



**PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS
AND
STATEMENTS OF
AVAILABILITY
TO BE CONSIDERED
AT OUR
GRAND ANNUAL
COMMUNICATION
TO BE HELD
January 16, 17 & 18, 2025**



**PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED AT
OUR GRAND ANNUAL COMMUNICATION TO BE HELD
January 16, 17, & 18, 2025**

SUCH CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION AND LAWS ARE HEREBY
SUBMITTED AND ARE INDICATED BY ADDING AND DELETING
CERTAIN LANGUAGE, WITH NEW LANGUAGE ITALICIZED AND
DELETED LANGUAGE BRACKETED.

Committee on Civil Law

Allan Ross Lazor, Chairman
302 Brook Forrest Trail
Sugar Land, TX 77478

Committee on Finance

Ronald C. Wise, Chairman
8304 San Cristobal Dr.
Dallas, TX 75218

Committee on Fraternal Relations

Pierre G. Normand, Jr., Chairman
PO Box 10434
College Station, TX 77842

Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence

Charles M Kinsey, Chairman
3105 Nantucket Ct.
Pearland, TX 77584

Committee on Purposes and Policies

Thomas F. Griffin, Chairman
907 Copperas Dr.
Caldwell, TX 77836

Committee on Bylaws

Dennis Reader, Chairman
1402 Surecrop Ln.
Pasadena, TX 77504

Committee on Work

Charles R Forsyth, Chairman
1601 Idlewood Ln.
Odessa, TX 79761

Committee on Investments

John D. Ashley, Chairman
2707 Drywood Creek Dr.
League City, TX 77537

HOLD OVER RESOLUTION NO 4.

This resolution concerns an amendment to the Constitution. It was approved at the Grand Communication in January, 2024. No changes were made to the Holdover Resolution No. 4, and it remains in proper and legal form for consideration at the Grand Communication in 2025.

RESOLUTION NO 4 (Held Over)

Referred to Purposes and Policies

WHEREAS, there is no provision for a special session of the Grand Lodge of Texas other than being called by the Grand Master.

WHEREAS, our laws require fifty (50) constituent lodges to be present to constitute a quorum to transact any business of the Grand Lodge of Texas when in session, and the Trustees transact the business of Grand Lodge when not in session.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Article VI Division II Constitution of The Grand Lodge of Texas be amended as follows;

Section 1. – Quorum No Change

Section 2. – Presiding Officers No Change

Section 3 Communication No Change

Special Communications of the Grand Lodge may shall be convened within ninety (90) days whenever the Grand Master, or presiding officer for the time, majority vote of the trustees, or upon the written request of 50 constituent lodges to the Grand Secretary, shall deem that the interest of the Craft require, but in such case at least one month's notice shall be given to each Lodge by the Grand Secretary, specifying in such notice the time, place and the purpose or purposes of such special Communication; and at such Communication no business shall be transacted other than that mentioned in such notice.

Submitted by:

Bradley W. Corley, PM – Cosmopolitan Lodge No. 872

PUBLISHED 12/19/2024

RESOLUTION NO. 1

Referred to Purposes and Policies and Jurisprudence

WHEREAS, Article 276a of the laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas requires a Brother, before being installed as a Warden or Master, to attend a course approved by the Grand Lodge in the administration of his duties, formerly known as the Wardens Retreat and currently known as the Officer Leadership Training (O.L.T.) or complete the L.I.F.E. program; and

WHEREAS, some Lodges struggle with finding willing, able, and qualified Brethren to serve as Lodge Counselor to administer the L.I.F.E. program, leaving the Lodge with no recourse but to send their officers to Officer Leadership Training to meet the required qualifications; and

WHEREAS, the Grand Lodge of Texas should set fees for such required courses as accessible as possible to assist Lodges in preparing the Masons of Texas to serve as officers of their respective Lodges;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Article 276a of the laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas be amended as follows:

Art. 276a. Additional Qualifications.

Prior to his installation as Worshipful Master or Warden, a Brother shall in all circumstances first be qualified as follows:

1. To the satisfaction of the members of his Lodge, he shall be proficient to properly open and close an Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft, Master Mason's Lodge, and a Master Mason's Lodge of Sorrow in the manner prescribed by the Committee on Work and approved by this Grand Lodge, and
2. To the satisfaction of the members of his Lodge, he shall have completed the Lodge Instruction for Effectiveness program (L.I.F.E.) under the supervision of the Masonic Education Committee. The L.I.F.E. Program is to be administered by a Lodge Counselor appointed by the Worshipful Master, whose term expires upon the appointment of his successor in office or a Grand Lodge-approved course in the administration of his duties. *The fee for required courses shall be*

profit does not exceed ten percent (10%) of the total per person cost, after any necessary and related educational and program expenses. Any excess profits above ten percent (10%), determined after a full accounting, shall be allocated to incentives like the Vanguard Lodge Program or donated to the Texas Masonic Charity Foundation. The annual Committee on Masonic Education report, per Article 113, must include a detailed accounting of these course expenses and returns, specifying the programs and amounts where excess profits have been allocated." Any person who has previously served as Worshipful Master of a Lodge under the Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Texas is exempt from the requirements of this article. (Revised 2012)

3. In all cases, unless otherwise exempt as hereafter provided, by attending at least one forum conducted under the auspices of the Committee on Work during the twelve months prior to his installation as Worshipful Master, Senior Warden, or Junior Warden. Brothers who hold a Class A, B or C certificate, or are certified as proficient by the District Instructor for the Masonic District in which the lodge is located, a District Instructor at Large, or a member of the Committee on Work, are exempt from the requirement imposed by this paragraph. If an officer is being installed as a Worshipful Master or a Warden in multiple lodges located in different districts, the officer is only required to be certified as proficient by only one District Instructor, District Instructor at Large, or a member of the Committee on Work for exemption.

Submitted by:

Rhit Moore, PM – Fort Worth Lodge No. 148

RESOLUTION NO. 2

Referred to Purposes and Policies and Jurisprudence

WHEREAS, when the charter of a constituent lodge was arrested on August 10, 2023 no reasons were provided to the lodge or its members; and

WHEREAS, no such reasons were provided until the announcement by the Grand Master at the following Grand Annual Communications; and

WHEREAS, the suspension or arrest of a charter is a matter of the utmost importance to both the affected lodge and the Grand West; and

WHEREAS, principles of fair notice and due process mandate that the affected lodge should be given an explanation of the reasons for the suspension or arrest sufficient to enable a response to the charges prior to the matter being called for consideration at Grand Annual Communication;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Article 649 be amended as follows:

Art. 649. Grand Master May Arrest or Suspend The Charter of Lodge.

The Grand Master may immediately suspend or arrest the charter of any Lodge when, after careful investigation or upon receipt of satisfactory proof, it is shown that such Lodge has willfully violated the territorial jurisdiction of another Lodge, or the laws, edicts, or resolutions of the Grand Lodge, or has been guilty of un-Masonic conduct. At the time that any subordinate Lodge has its charter suspended or arrested, the Worshipful Master and Secretary of the Lodge will be provided with a written copy of the following: (1) an enumeration of each Grand Lodge law, edict, or resolution that the lodge is alleged to have willfully violated; and (2) a description of how the lodge is alleged to have willfully violated the law, edict or resolution, including but not limited to the dates, location, and involved members, if known.

Submitted by:

Marc Siemes, WM – Austin Lodge No. 12

R. Carlton Newberry, Jr., PM – San Felipe Lodge No. 23

PUBLISHED 12/19/2024

RESOLUTION NO. 3

Referred to Purposes and Policies, Finance, and Investments

WHEREAS, Lodge Endowments are a vehicle to help Brothers invest in the future of their Lodge; and

WHEREAS, Many endowments were purchased at the \$500 level, which is now the minimum per Grand Lodge law; and

WHEREAS, Those who purchase an endowment at \$500 and make no other contributions may end up costing their Lodge a small amount of money each year; and

WHEREAS, Adding increments to an endowment was subsequently adopted by this Grand Lodge as a mechanism for Brothers to further cement their legacy for their Lodge.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Art. 14 be amended as follows:

Art. 14. Masonic Service Awards.

Art. 14, 14 a-f No Change

Art.14g. – (New) *Legacy Builder Award*

*The Grand Lodge shall establish the **Legacy Builder Award** to recognize any Mason that adds an additional \$500 (five units) on top of his initial endowment purchase. The award shall be presented each year at our annual Grand Communication. Grand Lodge shall bear the costs associated with producing the jewel or lapel pin and corresponding certificate of recognition. This award shall not be available retroactively to those who have previously made this purchase.*

Submitted by:

Brad Billings, PM – Trinity Valley Lodge No. 1048

RESOLUTION NO. 4

Referred to Purposes and Policies and Jurisprudence

WHEREAS, the Grand West adopted 2023 Resolution No. 5 which facilitated the issuing of durable plastic dues cards to members and,

WHEREAS, the Grand Secretary's office issued durable plastic dues cards to each Master Mason in 2023 and,

WHEREAS, the Grand Lodge of Texas and the constituent Lodges of Texas can save \$30,000 annually by removing the requirement to print the expiration date on dues cards and,

WHEREAS, the Grandview Database can instantaneously verify a Mason's status by scanning his dues card or calling or texting the telephone number printed on the back of the card.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Article 60 of the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas be amended as follows:

Art. 60. Uniform Dues Receipt: Certificates to E.A.s and F.C.s.

The Grand Secretary is authorized to prepare a standard uniform receipt for Lodge dues, which Lodges must use. There shall be printed on the back of such receipt a certificate of the standing of the Lodge to which it is issued with the imprint of the seal of this Grand Lodge and of the signature of the Grand Secretary. ~~Expiration date to which dues are paid by dues-paying Master Masons shall be filled in by the Grand Secretary when the dues cards are prepared.~~ Local Lodges are authorized to issue certificates to Entered Apprentices and Fellowcrafts as such, which certificates shall be upon standard uniform cards prepared by the Grand Secretary, and the expiration date to which dues are paid shall be filled in by the Lodge Secretary. The Trustees of the Grand Lodge of Texas may by majority vote authorize the use of an electronic virtual dues card in addition to the standard uniform dues receipt.

Submitted by:

Justin B. Duty, PM – M. Denton Stanford Lodge No. 594

Brad Billings, PM – Trinity Valley Lodge No. 1048

RESOLUTION NO. 5

Referred to Purposes and Policies and Jurisprudence

WHEREAS, Article 23 of the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas does not define “incapacitated” and,

WHEREAS, this lack of clarity has caused confusion in the past and,

WHEREAS, the orderly and efficient operation of the Grand Lodge of Texas is essential.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Article 23 of the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas be amended as follows:

Article 23. When the Grand Treasurer or Secretary is Incapacitated.

In the event of any vacancies in the office of Grand Treasurer or Grand Secretary, the Grand Master shall appoint an Acting Grand Treasurer or Acting Grand Secretary to fill the unexpired term. In the event the Grand Treasurer or Grand Secretary shall become Incapacitated to perform the duties of his office *such officer may be suspended from office during the period of his incapacity by unanimous vote of the remaining Trustees*. The Grand Master shall appoint an Acting Grand Treasurer or Acting Grand Secretary to fill such office during the period of such incapacity.

Submitted by:

Justin B. Duty, PM – M. Denton Stanford Lodge No. 594

RESOLUTION NO. 6

Referred to Purposes and Policies and Jurisprudence

WHEREAS, The Secretary of State filed the Articles of Incorporation for the Texas Masonic Charities Foundation on December 16, 2004, per Filing Number 800427334. The purpose of the Corporation was to form a 501 (c) (3) to receive and maintain a fund or funds of real, personal, or other property, and to use the whole or any part of the net income therefrom and the principal thereof exclusively for charitable purposes.

WHEREAS, Per Article 163 of the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas, each Lodge shall be required to remit \$3.75 per non-service exempt Master Mason and \$25 per Master Mason Degree to the Texas Masonic Charities Foundation. Since 2009 the Texas Masonic Charities Foundation has applied a portion of this value to participating Lodge's High School Scholarship and Community Grant Matching Programs totaling \$9,543,800 and \$622,664, respectively.

WHEREAS, In 2024, the Texas Masonic Charities Foundation expanded its charitable matching program to include the Teacher Honorarium to recognize the teachers in Texas who continue to serve our communities and the future leaders of our society.

WHEREAS, The Board of Directors of the Texas Masonic Charities Foundations believes that accurate and timely reporting of the financial management of the Foundation on a fiscal year basis be transparent and made available to the Master Masons of Texas during each Grand Annual Communication.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Articles 50 and 165 of the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas be amended as follows:

Art. 50. Printing.

The Grand Secretary shall be responsible for publishing and distributing on the morning of the first day of the annual communication, the address of the Grand Master, the report of the Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary, Board of Directors and Executive Director of the Masonic Home and School of Texas, *Board of Directors and President of the Texas Masonic Charities*

Foundation, and reports of committees as appropriate. (Revised 2008).

Art.165. Order of Business: First Day. On the first day of each Annual Communication, after this Grand Lodge is opened, the order shall be:

1. The roll of officers, Past Grand Officers, and members shall be called by the Grand Secretary, and if a quorum of the representatives of Lodges be present, then
2. Distinguished Visitors and the Grand Representative of other Grand Jurisdictions shall be received.
3. The Grand Master shall report his official acts done during recess.
4. The Grand Master shall appoint the committees.
5. Reports of other Grand Officers shall be received.
6. *Report of the Board of Directors and President of the Texas Masonic Charities Foundation shall be received.*
- ~~6~~ 7. Reports of Committees may be received.
- ~~7~~ 8. The Address of the Grand Orator may be heard.
- ~~8~~ 9. Unfinished business.

Submitted By:

Cody Cockroft, PM – Morton Lodge No. 72

Craig Enderli, PM – Cedar Bayou Lodge No. 321

Sam Gibbins, PM – Harmony Lodge No. 592

Ronald Wise, PM – Roy Stanley Lodge No. 1367

RESOLUTION NO. 7

Referred to Purposes and Policies and Jurisprudence

WHEREAS, Title I, Chapter 10, Article 45. Duties expresses the duties of the Grand Treasurer as follows: The Grand Treasurer shall receive from the Grand Secretary all monies, notes, bonds, and other securities belonging to the Grand Lodge, give his receipt therefore and immediately upon receipt of said monies, notes, bonds, and other securities shall deposit the same to the credit of the Grand Lodge in a bank or other financial institution in the State of Texas as approved by the Grand Lodge Trustees. The depository account or accounts in said bank or financial institution shall be maintained by him on behalf of the Grand Lodge of Texas, and payment there from shall require receipt of satisfactory proof of obligation and shall be executed by those authorized by the Grand Lodge Trustees.

He shall attend each Annual Grand Communication of the Grand Lodge and shall report the financial condition of the Grand Lodge of Texas with a detailed statement of all funds and any other assets of the Grand Lodge of Texas. The Grand Treasurer and all others authorized to handle or disburse funds shall be each bonded in amount, not less than Fifty Thousand dollars, as determined from time to time by the Grand Lodge Trustees; and

WHEREAS, The Grand Lodge of Texas is a Texas Non-profit, benevolent corporation pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 23, Subchapter C. Grand Lodges, Sections 23.101 through 23.110 of the Texas Business Organizations Code and at times under the provisions of Chapter 22 regarding Non-profit Corporations in the Texas Business Organizations Code to the extent that same is not inconsistent with Chapter 23, Subchapter C. See Section 23.102 of Subchapter C of the Texas Business Corporations Code; and

WHEREAS, to enhance accountability and transparency of resources (revenues) and expenditures (expenses) of this Grand Lodge including its Grand Elective Officers (Trustees), Finance Committee, Audit Committee, and any and all Freemasons contributing to the support of this Grand Lodge, its internal Audit Committee, internal Bookkeepers and Accountants, as the case may be, and its external Certified Public Accountants.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Art. 45 be amended as follows:

Art. 45. Duties. No Change

Art. 45.a (new) Line-Item Budget

The Grand Treasurer shall provide a line-item budget for the ensuing Grand Lodge Masonic year. It shall be published, in writing and electronically by means of the digital platform in use by this Grand Lodge to any and all Freemasons contributing to the support of this Grand Lodge no later than the Thursday preceding the official opening of this Grand Lodge on the Friday next. He shall also provide a line-item budget assumptions document paired with the line-item budget. The line-item budget assumptions document shall identify every planned financial resource (revenues) and expenditure (expense).

Art. 45.b (New) Statement of Activities and Financial Condition Reports

The Grand Treasurer shall provide to any and all Freemasons contributing to the support of this Grand Lodge a quarterly Statement of Activities Report (budget versus actual variance analysis) and Financial Condition Report and publish the same in writing and electronically on a digital platform utilized by this Grand Lodge. The Grand Treasurer shall publish, and present said Statement of Activities Report and Statement of Financial Condition Report at each Trustees meeting, analyzing and comparing actual expenditures against planned expenditures since the previous Trustees' meeting. In particular, the Grand Treasurer shall identify to the Trustees of this Grand Lodge the expenditures for any line item in the budget where the budget amount has been exceeded, the amount of said excess, and provide an explanation for the said excess. Actions and adjustments taken regarding such expenditures for line items that exceed the budgeted amount shall be published in writing and electronically on a digital platform utilized by this Grand Lodge to any and all Freemasons contributing to the support of this Grand Lodge.

Art.45.c (New) Expense Reimbursement

All requests for authorized reimbursements from this Grand Lodge shall only be paid by the Grand Treasurer if the request is supported by a customer or consumer copy of an itemized invoice and/or receipt of the actual expenditure (expense) within 30 days of said expense.

Art. 45.d. (New) Monthly Report to Finance and Audit Committees

The Grand Treasurer shall publish a quarterly report, in writing to the Finance and Audit Committees of this Grand Lodge, detailing all of the matters, actions and adjustments taken regarding the requirements referenced in Art. 45.a-c above.

Submitted By:

Cody Cockroft, PM
Morton Lodge No. 72

William Teague, PM
Bertram No. 583

Carter Sharbrough, PM
Katy Lodge No. 1439

David Berndt, PM
Sugar Land Lodge No. 1141

Bruce Babb, PM
Plano Lodge No. 768

Gary Alexander, PM
Richland Hills Lodge No. 1348

Robert Coleman, PM
Billy W. Tinsley Lodge No. 1458

Rhit Moore, PM
Fort Worth Lodge No. 148

Samuel Gibbins, PM
Harmony Lodge No. 592

Richard Daniel, PM
Allen Lodge No. 1435

Stacey Nobles, PM
Llano Lodge No. 242

John Hubbard, PM
Portland Lodge No. 1411

Bill Baty, PM
Blazing Star Lodge No. 413

Stanley Cox, PM
Henry Thomas Lodge No. 278

William Weaver, PM
Valley Lodge No. 175

Jimmy Barho, PM
Valley Lodge No. 175

Derek Shell, PM
Valley Lodge No. 175

Don Angell, PM
Victoria Lodge No. 40

Albert Davis, PM
Matagorda Lodge No. 7

Kenny Meyer, PM
Rosenberg Lodge No. 881

Michael Steelman, PM
Llano Lodge No. 242

Everett Williams, PM
Albert Pike Lodge No. 1169

Guy Niles, PM
Saratoga Lodge No. 546

Carl Braker, PM
Llano Lodge No. 242

Thomas Oughton, PM
Valley Lodge No. 175

Paul Weller, PM
Llano Lodge No. 242

Michael Hazel, PM
Llano Lodge No. 242

Thomas Ferguson, PM
Chico Lodge No. 508

David Allen, PM
Stanfield Lodge No. 217

Michael Range, PM
Decatur Lodge No. 447

Tommy Roberts, PM
Bridgeport Lodge No. 587

Julian Gaston, PM
Eureka Lodge No. 371

Harold Moreland, PM
Chico Lodge No. 508

Gary Green, PM
Bridgeport Lodge No. 587

Joseph Gilliland, PM
Bridgeport Lodge No. 587

Winford Cash, PM
Boyd Lodge No. 479

Edward Caraway, PM
Boyd Lodge No. 479

Roy Marley, PM
Boyd Lodge No. 479

JW. Irick, PM
Bridgeport Lodge No. 587

Chadwick Lindt, PM
Decatur Lodge No. 447

John Bloodgood, PM
Decatur Lodge No. 447

Jerry Enoch, PM
Krum Lodge No. 1453

Gayland Fleming, PM
Krum Lodge No. 1453

Marshall Fortenberry, PM
Greenwood Lodge No. 779

Billy Enoch, PM
Greenwood Lodge No. 779

RESOLUTION NO. 8

Referred to Purposes and Policies and Jurisprudence

WHEREAS, Lodges hold their annual elections at their last stated meeting prior to midnight of June 23 of each year as governed by Articles 292(a),

WHEREAS, Article 22, Notes on Decisions (n) prohibits the Grand Master from ordering a new election out of time,

WHEREAS, current Grand Lodge Law makes no allowances for postponement of elections if local, state, national, or world crisis exists, whether declared or undeclared by local officials, which prevents lodge members from meeting at the duly authorized time to conduct the election of officers,

WHEREAS, Article 293 compels elective and appointed officers to continue their service should the lodge fail to elect officers at the annual stated meeting as prescribed in Articles 290 and 292,

WHEREAS, prospective officers progressing through the line spend large amounts of time with good intent preparing for and in anticipation of election or appointment to an office at the annual elections,

WHEREAS, Grand Master's Decision 2020 – Number 4 further acknowledges that a local, state, national, or world crisis may necessitate the Grand Master declaring duly elected and appointed officers of a Lodge duly installed, as an exception to Art. 298,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the following changes to Grand Lodge Law are proposed:

Art. 22. General Powers

Notes on Decisions:

(n) To elect an officer at any other time than as provided in Art. 292 (a) *and* (b); nor to order a new election out of time; nor hold a special meeting for the election of officers; nor install an officer after July 31, *except in the event of a crisis, when Art. 292 (c) shall apply.*

Art. 292. Time of Election

Sections a. and b. remain unchanged.

c. Notwithstanding the provisions set above, the Grand Master shall have discretion to postpone the annual election of officers only in the event of a local, state, national, or world crisis when lodge members may be exposed to unsafe conditions. An election so postponed must be conducted within 15 calendar days of the end of said crisis. If said crisis ends after July 31, the installation of officers will proceed immediately after the election of officers at the same stated or called meeting.

Submitted by:

Robin Winslett, PM – Tucker Lodge No. 297

Marty Haley, PM – Serenity Lodge No. 1436

Robert Ballard, PM – Cade-Rothwell Lodge No. 1151

RESOLUTION NO. 9

Referred to Purposes and Policies and Jurisprudence

WHEREAS, Title V of the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas governs Masonic Disciplinary Violations; and

WHEREAS, said Title V is complex and detailed with respect to how Masonic Disciplinary Violations are handled but there is room for doubt or argument in certain cases;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Title V, Chapter 1 be amended as follows:

TITLE V DISCIPLINE

CHAPTER 1 – TITLE V JURISDICTION OF DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

Purpose

The procedures set forth in this Title are to be called Masonic Disciplinary Procedures, and they establish the procedures to be used by the Grand Lodge of Texas for Masonic Discipline. These procedures are to be broadly construed to ensure that a fair, just and legal hearing system is afforded to any Mason involved in Masonic Discipline. *In cases where any vagueness, doubt, or obvious disagreement arises in any provision, or between various provisions, the procedures set forth herein are to be governed by the Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code and/or the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure, as applicable.*

Submitted by:

Gregory R. Jacobs, PM – Tannehill Lodge No. 52

Earl N. Jackson, PM – Tannehill Lodge No. 52

RESOLUTION NO. 10

Referred to Purposes and Policies and Jurisprudence

WHEREAS, Title V of the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas governs Masonic Disciplinary Violations; and

WHEREAS, while Title V is complex and detailed in many respects it is too broad and possibly unfair concerning the place of trials for Masonic Disciplinary Violations;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Article 497 of the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas be amended as follows:

Article 497. Jurisdiction.

Any Mason accused of a Masonic Disciplinary Violation *shall* be tried in a Lodge wherein he holds membership *regardless of where the alleged Masonic Disciplinary Violation occurred.*

The foregoing shall apply to Entered Apprentices and Fellowcrafts in the sole Lodge having jurisdiction over them.

Submitted by:

Gregory R. Jacobs, PM – Tannehill Lodge No. 52

Earl N. Jackson, PM – Tannehill Lodge No. 52

RESOLUTION NO. 11

Referred to Purposes and Policies and Jurisprudence

WHEREAS, Title V of the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas governs Masonic Disciplinary Violations; and

WHEREAS, said Title V is complex and detailed with respect to how Masonic Disciplinary Violations are handled with certain exceptions, one being the required burden of proof, which is presently unstated and, therefore, unclear;

WHEREAS, the burden of proof is a critical factor requiring the prosecution to produce evidence to establish the truth of facts needed to convince the trier of fact, such as a jury or judge, that the prosecution's position is correct;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Article 557 be amended as follows:

Art. 557. Burden on Prosecution.

The accused is presumed to be innocent, and the burden of establishing his guilt devolves upon the prosecution, *and such guilt must be proved beyond a reasonable doubt.*

Submitted by:

Gregory R. Jacobs, PM – Tannehill Lodge No. 52

Earl N. Jackson, PM – Tannehill Lodge No. 52

RESOLUTION NO. 12

Referred to Purposes and Policies and Jurisprudence

The proposer of this resolution has **WITHDRAWN** it from consideration at the Grand Communication in 2025 because it is not in proper and legal form.

RESOLUTION NO. 13

Referred to Purposes and Policies and Jurisprudence

WHEREAS, Article 557 states in regard to Masonic Disciplinary Violations, “The accused is presumed to be innocent, and the burden of establishing his guilt devolves on the prosecution.”

WHEREAS, personal or pecuniary differences between members shall not be a basis for masonic disciplinary violations, yet charges filed on such a basis just before elections may disrupt the officer line in constituent lodges, and waste the time of Grand Lodge officials.

WHEREAS, the rights of the accused should be zealously protected,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the language prohibiting masons laboring under masonic charges in Article 512 be amended to remove the prohibition on being elected or appointed to office or installed in office,

“When allegations of Masonic disciplinary violation have been referred to, accepted by the Grand Master, and referred to a Masonic Disciplinary Commission, his standing will be a “Mason laboring under Masonic disciplinary action” and, until such Masonic Disciplinary violations have been fully disposed of, he shall not be entitled to a Demit, a certificate of withdrawal, a certificate of good standing, ~~or be elected or appointed to office, installed in office,~~ or in the case of death, prior to final conclusion of the disciplinary action, a Masonic burial; otherwise, his rights and privileges shall be unaffected thereby until Masonic disciplinary violations have been found and his penalty assessed by the Grand Master, mediation, or Masonic Disciplinary Commission.”

Submitted by:

Michael Giboney, PM – Liberty Hill Lodge No. 432

RESOLUTION NO. 14

Referred to Purposes and Policies and Jurisprudence

WHEREAS, The Grand Lodge of Texas has authorized permanent dues cards to reduce yearly cost of issuing new cards annually.

WHEREAS, one of the intents of moving to permanent dues cards is to reduce The Grand Lodge of Texas cost and subordinate lodges' future expenses such as mailings.

WHEREAS, these savings could be better utilized for the maintenance and operations of The Grand Lodge of Texas and subordinate lodges.

WHEREAS, The removal of the Grand Secretary's name from dues cards and use the seal of The Grand Lodge of Texas as the only authorization needed. This will decrease the cost incurred by the issuance of new cards now and in the future as the Grand Secretary's office is an elective office and subject to change.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Art. 60 of the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas be amended as follows:

Art. 60 Uniform Dues Receipt: Certificates to E.A.s and F.C.s.

The Grand Secretary is authorized to prepare a standard uniform receipt for Lodge dues, which Lodges must use. There shall be printed on the back of such receipt a certificate of the standing of the Lodge to which it is issued with the imprint of the seal of this Grand Lodge ~~and the signature of the Grand Secretary~~. Expiration date to which dues are paid by Master Masons shall be filled in by the Grand Secretary when the dues cards are prepared. Local Lodges are authorized to issue certificates to Entered Apprentices and Fellowcrafts as such, which certificates shall be upon standard uniform cards prepared by the Grand Secretary, and the expiration date to which due are paid shall be filled in by the Lodge Secretary. The Trustees of the Grand Lodge of Texas may by majority vote Authorize the use of an electronic virtual dues card in addition to the standard uniform dues receipt, (Revised 2024)

Submitted by:

Jack G. Mooney, PM – C.F. Spencer Lodge No.1384

Thomas Merchant, PM – Clear Lake Lodge No. 1417

Charlie Craig, PM – Pasadena Lodge No. 1155

RESOLUTION NO. 15

Referred to Purposes and Policies and Jurisprudence

WHEREAS, Chapter 11 Title II Article 273 sets forth the definition of Officers Regalia and Article 274 sets forth the definition of Members Aprons; and

WHEREAS, in certain Lodges in this Grand Jurisdiction, historical reenactments occur and other lodges look to honor our past Brethren by creating aprons similar to those worn at or near the time of the Chartering of that lodge. More period-correct style aprons (rounded bottom, embroidered and or hand-painted) may be desired to be worn to more accurately portray the style of dress of our Founding Brethren. The current regulation prevents the use of those types of aprons.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED Articles 273 and 274 be amended as follows:

Art. 273. (312). Officers: Regalia.

A Lodge may provide special collars and aprons to be worn by its officers, for the purpose of preserving their symbolic features; as a mark of distinction, and to enhance the dignity of the Lodge. Such regalia shall consist of a collar of blue velvet from which shall be suspended the jewel appropriate to the station of the officer. Said collar may have embroidered thereon any of the symbols of Freemasonry appropriate to be so displayed.

The regulation apron shall be of white lambskin, *synthetic lambskin, silk, satin, or cotton* of the following dimensions: the apron shall be 16 inches ~~square~~ *in length and width with square or rounded corners* with a drop in the bib of 6 inches *to the ~~triangular~~-point*. It will be permissible to have embroidered upon the bib *or body* of the apron the appropriate jewel of the office below the bib, the square and compasses circumscribing the letter "G" *or the "All Seeing Eye (aka Eye of Providence)" or any of the symbols of Freemasonry appropriate to be displayed*. The outside edge of the apron shall be bordered with blue *or white* silk velvet or braid, one inch in width, and the bib with the same material one-half inch in width. The apron may be lined on the reverse side with blue satin or other material.

In addition to using the Past Master's aprons now being worn, it shall be permissible for Past Masters to wear aprons with the same design and insignia as provided for the Worshipful Master, but the addition of the Arc (or Quadrant) under the points of the Compasses would be optional.

In conferring degrees, officers may wear appropriate robes or costumes; and appropriate scenery may be used. The insignia or regalia of other orders or organizations may not be worn.

Art. 274. (313). Members: Apron.

The regulation apron for members of the Lodge shall be of the same dimensions provided for the aprons of officers of the Lodge and shall be made of white lambskin *synthetic lambskin, silk, satin or cotton* without border or decoration; provided, it shall not be mandatory upon any Lodge to provide regulation regalia and aprons until such time as it may be able to do so, and such aprons may be made of white cloth.

Submitted by:

Jim Muller, PM – Olive Branch Lodge No. 2

RESOLUTION NO. 16

Referred to Purposes and Policies and Jurisprudence

WHEREAS, Texas Masonry enjoys the privilege of being intimately related to the men and events that shaped the Republic of Texas, and

WHEREAS, we should celebrate this connection with the history of our great state, and

WHEREAS, the minutes of our historical lodge highlight our association with and fraternity's support by Sam Houston, Anson Jones, Mirabeau Lamar, and many other men of standing in Texas history, and

WHEREAS, our current Laws & Constitution prevent the open publication of lodge minutes according to Art. 338,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Article 338 be amended as follows:

Art. 338. Inspection of Minutes: By Whom.

The minutes of the Lodge are the private records of the Lodge and no copy of the same or any part thereof, shall be made or used for other than Masonic *or historical research* purposes. They shall be securely kept and preserved by the Secretary and shall be open for inspection at reasonable times by the officers and other members of the Lodge, or by such other Masons as may have an appropriate reason therefor, but not under any circumstances by those who are not Masons *unless for historical research purposes, and then only for Lodge minutes over 100 years in age. Minutes older than 100 years may be published for public distribution, but only by permission of the Lodge. Any proceeds from such publication after printing costs and preparation expenses must be distributed to the Lodge, or Grand Lodge of Texas, or to a charity designated by the Lodge. In the case of publication of demised Lodges or military Lodges under dispensation, all permissions and decisions of the distribution of proceeds will be determined by the Trustees of the Grand Lodge of Texas.*

Submitted by: Billy J. Hamilton, Jr., PM – Fort Worth Lodge No. 148

RESOLUTION NO. 17

Referred to Purposes and Policies, Committee on Work and Jurisprudence

WHEREAS, It is evident that Music has been an integral part of Freemasonry since the inception of the Grand Lodge of England in 1717, as demonstrated by the fact that there are numerous publications including Anderson's Constitutions of 1723, which includes within it songs for the Master, Wardens, and various Degrees of Masonry; and,

WHEREAS, our Constitution and Laws provide for the office of Musician, both at the Grand Lodge and Lodge level; and,

WHEREAS, the various Monitors and Manuals adopted and in use by this Grand Lodge prior to 1934 all contained music related to the degrees and ceremonies of Masonry in Texas.

Texas Monitors/Manuals

Year	Author	Title	Comments
1844	Jeremy L. Cross	True Masonic Chart	Over sixty pages of Music in the Back
1852	Charles W. Moore	New Masonic Trestle-Board	Music added to Circumambulation in all degrees
1854	George H. Gray	The Mystic Circle	Numerous references to the use of music, with fourteen pages of music included
1859	William Taylor	Manual of Freemasonry	Music for the various Degrees and Ceremonies
1907	Sam R. Hamilton	Taylor Hamilton Monitor of the Lodge	Music for the various Degrees and Ceremonies
1912	C. P. Boon*	Vest Pocket Trestle-Board	Music for the various Degrees and Ceremonies
1921	The Grand Lodge of Texas	Official Monitor	Music for the various Degrees and Ceremonies

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Constituent Lodges of this Grand Jurisdiction, who desire to do so, be granted the option to incorporate music into the various degrees and ceremonies of Masonry. Said music shall be that which was traditionally used by constituent lodges under the jurisdictions of prominent Grand Lodges such as England, Scotland, Ireland, Pennsylvania, New York, Massachusetts, and Texas, provided that all vocals be sung by Masons with only the instrumental music having the option to be pre-recorded, that the music not interfere with the adopted Texas ritual (played or sung during speaking parts), and that music not be required for a graded degree other than the Funeral Dirge in the Master Mason Degree.

PUBLISHED 12/19/2024

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that to assist in uniformity, the Grand Lodge of Texas Monitor of the Lodge be amended to include an appendix with the music resources provided with this resolution.

*Not officially adopted, but widely used in this Grand Jurisdiction as Brother Boon was Chairman of the Committee on Work and his monitor was convenient due to its size, and inexpensive compared to the Taylor-Hamilton.

Submitted by:

Larry M. Fitzpatrick PM – Lewisville Lodge No. 201

Lance C. Candler PM – Krum Lodge No. 1453

Music for Masonry



First Degree

On Admission

Adagio ♩ = 60

Seek, and ye shall find; Ask, and ye shall have; Knock, and it shall be O - pen-ed.

Musical score for 'On Admission' in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major. The score consists of a treble and bass clef with lyrics underneath. The tempo is Adagio, 60 beats per minute.

Circumambulation

Be - hold! how pleas - ant and how good, For bre - thren such as we, Of
For there the Lord of light and love, A bles - sing sent with pow'r; Oh!

Musical score for 'Circumambulation' in 2/4 time, key of B-flat major. The score consists of a treble and bass clef with lyrics underneath.

5
the Ac - cept - ed broth - er - hood To dwell in u - ni - ty!
may we all this bles - sing prove. E'en life for e - ver - more;

Musical score for 'Circumambulation' in 2/4 time, key of B-flat major. The score consists of a treble and bass clef with lyrics underneath.

9
'Tis like the oil on Aa ron's head Which to his feet dis - tills; Like
On friend - ship's al tar ris - ing here, Our hands now plight - ed be, To

Musical score for 'Circumambulation' in 2/4 time, key of B-flat major. The score consists of a treble and bass clef with lyrics underneath.

14
Herm - on's dew so rich ly shed On Zi on's sac - red hills!
live in love with hearts sin - cere, In peace and u - ni - ty.

Musical score for 'Circumambulation' in 2/4 time, key of B-flat major. The score consists of a treble and bass clef with lyrics underneath.

Obligation

Recitative



Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart. Be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

After Obligation

Moderato $\text{♩} = 90$



Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips that they speak no guile.

Before Light

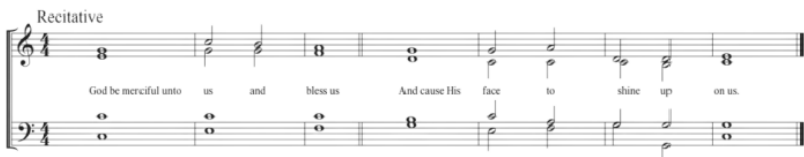
Allegretto $\text{♩} = 100$



And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

Light

Recitative



God be merciful unto us and bless us. And cause His face to shine up on us.

After Test

Recitative

Blessed is he that considereth the poor and needy; the Lord shall deliver him in the time of trouble.

The musical score for 'After Test' is a recitative in 4/4 time, featuring a treble and bass clef. The melody is simple and rhythmic, with lyrics: 'Blessed is he that considereth the poor and needy; the Lord shall deliver him in the time of trouble.' The bass line consists of sustained chords and single notes.

After Tools

Recitative

Happy is the man that find - eth wisdom; and the man that get - teth un - der - standing.

The musical score for 'After Tools' is a recitative in 4/4 time, featuring a treble and bass clef. The melody is simple and rhythmic, with lyrics: 'Happy is the man that find - eth wisdom; and the man that get - teth un - der - standing.' The bass line consists of sustained chords and single notes.

Retiring

Recitative

Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, good - will to - war - ds men.

The musical score for 'Retiring' is a recitative in 4/4 time, featuring a treble and bass clef. The melody is simple and rhythmic, with lyrics: 'Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, good - will to - war - ds men.' The bass line consists of sustained chords and single notes.

Readmission

Recitative

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel For He hath visited and re - deemed His people.

The musical score for 'Readmission' is a recitative in 4/4 time, featuring a treble and bass clef. The melody is simple and rhythmic, with lyrics: 'Blessed be the Lord God of Israel For He hath visited and re - deemed His people.' The bass line consists of sustained chords and single notes.

Second Degree

On Admission

Recitative

Behold, how good and joyful a thing it is brethren to dwell together in unity

Circumambulation

Come Crafts-men, Assembled, our pleasure to share, Who work by the
We'll seek in our labors, the Spirit Divine, Our temple to

7

Plumb, and remember the Square; While traveling in love, on the Level of...
bless and our hearts to refine; And thus to our altar a tribute we'll

14

time, Sweet hope shall light on to a far better clime,
bring, While joined in true friendship our anthem we sing.

Obligation

Recitative



Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart, Be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

After Obligation

Moderato $\text{♩} = 90$



Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips that they speak no guile.

Before Light

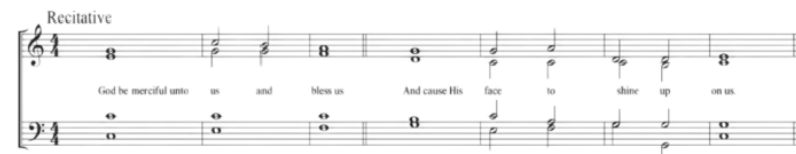
Allegretto $\text{♩} = 100$



And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

Light

Recitative



God be merciful unto us and bless us And cause His face to shine up on us

After Investment

The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament showeth His hand i work.

This musical score is for the piece 'After Investment'. It is written in a 4/4 time signature with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The score consists of two staves: a treble clef staff for the vocal line and a bass clef staff for the accompaniment. The vocal line begins with a whole rest, followed by a half note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note Bb4, and a whole note C5. The accompaniment starts with a whole rest, followed by a half note G3, a quarter note A3, and a quarter note Bb3. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

After Tools

Recitative

Happy is the man that find - eth wisdom, and the man that get - teth un - der - standing

This musical score is for the piece 'After Tools', marked as 'Recitative'. It is written in a 4/4 time signature with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The score consists of two staves: a treble clef staff for the vocal line and a bass clef staff for the accompaniment. The vocal line begins with a whole rest, followed by a half note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note Bb4, and a whole note C5. The accompaniment starts with a whole rest, followed by a half note G3, a quarter note A3, and a quarter note Bb3. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Retiring

Recitative

Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, good will to war ds men

This musical score is for the piece 'Retiring', marked as 'Recitative'. It is written in a 4/4 time signature with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The score consists of two staves: a treble clef staff for the vocal line and a bass clef staff for the accompaniment. The vocal line begins with a whole rest, followed by a half note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note Bb4, and a whole note C5. The accompaniment starts with a whole rest, followed by a half note G3, a quarter note A3, and a quarter note Bb3. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Third Degree

Circumambulation

1. Let us re-mem-ber in our youth Be-fore the e-vil days draw nigh, Our
2. Let us in youth re-mem-ber Him! Who formed our frame and spi-rits gave, Or
3. In Youth, to God let me m'ry cling, Be-fore de-sire shall fail or wane, Ere

6 great cre-a-tor and His Truth! Ere mem-ry fail, and plea-sures fly. Or sun, or moon or
win-dows or the mind grow dim. Or door of spe-ech ob-structed wave. When voice of bird fresh
e're be loos-ed life's sil-ver string, or at fou-ntain rent in twain. For man to his long

12 plan-et's light grow dark on clouds re-turn in gloom; Ere vi-tal spa-rk no
ter-rors wake; And mus-ic's daugh-ters charm no more, Or fear to ri-se with
home doth go, And mour-ners group a-round his urn; Our dust to dust a-

17 more in-cite When strength shall bow and years con-sume.
tre-mbling shake A long the path we tra-vel o'er
gain must flow And spi-rits u-nto God's re-turn.

Obligation

Recitative



Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart. Be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

After Obligation

Moderato $\text{♩} = 90$



Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips that they speak no guile.

Before Light

Allegretto $\text{♩} = 100$



And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

Light

Recitative



God be merciful unto us and bless us. And cause His face to shine up - on us.

After Investment

The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament showeth His hand - i - work.

Musical score for 'After Investment' in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major. The score consists of two staves: a vocal line and a bass line. The vocal line begins with a whole rest, followed by a half note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note Bb4, a half note C5, a quarter note Bb4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note G4, and a whole note F4. The bass line begins with a whole rest, followed by a half note G3, a quarter note A3, a quarter note Bb3, a half note C4, a quarter note Bb3, a quarter note A3, a quarter note G3, and a whole note F3. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

After Tools

Recitative

Happy is the man that find - eth wisdom; and the man that get - teth un - der - standing.

Musical score for 'After Tools' in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major. The score is labeled 'Recitative' and consists of two staves: a vocal line and a bass line. The vocal line begins with a whole rest, followed by a half note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note Bb4, a half note C5, a quarter note Bb4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note G4, and a whole note F4. The bass line begins with a whole rest, followed by a half note G3, a quarter note A3, a quarter note Bb3, a half note C4, a quarter note Bb3, a quarter note A3, a quarter note G3, and a whole note F3. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Retiring

Recitative

Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, good - will to - war - ds men.

Musical score for 'Retiring' in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major. The score is labeled 'Recitative' and consists of two staves: a vocal line and a bass line. The vocal line begins with a whole rest, followed by a half note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note Bb4, a half note C5, a quarter note Bb4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note G4, and a whole note F4. The bass line begins with a whole rest, followed by a half note G3, a quarter note A3, a quarter note Bb3, a half note C4, a quarter note Bb3, a quarter note A3, a quarter note G3, and a whole note F3. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Funeral Dirge

Hymn, C.M.

1. Hark! from the tombs a dole - ful sound, Mine
2. Princ - es, this clay must be your bed, In
3. Great God, is this our cer - tain doom? And
4. Grant us the pow'r of quick' - ning grace, To

6
cars at - tend the cry; Ye liv - ing men, come
spite of all your towers; The tall, the wise, the
are we still se - cure? The Still wal - king down - ward
fit our souls to fly, That when we drop this

12
view the ground Where you must short - ly lie.
to - rend the head, Must lie as low pare as no ours.
dy - ing flesh, We'll rise a - bove the sky.
more?

Funeral Dirge

Pleyel's Hymn

woe - emn strikes the fun - 'ral chime, notes of our de -
 Mort - als, in - dulge a tear, Mor - tal - i -
 Here a - noth - er guest we bring, raphs - ce -
 There en - larged, thy soul shall a - What fill was our veiled
 Lord of all! be - low a - bove hearts in with

part - ing time; As we jour - ney here be - low, Thro' a
 ty is here! See how wide our - ney tro - phies wave our
 les - tial wing, To our fun - ral al - phies tar the come, place the
 my - ster - y; love; Heav'n - ly solves - ries our of earth - ly tie, Show his
 truth and love; When dis - solves our of earth - ly tie, Show his

14
 pil - grim mage of woe, grave!
 lum - bers and of bro - ther home.
 friend - er Thy face Lodger to on face.
 Mak - er Thy face Lodge to on face.
 to - Thy Lodge to on high.

Funeral Dirge

Pleyel's Hymn

woe - emn strikes the fun - 'ral chime, notes of our de -
 Mort - als, now in - dulge a tear, For Mor - tal - i -
 Here a - noth er guest we shall a - bring; raphs - ce -
 There, en - larged, thy be - low shall a - What fill was our veiled hearts in
 Lord of all! thy be - low shall a - What fill was our veiled hearts in

7

part - ing time; As we jour - ney here be - low, Thro' a
 ty - is here! See how wide her tro - phies, wave the the
 les - sial wing, To our fun - 'ral al - tar come, place O'er the
 my - ster - y; love; When dis - solves our earth - ly tie, Show his
 truth and love; When dis - solves our earth - ly tie, Show his

14

pil - grim mage of woe.
 slum - bers of the grave!
 friend and er face home.
 Mak - Thy Lodge to on face -
 to Thy Lodge to on high.

Additional Sources

TITLE AUTHOR/COMPILER DATE

Monitors

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- New Masonic Trestle-Board, Charles W. Moore, 1852
- The Mystic Circle, George H. Gray, 1854
- Manual of Freemasonry, William Taylor, 1859
- Taylor-Hamilton Monitor of the Lodge, Sam R. Hamilton, 1907
- Vest Pocket Trestle-Board, C. P. Boon, 1912
- Official Monitor, The Grand Lodge of Texas, 1921
- Masonic Song Books
- Masonic Melodies, Thomas Power, 1844
- Masonic Music, Manum Lodge No. 97, 1920
- Masonic Musical Ritual, Arthur L. E. Davies, 1905
- Masonic Orpheus, Howard M. Dow, 1869
- Masonic Songs, B. Creake & B. Cole, 1731
- Masonic Songs Old and New, W. S. Barlow, 1885
- Masonick Melodies, Luke Eastman, 1818
- The Freemason's Hymnal, Waldemar Malmene, 1875
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- The Masonic Choir, John W. Dadmun, 1864
- The Masonic Harp, George W. Chase, 1858
- The Masonick Minstrel, David Vinton, 1816
- The Masonic Vocal Manual, Robert Macoy, 1859
- The Mystic Chord, Masonic Odes and Melodies Chester W. Mabie, 1897
- The New Masonic Music Manual, William H. Janes, 1898
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- The Vocal Companion and Masonic Register, John M. Dunham, 1802

RESOLUTION NO. 18

Referred to Purposes and Policies and Jurisprudence

WHEREAS, The current trend of the court systems leans towards charging citizens with a higher crime than the one that was committed, thereby elevating charges to the level of a felony to be able to artificially inflate the numbers of felony arrests to gain more federal funding.

WHEREAS, Current laws have watered down the use of a felony charge, and often the same charges would not have been considered more than a misdemeanor in the past.

WHEREAS, The current pattern of District Attorneys of delaying closure or trial of a case for excessive amounts of time often months or years. Creating a financial burden on the defendants including lost wages, court and attorney fees for each appearance only to be delayed. Then offering the defendant a Deferred Adjudication under the guise of a deal "Probationary State and at the completion of the time the charges are removed" often not explain to the defendant they are accepting a guilty charge in the case.

WHEREAS, The Grand Lodge of Texas views a Deferred Adjudication as a felony conviction even though it is a Probationary State and at the completion of the time the charges are removed.

WHEREAS, Any Mason convicted of a felony is automatically expelled by the Grand Lodge of Texas. There is no explanation or exception to this to include a Deferred Adjudication.

WHEREAS, A Deferred Adjudication is a temporary monitoring or probationary period and is removed from the defendant's record at the completion of the terms.

WHEREAS, Each lodge should have sole control of who is and is not permitted to be a part of their membership. The Lodge members know the brother and will have a much better understanding of the details of the event than the members of Grand Lodge.

WHEREAS, It is the responsibility of each brother to help another in his time of need and raise him up to be a better man not cast him aside as if he has become unworthy to be taken by the hand as a Brother. Each of us is our brother's keeper.

WHEREAS, Art. 494 Powers, Jurisdiction and Duty of Lodges of the Grand Lodge of Texas Lawbook clearly states that "Each lodge has to power, jurisdiction, and duty to try and punish by reprimand, suspension or expulsion"

WHEREAS, Grand Masters decision 1954 - NO. 73 clearly states "Any chartered lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction can try one of its own members regardless of where he is, regardless of whether he is present and **regardless of where the Masonic offense was committed.**"

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Article 509 (4) of the laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas be amended as follows:

Art. 509. Automatic Suspension or Expulsion. (no change down to subparagraph 4)

4. In any instance where a Mason is alleged to have committed a felony and there is a finding of guilty by a court or jury or if a Mason enters a plea of guilty or a plea of nolo contendere to such offense of felony, and the court, after receiving evidence, finds that the defendant is guilty and places the defendant on probation or otherwise suspends the imposition of the sentence, ~~or in the event a defendant is charged with the offense of a felony and enters a plea of guilty or enters a plea of nolo contendere and the court, after hearing evidence, finds that such evidence substantiates the defendant's guilt and defers further proceedings without entering an adjudication of guilt and places the defendant on probation,~~ such proceedings shall be deemed a conviction of a felony for all purposes relative to this article, and said Mason shall be expelled to be effective as of the date defendant is placed on probation.

In the event a Mason is charged with the offense of a felony and enters a plea of guilty or enters a plea of nolo contendere and the court, after hearing evidence, finds that such evidence substantiates the defendant's guilt and defers further proceedings without entering an adjudication of guilt and places the defendant on probation, his local lodge shall decide whether to expel or suspend the Brother. If the Brother is a member of more than one lodge, his parent lodge shall have the jurisdiction to decide the issue.

If the lodge decides to suspend, rather than expel, then the Brother shall be suspended for the period of time until his probation has expired, or earlier if such probation is discharged by the court. During the period of his suspension, the Brother shall not pay dues. After successful completion of the period of probation, then the Brother shall be reinstated to full membership after his suspension in the same manner as a Brother who was suspended for non-payment of dues.

If the Brother fails to successfully complete his probation and the court enters a final adjudication, then the Brother shall be expelled by the lodge.

It shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Lodge to record all the above actions in the minutes of their stated meeting(s) and to thereafter notify the Grand Secretary of same, as well as any other lodge or appendant body of which the Brother may be a member.

(no change to the remainder of Art. 509, commencing with subparagraph 5, and thereafter to the end of same.)

Submitted by:

Michael Garrett, PM – Northwest Lodge No. 1434

Terry L Heck, PM – Billy W. Tinsley Daylight Lodge No. 1458

Maynard Fernando, PM – Albert J DeLange Lodge No.1403

Max Charleswell, PM – Alamo Lodge No. 44

RESOLUTION NO. 19

Referred to Purposes and Policies, Investments and Jurisprudence

WHEREAS the Endowed Membership Fund (EMF) is owned by the subordinate lodges by whom contributions have been made, and

WHEREAS, the Grand Lodge of Texas has authorized and directed the Trustees of the Grand Lodge of Texas to create one or more trusts that resulted in the formation of the EMF Trust, and

WHEREAS, the Trustees of the Grand Lodge of Texas will retain, on behalf of the subordinate lodges, all investment power over EMF assets, and

WHEREAS the subordinate lodges will for whom EMF contributions have been made will be the sole beneficiaries of the EMF Trust, and no other person or entity may benefit from the EMF Trust at any time, and

WHEREAS the EMF distribution is a major source of income for many subordinate lodges, and

WHEREAS, the Trustees of the Grand Lodge of Texas have more investment control than investment firms, the Trustees of the Grand Lodge of Texas responsibility to inform the subordinate lodges regarding the EMF Trust should exceed the responsibility investment firms have to the firms' clients, and

WHEREAS, acquiring information about the EMF Trust is discouraged and the unanswered questions create doubt and rumors regarding the management of the EMF Trust, and

WHEREAS total transparency regarding any issue that involves the financial well-being of the subordinate lodges should be the goal of the Grand Lodge of Texas.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Article 163f be added as follows:

Article 163f. (NEW). Duties of the Trustees of the Grand Lodge of Texas to Subordinate Lodges

All subordinate lodges that have contributed to the Endowed Membership Fund (EMF) or any Grand Lodge of Texas subordinate lodge endowment trusts shall receive prior to August 1st a comprehensive report of the endowment program. The report is not limited to but shall include the following information:

A historical chart (since the inception of the endowment program) that indicates for each Masonic year:

1. The annual amount per unit that was dispersed to the subordinate lodges,
2. The annual yield of the endowment's investments,
3. The value per unit prior to the annual dispensation,
4. The value per unit immediately after the annual dispensation.
5. The value and destination of any fees or disbursements to any source other than the subordinate lodges for each Masonic year.
6. The equation to calculate the dispensation of the endowment.

All information requests made by a participating subordinate lodge regarding any Grand Lodge of Texas endowment program that subordinate lodge has participated in must be addressed to the Grand Secretary's office. The Grand Secretary's office will acquire the requested information and return the information to the subordinate lodge that made the request.

Submitted by:

Michael J. Lansford, WM – Alvin Lodge No.762

RESOLUTION NO. 20

Referred to Purposes and Policies and Jurisprudence

WHEREAS, the purpose of Title V of the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas A.F. & A.M. is to ensure that a "fair, just, and legal hearing system is afforded to any mason involved in Masonic discipline"; and

WHEREAS, the right to a speedy trial is an essential element of a fair, just and legal hearing system; and

WHEREAS, Title V currently fails to set any time limitation for the setting of a disciplinary procedure which has resulted in many Brethren waiting years for their "day in court"; and

WHEREAS, this extreme delay is unconscionable and unjust as Brethren laboring under Masonic disciplinary action have no rights to a Demit, a certificate of withdrawal, a certificate of good standing, or to be elected or appointed to office, installed in office, or a Masonic burial until their Masonic disciplinary violations have been fully disposed of; and

WHEREAS, the failure of Title V to set any time limitation for the setting of a disciplinary procedure also puts our disciplinary laws at risk of being used to disenfranchise Brethren of their Masonic rights without the opportunity for trial or defense.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Articles 530, 551 and 552 be amended as follows:
Art. 530. Time and Place of Disciplinary Procedure.

1. 1- The disciplinary procedure for any Mason laboring under Masonic disciplinary action must be held within (i) one (1) year of the allegations against such Mason being filed with the Secretary of the Lodge pursuant to Art. 511; or (ii) such date as mutually agreed by the accused and the accuser. If the disciplinary procedure is not held on or before the date specified herein, the allegations against the accused will automatically be dismissed and the status of the accused shall be as if he was acquitted pursuant to Arts. 590 and 598.

A. The only exception that can be made to this timeframe is (1) if criminal charges are pending related to the Masonic charges or (2) if the accused requests the timeframe to be extended past the 1-year period. If (1) is invoked, then the timeframe will be extended to 1-year after the criminal proceedings have concluded.

2. The Disciplinary Procedure Commission shall conduct Masonic disciplinary procedures in a Lodge room or adjoining anteroom, or other room connected therewith, and may, when circumstances warrant, have one or more adjourned meetings during the progress of the disciplinary procedure.

Art. 551. Grounds for Continuance.

Application to continue a Lodge disciplinary procedure for failure to secure service within the time, or as required by Masonic law; for absence of accused, of counsel, or of an important witness; on account of sickness; or for any other just and equitable reason; may be granted by the Trial Master, in his discretion. Provided that such continuance shall not be granted for a longer period than one month and shall not violate Art. 530(1). Applications to continue such disciplinary procedures for a longer time than one month, or to await the action of the courts of the country on allegations against the accused, shall be decided by a majority vote of the Disciplinary Commission in compliance with Art. 530(1).

Art. 552. Continuance Shall Be for Definite Time.

The Disciplinary Procedure Commission, in granting a continuance to an accused, shall fix a specific time for the disciplinary procedure which must be before the time specified in Art. 530(1). No postponement for an indefinite period shall be granted. An indefinite postponement of a disciplinary procedure shall be construed as a failure to hold the disciplinary procedure within the time limits specified in Art. 530(1). ~~dismissal of the allegations, and they cannot again be considered, but new allegations~~ may be filed:

Art. 553. Postponements Limited.

On the first application of postponement of a disciplinary procedure, the purpose of which shall be to await the action of the courts of the country shall be granted for a period of time ~~no longer than six months or the time limits specified in Art. 530(1) whichever is shorter. If the courts shall not have acted within that time, the Disciplinary Procedure Commission shall proceed to a disciplinary procedure of the allegations. unless in its sound discretion, upon application therefor, further postponement shall be granted and such postponement would not violate the time limits specified in Art 530(1).~~ Before a second postponement of more than one month shall be granted, the testimony of all important witnesses of the prosecution shall be taken before the Disciplinary Procedure Commission, or a subcommittee consisting of not less than three members thereof, and reduced to writing and signed by each of said witnesses. Said testimony shall be carefully preserved and shall be admissible on the subsequent disciplinary procedure of said accused if any such witness is not present thereat. When the important testimony of any case has been so reduced to writing and signed by the witness or witnesses, the Disciplinary Procedure Commission may grant additional continuances of the case, for reasonable periods, if there appears to be any just or valid reason therefore and such postponements would not violate the time limits specified in Art. 530(1). Such postponements should not be granted in any case of gross immorality, or of reprehensible conduct, of an accused, a postponement of whose Lodge disciplinary procedure would appear to condone such a crime or tend to reflect upon the institution of Masonry. In taking the testimony of witnesses as provided herein, they may be cross-examined by the accused or his counsel.

Submitted by:

Christopher Ryland, PM – Brookshire Lodge No. 106

RESOLUTION NO. 21

Referred to Purposes and Policies and Jurisprudence

WHEREAS, Article IV, Section 6 of the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Texas provides for the requirements for Eligibility to Office of the officers of The Grand Lodge of Texas; and

WHEREAS, making oneself available to occupy an elected officer position in The Grand Lodge of Texas is a solemn and serious endeavor; and

WHEREAS, our officer election process in the past has been drawn out each year due to repeat candidates seeking election of office; and

WHEREAS, to avoid said event, a candidate for election of office should not be permitted to run two or more years in a row;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Article IV, Section 6 be amended as follows:

Art. IV, Section 6 - Eligibility to Office.

Subsection 1 - No Changes.

Subsection 1 (a) - No Changes.

(b) Upon an unsuccessful attempt at election to any office for The Grand Lodge of Texas, said nominee shall be ineligible for nomination or election to any elected office at the next regular session of The Grand Lodge of Texas following the unsuccessful attempt. Eligibility for nomination or election to an office of The Grand Lodge of Texas shall automatically be restored at the completion of the first subsequent regular Grand Lodge session following said nominee's unsuccessful attempt at election.

Submitted by: Christopher Ryland, PM – Brookshire Lodge No. 1066

RESOLUTION NO. 22

Referred to Purposes and Policies, Bylaws, and Jurisprudence

WHEREAS, Pierce Lodge No. 144, AF & AM desires to adopt a new name to commemorate its relocation to Bremond, Texas after the sale of its old lodge building and prior to the consolidation with Bremond Lodge No. 350 AF & AM and is consistent with the desires of the membership of both Pierce Lodge No. 144 and Bremond Lodge No. 350; and,

WHEREAS, A preliminary vote and first reading to consolidate was held at Bremond Lodge No. 350 on May 2nd, 2024 and at Pierce Lodge No. 144 on May 9th, 2024, at which time it was agreed by both Lodges to maintain Pierce Lodge's Number of 144 while commemorating our shared quintessential 60-year Master Mason, Howard Lee Vann with Bremond Lodge No. 350 prior to our planned consolidation of June 1, 2025; and,

WHEREAS, this name change is approved in order to properly preserve the more than one-hundred-year history of each of these two consolidating Lodges; and

WHEREAS, this name change prior to the planned and unanimously approved at three readings at both Lodges will make this planned consolidation almost seamless with the documentation, printing, Bylaws and Charter already revised with the appropriate Lodge Name and Lodge Number; and

WHEREAS, a motion to change the name of Pierce Lodge was offered at a Stated Meeting of the Lodge on June 13th, 2024, said motion renewing the prior, similar motions that were unanimously approved on April 11th, 2024, and again on May 9th, 2024, thereby unanimously approving to amend the By-Laws of the Lodge in order to change the name; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the name of Pierce Lodge No. 144, AF & AM be changed to Howard Lee Vann No. 144, AF & AM, and, further, that the revised and amended By-Laws of Pierce Lodge be approved therewith.

Submitted by:

Edward Murry Hamilton, Jr., WM – Pierce Lodge No. 144

Randy Lee Willard, WM – Bremond Lodge No. 350

Damon Kyle Gregory, PM – Pierce Lodge No. 144

David Owens, PM – Bremond Lodge No. 350

Walter Lee Qualls, PM – Pierce Lodge No. 144

Stephen Flint Jones, PM – Marlin Lodge No. 152

Steve Odom, PM – Centerville Lodge No. 1291

RESOLUTION NO. 23

Referred to Purposes and Policies and Jurisprudence

WHEREAS, Title II, Chapter 11, Article 264. Officers Listed expresses the required elected, appointed, and optional Officers of the Lodge as follows:

The officers of the Lodge and their titles shall be as follows: Worshipful Master, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Treasurer, Secretary, Chaplain, Senior Deacon, Junior Deacon, Senior Steward, Junior Steward, and Tiler.

The Lodge may at its option provide in its Bylaws for either a Marshal, Master of Ceremonies or Musician or any or all, of the same. In line of seniority, the Marshal shall follow the Junior Steward, then the Master of Ceremonies, then the Musician, and finally the Tiler. (Revised 1996)

Such amendment to the Bylaws shall not require the approval of Grand Lodge. The Committee on Work shall establish the place on the Lodge floor for such officers, prescribe the ritual of installation and define the jewel of such officers.

WHEREAS, Division IV, Chapter II, No. 23. By-Laws (Arts. 218–221) Revised 2006, Article III, Officers of the Lodge expresses the required elected, appointed, and optional Officers of this Lodge as follows:

The officers of this Lodge shall be a Worshipful Master, Senior and Junior Wardens, Treasurer, Secretary, Chaplain, Senior and Junior Deacons, Senior and Junior Stewards, (Marshal and/or Master of Ceremonies and/or Musician optional), and Tiler.

WHEREAS, The Proceedings of the One Hundred Sixty-First Grand Annual Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas A. F. & A. M. held on December 6th and 7th, 1996 (*the year in which Article 264 was last revised*) reflect 144,884 as the Total Membership as of June 24, 1996, and reflect 907 as Active Working Lodges as of October 31, 1996, and further reflect 4557 as the Net Decrease of Membership for Masonic Year 1995-1996. This data reflects that the average membership of each Lodge was 159.74 Master Masons and that the average net decrease per Lodge was 5.02 Master Masons.

WHEREAS, Grand View for the Grand Lodge of Texas A. F. & A. M. on August 8, 2024, reflects 748 as Chartered Lodges, and reflects a current total of 54,794 Master Masons, and reflects that from June 24, 2023, to June 23, 2024, a total of 658 were Raised, 1798 Deceased, 1356 were Suspended Non-Payment of Dues, and 551 were Reinstated, resulting in 1945 as the Net Decrease of Membership for Masonic Year 2023-2024. This data reflects that the average membership for each Lodge is 73.25 Master Masons and that the average net decrease per Lodge is 2.60 Master Masons.

WHEREAS, the constituent Lodges are significantly impacted by the continued decrease in membership and by the resulting decrease in members attending Stated and Called meetings. Lodges cope with this issue in different manners, including requesting a different Member each month to volunteer to be responsible for the meal at a Stated or Called meeting, thus performing the implied duties of the Stewards.

WHEREAS, simply stated, many of the constituent Lodges find it increasingly difficult within their active Membership to continue to fulfill the currently required number of appointed Officers to serve during a Masonic Year.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED to amend Article 264 as follows:

The officers of the Lodge and their titles shall be as follows: Worshipful Master, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Treasurer, Secretary, Chaplain, Senior Deacon, Junior Deacon, ~~Senior Steward, Junior Steward~~, and Tiler.

*The Lodge may at its option provide in its Bylaws for either **the Senior and Junior Stewards**, a Marshal, Master of Ceremonies or Musician or any or all, of the same. In line of seniority, the **Senior Steward shall follow the Junior Deacon, then the Junior Steward, then the Marshal** ~~shall follow the Junior Steward~~, then the Master of Ceremonies, then the Musician, and finally the Tiler. (Revised ~~1996~~ **2025**)*

Such amendment to the Bylaws shall not require the approval of Grand Lodge. The Committee on Work shall establish the place on the Lodge floor for such officers, prescribe the ritual of installation and define the jewel of such officers.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED to amend Form 23, Article III as follows:

The officers of this Lodge shall be a Worshipful Master, Senior and Junior Wardens, Treasurer, Secretary, Chaplain, Senior and Junior Deacons, ~~Senior and Junior Stewards~~, (Senior and Junior Stewards, and/or Marshal and/or Master of Ceremonies and/or Musician optional), and Tiler.

Submitted By:

Robert C. Coleman, PM – Billy W. Tinsley Daylight Lodge No. 1458

Stephen E. Orlando, PM – Waller Lodge No. 808

R. Carlton Newberry, Jr. PM – San Felipe Lodge No. 239

Albert A. Pinto, PM – George N. Denton Lodge No. 24

David R. Vest, PM – Cypress Lodge No. 1423

William C. Craigmyle, PM – Humble Lodge No. 979

Cody M. Cockroft, PM – Morton Lodge No. 72

RESOLUTION NO. 24

Referred to Purposes and Policies and Jurisprudence

WHEREAS, the *Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas* provide that a Grand Master may be suspended from office by the Grand Lodge for sufficient cause; and

WHEREAS, the laws are ambiguous as to the method, manner, or procedure to execute the suspension of a Grand Master; and

WHEREAS, there may arise circumstances where it is advisable for the Grand Trustees (other than the Grand Master), upon unanimous decision, to suspend a Grand Master because of exigent and emergency conditions which, if not addressed immediately, may negatively affect the Craft; and

WHEREAS, any such suspension should be promptly submitted to the Grand West for review in order to both afford the suspended Grand Master a full hearing on the reasons for the suspension and for the Grand West to consider removal or reinstatement of the suspended Grand Master; and

WHEREAS, an amendment of Article 36 to set forth these procedures is in the best interest of the Grand Lodge of Texas;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Division III, Title I, Chapter 7, Article 36 of the *Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas* be amended as follows:

Article 36. Suspension from Office

- (a) The Grand Master may be suspended from office for sufficient cause as determined by the unanimous vote of the remaining Trustees of the Grand Lodge after due notice and hearing.
- (b) In the event the Grand Master is suspended by unanimous vote of the Trustees, the Deputy Grand Master shall call a special communication of the Grand Lodge to be held within 60 days of the Trustees' vote, unless the vote is taken within 60 days ahead of the annual communication.
 1. At the special session, the suspension shall be taken up by resolution and evidence presented by the Trustees (or their representative) and, if applicable, by the Grand Master (or his representative). A two-thirds majority vote by the lodges and members present at a **PUBLISHED 12/19/2024**

- shall remove the Grand Master from office. If the two-thirds majority is not achieved, the Grand Master shall be immediately reinstated.
2. Should the vote of the Trustees fall within 60 days ahead of the annual communication, the suspension of the Grand Master shall be taken up in the manner prescribed in paragraph (b)(1) of this section as the first order of business held on the first day after a quorum shall have been established unless otherwise provided by resolution.
- (c) While a suspension of the Grand Master is effective, the suspended Grand Master shall not be counted for purposes of determining quorum or majority vote related to any provisions of Grand Lodge law.
- (d) Should the Grand Master be removed from office by a two-thirds vote of the lodges and members present, he shall not be afforded the title or prerogatives of Past Grand Master, but shall retain the title of Past Deputy Grand Master or Past Grand Warden as the case may be.
- (e) The provisions of this article shall be independent of any of the provisions of Title V of the *Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas* addressing Masonic discipline.

Submitted by: Jim Rumsey, PM – Pine Tree Lodge No. 1396

RESOLUTION NO. 25

Referred to Purposes and Policies and Jurisprudence

WHEREAS, the order of business, as provided for in Article 165 of The Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas, for the Grand Annual Communication does not allow for any resolutions or new business to be addressed on the first day of the Communication; and

WHEREAS, many of the formalities provided for in Article 165 as specified to be addressed on the first day of the Annual Communication have historically been addressed in the pre-opening ceremonies; and

WHEREAS, the Presiding Officer is afforded parliamentary authority over all matters relating to Order;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Division III, Title I, Chapter 20, Article 165 of the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas be amended as follows:

Article 165. Order of Business: First Day

On the first day of each Annual Communication, after this Grand Lodge is opened, the order shall be:

1. The roll of Grand Officers, Past Grand Officers, and members ~~shall~~ may be called by the Grand Secretary if not called during the pre-opening ceremonies.
2. A and if a quorum of the representatives of Lodges be present shall be attested by the Grand Secretary then,
3. Distinguished Visitors and the Grand Representative of other Grand Jurisdictions ~~shall~~ may be received if not received during the pre-opening ceremonies.
4. The Grand Master shall report his official acts done during recess.
5. The Grand Master ~~shall~~ may appoint the committees not appointed during recess.
6. Reports of other Grand Officers ~~shall~~ may be received.
7. Reports of Committees may be received.

8. The address of the Grand Orator may be heard.

9. Unfinished business

10. New business.

Submitted by:

Jim Rumsey, PM – Pine Tree Lodge No. 1396

Justin Duty, PM – M. Denton Stanford Lodge No. 594

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STATEMENTS OF AVAILABILITY

PUBLISHED 12/19/2024

Statements of Availability For Grand Junior Warden



H.N. "Chip" Green, Jr.

Tarkington Prairie Lodge No. 498

Raised, 2008

Endowed Member, 2008

Worshipful Master, 2012 – 2013

Treasurer, 2017 to Present

Golden Trowel Recipient, 2018

Washington Lodge No. 18

Endowed Member, 2023

Bedias Lodge No. 651

Endowed Member, 2019

Humble Lodge No. 979

Endowed Member, 2020

Tranquility Lodge No. 2000

Endowed Member, 2018

Junior Warden, 2023 – 2024

Texas Lodge of Research

Endowed Member, 2022

Grand Lodge of Texas

Texas Masonic Charities Foundation, Board Member,
2021 to Present
Public Education Committee, Chairman, 2021 to Present
Dime-A-Day, 2008 to Present
Assistant State Coordinator, 2023
Special Assignments Committee, Vice-Chairman, 2023
Grand Pursuivant, 2021
Grand Master Conference Regional Coordinator, 2021
District Deputy Grand Master At-Large, 2020
District Education Officer, Dist. 27, 2018
District Deputy Grand Master, Dist. 27, 2015
Sam Houston Hall of Fame, 2012

Grand Lodge Library and Museum

Patron, 2018
Gold Seal, 2020

Masters, Wardens, & Secretaries Association - 27

President, 2015

Education

Tarkington High School, 1979

Professional / Civic

Union Tank Car Co., Area Manager, Retired, 1980 – 2010
Roundhouse, 2010 to Present
Cleveland Livestock Show, 1991
 President 1997
Trinity Valley Exposition, 1991 – 2015:
 Vice President of Grounds and Logistics, 2008 – 2015
Cleveland FFA Alumni, Charter Member
Texas FFA Alumni Council, Member
 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

Wife – Sonda

Children – Brandon & Tiffany



Robert M. Park

Alamo Lodge No. 44

Raised, 2013

Centennial Lodge No. 500

Reconstituting Charter Member, 2023

Secretary, 2023 – 2024

Cibolo Lodge No. 151

Plural Member, 2023

Merit Lodge No. 727

Plural Member, 2017

Worshipful Master, 2018 – 2019

Secretary, 2023 – 2024

Highland Hills Lodge No. 1373

Plural Member, 2015

Grand Lodge of Texas

District Deputy Grand Master, Dist. 39C, 2020

Civil Law Committee

Vice-Chairman, 2023 to Present

Chairman, 2022-2023

Education

Texas State University

Bachelor of Arts, Art History, 2007

St. Mary's University School of Law, 2011

Summa Cum Laude

Professional / Civic

Partner at Uhl Fitzsimons PLLC, 2011 to Present
Fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation
Board Certified in Oil, Gas and Mineral Law, 2016 to Present
Christ Episcopal Church, San Antonio
Member
Acorn School for Young Children,
Board Member
San Antonio Scottish Rite Learning Center,
Board Member
San Antonio Scottish Rite Library & Museum
Corporation, Chairman

Family

Wife – Carly
Daughters – Claire, Cora, & Cate



Keith Reynolds

Davy Crockett Lodge No. 1225

Raised, 1986

Worshipful Master, 1994 and 2017

Secretary, 1995 – 1998 & 2005 – 2010

Golden Trowel Award Recipient, 2004 & 2024

Life Member, 2010

Endowed Member, 1992

Point Isabel Lodge No. 33

Plural Member, 2023

Rising Star Ranger Lodge No. 429

Secretary, 2022 to Present

Endowed Member, 2016

Tranquility Lodge No. 2000

Grand Lodge of Texas

District 39 Funeral Master

Class “A” Certificate, 1991 to Present

Lifetime Esoteric Certificate Holder

District Instructor, Dist. , 2010 – 2017

District Deputy Grand Master, Dist. 2015 – 2017

District Deputy Grand Master, Dist. 2019 – 2020

Sam Houston Hall of Fame, Member

Committee on Work

Chairman, 2020 & 2022

Member, 2017 – 2024

Education

Thomas Edison High School
Angelo State University
San Antonio College

Professional / Civic

Gillit's Duct Cleaning
General Manager, 1992 – 2008
Owner, 2009 – 2023 (Retired)
Reynolds Insurance Agency, Property and Casualty,
1988 – 1992
Washington National Insurance, Life and Disability
Insurance, 1982 – 1988
Texas Dept. of Licensing, AC License

Family

Wife – Terri
Children – (W. Burt, Wife Ana) & (Michael L., Wife Jessica)
5 Grandchildren

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Statements of Availability for Grand Secretary



Brad S. Billings

Trinity Valley Lodge No. 1048

Raised, 2007

Worshipful Master, 2012

Endowed Member,

Texas Lodge of Research

Full Member,

Worshipful Master, 2015

Endowed Member,

Grapevine Lodge No. 288

Treasurer, 2023

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,

Grand Lodge of Texas

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,

Freedom Lodge No. 100

Endowed Member,

Grand Secretary, 2023 to Present
Grand Master, 2022
Deputy Grand Master, 2021
Grand Senior Warden, 2020
Grand Junior Warden, 2019
Grand Junior Steward, 2015
District Deputy Grand Master, Dist. 64-B, 2017
District Education Officer, Dist. 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 Dist. 14 & 64, 2017 & 2018

Master', Wardens, & Secretaries Association - 14th Dist.

President, 2013
Vice-President, 2012
Secretary / Treasurer, 2011

Dallas Masonic Service Bureau

President, 2019
Vice-President, 2018

Conference of Grand Masters of North America

Masonic Renewal Committee, Core Member (Grand Lodge of Texas)

Professional / Civic

Grand Lodge of Texas, Grand Secretary, 2023 to Present

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

Key to the City,

Cuidad Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico

Seagraves, Texas

John B. Jones Masonic Ranging Company, Major

Education

Seagraves High School

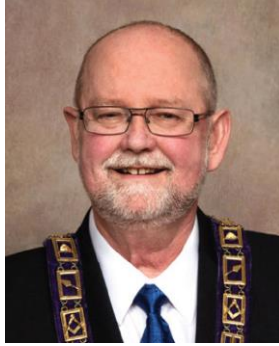
Texas Texas Tech University

Bachelor of Business Administration, Finance, Economics
and International Business, 2006

Family

Wife – Brittany

Son – Grayson



Paul D. Underwood

Mesquite Lodge No. 928

Raised, 1973

Johnson City Lodge No.

561

Plural Member, 1996

Worshipful Master, 2000 –
2001

Secretary, 2003 – 2005

Endowed Member, 2000

Golden Trowel Recipient,
2018

50-Year Service Award

Union Lodge No. 82

Charter Member, 2020

Independence Lodge No.

133

Plural Member, 2010

Endowed Member, 2011

Blanco Lodge No. 216

Plural Member, 2009

Endowed Member, 2018

Ocean Lodge No. 230

Charter Member, 2020

Phoenix Lodge No. 275

Plural Member, 2017

Live Oak Lodge No. 304

Plural Member, 2009

Endowed Member, 2014

San Marcos Lodge No. 342

Plural Member, 2009

Endowed Member, 2011

Eureka Lodge No. 371

Plural Member, 2024

Rambo Lodge No. 426

Plural Member, 2014

Endowed Member, 2014

Golden Trowel Recipient,
2014

40-Year Service, 2015

Loma Alto Lodge No. 544

Plural Member, 2024

Azle Lodge No. 601

Plural Member, 2024

Whitt Lodge No. 624

Plural Member, 2024

Buda Lodge No. 800

Plural Member, 2009

Mesquite Lodge No. 928

Plural Member,

Emma Lodge No. 931

Plural Member, 2024

Park Place Lodge No.

1172

Endowed Member, 2019

Oso Naval Lodge No. 1282

Plural Member, 2013

Secretary, 2014

Endowed Member, 2013

Richland Hills Lodge No.

1348

Endowed Member, 2022

Sunset Lodge No. 1388

Plural Member, 2010

25-Year Award, 2012

Endowed Member, 2016

Wimberley Lodge No.

1445

Plural Member, 2009

Endowed Member, 2019

Claud L. Austin Lodge

No. 1450

Endowed Member, 2020

Fort Worth Stock Show

No. 1460

Plural Member, 2022

Tranquility Lodge No.

2000

Texas Lodge of Research

Grand Lodge of Texas

Grand Representative, Grand Lodge of Connecticut,
2018 to Present
Grand Lodge Library & Museum, Board of Directors
Treasurer, 2023 – 2024
Grand Master, 2020
Deputy Grand Master, 2019
Grand Senior Warden, 2018
Grand Junior Warden, 2017
Masonic Home & School of Texas,
Board of Directors, Member, 2011 – 2015
Vice-President, 2011 – 2013
Treasurer, 2012 – 2015
District Deputy Grand Master, Dist. 52, 2009
Masonic Home Graduates Advisory Committee,
Member, 2007 – 2014, 2015 – 2016
Chairman, 2013 – 2014
Take Time to Read Committee,
Member, 2011 – 2014
Chairman, 2013 – 2014
Sam Houston Hall of Fame,
Patron

Education

Masonic Home & School of Texas
Ward of Hillsboro Lodge No. 196
Resident/Student, 1962-1970
Graduate, 1970
University of North Texas
Bachelor of Business Administration, Accounting – 1974
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
Kambach Management Center, 1982
Center for Creative Leadership, Greensboro, NC, 1983

Professional / Civic

Masonic Home Ex-Students Association

President, 2009

Vice-President, 2008

Treasurer, 2007

McCaulay Memorial Masonic Scholarship Fund

President, 2009

Vice-President, 2008

Treasurer, 2007

Shriner's Hospital for Children, Houston

Board of Governors, 2011- – 2020

Emeritus Status

Comptroller of Public Accounts, Auditor/Director, 1974 –
2005

Multistate Tax Commission

Director of Audit and Administration, 1988 – 1991

Underwood Consulting/Auditing, Owner, 2005 – 2018

Project Management Professional (PMP) Certification, 2005

Family

Widowed – married to Rebecca for 50 years

3 adult children, 10 grandchildren

Statements of Availability for Committee on Work



Douglas A. Brown

Reagan Lodge No.1037

Raised, 2005

Worshipful Master, 2010 – 2011

Endowed Member, 2012

Secretary, 2012 – 2015

Gunsight Lodge No. 838

Charter Member, 2022

Tranquility Lodge No. 2000

Endowed Member, 2013

Grand Lodge of Texas

Esoteric “Class A” Certificate, 2009 to Present

District Instructor 30E, 2017 to Present

District Deputy Grand Master 30E, 2016

Professional / Civic

Chemical Plant and Refinery Piping Design Bechtel Corp,

KBR, Dow Chemical and Jacobs Engineering Retired in 2022

PUBLISHED 12/19/2024

Family

Wife – Leonidas

Children – James & Alexandra

2 Grandsons



Cody M. Cockroft

Morton Lodge No. 72

Raised, 2014
Worshipful Master, 2017 – 2018
Secretary, 2018 to Present
Endowed Member, 2021
Golden Trowel Recipient, 2022

Valley Lodge No. 175

Plural Member, 2019

Rosenberg Lodge No. 881

Plural Member, 2016
Endowed Member, 2019
Worshipful Master, 2019 – 2020
Chaplain 2018-2019; 2021 to Present

Sugar Land Lodge No. 1141

Plural Member, 2022
Senior Deacon, 2024 to Present

Texas Lodge of Research

Full Member
Editor of Occasional Bulletin, 2023 – Present

Masters, Wardens, & Secretaries Association, 108th Dist.

President, 2019
Vice-President, 2018

Grand Lodge of Texas

Virtual Treasurer's School, 2022 to Present
District Instructor 108, 2020 to Present
Esoteric "Class A" Certificate, 2015 – Present
District Communications Officer 108, 2024
Grand Master's Planning Team, 2024
William M. Beck Award Recipient, 2024
District Deputy Grand Master at-Large, 2023
Grand Master's Planning Team, 2023
DDGM Training Team, 2023
Special Assignments Committee, 2022 & 2023 District
District Deputy Grand Master, Dist. 108, 2019
District Education Officer, Dist. 108, 2018
Masonic Education & Service Committee
 Volunteer, 2019 – 2020
 Member, 2021
 Chairman, 2022 – 2023

Education

Texas A&M University
 Bachelor of Science, Civil Engineering, 2000
University of Texas at Austin
 Master of Engineering, Engineering Management, 2006

Professional / Civic

Principal and Vice President of Freese & Nichols, Inc. –
Houston, Texas 2007 to Present
Professional Engineer licensed in Texas & Louisiana
Texas Masonic Charities Foundation
 President, 2023 to Present
 2nd Vice President, 2022
 Director, 2021
DeMolay International Imperial, Chapter Dad, 2021 to Present

Morton Hall Preservation Society, Charter Member 2017
President, 2023 to Present
Secretary, 2017 – 2023
City of Burnet Historical Commission, 2005 – 2007
Kingsland Baptist Church Sunday School Teacher
1st – 6th, 2009 to Present
Life Group Leader/Mentor for 10th – 12th young men, 2021
to Present
Youth Mission Leader (domestic and international)

Family

Wife – Kina

Children – Brendan, Quinlan, Kullen, Tristan, & Ethan



David W. Matzas

C.F. Spencer Lodge No. 1384

Raised, 2005
Worshipful Master, 2009 – 2010
Treasurer, 2011 – Present
Golden Trowel Recipient, 2015

Lone Star Lodge No. 660

Plural Member, 2014

Anson Jones Lodge No. 1416

Plural Member, 2010

Grand Lodge of Texas

Esoteric “Class A” Certificate, 2007 to Present
District Deputy Grand Master, Dist. 31-A, 2021
District Instructor, Dist. 31-A, 2013 – Present

Education

Texas Tech University
Veterinary Medicine, 1976 – 1979
Aviation Flight & Mechanical School, 1979 – 1981
Private Pilots License, 1979 – 1991

Professional / Civic

General Motors Fixed Advisory Board
General Motors Warehouse Council
Beck & Masten Buick GMC
Parts Director, 2004 to Present
Bill Heard Chevrolet, 1999 – 2004
West Point Parts Center, 1990 – 1999
Lions Club of Pearland, Member
Rainbow Assembly Pearland, Board Member

Family

Wife – LuAnn
Children – Sam, Curt, Amy, & Steve
Son-in-Law – Jesse
Daughter-in-Law – Traci
Grandchildren – Andi, Jesse, Nikko, Kali, & Ally

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Statements of Availability for Masonic Home and School Board



John R. Clements

Greenville Lodge No. 335

Raised, 1993

Worshipful Master, 1997 – 1998

Endowment Member, 1998

Secretary, 2004 – 2005

Masters, Wardens, & Secretaries Association - 8th Dist.

President, 2004 – 2005

Grand Lodge of Texas

Masonic Home and School

President, 2016 to Present

Board of Trustees, 2007 to Present

Grand Master's Planning Team, 2006

Masonic Education & Service, 2004

Grand Master's Planning Team, 2002

DDGM Training Team, 2002

Grand Master's Planning Team, 2001

Masonic Membership, Chairman, 2001

District Education Officer, Dist. 8, 2000 & **PUBLISHED 12/19/2024**

Grand Junior Steward, 2000
District Deputy Grand Master, Dist. 8, 1999

Education

Texas A&M Commerce
Bachelor of Science, 1988
Masters of Education, 2002

Professional / Civic

Public Education Teacher of Mathematics & Administrator
(Retired)
City of Diboll Zoning and Planning Commission, City of
Diboll, Member
Diboll United Methodist Church, Diboll, Texas, Member



Gregory M. Wright

Fort Worth Lodge No. 148

Raised, 2014
Endowed Member, 2016
Worshipful Master, 2017 – 2018

Masters, Wardens & Secretaries Association, 64th Dist.

President, 2020 – 2021
Vice-President, 2019 – 2020
Secretary/Treasurer, 2017 – 2018

Grand Lodge of Texas

Grand Ambassador, Grand Lodge of Baja California, Mexico,
2022 to Present
Texas Masonic History Committee, 2022 to Present
Grand Photographer, 2022
Memorials Committee, 2021
District Deputy Grand Master 64-A, 2020

Education

University of North Texas
Bachelors of Business Administration, Finance &
Accounting, 2004

Professional / Civic

Engle Martin Insurance Adjusters

Executive General Adjuster

New Horizons Home for Children

Board of Directors, 2022 to Present

Education Without Borders

Board of Directors, 2006 – 2016

University of North Texas Real Estate Alumni

Board of Directors, 2010 – 2014

Family

Wife – Angela

Children – Madelyn, Amelia, Ana, & Austin

Statements of Availability for Library and Museum Board



Corey M. Harris

Arlington Lodge No. 438

Raised 2012

Worshipful Master 2017 – 2018

Sweet Home Lodge No. 576

Plural Member 2015

Hillcrest Lodge No. 1318

Plural Member 2020

Tranquility Lodge No. 2000

Plural Member 2017

Texas Lodge of Research

Full Member 2020

Grand Lodge of Texas

Grand Tiler, 2022

Grand Master's Planning Team, 2022

Grand Representative to MWGL of Prince Hall Masons, 2022

Real Estate Committee, Chairman, 2022

District Deputy Grand Master, Dist. 64-D, 2021

Grand Master's Planning Team, 2021

Texas History Committee – Vice-Chair, 2021

District Communications Officer 64-D, 2018

PUBLISHED 12/19/2024

Sam Houston Hall of Fame – Full Member, 2018
Esoteric “Class A” Certificate, 2019 to Present

Education

University of Texas at Arlington
Bachelor of Science, Philosophy, 2011

Professional / Civic

Dream City Realty
Realtor, Associate Broker
Arlington Board of Realtors
President-Elect, 2024
Secretary/Treasurer, 2023
Realtor of the Year, 2022
Texas Association Realtors
Texas Real Estate Political Action Committee
State Regional Trustee for (Region 3 – Johnson & Tarrant
Counties)
Greater Arlington Lions Club
President, 2016
Treasurer, 2015 to Present
Member, 2011 to Present
Citizens Environmental Committee, City of Arlington (Council
appointment) – 2021 to Present
Arlington Mayor Ross’s Real Estate Advisory Council (Mayor
appointed) – 2021 to Present
Greater Arlington Chamber of Commerce, Member

Family

Wife – Christina
Children – Luke, Lizzy, & Zander

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