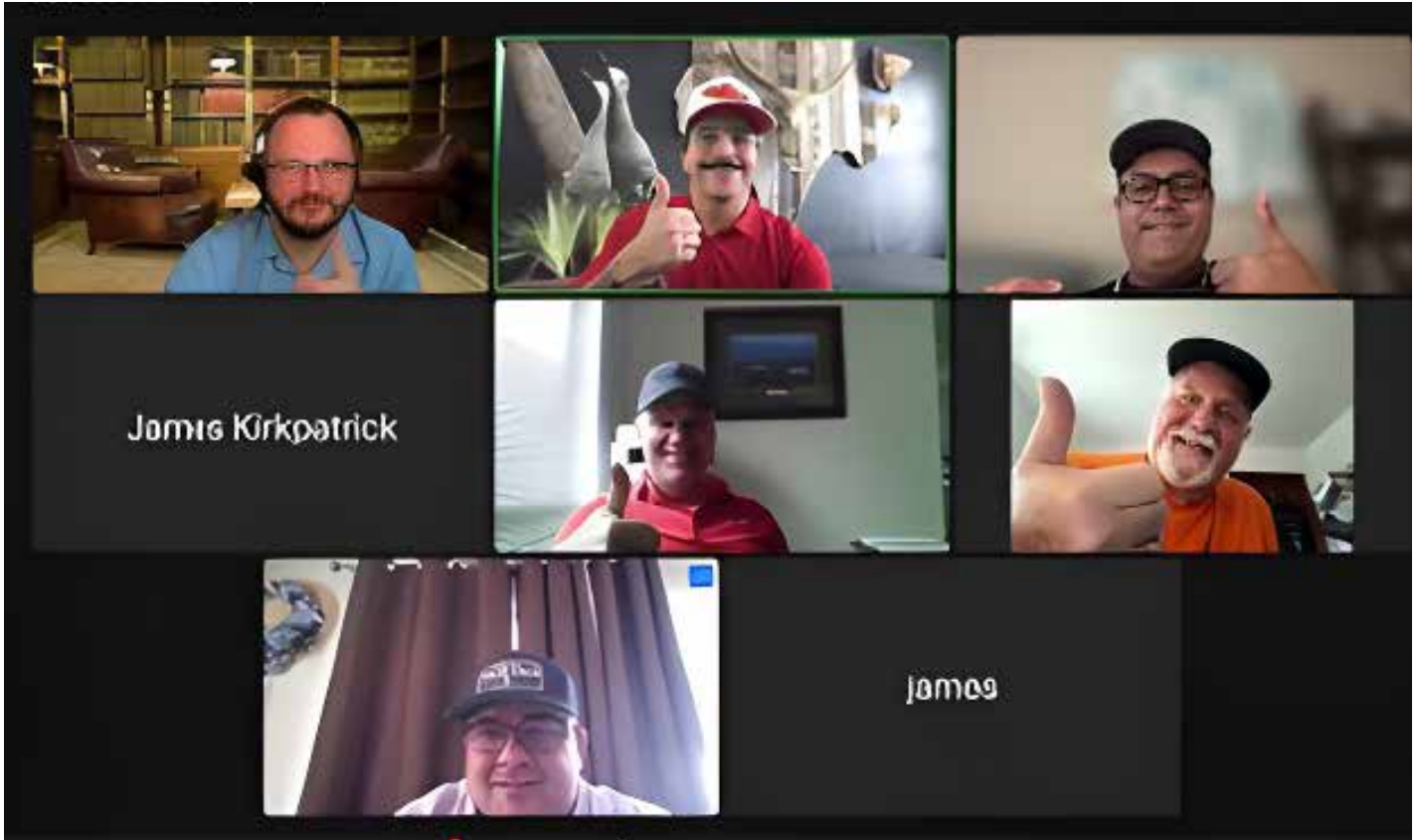
Of course, Service Awards should also remind each Brother in that room of his connection with the long tradition of service of his Lodge and Masonry in general. It can help spur the members to greater involvement, encourage newly raised Brothers, and even spark EAs and FCs to complete the work they have begun.

For all these reasons, our time-honored tradition of presenting Service Awards should be approached thoughtfully and more earnestly.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,
Brad Billings
Grand Secretary

Empowering Engagement: The Role of District Communication Officers

By Brother Chance Crane, DCO District No. 28, Contributing Writer



DCOs serve as the local hub for communicating, interpreting, and assisting with community relations, recognition, charitable efforts, and relief programs, as well as implementing Grand Lodge policies. They also directly support local Lodges in member and community relations while promoting Freemasonry's positive image across districts.

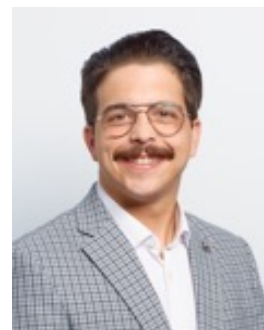
Recognizing the need for Brethren to connect beyond their home Lodges, I developed a visually appealing and easily accessible communication method. With R.◌W.◌ May's leadership, we established a special initiative for District 28, sending out a detailed newsletter, bi-monthly or tri-monthly. This initiative lists each Lodge's events, addresses, and contact info, encouraging member engagement and Lodge visits within the district.

In District 28, we highlight the "Masonic Spotlight" section, where each Lodge nominates a Brother monthly. This idea came from Brian Bennick, Senior Warden of Montgomery Lodge No. 25, this feature shines a light on these remarkable Brethren, showcasing their significant contributions and impacts on their home Lodge. It serves as an inspiring testament to their dedication, motivating

our readers to follow in their footsteps.

Collaborating with Brother Dean Bryant and other DCOs statewide, we organize a statewide Zoom call to share best practices and brainstorm engagement strategies. These calls address concerns, challenges, and solutions, fostering a collaborative environment among DCOs statewide.

In summary, DCOs are dedicated to serving our Lodges by distributing information, driving engagement, and igniting excitement about Freemasonry and all it has to offer!



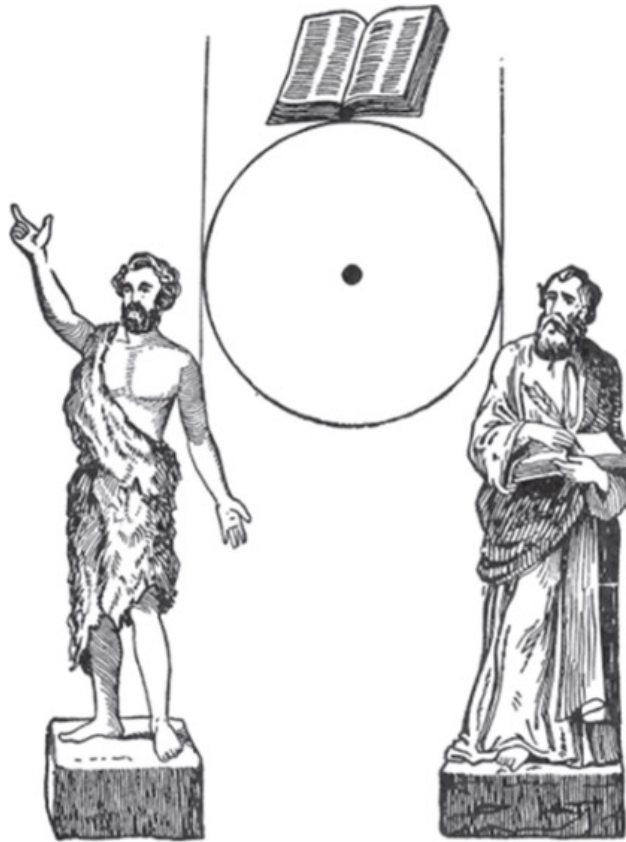
If you would like to participate in the ZOOM calls, send an Email to Brother Crane:

dcodistrict28@gmail.com

Another Look at the Point Within a Circle

By Jerome Weilmuenster, Staff Writer

Why is such an important symbol as the point within a circle so often overlooked? This symbol referenced in the Monitor of the Grand Lodge of Texas is illustrated by this picture:



Our ancient brethren dedicated their Lodges to King Solomon, because he was our first Most Excellent Grand Master; but modern Masons dedicate theirs to St. John the Baptist, and St. John the Evangelist, who were two eminent patrons of Masonry; and since their time, there is represented, in every regular and well-governed Lodge, a certain Point within a Circle, embordered by two perpendicular parallel lines, representing St. John the Baptist, and St. John the Evangelist; and upon the top rests the Holy Scriptures. The point represents an individual brother; the circle is the boundary line, beyond which he is never to suffer his prejudices or passions to betray him.

“In going round this circle, we necessarily touch upon these two lines, as well as the Holy Scriptures; and while a Mason keeps himself circumscribed within these due bounds, it is impossible that he should materially err.”

This is the standard explanation of the symbolism of the point within a circle for the Grand Lodge of Texas as well as other Grand Lodges. But a symbol as important as this deserves further exploration.

First, it should be pointed out that most sources relate the origin of this symbol to ancient history, as is the case with much Masonic symbolism. It is linked to Masonry’s symbolic ancestors such as the Blazing Star, the Sun, the Moon, and others, which were important symbols that guided the lives of early man.

The point within a circle has been used in diverse cultures as an important symbol on monuments, artifacts, and many

other objects which have been assigned to ancient history. The earliest examples of the point within a circle were a significant part of ancient Egyptian culture.

The ancient Egyptian roots of the point within a circle cause many in the present day to speculate that the symbol has a somewhat shady meaning and is part of the secret or cultish element of Freemasonry that conspiracy theorists try to expose. But to those within the craft, this isn't the case.

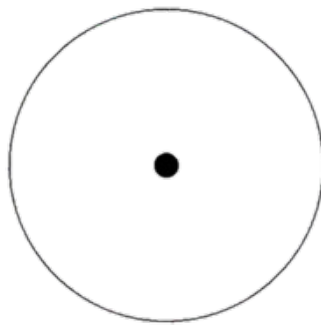
In ancient Egyptian carvings, the point within a circle was used as one of the Alpha and Omega symbols and was seen as a representation of God's existence. The two vertical lines that flanked the circle in ancient Egypt were displayed as snakes, perhaps an indication of the underworld's presence. Perhaps reminiscent of the checkerboard design: Good and bad exist side by side.

This symbol has undoubtedly evolved throughout history and finds itself at the pinnacle of Freemasonry today. What is sure is that the point within a circle was used as a symbol by men long before King Solomon's time, was passed on from generation to generation, and has evolved significantly over time.

Bernard Jones, in his *Freemasons Guide and Compendium* states that it is a pagan belief that the circle symbolizes deity, because it has no beginning and no end. As a symbol of deity, it may be a symbol of protection, like the St. Christopher medal worn or carried in modern day. To these people the circle also represented the sun, the source of life. Alchemists used the point within a circle to represent the sun and gold.

According to *Coil's Masonic Encyclopedia*, the point within a circle was introduced to Masonry about 1730. Joseph Dunkerly (Dunckerly) is often given credit for adorning it with the parallel lines and the Holy Saints John, probably in the early 1800's.

Having briefly explored the probable history and common explanation of the symbolism of the point within a circle, there may be yet another reason our ancient Brethren revered the symbol. With apologies to Dunkerly and others who adorned the ordinary point within a circle, please consider what could have been the basic symbol as it first entered Masonic symbolism.



Although a point in the center of the circle is indicated, it could be anywhere within the circle. In this illustration, the beauty of the point within a circle is that it is an insignificant point; it has neither width, breadth, or depth, and can be used to describe man's position on earth. More particularly, a Mason's position on earth. And the circle circumscribes proper passions and desires, reminding us that as long as our actions are within the circle, we cannot materially err.

The point within a circle is a simple symbol, but one that should guide our actions every day.

Brotherhood Exemplified

By Scott Emerine, Contributing Writer



Barry Boyd

The There are many traits that distinguish Masons from other leaders, not only locally, but in the state of Texas. Among the most key principles are compassion, care, charity, and loyalty. In a rare move, two Masonic lodges in the Dallas area each gave a Golden Trowel on the same night to two of their Brothers for just such qualities. Both men gave exemplary care and compassion to a fellow Master Mason at the most critical time of his need.

Scott Davis, a 25yr Master Mason at Metropolitan Masonic Lodge No.1182, and Jerry W. Reddy, a Past Master of Roy Stanley Masonic Lodge No.1367 and of Metropolitan Lodge were each recognized with the esteemed Golden Trowel Award from their respective lodges for their generosity and care of fellow Lodge member, the late Barry Wayne Boyd. Barry was a Past Master of Northern Star Masonic Lodge No. 377 and of Metropolitan Lodge No. 1182.

Although it is not unheard of, it is rare for two members to be nominated for the same act of service and dedication to their community and Lodge. Both Davis and Reddy, became their Brother's keeper for Barry Boyd during the final moments of his life, after he was diagnosed with cancer. Boyd, a Scottish Rite member and 32nd Degree Mason himself, was a kind, generous,

and talented musician that cared deeply for the people and the art he loved. He was a member of the House of Boyd Society. Boyd spent many years raising funds for the Scottish Rite hospitals. A self-proclaimed nomad that lived in Boston, Los Angeles, and New York eventually made his way back home to Dallas where he worked with Davis in the Avionics business.

Caring for someone with cancer alone may not seem significant, but it was the extent that Davis and Reddy went to that matters most. When Boyd became ill, Davis made sure Boyd received proper medical care; not only taking him to his appointments and treatments, but keeping Barry fully employed and insured. Davis and Dallas Avionics did not move him to short-term disability but helped maintain Boyd's financial independence. During this time, Boyd had to relocate, and Reddy moved Boyd and his wife Salena, plus beloved dog "Cargo," into the Reddy home without hesitation.

Being a proud and independent man, Boyd, who spent a lifetime raising funds for others in need, was reticent to receive so much assistance from his friends. He wanted to make sure he was back into his own place as soon as, or if, his health would allow. Davis and Reddy worked feverishly to make sure the Boyds were cared for. Neither Davis nor Reddy saw their acts as something award-worthy or special. They both merely wanted to care for the needs of a dear friend and Brother.

"It is a unique honor to be recognized for this award with Scott," said Reddy on the night of the ceremony. "Recognition was never a thought; we just knew our Brother needed us badly, and quickly. By the time he discovered his cancer, he was given about 90 days to live. We wanted to make sure he was cared for completely. We did the best we could, as fast as we could."

Davis agreed with Reddy. "Barry was such a creative and talented soul. He was a great friend. We shared a passion for music, family, and Masonry. Our only desire was to see that he, and the love of his life Salena, were cared for. He was kind, generous and loving of others. We wanted to ensure that his compassion for others was reciprocated in the time he needed us the most. We want to thank these two Lodges, and the Grand Lodge of Texas, for this esteemed recognition. But more than anything else, by being given this recognition, we hope it highlights the life and legacy of so great and good a man as our Brother Barry Boyd. While our late Brother was alive, he truly embodied 'Do Unto Others.' The greatest honor is that we had a chance to pay it back." concluded Davis.

The Faces Behind the Ask

As a non-profit charity, Masonic Children & Family Services of Texas (MCFS) receives thousands of applications for help annually. Each child has their own story, and each family faces their struggles. We never take for granted that our ability to aid those in need is possible because of the generous Masonic community that supports our work.

When families come to us for help with unmet basic human needs such as rent, utilities, and food, there is always a story behind the ask. Often, it's heartbreaking to learn what some of our families have endured.

In the case of Baby Lariya, she has battled cancer most of her young life. However, her mom describes her as a loving and sweet baby who is joyful, despite her many challenges. We provided them with rental assistance due to the large number of medical bills and lost wages they've encountered since her illness began. Year after year, we help families who experience unforeseen financial struggles that change their circumstances from manageable to desperate.

In the 2022-2023 fiscal year, MCFS extended a helping hand to 1,119 children through our Child and Family program, while our Fantastic Teeth Fan Club program reached 149,221 Texas first-graders. Our Senior Scholarship program provided 150 students with much-needed help for college and trade school tuition. Our work for children continues to make an enormous difference to the kids we serve.



4TH ANNUAL BANDING TOGETHER FOR KIDS

Your help and your support reaches deep into the heart of Texas families. While we receive donations year-round for our programs, we also need sponsorships for our biggest fundraising event– the **4th Annual Banding Together for Kids** benefit concert. All proceeds benefit children. For more information on how to be involved in our life-changing work, check out our website at:

masonichometx.org/banding-together-for-kids/



MASONIC
CHILDREN &
FAMILY SERVICES
— OF TEXAS —

1240 Keller Parkway,
Keller TX 76248
www.MCFSTX.org

Grand Master's Activities Thus Far This Year

By Dean Bryant & Jerome Weilmuenster, Staff Writers

Alamo Observance, San Antonio
March 9, 2024



The Grand Lodge, and Masons of Texas gathered at the Alamo to honor the Freemasons who lost their lives during the Battle of the Alamo in 1836.

A plaque on the wall of the Alamo, dedicated by the Freemasons from San Antonio to honor all the Masons that defended the Alamo.

The plaque reads: "Honoring these Masons: James Bonham, James Bowie, David Crockett, Almaron Dickenson, William Barret Travis and those unidentified Masons who gave their lives in the Battle of the Alamo, March 6, 1836. Erected by The Grand Lodge of Texas A.F. & A.M. March 6, 1976."

The Masonic plaque reads: "The Birthplace of Freemasonry in West Texas, This plaque was dedicated January 15, 1946, by

...gathered at the Alamo to honor the Freemasons who lost their lives during the Battle of the Alamo in 1836.



Admiring the large attendance at the annual Alamo Observance – Left to Right, Mrs. Kathy Chapman, 1st Lady of Texas Masons, Right Worshipful T. Chance Chapman, Grand Orator and Most Worshipful Tommy F. Chapman, Grand Master of Masons of Texas.



Liberty Lodge No. 48 – 175th Anniversary March 23, 2024

Congratulations to Liberty Lodge No. 48 for 175 years of continuous Masonic service! The celebration was very well attended, and all enjoyed the evening at the Honey Bee Ranch Event Center. Brother Mike Spears, the Master of Ceremonies ensured the evening flowed well. There were many guest speakers, both Masonic and non-Masonic, that made for a memorable event.

A Short History of Liberty Lodge No. 48

Organized in 1848 and chartered the following year, the Liberty Masonic Lodge had an initial membership of eleven. Charter members included William J. Mills, W. C. Abbott, E. T. Branch, B. W. Hardin, William Beazley, Jesse Devore, Reason Green, William H. Mills, and C. J. O'Connor.

The Lodge met in a room on the second floor of the county courthouse (which members of the lodge planned and finished out). until 1851, when a Lodge hall was built. Although the exact location of is unknown, there is myriad evidence that it was at the southeast corner of Main and Trinity. The building was destroyed by fire in 1858, and records do not indicate where the group met until a new facility was built in 1867 on the corner of Main and Trinity streets. Once again, the Lodge Hall was destroyed by fire, in 1909. A new two-story brick structure replaced the former



Alamo Lodge No. 44 A. F. & A. M. commemorating the one hundredth anniversary of the chartering of the Lodge and honoring those pioneer Masons of that era who founded the Lodge upon this site.”

one at the same location, and was home for the Lodge until 1979, when a new Lodge Hall was erected on the northeast corner of Fannin and Trinity.

The Liberty Masonic Lodge has taken an active role in the community, with its members involved in local government, public education, and community affairs. Liberty Masons have included Texas Revolutionary War veterans, representatives to Republic of Texas conventions and congresses, state legislators, state supreme court justices, city and county officers, school board trustees, and one governor of Texas.

Liberty Lodge No. 48 is proud to have Past Grand Masters as members.



Right Worshipful
William P. Lamb
Past Grand Master
1978-1979



Right Worshipful
Tommy F. Griffin
Past Grand Master
2007-2008



Right Worshipful
Michael L. Wiggins
Past Grand Master
2014-2015

San Jacinto Observance April 21, 2024

It was a perfect day for the San Jacinto Observance, the weather was wonderful. The large number of attendees that visited the San Jacinto Battleground Site for this annual San Jacinto Observance were able to listen to an inspiration message from M.°W.° Tommy Chapman, and a historical account from R.°W.° T. Chance Chapman. A big thank you to Baytown Shrine Club for providing lunch and supporting this event.





Cora's 471 Grill And What Came You Here To Do?

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



I had been enjoying the scenery as it passed steadily by on both sides of the truck. I realized I hadn't been out this way in a while and was glad I had decided to drive out here to meet John. Along with enjoying the sights, I reflected about John Deacon and what he has meant to me. You know, over the past several years I have been seeing John every month for a meal and Masonic Light. During that time there has been plenty of aggravation and some laughs, and oh yes, a whole bunch of money spent in the attempt to keep him properly fed. Over that time, he has become so much a part of my life that I do look forward to sitting down with him and just talking. He is my Brother in so many more ways than the obvious. We have been asked quite a few times over the years by people who had no idea the depth of the answer to the question, if we were Brothers. And we always responded, usually in unison ...yes. He keeps my mind, which tends to get fuzzy sometimes, in an inquisitive state and always searching for answers which leads to more questions and hopefully more answers.

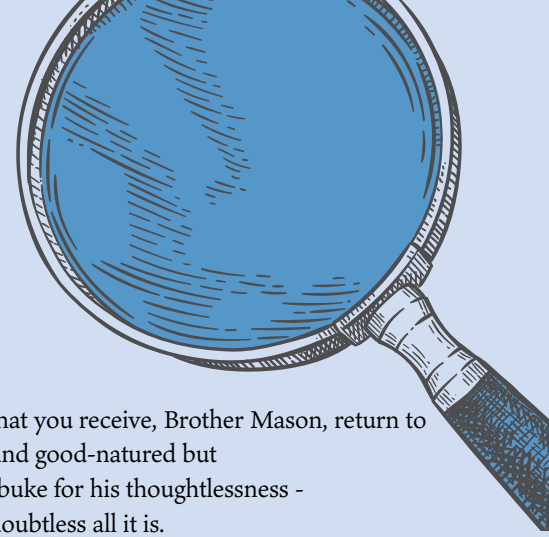
When I began my journey as a Mason I was, as most of you were I am sure, pleasantly surprised to find out that many of our lessons attempt to answer some of those nagging questions of life that the Great Architect has programmed into our minds to pursue.... questions that, although we sometimes try, we cannot ignore.... and not so much to answer those questions outright but more importantly to give us the "tools" with which we can answer those questions for ourselves and in a way which makes sense in our own minds and our own lives. I thank HIM every day for this guide.... this blueprint...this Masonry, which has brought my mind into a focus that has long been wanting. It has led me to levels of clarity and understanding that I never thought existed and never thought I could achieve. And what of the answers to those questions? Whence came you? What came you here to do? Where go you? Until I was made a Mason, I didn't realize I had been asking and seeking the answers to those questions my whole life. I have had this nagging feeling ever since I was a small boy that I am supposed to do "something"and I feel like I should know what it is.... but I don't.....and I want to. And now I realize that the "What came you here to do?" has been on my mind almost from the beginning of my thoughts. And no, Masonry has not given me the definitive answer to that question, nor has the Great Architect himself enlightened me.....that I know of, but I now have, as if the answer was there for me to find within myself the whole time, a framework to build on what I am convinced will lead me to the answers I seek. I ask myself often if it is only the one question that I am concerned about? As far as I can tell, the

answer to "What came you here to do?" is the answer that will unlock the truths of the other two questions.

At my present age, the need to answer that one is very strong. I did not find Masonry until my late 30's and I worry sometimes that time will run out before I find all the truths I seek. I pray that I will not be called before I have had the time to "accomplish my day."

I snapped out of my trance as I saw the sign announcing that Cora's 471 Grill was just ahead. I had never been to Cora's, but it came highly recommended by my niece and her boyfriend as having the best nachos ever. When John told me where he was, I remembered the place was near and told him to meet me there and hung up quickly before all the usual questions about the food. He would just have to be surprised like me. As I pulled into the parking lot, I noticed on the sign that the Nachos were not only the best but were actually "The Best D*** Nachos in Texas." I knew then I had picked the right place since nachos were one of John's favorites. I found a place to sit way back in the back corner and waited for his highness and wideness to show. It occurred to me that when I get somewhere before him and try to get us seated as far away from everyone else, he seems to not get us in trouble as much. Those of you who read this article regularly, you know what I am talking about. For those of you who don't, I will just say that the trouble is usually directed towards me ... because of him....and I am the one having to clean up the mess....and pay the darn bill. The sad truth is that this article is and has always been his words and his opinion. I would like to say that those opinions are not necessarily the opinions of the writer of the article but more often than not, I agree with him. I guess that's why I put up with him like I do. Finally, I saw his big 6 ft. 7 in. 275 lb. frame wedge itself through the door and I waved him back to where I was. "Hello there Brother John," I said cheerfully as we shook hands (Yup, that grip). "How have you been?" "Brother Chris," he replied looking around for someone to serve us. "I am fine, you are fine, and everyone else is fine and we don't have time for chit chat. Did you see that sign out there about the Best D*** Nachos in Texas?"

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



A Look Back

God and Mammon and "Chain" Prayers

From Texas Freemason Magazine June 1924

Masons - all Masons, from Frisco to Shanghai, from Skagway to Janeiro - believe in the one living God. Most of them believe in the Bible as His revealed Word. Most of them believe in the laws of nature and spirituality that have been set up as our guide through a sane life under a rule of reason.

We look with tolerance, tolerance being a Masonic virtue, but with pity upon the witcheries and superstitions of primeval peoples and of present-day heathens still lost in the darkness of ignorance and practicing unreasoning and unreasonable voodooism.

We even discountenance, most of us, so modern a church as that of Rome, because of claims of the priesthood to powers unnatural to human beings, such as praying souls out of Purgatory, healing powers of certain patron saints, and the like.

And yet, incredible if it were not subject to daily proof, Masons of education, of distinguished attainments, of wide business success, of orthodox and modern religious convictions, will receive and pass on to others these mischievous "chain prayers." The News editor has received them from some of the most intelligent among his friends.

Bro. W. A. Browning has just received such a letter and has risked his life and fortunes by not sending it out to "ten others," but instead has sent it to us for comment. We are so prone to forget, and it seems this subject needs comment about once a year.

But, you say, are not the little prayers beautiful and is it not good to get men to pray, and to pass along a wholesome sentiment? Indeed, yes. But not coupled with tenth century superstition! If you want to send the prayer, good. But simply ask your ten friends to send it to ten each because of the beauty of its sentiment not because "some evil will befall" if you don't and some great good fortune will come upon the ninth day" if you do. Shades of Jupiter! Are we to believe that our God and our Christ use any such Terrible Turk methods as that? Are we to couple prayer with witches and broomsticks, with black cats and horseshoes and the moon seen over the left shoulder! It is truly God and Mammon.

Furthermore, there is not, never was and never will be such a "Masonic prayer." On the contrary, the superstition connected with it is entirely un-Masonic. No Masonic history, ritual, lecture, or authenticated tradition sanctions any such chain prayer as Masonic.

The next such prayer that you receive, Brother Mason, return to your friend with kind and good-natured but perhaps informative rebuke for his thoughtlessness - for thoughtlessness is doubtless all it is.

Not many months ago the Freemason editor received such a chain prayer, which was to be copied nine times and sent to nine other friends. The names of all those previously receiving the letter were to be copied. If no person received it twice, it would go to the six billion people of the world in about a year. The cost of postage would pay all the national debts of all the countries of the world, build good roads over all continents, educate all the children, and feed the poor. We haven't all these figures before us, but we worked it out for ourselves, so you can do the same. But out of sympathy for the last poor devil of the six billion, who would have to copy the entire preceding "chain," we wrote the following verses, which may reassure you for your own risks in failing to spread the superstition.

Luck Lamentations On Receipt of a Chain Prayer.

*Methought the days of rabbit-feet and black felines and such
Existed only when the earth was flat.*

*The hoodoos, voodooos, ghouls, and ghosts so weird in yesteryear
Methought had long been knocked into cocked hats.*

*Forsooth! right when I'm feeling safe, self-satisfied, secure
From all ill-omened genii and spectres -*

*Just when methought I'd safely passed Charybdis, Scylla, too -
Just then a goblin jumped right on my neck, sir!*

*Now, this chain letter that you sent, so wistful for my luck,
Must be sent out within allotted days!*

*But I alas away from home, of the missive unaware,
And all too ignorant of the goblins' ways -*

*Alas a lack, and woe is me! have broken now the chain!
What evil will betide? I quake with fear;*

*My hair stands up in bristles - such hair as I possess -
Methinks, I see strange spooks, weird sounds I hear.*

*And yet, perhaps, a service. I unwittingly have done
To some poor cuss of frail, weak flesh, and bone*

*Who next-to-last in all the world had been to get this chain -
Six billion names to write beside his own.*



2024 Grant Cycle Summary

High School Scholarships	No. of Participating Lodges	542	Sub-total
	Monetary Value of Lodge Participation	\$1,345,643	\$1,865,393
	TXMCF Financial Match	\$519,750	
Community Grants	No. of Participating Lodges	135	Sub-total
	Monetary Value of Lodge Participation	\$89,387	\$122,687
	TXMCF Financial Match	\$33,000	
Teacher Honorariums	No. of Participating Lodges	89	Sub-total
	Monetary Value of Lodge Participation	\$32,000	\$53,500
	TXMCF Financial Match	\$21,500	
Texas Lodges + TXMCF = Teamwork; Total =			\$2,041,580

- Lodge Participation Percentages: HS Scholarships = 73%; Community Grants = 18%; Teacher Honorariums (Inaugural Year) = 12%
- Applications opened on 1 January 2024, Applications closed on 31 March 2024; \$574,550 in matches were distributed by the TXMCF to the Lodges by 15 April 2024

The Directors of the Texas Masonic Charities Foundation thank the Masons of Texas for their benevolence. We look forward to an even greater 2025!

TXMCF Mission: Promote societal enrichment through quality charitable programs benefiting the students and teachers within our communities.

TXMCF Vision: To provide a financial and grant based platform by which the Texas Mason can perpetually invest in his community and the long-term prosperity of our great state.

Masonry well,

Cody M. Cockroft, President

The North Texas Masonic Historical Museum & Library

By jim Hoffpaur, Staff Writer



Recognition and accolades are in store for the Brethren of Plano Lodge No. 768 for their diligent efforts to assemble one of Texas' premier Masonic Libraries & Museums. The North Texas Masonic Historical Museum & Library Foundation, through much trial and tribulation, has bloomed to become a must-see venue for Freemasons across the state.

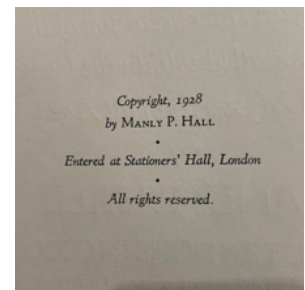
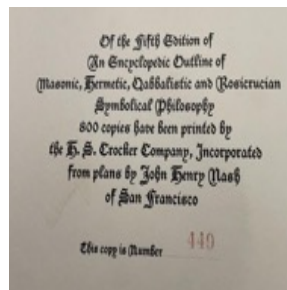
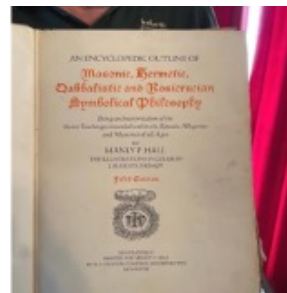
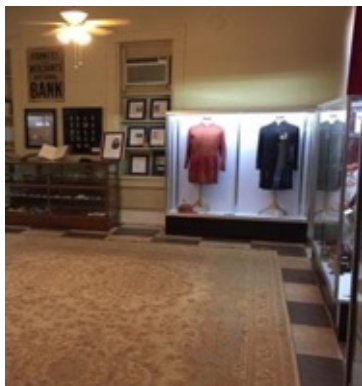
Housed upon the first floor of the Lodge, located in the U.S. National Park Service recognized "Plano Downtown Historic District," is the Past Grand Master Leonard P Harvey Room and Masonic Collection as well as several hundred artifacts and twenty-five hundred reference books available for research by Freemasons, historians, scholars, and local citizens. "Masonic Landmarks and Legacies: Early Plano, Texas" along with four "Addendums" are available both at the facility, and through digital form in the Masonic Grand Lodge Library and Museum in Waco via No. 2019.22.

The one hundred twenty-eight-year-old, two-story deemed "Heritage Resource" Lodge building is located at 1414 J Avenue, Plano 75074. Plano Lodge No. 768 moved into this location, the old Moore House / Commercial Hotel, in March of 1925. The Lodge, Chartered in December of 1894, first met on January 7, 1895, on the second floor of the H. J. Jones three Story Brick Business House where it remained thirty years before purchasing its current building.

The plan for the NTMHHM&L was brought forth by five enterprising young members of the Lodge: Chris Rose, J. J. Miller, Kevin Main, Brian Chaput, and Bill Goodell. All with less than thirty years of Masonic experience at the time, these Brethren are now Past Masters of the Lodge. Through their efforts the Lodge was legally constituted by the state, federal, and Grand Lodge of Texas as a 501 (c) 3 entity to form a Masonic research library and museum housing Masonic and philosophical books, and artifacts.

The NTMHHM&L's Mission:

- 1) To collect, preserve, and display Masonic artifacts, objects, and collections to memorialize the development of Masonry in North Texas and the United States.
- 2) To provide educational material for the study of Masonry by Masons, historians, scholars, and future generations; and
- 3) To become the premier Masonic research facility in North Texas. In doing so, "to preserve the complete history of Plano, Collin County, and North Texas for historical educational, literary, scientific, and charitable purposes, including "other Masonic Lodges in Collin County and the North Texas area, and their correlation and influence upon their community's history.



An Encyclopedic Outline of Masonic, Hermetic, Qabbalistic and Rosicrucian Symbolical Philosophy, (by) Manly P. Hall, (Fifth Edition)

The specific Organizing Purpose of the NTMHM&L:

- 1) To collect, preserve, and display Masonic artifacts, objects, and collections to memorialize the development of Masonry in North Texas, Texas, and the United States.
- 2) To provide educational material for the study of Masonry by Masons, historians, scholars, and future generations; and
- 3) To become the premier Masonic research facility in North Texas.”
- 4) To receive and maintain a fund or funds of real or personal property, or both, and subject to the restrictions and limitations hereinafter set forth, to use and apply the whole or any part of the proceeds therefrom and the principal thereof exclusively for charitable, religious, educational, scientific or literary purposes, either directly or indirectly through the establishment, support, and maintenance of a museum and library to preserve Masonic history and knowledge in Plano, Texas, including the history of the first Plano Masonic Lodge No. 235 [sic-Lodge No. 235] and other Lodges in the North Texas area affiliated or engaged in activities to provide for historical research in Lodge and Masonic history, the preservation of archives, and to provide a museum to exhibit, display, and interpret this Masonic history and its effects on the development of Plano and North Texas. July 15, 2003, per Certificate of Incorporation, Secretary of State of Texas.

Plano Lodge individual members have provided financial support and personal time for day-to-day expenses and capital needs, while major project funding for research books, furniture, display artifacts have been available from non-Masonic groups through grants. The building is open to the public three days a week and to support both Masonic and appropriate community related and public City of Plano events.

Though no merchandise is used to offset costs associated with the center, volunteers – masonic, families, and friends – have donated to the operation of the Library & Museum. NTMHM&L works with the Plano Heritage Commission and Texas Historic Foundation on restoration and preservation projects and helps fund the Plano Mutual Cemetery Masonic Section Gravestone Restoration and Preservation Project containing Masonic markers dating to the 19th century.

The next potential NTMHM&L opportunity under consideration is to jointly work with the Plano Lodge Leadership Team and its Building Committee to magnify beyond that Masonic Square Landmark imagery with another and even more prestigious Plano Landmark still in use today, the Moore House Hotel / Plano Masonic Lodge Hall.

The mutual plan is to seek long-range Grant Funding employing the recognized NTMHM&L 501 (c) 3 organization status to refurbish and preserve the facility. This possibility has been explored with three Texas recognized “Grant Funding” foundations dedicated to the restoration and preservation of historic Texas structures and the Grand Lodge Civil Law Committee. Thus far dialogue and communications between all parties have been most encouraging and worthy of further exploration.

Though it was to face near-fatal issues in the coming years, the Museum & Library got off to a dramatic start in 2008 when the George Washington Inaugural Bible was brought in for the library’s Opening Exhibition and the Installation of Officers of Plano Lodge No. 768 for the year 2008-2009. Worshipful Master J. J. Miller, mentioned above, was

credited with the effort. Needless to say, this was a resounding start for the project that garnered interest across the state.



The George Washington Bible on display at Plano Lodge No. 768

This treasure of Freemasonry, the Washington Inaugural Bible, is housed in Federal Hall in Lower Manhattan at St John’s Lodge No. 1 in New York City. It was the bible used at the Inauguration of George Washington, Freemason, and first President of the United States of America, on April 30, 1789. It was offered by then WM Jonathan Hampton as a replacement for the Lodge’s first bible upon the opening of the rebuilt facility on November 28, 1780, following a catastrophic fire. The Washington Bible is a true copy of the King James Version of the Holy Bible. It was printed by Mark Baskett, by royal appointment to the King’s Most Excellent Majesty, London 1767. The Washington inauguration was held on the steps of the rebuilt building.

Two major events shaped the NTMHM&L’s current existence: the arrival of Past Grand Master Leonard P Harvey’s Masonic Collection of artifacts, books, and memorabilia and the onset of the Covid 19 pandemic.

Past Grand Master Leonard P Harvey of The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas will ever be remembered and cherished for his work within the craft. Probably most famously known for his meeting at Armadillo - his home-away-from-home - with Grand Senior Warden Fred E Allen and 88th District Deputy Grand Master A D Hanna. There, while discussing candidates for the Sam Houston Medal given to outstanding Masons in Texas, the topic of local blue Lodge recognition came up. As documented, “while twiddling a small gold trowel given to GM Harvey’s father-in-law some years before” Right Worshipful Hanna piped up, “we can call it the Golden Trowel Award.” Thus, GM Harvey brought

it before the Grand Communication and The Golden Trowel became a cherished honor among Texas Masons.

Years passed, and during an informal get-together with his former District 9 – B DDGM, Charles McKay, PM of Plano Lodge, PGM Harvey mentioned that he had concerns about where his enormous collection of Masonic items would reside after his passing. Brother McKay suggested he visit the NTMHHM&L facilities – then in the early stages of development. Soon thereafter, the two met at NTMHHM&L with PGM Harvey’s wife Lady Lena Ruth. Lady Lena Ruth recommended that PGM Harvey “seriously consider bringing The Collection to Plano.” The Past Grand Master Leonard P Harvey estate approached McKay in early 2018 to explore the possibility. During the February 8, 2018, Stated Meeting a motion was made by Past Master Mike G Heidenreich “to donate \$2000 to the NTMHHM&L” to display the PGM Harvey Masonic Memorabilia Collection. PM McKay worked things out with the estate and PM Heidenreich, with the help of Lodge Brethren, took on the task of reforming the Display Room into its current configuration.

NTMHHM&L Directors, in April of 2022, faced a decision during inventory of PGM Harvey’s memorabilia not then on display. Five embroidered Past Masters Aprons were discovered in a plastic bag with a note saying, “Rtn to Keystone.” The aprons were from Keystone Lodge No. 1143, which had since merged with James A. Smith Lodge No. 395. Remembering it had been PGM Harvey’s request that his collection not be separated, James A. Smith Lodge was contacted, and agreed to have them displayed in the NTMHHM&L exhibit as well provide framing for the aprons, photographs of the Keystone Lodge PMs, and a plaque in recognition of the Keystone PMs.

The Covid Pandemic had a major effect on the facility. Neither public nor private admission to the facility was deemed safe and, through caution, the NTMHHM&L was closed in March of 2020 and not opened again to the public until July of 2022. The Library & Museum lost critical corporate sponsored employee / employer operational capital funding. Continuous funding campaigns were unable to acquire immediate operational expense resulting in insufficient funding for the facility to remain operational beyond April of 2022.

NTMHHM&L Directors formally recommended to “Dissolve” the Library & Museum in the December 2021 Stated Meeting. The recommendation was voted down by Lodge members. At the Stated Meeting of January 2022, the Directors presented a six-month Contingency Plan attempting to make changes to the operational plan and keep NTMHHM&L open. Lodge members agreed and operational funding was granted to explore additional income opportunities and reopen the facility to the Plano community. Financial assistance was sought, and obtained, from seven fellow Collin County Masonic bodies and individual Masons. Non-Masonic funding in 2023 helped defray operational expenses into 2024.

On December 13, 2021, the Plano City Council formally recognized Masonic efforts in its early years of the community and designated city owned property at 1430 K Avenue in the National Park Service Registered Plano Downtown Historic District as Masonic Square. This stemmed from a 2016 preliminary Masonic research project made to the Plano Heritage Commission in August 2018. Interrupted by the Covid crisis, city Heritage Commission Liaison representative recommended

a Masonic Monolith Marker that was approved and placed at the 1430 K Avenue location. NTMHHM&L petitioned The Heritage Commission to approve a Grand Funded Request in 2022 to offset this cost. Funding was awarded to the City of Plano for the 2023-24 Grand year.



The photograph of the Color Guard standing before the Washington Bible at the 2008 Plano Lodge installation included Mr. Howard Roach, and now deceased brethren Richard (Dick) Arnold and Robert Hall. Brother Arnold accomplished his long-desired wish to become a Master Mason late in life. His inspiration came from his uncle, and Freemason, 5 - Star U.S. Army General Henry (Hap) Arnold. Other photos in this article include a frontal view of Plano Lodge No. 235 in its current home on Avenue J, the Washington Bible on display in the NTMHHM&LF first-floor museum, and views within the Past Grand Master Leonard P. Harvey Room and Masonic Collection.

High praise and thanks go out to Secretary / Director and PM of Plano Lodge Robert (Bob) Pannell for his timeless work and dedication to the NTMHHM&FL. Grand Chaplain for PGM Wendell P. Miller in 2016, Brother Pannell, raised at Army Lodge No. 1105 (San Antonio), has been a Freemason since 1963. He joined Plano Lodge No. 768 in 1985. Please go to:

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

and read his historic document, from which much of this article is taken, on Plano Lodge No. 768 and the NTMHHM&FL.



Who are we?

Founded by Wally Wolcott in 1921, we are an association of Master Masons who desire to gather in fellowship INDEPENDENT of formal ritual.

More than a lunch club, we provide an environment where Master Masons can feel comfortable among brothers with similar values.

Simply put, High Twelve is MASONRY IN ACTION.

Today, High Twelve International has 122 Chartered Clubs in 7 Countries. Those are: United States (113), across 7 states, Japan (2), England (3), Mexico (1), Scotland (1), El Salvador (1), & Brazil (1). We currently total over 3,000 members spread across the world. We are looking to Charter 3 new clubs very soon.

What we do?

First and foremost, is to encourage and support good government. This is accomplished through the Wolcott Foundation, which provides fellowships to those who endeavor to pursue a Master's Degree in Federal Government or Foreign Service. These fellowships are provided at George Washington University in Washington DC.

Assist BLUE LODGES in whatever manner is needed. Partner with local Lodges to further community objectives, Service to youth, support, and provide assistance to Masonic Youth Groups like DeMolay, Rainbow Girls, and Job's Daughters.

When?

Meetings usually begin with a breakfast, lunch, or dinner, on a monthly basis. Since there is no ritual, members are encouraged to invite wives, family members, or friends, to attend. After the meal, there usually is a presentation on a topic of interest to the club. These may be Masonic or Non-Masonic.

Why?

In today's climate, everyone is looking for a group, FAMILY, a cause, FELLOWSHIP, a reason, a FUTURE. Everyone eats and is always looking forward to sharing a meal with friends. So, I ask, WHY NOT?

Our emblem features THREE STEPS which symbolize the three degrees of a Master Mason. The clock is at HIGH TWELVE. But most important is our motto.

- To Talk Little*
- To Hear Much*
- To Reflect Upon Truth*

I challenge you to GIVE US A TRY, JOIN US, you will be glad you did. There are clubs in your area ready to WELCOME you. If a club is not near you, start your own, we'll help and guide you. Hope to see you soon. For more information contact us at secretary@high12.org

FAMILY, FELLOWSHIP, FUTURE

Helping Kids and Families in Need

DESTINY

Destiny has not had an easy life. She suffers from a kidney disease and has had several surgeries already. Her big brothers came to the hospital to give her all the love and support she needs to get well. MCFS provided rental assistance to this most deserving family, and helped ease a burden so they could focus on their precious little girl.



CHRISTIAN

Young children often become anxious or frightened of dental procedures. Christian was one of those children. MCFS assisted by helping to fund the sedation so Christian would not feel pain. His Mom happily reports that he feels good again and is back to himself.



MAVERICK

Maverick is a happy little guy that is curious about the world around him. He was born with a misshapen head, something that can happen to thousands of babies. His parents reached to us for support after Maverick's pediatrician prescribed a cranial helmet. This will help to gently form his head into the correct shape.



MASONIC
CHILDREN &
FAMILY SERVICES
— OF TEXAS —

Join us!

Family Day!

Saturday
Oct. 12
2024

Free
Admission

Open
10 am - 4 pm

Texas Masonic
Retirement Community
1501 W. Division St., Arlington, Texas

Biggest Masonic Event in Texas!

Meet

M:W: Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Texas
M:E: Grand High Priest Royal Arch Chapter of Texas

Greet

Yum!

Hot Dogs
BBQ
Ice Cream
Kettle Corn

Fun!

Pony Rides
Jump Houses
Petting Zoo
Video Games
Children's Games

Shop!

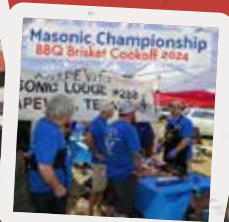
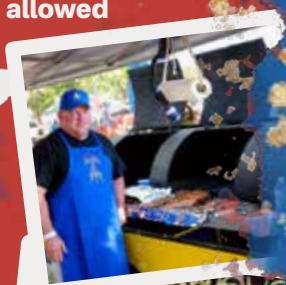
Arts & Crafts
Masonic Fundraisers
Holiday Gifts
Clothing & Jewelry

Note!

No Pets!
Due to the
nature of the
event, no pets
allowed

Masonic BBQ Cookoff! Car & Motorcycle Show!

Live Music & Shady Picnic Tables
Open House - Texas Masonic Retirement Community
Mobile Blood Drive Masonic Museum



Visit YourTMRC.org for all info • 817-275-2893 • info@YourTMRC.org

TEXAS FREEMASON

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



CONSTITUTED
APRIL 1838



**2018 / 2024
Tommy F. Chapman
Lapel Pin**



**2024
Grand Master's
Lapel Pin**



**2024
Tommy F. Chapman
Charm**

These are just a few of the items you can find in the store. Shop today!

Grand Lodge of Texas Online Store

Visit us at <https://masonic-grand-lodge-of-texas.myshopify.com>