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GRAND SECRETARY'S MONTHLY COMMUNICATION JANUARY 2026

SECRETARIES and my Brothers all – Welcome to this month's edition of the Grand Secretary's Newsletter. This edition includes the following:

- Grand Secretary's Office – Grand Annual Communication, Amity and Unclaimed Property
- Vanguard Lodges – Committee on Masonic Education
- Products of the Month – Legacy Builder Award AND GL Grab Bags
- Statistics – Member Professions – Zachary Haston
- Monthly Law Reading – Grand Lodge Annual Communication – Jeremy R. Johnson
- Lodge Spotlight – El Paso Lodge – Adopt-A-Highway
- And more.....
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PLEASE COMMUNICATE THIS INFORMATION TO YOUR MEMBERS, AS APPROPRIATE. I recommend you print this communication and bring it to your stated meeting for discussion. This communication is automatically provided electronically to all lodges with the capability to use the GrandView system. Individual Master Masons of the Grand Lodge of Texas can sign up by contacting the Grand Secretary's Office at (254) 753-7395 or gs@grandsecretaryoftx.org, or by registering your membership through the [Member Portal](#).

PRODUCTS OF THE MONTH



January 10th is the last day to purchase your Legacy Builder Award and be part of the FIRST CLASS of recipients recognized at the Annual Communication! Although this is a GRAND LODGE award, 100% of the proceeds go to benefit YOUR LODGE. To participate simply ask your Secretary for a form 77b and add 5 additional units to your endowment (\$500). Then sit back and wait to hear your name called at Grand Lodge!

The Grand Lodge has prepared **1,000 Grab Bags** that will be available for purchase at the **Annual Communication** – January 15–17, 2026, in Waco. There are only 875 left. Each bag is only **\$40** but contains **Past Grand Master merchandise originally valued at \$120–\$150**. These Grab Bags are designed with two goals in mind; to **raise \$40,000** for the Grand Lodge of Texas while putting quality merchandise into the hands of Brothers who will proudly wear and use it.

Each Grab Bag will include one of the following versions:



- 5 Coins, 5 Pins, a Knife Set, Buckle, Tie, Mouse Pad and Coozie
- 5 Coins, 5 Pins, 2 Buckles, a Tie, Mouse Pad and Coozie

PLEASE READ

2025 VANGUARD LODGES

<u>Lodge Name</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>District</u>	<u>Lodge Name</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>District</u>
Milam	2	20	Melissa	569	9A
Temple	4	30A	East Fork	650	9B
St. John's	5	31C	Conroe	748	28
Austin	12	50	Waller	808	108
Eagle	41	14F	Lebanon	837	9A
St. John's	51	9A	Knox-Corinthian	851	14C
Morton	72	108	Anahuac	995	107
Rio Grande	81	40B	League City	1053	31A
Castillian	141	12	Tomball	1096	30D
Blanco	216	52	Sugar Land	1141	108
Sampson	231	30F	Houston	1189	30A
Norton Moses	336	47	Hillcrest	1318	14B
Caddo Grove	352	63	Richland Hills	1348	64D
Ennis	369	18	Carrollton	1400	14F
Plesant Hill	380	108	Clear Lake	1417	30H
Blessing	411	32	Huffman	1428	30D
Lee	435	9A	Allen	1435	9A
Garland	441	14C	Katy	1439	108
Joe Werner	553	23			

ANNUAL COMMUNICATION INFORMATION

Registration is open until January 5th. To register [CLICK HERE](#)

NOTE: If you registered on the Annual Communication Site (listed below) – you are NOT registered.

We look forward to seeing everyone in **January**.

If you know of a foreign dignitary or a Brother from another jurisdiction planning to attend, please direct them to the [Texas Grand Annual Communication](#) site and have them scroll to the bottom for the appropriate registration form. *Please note: This form is ONLY for foreign dignitaries and guests.*

Hotels: For hotel information please visit [Texas Grand Annual Communication](#).

Parking: If you are able, we HIGHLY encourage you stay at the sponsored hotels to help with parking along the side streets of Grand Lodge. Parking in the back lot of the Grand Lodge will be reserved for the following:

1. Grand Lodge Officers and Past Grand Masters
2. Staff of the Grand Lodge
3. Vanguard Recipients
4. Handicap with the following specifications:
 - a. WITH MOBILITY ISSUES – if you have a handicap sticker but can still get around, please save these spaces for our Brothers who can't.
 - b. Brothers who are attending both Friday and Saturday – last year several Brothers with passes just came on Saturday which made the parking lot look empty on Friday. In an attempt to better use the few spaces we have, we are limiting spaces to those attending both days. If you sign up for a pass and don't show up by 2:00 P.M. Friday, your pass will be reassigned.
5. If you fit any of the above criteria, EMAIL Jimmie in the Grand Lodge Office (AFTER YOU REGISTER) to reserve your parking pass. jshannon@grandsecretaryoftx.org.

WELCOME TO WACO WEDNESDAY – JANUARY 14, 2026

Save the date!

Join us for **Welcome to Waco Wednesday**, the evening before our Annual Communication. Plans are being made to block off Columbus Ave directly in front of Grand Lodge. Food and Beverages will be available from Hotel 1928 and Southern Roots with sponsored booths by the Lion's Paw Social Club and Backstory Brewery.

UNCLAIMED PROPERTY – SECOND NOTICE

While looking through some unclaimed property for the Grand Lodge of Texas, I stumbled upon several Lodges who are owed money. This ranges from the \$20-30 range all the way up to several THOUSANDS of dollars. Brethren, please do a search for your Lodge specifically and do a generic search for "Masonic Lodge" then sort to find your city. If your Lodge doesn't want or need the money...please let us know...we love donations!

TEXAS MASONIC CHARITIES FOUNDATION MATCHING GRANTS

Texas Masonic Charities Foundation has opened the 2026 grant application cycle, applications close 03/31/2026.

Scholarship Grants match \$1,250

Community Grants match \$250

Teacher Honorariums match \$500

Only lodges under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Texas may apply. Apply at

<https://txmcf.org/grant-request>

To check on the status of your grant request check out our new dashboard. On behalf of all the Board of Directors we hope you have a New Year.



Texas Freemason Magazine

The most recent edition of the magazine: <https://grandlodgeoftexas.org/texas-freemason-magazine>.

The Texas Freemason Magazine is published four times a year and is available in PDF format on the Grand Lodge website under the "MEDIA/MAGAZINE" tab. In addition to the digital format, The Winter and Spring issues are printed and mailed before and following the Grand Annual Communication. If you are not receiving the magazine in the mail, it is likely your address is not correct in the Grand Lodge database. You can correct this by visiting the Grand Lodge website and logging into the member portal where you can edit your profile as needed.

GRAND LODGE OF TEXAS PARTNERS WITH AMITY



Download the FREE App:

Scan the QR code for Apple or Google and follow the prompts.

UPCOMING CALL

Topic: Amity / GLTX

Time: Jan 6, 2026 07:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81011835071?pwd=5l1biJbZmqL4Dglsaayj6i5mJ7rXt5.1>

Meeting ID: 810 [1183 5071](#)

Passcode: 030945

Join the 3,000+ Texas Masons already using Amity, the world's most popular Masonic app!

READ PORTIONS APPROPRIATE FOR YOUR LODGE

MONTHLY LAW READING – Grand Lodge Annual Communication

As we approach that wonderful time of year when we all gather in Waco in fellowship and to conduct the business of our Grand Lodge, let us open our law books to Article 2 to ponder on what the law book says about our Annual Communication.

Art. 2: Annual Communication – This Grand Lodge shall meet in Annual Communication in the City of Waco at 1:30 p.m. on the Thursday before the third Friday in January, unless the Grand Master and the majority of the Grand Lodge Trustees consider and declare the Grand Lodge shall meet in Grand Annual Communication in another designated location at 1:30 p.m. on the Thursday before the third Friday of that January, however, no business requiring reports of Committees, balloting or voting by the membership of Grand Lodge shall be conducted until the Grand Lodge is called to labor at 9:00 a.m. on the third Friday of that January, and while in session for the transaction of business, no Constituent Lodge owing obedience to it shall hold any meeting either Stated or Called for any purpose except for funerals as provided in Article 359 or for valid emergencies approved by the Grand Master. (Revised 2015)

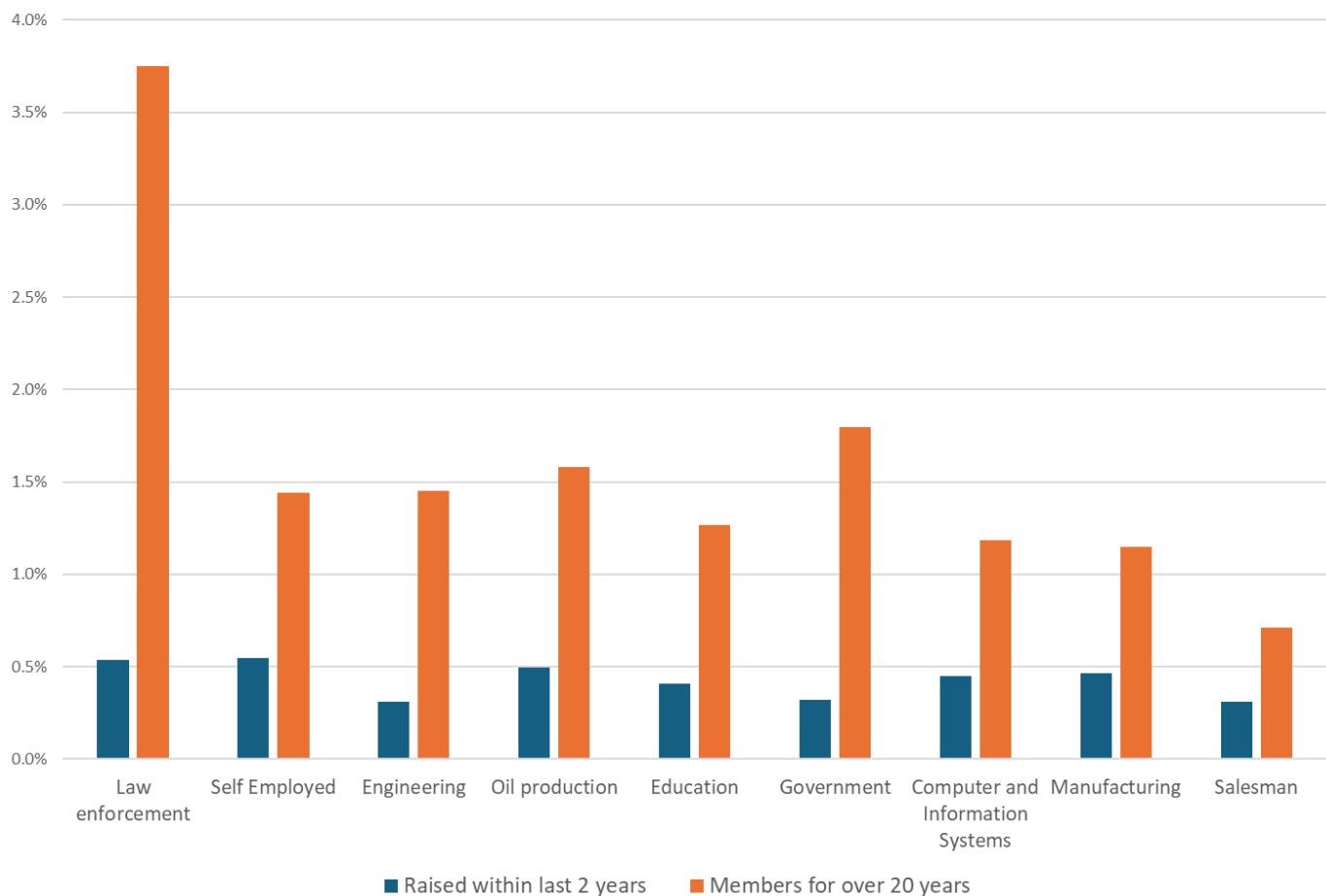
In the event of a severe emergency, the Grand Master and the Grand Lodge Trustees may specify the labors of a Grand Annual Communication to be transacted in a Special Communication of the Grand Lodge under conditions enumerated in Article VI, Section 3, sub-section (b), of the Constitution. (Revised 1997)

To defray the expenses incurred in holding such regular or special called communication of the Grand Lodge, each Member of Grand Lodge as herein defined, each Lodge Representative and each Master Mason of a Texas Lodge must pay a twenty-five dollar (\$25.00) registration fee to attend an annual or called meeting of the Grand Lodge of Texas. (Revised 2017) – Jeremy R. Johnson, PM

MEMBER PROFESSIONS

Members come into Masonry from a wide range of professions. Figure 1 shows the top several professions of our current members as listed in Grandview. I've broken it down into new members (those raised within the last two years) shown in blue and our lifelong members (those who have been members for over 20 years) shown in orange. Two things jump out looking at this graph: 1) that we have more members in law enforcement than in any other profession, and 2) that while the blue bars of new member professions are fairly evenly distributed across this list, the percentages for these professions grow greatly when you look at the older members. A little bit of this might be a change in who joined in the past compared to who is joining now. Law enforcement continues to be a source for many of our new Masons, but it also had a significant bump 13-25 years ago. Another important factor is attenuation and profession changes. We don't have any 20yr Masons whose current profession is "student." "Food service" and "laborer" professions also greatly diminish with age. On the other hand, our percentage of accountants/finance, machinists, and ministers increases with Masonic age.

Figure 1. Current Member Listed Professions



The list of professions shown in Figure 1 likely will not surprise many of us. Before seeing the data, if you were asked to list Mason's top professions, you'd probably listed most of these. If you included doctors and lawyers, fear not. They're right behind these on the list. These are all respectable professions in the community.

EL PASO ADOPT A HIGHWAY
Update: Initiative Continues Strong into Late 2025

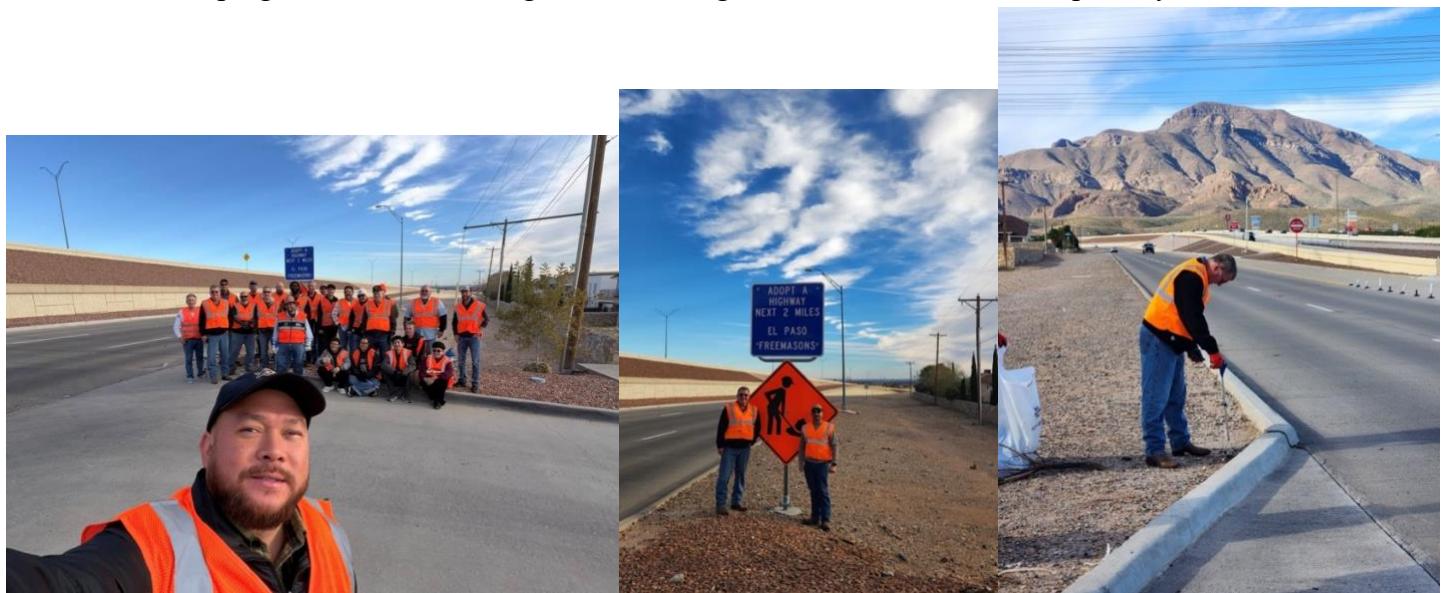
Originally published in May of 2025, the Adopt-A-Highway initiative led by the brothers of El Paso continues to thrive and make a visible impact on the community.

Under the continued leadership of R.W.: Saad “Shake N Bake” Sheikh, and with the dedicated assistance of the brethren of District 60—particularly the Far West El Paso Masons—the program remains strong and active. The commitment to maintaining a clean and welcoming 4-miles of Highway 54 (2-miles in each direction) in El Paso is being upheld exactly as envisioned, with regular cleanup efforts and strong participation from the local brethren.

A highlight of this ongoing effort took place in November 2025, when the Grand Master, Raborn L Reader Jr, was in El Paso for his Grand Master’s Conference. Rather than simply observing from the sidelines, the Grand Master and his entire team rolled up their sleeves and joined the brothers of District 60 on Saturday morning, November 22nd, to help clean up the 2-mile stretch of Highway 54 (the teams were split in two that way each team got a 2-mile stretch).

What followed was not just productive work, but meaningful fellowship. Brothers labored side by side with the Grand Master and his team—taking care of business while enjoying the camaraderie that defines Freemasonry at its best. From the Grand Master to the newest Entered Apprentice, all met upon the level, united in service to the community.

This moment perfectly captured what makes Masonry special: leadership by example, humility in service, and a shared commitment to making a positive difference. Well done to the El Paso brethren of District 60 for keeping this initiative strong and for setting a standard that others can proudly follow.



NO MASON LEFT BEHIND PROJECT HELPS TEXAS MAONS & LOVED ONES

Your donation to the [No Mason Left Behind Project](#) helps older Texas Masons in need and their eligible loved ones move to a cozy private apartment at Texas Masonic Retirement Community. All meals, activities, medical care, and more are provided at no charge.

Here are stories of Texas Masons and their loved ones helped every day by your donations:

- Joe had multiple strokes that caused problems with talking and memory issues. He had to stop driving. When Joe's medical problems overwhelmed him, his years as a dedicated Mason allowed him to move to TMRC.
- Francis, age 95, moved to TMRC when a friend in Eastern Star took her aside and said it was time to move to a place where she could get the help she needed. Nearly blind, dependent on a walker, and needing help with daily life, Francis can live at TMRC because her grandfather, father, and husband were all Masons.
- George, age 81, an active Mason for decades, now lives at TMRC and gets help with rheumatoid arthritis. Some days the pain won't let up. The staff provides pain management, plus he no longer worries about making doctor's appointments, getting to the doctor, or having prescriptions filled. He does not feel like a burden to his family anymore.

[donate today at <https://yourtmrc.org/donate/>.](https://yourtmrc.org/donate/)

Upcoming Shriners Children's events in Texas

Please mark your calendars for the East – West Shrine Bowl and the College Showdown both occurring in North Texas in early 2026 (See times and locations below).



Feb 13, 2026 at 11 AM – Feb 15, 2026 at 2 PM

Shriners Children's College Showdown

734 Stadium Drive, Arlington, TX, United States, Texas 76011



2026 EAST-WEST SHRINE BOWL

Date & Time:
Tuesday, January 27, 2026 • 6:00 PM CT

Location:
Ford Center at The Star | Frisco, Texas

TX MASON APP

The TX Mason app is over 5,000 users! Please join the 5,489 Brothers using the TX Mason APP! This is separate from the GrandView App & has a searchable (updated) law book and monitor at your fingertips.

<https://grandlodgetoftexas.app/launch.html>

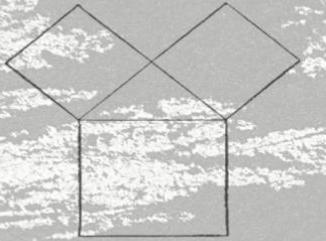


Grand Master's Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Time	Location	Address
Saturday 1/3/2026	Special Representation of the Grand Lodge Honoring Right Worshipful Robert Chesnut	1:00 P.M.	Longbotham Lodge No. 428	102 W. Main Ave Wortham, TX 76693
Friday 1/9/2026	Special Representation of the Grand Lodge Honoring Right Worshipful T.J.H. Anderson for the laying of a Footstone	10:00 A.M.	San Andres Lodge No. 170	106 W. 6 th Street Cameron, TX 76520
Saturday 1/10/2026	The Last Hurrah Grand Master's Banquet	2:00 P.M.	April Sound Country Club	1000 April Sound Blvd Montgomery, TX 77356



Committee on Work Schedule



<u>Date</u>	<u>Lodge</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>District</u>	<u>Forum</u>	<u>Exam</u>
Steve Pepper						
Thu, 15 Jan 2025	Grand Lodge		Waco			8:00 AM
Cody Stewart						
John Peters						
Sat, 14 Feb 2026	W.J. Nixon	421	Smithville	46	9:00 AM	1:00 PM
Sat, 21 Feb 2026	Victoria	40	Victoria	36	9:00 AM	1:00 PM
Cody Cockcroft						
Fri, 30 Jan 2026	Reagan	1037	Houston	30-E		6:30 P.M.
Sat, 7 Feb 2026	Gray	329	Houston	30-B	8:00 AM	Following
Sat, 21 Feb 2026	Snow River	382	Spurger	121	8:00 AM	Following
Sat, 28 Feb 2026	Liberty	48	Liberty	107	8:00 AM	Following
Chuck Forsyth						

For more information go to: <https://grandlodgeoftexas.org/committee-on-work>

The Grand Lodge of Texas

Cornerstone Leveling Ceremonies 2026

For Information Contact:

Kevin T. Binder - State Cornerstone Coordinator
832-489-7778 - kevinbinder30@gmail.com



Date	Time	Lodge	Location	Grand Lodge Representative
Thursday 1/29/2026	Lunch or refreshments at 2:00pm Open Sam B. Crawford Lodge at 3:15pm Open Grand Lodge at 3:45pm Cornerstone Ceremony at 4:30pm	Sam B. Crawford #1418 20625 Lodge Rd New Caney, TX 77357	Greenleaf Elementary School in Splendora ISD	H.N. "Chip" Green, Jr. Grand Jr. Warden
Wednesday 3/2/2026	Coffee & Donuts at 11:00am Open Solomon Lodge at Noon Open Grand Lodge at 12:15pm Cornerstone Ceremony at 1:00pm	Solomon #484 2707 Donna Dr. Taylor, TX 76574	Hutto Fire Dept. Headquarters & Maintenance Facility	Justin B. Duty Grand Sr. Warden

GRAND SECRETARY OFFICE STAFF DIRECTORY

Hours of Operation:

8:30 AM to 4:00 PM, Monday – Friday

Phone: 254-753-7395

Fax: 254-753-2944

Physical Address:

715 Columbus Ave
Waco, TX 76701

Mailing Address:

PO Box 446
Waco, TX 76703

Brad S. Billings – Grand Secretary

gs@grandsecretaryoftx.org

Office Staff – the list below is intended to help you reach the person in the office responsible for what you are requesting. It is, however, recommended that you copy the GS@GrandSecretaryofTX.org email on ALL correspondence.

Dave McHam

dave@grandsecretaryoftx.org

Cindy Huerta

cindy@grandsecretaryoftx.org

Justin Hancock

justinh@grandsecretaryoftx.org

Honesty & Integrity Awards

In-State Affiliations

Annual Returns

Lamar Medals

Specialized Reporting

Lodge By-Law Revisions

Forms and Lodge Supply Orders

GL & Lodge Procedures

Relief Assistance Request

Grand Lodge Service Awards

Vanguard Application Collection

Endowed Memberships

Golden Trowel Awards

Community Builder Awards

Jeff Frayser

fraternal@grandsecretaryoftx.org

Zachary Haston

zhaston@grandsecretaryoftx.org

Jeremy Johnson

Jjohnson@grandsecretaryoftx.org

Membership

Out-of-State Correspondence

Lodge Officer Maintenance

Lodge Secretary Training

Dispensations

Esoteric Record Maintenance

GS Newsletter

Form 71 Collection

IRS Form 990's Collection

Jimmie Shannon

jshannon@grandsecretaryoftx.org

Masonic Disciplinary Violations

SECRETARY INSTRUCTIONS

The following information is intended primarily for the Secretary but may be meaningful to many of your members.

Lodge Suspense System:

Suspense Dates – Lodge Secretaries should create a suspense system (a reminder system) to alert the Lodge that certain documents are due. This list is offered as a “starter kit” for your consideration:

- a.** January – The Worshipful Master should appoint a Committee on Members in Arrears (Article 319a).
- b.** May 31 – W. B. and Brandon Carrell Award nominations may be submitted to the Grand Lodge Committee on Public Education for evaluation and recommendation to the Grand Lodge Trustees (Article 14b).
- c.** Mid-June – Look for the Annual Returns Format from GL. (Downloaded from the Grand View System after June 24th. Notify the GS staff if you need the returns mailed as a printout).
- d.** June 23 – Lodge elections must be completed at the last stated meeting prior to midnight of June 23 (Art. 292). Notify us of the new Lodge Officers immediately so they can be printed in the Directory of Constituent Lodges (do not wait for installation). Submission will be available on the Grand View System from May 24 through midnight June 23.
- e.** June 23 – Endowed Membership checks must be in the Office of the Grand Secretary by June 23 to start earning interest in order to receive returns by the next year (Art. 318a). Changes to the amount of endowments must be voted on at the same meeting as the Lodge elections, and notification to the Grand Lodge must be before June 24th. Endowed Membership applications received at the Grand Lodge on or after June 24 must be for the amount that the Lodge reported.
- f.** July 15 – Statements of Availability due GS Office. (6a).
- g.** July 31 – Lodge installations must be performed from June 24 to prior to midnight July 31 (Art. 298).
- h.** August 15 – Annual Returns Report due to Grand Lodge (Art. 493).
- i.** August 15 – Resolutions due in GS Office (Art. 172).
- j.** August 30 – Vanguard Applications are due to the DDGM electronically no later than August 30 and to the Committee on Masonic Education electronically via cme@grandlodgeoftx.org (refer to Vanguard Application Instructions).
- k.** September 15 – Lodge Minimum Audit Report 71 is due to the GS Office NLT September 15 (Art. 284).
- l.** October 1 – Lodge By-Laws that must be reviewed by the GL Committee on By-Laws due the GS Office NLT October 1 (Art. 219).
- m.** Nov 15 – Form 990-N, Electronic Notice (e-Postcard), must be filed with the IRS by Lodges that have gross receipts of \$50,000 or less or do not meet the requirements for filing the IRS 990 or IRS 990EZ. (Lodges must file the appropriate Form 990 no later than the 15th day of the fifth month following the close of the organization’s fiscal year.)
- n.** Dec. 28 – Proxy Certificates are due the GS Office NLT December 28 (Art. 4). You should always appoint a Proxy (in case of an emergency) but he would not vote if any of the top three officers were available. Remember, each brother can have no more than four votes. Therefore, a sitting Worshipful Master or Warden cannot be a proxy for another Lodge.