

Brad S. Billings
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GRAND SECRETARY'S MONTHLY COMMUNICATION OCTOBER 2024

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

- Featured Item: Last chance to order the Lone Star Apron this year!
- Secretary Schools and Bootcamp, Committee Day, and the October Trustees Meeting
- MASONIC MINUTE – PGM Jewel P. Lightfoot (part 1) – The Man
- Statistics on our Masonic Initiates - Zach Haston
- Monthly Law Reading – Affiliation by Dues Card
- Lodge Spotlight – Goliad Lodge's Back to School Program and more.....

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](#).



FEATURED ITEM

October 3rd is the last day to order the Lone Star Apron this year! They are scheduled to be delivered before Christmas and make a great gift for all Past Masters of the Lone Star State!

<https://www.craftsmansapron.com/products/lone-star-texas-past-master-apron-personalized>

REMINDER FROM THE GRAND TREASURER

Make sure your lodge received (and deposited) the annual distribution check that was mailed to you around August 1st. We currently have almost 70 checks outstanding from this year's distribution. If you have not received the check, please send an email to <mailto:rick@grandlodgeoftexas.org> stating that fact and include the correct mailing address for the check.

Rick Townsend
Grand Treasurer

GRAND SECRETARY OFFICE UPDATES

SECRETARY SYSTEM OF EDUCATION

Secretary Schools (Hours 1:30 – 7pm*)

*Time includes optional social hour

Saturday, October 26 – Arlington Lodge 438 1415 W. Abram, Arlington, TX 76013

Secretary Bootcamp (Hours 9am – 6pm*)

*Time includes optional social hour

Saturday, November 16 – Grand Lodge of Texas - 715 Columbus Ave, Waco, TX 76701

COMMITTEE DAY

To all Committee men of the Grand Lodge of Texas – The Grand Master is requesting your presence at Committee Day Saturday, November 23rd at the Grand Lodge building in Waco. Committee Chairmen should be prepared to give a (no longer than) 5-minute report to update the membership on what they have accomplished this year and what they hope to conclude by Grand Lodge in January.

This event is open to all Master Masons - especially those who are interested in serving on a committee. Doors will open at 9 am and Committee Reports will start at 10am. The plan is to conclude by 3pm.

OCTOBER TRUSTEE'S MEETING

The Grand Master Tommy F. Chapman and the Trustees invite you to join them for the October Trustee's Meeting. Details are as follows:

Topic: Trustee's Meeting 10/11/2024

Time: Oct 11, 2024 10:00 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

In person at the Texas Masonic Retirement Community – 1501 W Division St. Arlington, TX 76012

Or Join via Zoom at:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84098073262?pwd=3jkhNFvNgejVCvAaXqvk4bLaLSGznP.1>

Meeting ID: 840 9807 3262

Passcode: 956872

TX MASON APP

The TX Mason app is nearing **5,000** users! Please join the 4,894 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://grandlodgeoftexas.app/launch.html>



Save the date for the 100th East/West Shrine Bowl at AT&T stadium in Arlington, TX, January 30th, 2025. The East-West Shrine Bowl is a lifetime opportunity for the best college football players to showcase their talent as top NFL draft prospects. Legends like Tom Brady, Walter Payton & John Elway played in the East-West Shrine Bowl. Make plans now to come and be a part of this milestone event for one of Masonry's greatest charities!



DEDICATION CEREMONY

Wednesday, Oct 30, 2024 | 1 PM

815 Market Street | Galveston, TX 77550

RSVP: TEX-PR@SHRINENET.ORG – (409) 770-6536

NEW PATIENT HOUSING FACILITY & PARKING GARAGE

Shriners Children's Texas will host a Dedication Ceremony celebrating the construction of its new patient housing facility and parking garage on Wednesday, October 30. The new additions, located on the south side of the hospital along Post Office Street. The garage addition will provide improved parking and accessibility for outpatient and surgical visits, as well as additional spaces for hospital employees and guests. The 40-unit housing facility will provide a much-needed sanctuary for patients and their families who travel from all over the United States, and the world, to receive Shriners Children's Texas amazing, specialty pediatric care.

MAJOR JOHN B. JONES MASONIC RANGING COMPANY ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, Oct. 19, 2024 | Texas Ranger Heritage Center at Fort Martin Scott 1618 E Main St, Fredericksburg
Hosted by Bandera Lodge #1123 - Ranger Camp #36 - Please bring your DUES CARD, APRON & a LAWN CHAIR.



Howdy Ranger Camps and MJB Masons. We are looking forward to your attendance at our annual meeting. Please bring your DUES CARD, APRON and a LAWN CHAIR. Lodge tiled by the Alzafar Faris horse unit.

Agenda: 12 pm Registration; 1 pm Bandera Lodge #1123 will open an Entered Apprentice Lodge. At this time the Major John B. Jones Masonic Ranging Company will have its business meeting. There will be a Report from Brother Joe Davis, President of The Former Texas Rangers Foundation and Treasurer of The Texas Rangers Association. MW Tommy F. Chapman, Grand Master of Texas and Brother Joe Davis will swear in new Camps and Members. 2 pm Bandera Lodge #1123 will open a Master's Lodge and the Rising Star Ranger Lodge Degree Team will conduct a Master's Degree. 5 pm Social Hour 6 pm Dinner and Program.

Reservations required for Dinner – Cost \$25 per person Call (830)990-1192

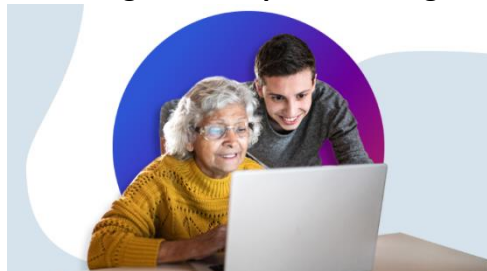
Ladies are invited!!! Activities will include Bingo on the Pavilion and Shopping.

OCTOBER – NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS MONTH

Below are the simple actions we should all take not only during October, but every day throughout the year to stay safe online. Masonry is no stranger to Cybersecurity threats. Let's work together to build a safer digital world. We can increase our online safety through four simple actions, and whether at lodge, home, work or school, these tips make us more secure when connected. Take time to discuss them with brothers, family, friends, co-workers, employees and your community so we can all become safer online! All the videos linked below are less than two minutes each.

Watch this overview video on the Four Easy Ways to Stay Safe Online: [Click Here to Learn More](#)

Recognize & Report Phishing



Be cautious of unsolicited messages asking for personal information. Avoid sharing sensitive information or credentials with unknown sources. Report phishing attempts and delete the message.

[Click Here to Learn More](#)

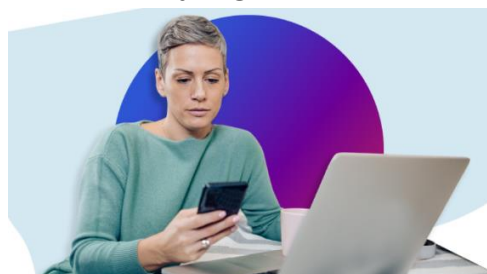
Use Strong Passwords



Strong passwords are long, random, unique and include all four character types (uppercase, lowercase, numbers & symbols). Password managers are a powerful tool to help create strong passwords for each account

[Click Here to Learn More](#)

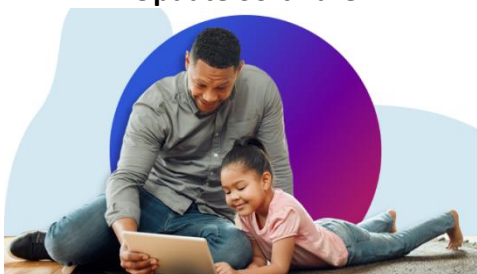
Turn On MFA



You need more than a password to protect your online accounts and enabling MFA makes you significantly less likely to get hacked. Enable MFA on all your online accounts that offer it, especially email, social media and financial accounts.

[Click Here to Learn More](#)

Update Software



Ensuring your software is up to date is the best way to make sure you have the latest security patches and updates on your devices. Regularly check for updates if automatic updates are not available.

[Click Here to Learn More](#)

I encourage you to attend a Cybersecurity Symposium presented by Houston Local News Cyber Investigator [Coleman Ryan](#) which will be held at: Reagan Lodge 1037 located at 1606 Heights Blvd, Houston, Texas 77088 on Tuesday, October 15, 2024 at 7 PM. Coleman Ryan will show you how to defend against these threats easily. **Scan the QR for Facebook event info --->**



Craig Enderli
craig@grandlodgeoftexas.org
Internet Committee Chairman

MASONIC MINUTE –

Jewel P. Lightfoot (part 1): The Man

This is the first of three articles on Past Grand Master Jewel P. Lightfoot. We will begin by discussing his life, before moving on to his Masonic career, and ending with a study of his esoteric writings.

Jewel Preston Lightfoot was born on 21 January 1873 in Columbia County, Arkansas, to Dr. Elijah Ward Lightfoot, a dentist and pharmacist (or druggist, as they were called then), and Lucy Adele Lightfoot (nee Reynolds). Contrary to prevailing belief, the Lightfoot family had lived in Pittsburg, Texas, since at least 1871. Lightfoot was born when his mother entered labor while visiting her family in Arkansas. Thus, it is an accident of timing that Lightfoot was not a native Texan.

Jewel was the oldest of 13 children and attended Pittsburgh Academy, a school set up for the community by the Oddfellows that would later become Jeff Davis College. One of his classmates was U. S. Senator Morris Shepherd, the “father of prohibition.”

Lightfoot graduated in 1890 and went to work as an overnight telegraph operator for the railroad while studying law. He moved several times during his employment and married Fredonia Baudouin in Saint Charles, Louisiana, on 15 September 1896. They had two sons and three daughters between 1898 and 1911.

Lightfoot was admitted to the State Bar as an attorney in 1898 and was elected Camp County Attorney the same year. He served three terms in that office until he was appointed Assistant Attorney General in 1905 and placed in charge of prosecuting antitrust cases for the state. There, he would lead a sensational case at the time that would catapult him to national attention: the State of Texas vs. the Waters-Pierce Oil Company.

The company was found guilty of violating the antitrust laws through its relationship to Standard Oil, its permit to do business in Texas was canceled, and penalties of \$1,623,000 were assessed, the largest fine ever imposed by the state of Texas at that time. The case was appealed and went up to the Supreme Court, which upheld the ruling, and in April 1909, Waters-Pierce was ordered to pay more than \$1,718,000 in fines and interest to the state of Texas. Adjusted for inflation, that amount would be worth almost \$65 million today.

When the settlement was paid, Lightfoot insisted that the company pay the fine in cash. The newspapers carried the story of the oil executives and their attorneys dumping stacks of large bills and gold coins on the table in a courtroom in Austin, making the young attorney a star.

The following year, in 1910, Governor Thomas Mitchell Campbell appointed Lightfoot as Attorney General for the State of Texas, a post he held for two years before entering private practice. He closed his Austin office in 1918 to move to Chicago, Illinois, and serve as general counsel for Wilson & Company until 1926. He moved back to Texas, settling in Fort Worth, and resumed his private legal practice.

In 1930, Lightfoot became the president of the Fort Worth Community Chest, one of several organizations that came together to form the United Way. He also served as a member of the Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce highway committee and helped plan and execute a program that added 103 miles of highway in Tarrant County.

Lightfoot died on 14 July 1950 in Fort Worth, Texas, at 77 and is buried in Austin, Texas. His service to our state as Attorney General has earned him a place of honor in the Texas State Cemetery.

Billy Hamilton, Past Master – Texas Lodge of Research,
Editor of Ancient Mysteries & Modern Masonry – the collected writings of Jewel P. Lightfoot

BE A GRAND LODGE PHOTOGRAPHER

Now, anyone can upload photos taken at an official Grand Lodge Function (see the GL Calendar).

From a mobile device go to the Grand Lodge of Texas web site, on the top right-hand side of the page click on the three bars, then scroll down to Media. From there, scroll down to "Grand lodge photo albums" and look for the QR Code for the month in which the photos were taken. Finally, click on "Add Photos..." and "Choose Photos...", select your 10 best pictures and click the "add" button.

Note: photos will not appear in the gallery until approved by an admin.

- Russell Roberson, Photography Committee



VANGUARD AWARD APPLICATION

The 2023 – 2024 Vanguard Application is available on the Member Portal for all Master Masons to view. You can find it by [clicking here](#). Please remember to follow the instructions before submitting. Lodges that are applying for the Vanguard Award must have their application submitted to their District Deputy Grand Master no later than 8/31/2024. District Deputy Grand Masters must have the application submitted to the Grand Secretary's Office no later than 9/15/2024.

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.

MONTHLY LAW READING

The process of affiliation was amended to exclude the need for a certificate of good standing during the 2023 Grand Lodge session. Art 384 was amended and replaced the need for a Certificate of Good Standing for affiliation with a valid dues card.

Art. 384. Affiliation: Where and by Whom. Any Mason holding a Certificate of Demission from a Lodge under this jurisdiction or under a jurisdiction in fraternal relations with this Grand Lodge at the time such certificate is issued, or a valid dues card issued by a Lodge operating under the Constitution and Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas, when duly vouched for by a member of a Lodge under this jurisdiction, may petition for and, if elected, become affiliated with any Lodge in this jurisdiction, regardless of his domicile in this jurisdiction. The minimum age for affiliation shall be same as that for the degrees as set forth in Art. 393.

- Adapted for this publication from the 2024 Briscoe Workshop by the Committee on Masonic Education

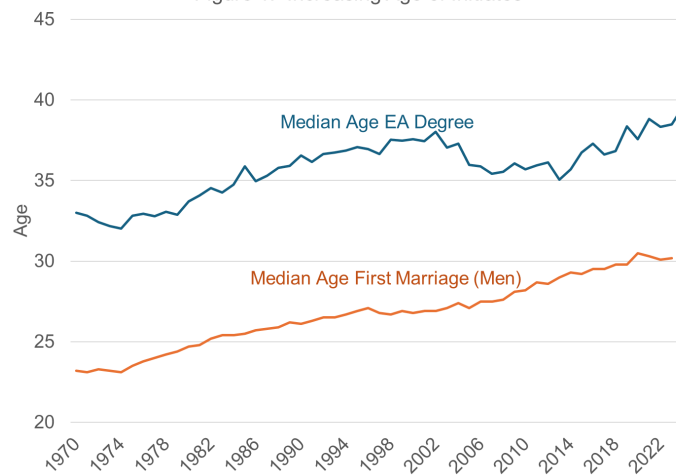
TEXAS MASONIC INITIATES

Brethren, this month we're going to take a brief look at our initiates. I'm going to present some charts, which are factual, and some thoughts, which are my conjecture. This is definitely something we should get together and talk about some evening, or over Facebook.

Figure 1 shows that the average age of our initiates has been increasing to now being 41 years old, with a median age of 39.6 years old. Fifty years ago, the median age was 32, nearly 8 years younger, which I consider to be a substantial change. Some of this may be due to the nature of our Institution. It's aimed at a little more mature thinking, but that's always been the case. One thing that has changed, a lot over my lifetime, is what's going on in the outside world.

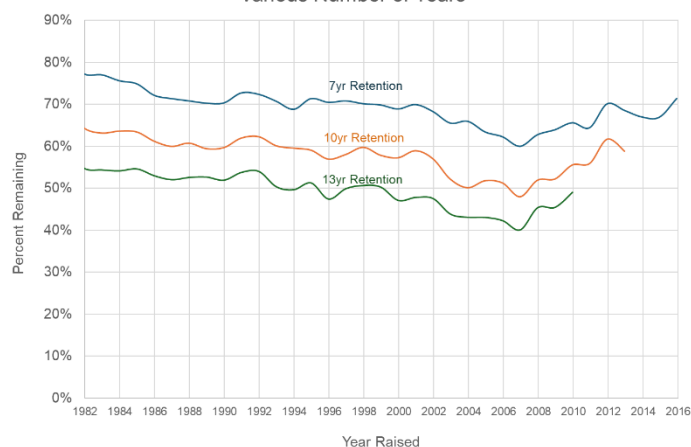
I'm at the age where my kids are starting to get married, and they're doing it a lot later than my wife and I did. Fifty years ago, the median age for men to get married was 23, just after college or the army. Now it's over 30 (also shown in Figure 1), and the age to begin parenthood has similarly shifted. I'm not necessarily saying that getting married leads you join the Fraternity a decade later (lol), but I would hypothesize that whatever societal mindset is causing men to get married later may also be causing them to join Masonry later.

Figure 1. Increasing Age of Initiates



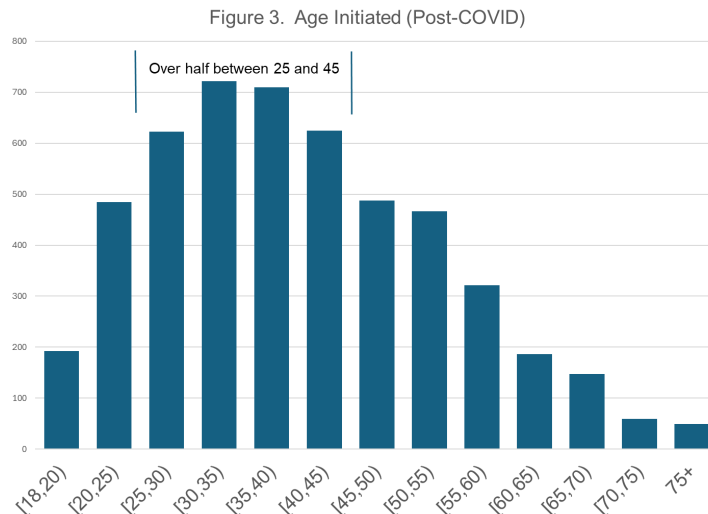
So, what does having people join a little later than they used to mean? Well, for one thing, it may be helping with retention. Retention of men in their 20s is lower than that of men in their 30s and beyond: 58% for men raised in their 20s, 67% if raised in their 30s, and over 74+% for men raised in their 40s and beyond. Having fewer people join in their 20s doesn't help our overall membership numbers, but as far as percent retained, replacing 58% with 67+% retention is noticeable. Figure 2 shows how our dues-payer retention has been increasing as of late. I've previously hypothesized that the National Treasure movie may have had some influence causing the low dip in retention that occurred just after it came out, and I still think that may be true, but that increase in overall retention since 2007 may also be influenced by the increasing age of initiates since that time. Whatever the cause, I do like to see increasing retention, and hope it continues.

Figure 2. Percent of Annual Dues-Payers Remaining After Various Number of Years



Please note that Figure 2 is only for annual dues-payers. Our overall retention percentages are higher as many of our most “all-in” members buy endowments. I can’t easily look at various times of falling away though with endowed members, except for by death.

In 1970, half our initiates were under the age of 33, and we got more men in their 20s than we did in any other decade of life. That has changed. Figure 3 shows the age that we’ve been initiating people this decade, since COVID. Now over half are between 25 and 45 years old. The median may be 39.6 years old because of the tailing, but instead of men in their 20s being the decade of life that we get more people from, it’s now men in their 30s that are our largest block. Millennials, aged 28 to 43 this year, now comprise a slight majority of our new members.



Since a little over half our new members are now Millennials, we should consider a few things about this age group, to better serve them. For what it’s worth, and I know I’ll be corrected on some of these, a few survey results:

- 94% of Millennials like to make Resolutions, and 76% keep them,
- 40% have a bachelor’s degree, compared with 30% of Gen X at the same age,
- Millennial voter turnout more than doubled between 2014 and 2022. They’re now voting,
- 98% (basically all of them) claim to use the internet “regularly,” and 73% will check their phones within 5 minutes of getting a notification. 37% listen to podcasts at least weekly,
- 59% would rather spend money on “life experiences” than savings, and 75% on life experiences over buying stuff,
- 75% of hiring managers believe dressing too casually is their biggest mistake during interviews,
- 47% have at least one tattoo,
- The number one hobby for Millennials is music followed by sports and gaming, but 7 of the top 10 hobbies are not online,
- 20% report having no friends at all, 27% no close friends, and 30% no best friends,
- 97% (basically all) look at online reviews before using a business,
- Only 6% believe online advertising is credible

Each of those points is something we might should consider. If 97% are looking at online reviews before using a business, you can bet they are before joining the Fraternity, and it doesn’t look like they’re going to trust any advertisements we do. The friends and the offline parts we can fulfill, and it’s good that they’re trying to improve themselves and like “life experiences.” We can help there 😊

LODGE SPOTLIGHT:

Goliad Lodge sponsored a "Back to School Party" for the students of the Goliad community. The brothers of Goliad Lodge assembled 100 backpacks—50 for elementary students and 50 for middle and high school students. For the worshipful master, whose wife is an educator and principal, this event was personally significant, as he often hears stories of children unable to afford basic school supplies.



The event aimed to support the community's students and increase awareness of the Lodge's presence and purpose. The worshipful master saw this as an excellent way to begin his term, believing the goals of the event were successfully met.

By 1:45 p.m., everything was set up, and a line of about 40 students had already formed. Along with the backpacks, the Lodge provided free hotdogs, water, and information about their organization. A QR code linked to their website, offering insights into Freemasonry, and business cards with details on meetings, email contacts, and scholarship information were also available.

By the end of the event, around 200 people attended, and 80 backpacks were distributed. The remaining backpacks will be handed out at a community event this Thursday on the downtown square, where various school clubs and athletic boosters will gather, offering

another opportunity for the community to learn more about the Lodge and its work.

THE TEXAS MASONIC CHARITIES FOUNDATION

<https://givebutter.com/2024GrandMasterAppeal>

Phone: 254-300-1375 - PO Box 2156, Waco, TX 76703, USA - www.txmcf.org

The 2025 Matching Grants Cycle will open January 1st, 2025. In preparation for accepting grants from you and the Foundation submitting payments to your lodge, we need your help.

1. Any appointed member of your lodge can apply for grants from the Foundation for your lodge. Only 1 grant per category will be accepted (1 Scholarship, 1 Community Grant, and 1 Teacher Honorarium - Total of 3).
2. Once approved, payments will be sent via email to the secretaries of record only according to Grandview. The original requester, if different than the secretary, will not receive these instructions. Please ensure your secretary's email addresses and cellular numbers are up to date in Grandview by October 15th to prevent any delays. As of today, there are approximately 40 lodges with missing secretary information.
3. Lastly, there will be improvements in the Google forms application process including confirmation of submission and status. Likewise, additional links will be provided to you for bank routing or mailing instructions via Melio. Bank transfers are processed quicker and cheaper than physical checks via USPS, we hope you will consider that option.

Your prompt attention to accurate information is appreciated. We are hopeful this pre-work will be speed processing of your requests in 2025.

New Grandview 2.0 Dashboards

As we announced previously, the launch of Grand View 2.0 is officially here as of October 1, 2024. The testing interface and ability to switch back to the classic dashboard is no longer available.

On October 1st, with the full rollout of the 2.0 interfaces, Grand View will implement security measures for all users with access to membership information other than their own. This includes lodge admins, district officers, and Grand Lodge or State-wide access (view only and admin) users. Individual members will not be required to configure these measures for the member portal but are strongly encouraged to do so.

Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA)

User accounts with access to admin dashboards (Lodge, District, and Grand Lodge Level) will be required to use MFA and enter a code emailed or sent via text message to log into the system. Users can have the system remember their login for 30 days to streamline the login process.

Password Complexity Requirements

We will begin enforcing complex passwords that include numbers and mixed-case characters.

Acceptable Use Policy

All users will be required to accept an acceptable use policy stipulating the ownership and acceptable use of the data stored in the system.

Captcha on all Public-facing Forms

Interfaces and forms open to the public will begin using Captcha features to stop bots from attempting to scrape information and from overloading the public-facing forms. These include the lodge locator search, prospect, leads, and member registration.

We expect these measures to come as no surprise to the everyone. However, anytime security measures are implemented, end users experience a certain amount of frustration. We ask that you give Grand View time to work out any minor inconveniences. If you would like to report an issue with Grand View 2.0 please send us an email at INTERNET@GRANDLODGEOTEXAS.ORG or submit a Technical HelpDesk Ticket in Grand View. This will help us report any specific issues with Grand View 2.0.

If your need is urgent or you require immediate assistance, please reach out to the Grand Secretary's Office.

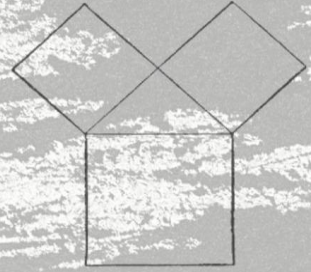


GRAND VIEW 2.0

Craig Enderli, Chairman Internet Committee



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>
Kenneth Young						
Thu, 10 Oct 2024	Huffman	1428	Huffman	30-D	6:30 PM	no exam
Sat, 12 Oct 2024	Tomball	1096	Tomball	30-D	9:00 AM	following
Sat, 19 Oct 2024	Cosmopolitan	872	Port Arthur	26-B	9:00 AM	following
Sat, 2 Nov 2024	Sam Samford	149	Center	15	9:00 AM	following
Sat, 9 Nov 2024	Rainbow	735	Newton	25-B	9:00 AM	following
Sat, 16 Nov 2024	Temple	4	Houston	30-A	9:00 AM	following
Chuck Forsyth						
Sat, 5 Oct 2024	Decatur	447	Decatur	87	9:00 AM	following
Sat, 26 Oct 2024	Brownwood	279	Brownwood	76	9:00 AM	following
Sat, 9 Nov 2024	Azle	601	Azle	89	9:00 AM	following
Steve Pepper						
Sat, 5 Oct 2024	Slaton	1094	Lubbock	93-B	9:00 AM	1:00 PM
Sat, 2 Nov 2024	Canyon City	730	Canyon	99	9:00 AM	1:00 PM
John Peters						
Sat, 5 Oct 2024	Davy Crockett	1225	San Antonio	39-B	-	9:00 AM
Sat, 19 Oct 2024	Guadalupe	109	Seguin	35-B	9:00 AM	12:30 PM
Sat, 26 Oct 2024	Onion Creek	220	Austin	50	9:00 AM	12:30 PM
Sat, 9 Nov 2024	Rambo	426	Dripping Springs	52	9:00 AM	12:30 PM
Sat, 16 Nov 2024	Trinue	15	San Antonio	39-C	9:00 AM	12:30 PM
Cody Stewart						
at, 26 Oct 2024	St. John's	51	McKinney	9-A	8:00 AM	following
Sat, 2 Nov 2024	Knob Creek	401	Temple	48	8:00 AM	following
Sat, 16 Nov 2024	Jefferson	38	Jefferson	5	8:00 AM	following
at, 26 Oct 2024	St. John's	51	McKinney	9-A	8:00 AM	following

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

The Grand Lodge of Texas Cornerstone Leveling Ceremonies 2024



For Information Contact:

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

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Lodge</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Grand Lodge Representative</i>
Monday 10/7/2024	Coffee & Donuts @ 8:00 AM Open Haltom City-Riverside Lodge @ 9:00 AM Open Grand Lodge Representation @ 9:15 AM Cornerstone Ceremony for the new Police Station @ 10:00	Haltom City-Riverside 1331 4403 Broadway Ave Fort Worth, TX 76117	New Police Station	Tommy F. Chapman Grand Master
Saturday 10/19/2024	Coffee & Donuts @ 8:00 AM Open Rainbow Lodge @ 9:00 AM Open Grand Lodge Representation @ 9:15 AM Cornerstone Ceremony for the new School @ 10:00	Rainbow 735 1401 West Court Street Newton, TX 75966	Newton High School	Raborn L. Reader Deputy Grand Master
Saturday 10/19/2024	Coffee & Donuts @ 8:00 AM Open Empire @ 8:45 AM Open Grand Lodge Representation @ 9:00 AM Cornerstone Ceremony #1 @ 10:00 Cornerstone Ceremony #2 @ 11:00	Empire 586 310 E FM 6 Nevada, TX 75173	2 Schools	Wendell P. Miller Past Grand Master
Friday 10/25/2024	Coffee & Donuts @ 8:00 am Open Solomon @ 9:00 am Open Grand Lodge Representation @ 9:15 am Cornerstone Ceremony @ 10:00 am	Solomon 484 2707 Donna Dr. Taylor, TX 76574	The New Hutto Fire Station	Raborn L. Reader Deputy Grand Master
Saturday 11/2/2024	Coffee & Donuts @ 9:00 AM Open Midlothian @ 10:00 AM Open Grand Lodge Representation @ 10:15 AM Cornerstone Ceremony @ 11:00	Midlothian 584 1414 N. 9th St. Midlothian, TX 76065	New City Hall & Library building	Jerry N. Kirby Past Grand Master
Monday 11/4/2024	Coffee & Donuts @ 8:00 AM Open Liberty @ 9:00 AM Open Grand Lodge Representation @ 9:15 AM Cornerstone Ceremony @ 10:00	Liberty 48 500 Fannin Liberty, TX 77575	City of Liberty Fire Station No. 2	Michael L. Wiggins Past Grand Master
Thursday 11/14/2024	Open Thomas B. Hunter @ 8:00 am Open Grand Lodge Representation @ 8:15 am Coffee & Donuts @ 8:30am – 9:30 Cornerstone Ceremony #1 @ 10:00 Cornerstone Ceremony #2 @ 11:00	Thomas B. Hunter 1356 933 S.W. 2nd St. Grand Prairie, TX 75051	Emergency Operations Center & Fire Station 6	Tommy F. Chapman Grand Master

Wednesday 11/20/2024	TBD	James A. Smith 395 12823 Demetra Farmers Branch, TX 75234	New Event Center	G. Clay Smith Past Grand Master
Saturday 12/7/2024	Coffee & Donuts @ 9:00 AM Open Littlefield Lodge @ 10:00 Open Grand Lodge Representation @ 10:15 Cornerstone Ceremony @ 11:00	Littlefield Lodge #1161 723 Phelps Ave. Littlefield, TX 79339	Littlefield High School 1230 W. Waylon Jennings Blvd. Littlefield, TX 79339	TBD

Join the Texas Cornerstone State coordinator Kevin Binder's Facebook Group
<https://www.facebook.com/share/CiHNBy12zSaqwVhh/?mibextid=K35XfP>

Checkout the new Grand Lodge Cornerstone page in the
TX Mason APP - <https://grandlodgeoftexas.app/launch.html>

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

Legal Advice – Please DO NOT call our office asking questions on Masonic Jurisprudence.

That is a question for your DDGM.

The Internet Committee is partnering with the Grand Secretary's office to offer technical support in the following areas:

- Access to the Grandview Member Portal or password reset
- DDGM, DCO, & DEO access to District-wide tools
- TX Mason APP - including registering or downloading

To seek help with the preceding, send an email to internet@grandlodgeoftexas.org and please leave a mobile number and your ID so they can reach you.

Dave McHam

dave@grandsecretaryoftx.org

In-State Affiliations
Specialized Reporting
GL & Lodge Procedures
Vanguard Application Collection

Cindy Huerta

cindy@grandsecretaryoftx.org

Annual Returns
Lodge By-law Revisions
Relief Assistance Request
Endowed Memberships

Jeff Frayser

fraternal@grandsecretaryoftx.org

Out-of-State Correspondence
Dispensations

Jeremy Johnson

jrjohnson0821@gmail.com

Lodge Secretary Training

Bruce Mercer

bruce@grandsecretaryoftx.org

Out-of-State Correspondence

Justin Hancock

justinh@grandsecretaryoftx.org

Honesty & Integrity Awards
Lamar Medals
Forms and Lodge Supply Orders
Grand Lodge Service Awards

Denise Gilmore

denise@grandsecretaryoftx.org

Lodge Officer Maintenance
Esoteric Record Maintenance
Form 71 Collection
IRS Form 990's Collection
Golden Trowel Awards
Community Builder Awards
Proxies for Grand Lodge

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. September 15 – Lodge Minimum Audit Report 71 is due to the GS Office NLT September 15 (Art. 284).
- k. September 15 – Vanguard Applications are due to the DDGM NLT September 15 and to the Grand Secretary NLT September 30 (refer to Vanguard Application Instructions).
- 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 cannot be a proxy for another Lodge.