



Official Publication of The Grand Lodge of Texas | Fall 2024

TEXAS

# FREEMASON



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## TEXAS FREEMASON

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Please continue to send your articles and Lodge events and news to the Editors of The Texas Freemason Magazine.

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## A WORD FROM THE Grand Master



Greetings Brethren,

A new Masonic year has begun, and I would like to congratulate all of the newly elected and appointed officers of the Lodges. I know that by the time of this reading you are well into the programs of your Lodges for this Masonic year, and I hope you are all working hard to accomplish your goals and objectives. I also hope that you are enjoying the fraternity and making great memories which will last a lifetime.

I often reflect on quotes from President Theodore Roosevelt and think about how they apply to life in general and also how they can apply to our great fraternity. One of Theodore Roosevelt's quotes which I think apply to reaching goals and objec-

tives in our lives and our fraternity is the following:

"Believe you can and you're halfway there."

What a profound statement this is. When setting goals, plans and objectives we have to believe that we are able to make them come to fruition. We have to work hard sometimes to make them happen and I believe we should also enjoy the work we are performing and believe in the cause in which we are engaged.

Another quote from Roosevelt, which is one of my favorites is:

"Far and away the best prize life has to

offer is the chance to work hard at work worth doing."

Brethren, I believe that all the work of our fraternity is work worth doing.

Do not be afraid to try new things. As long as it is not illegal, immoral, or unethical, and does not violate Federal, State, Local, or Masonic Law, and is not immoral or unethical it is ok to try something different. It may turn out to be a great success story for you or your Lodge.

I think of another Roosevelt quote which I feel applies to the above statement:

"Far better is it to dare mighty things, to win glorious triumphs, even though checked by failure... than to rank with those poor spirits who neither enjoy nor suffer much, because they live in a gray twilight that knows not victory nor defeat."

Brethren, it is my sincere wish for the happiness and success of all Masons of Texas, their families, and their Lodges. It is also my sincere wish for peace and harmony to prevail as we cultivate the noble tenets of our profession, Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth.

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

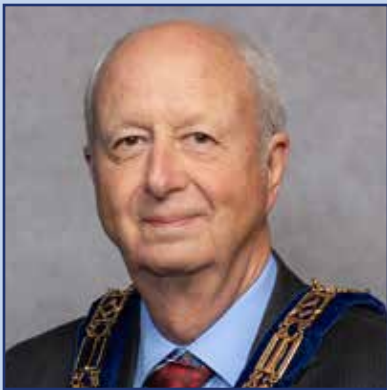
Fraternally,

*Tommy F. Chapman*

Tommy F. Chapman  
Most Worshipful Grand Master 2024



## A WORD FROM THE Grand Treasurer



Brethren,

I would like to update you on several financial matters that I have been involved in this year. The last item is my opinion based on more years of experience than I care to admit.

### 2024 Budget and actual results

This year's budget projects a breakeven operation for the Grade Lodge. Each year we collect a lower number of per capita or dues payments (our major source of revenue) due to declining membership. The per capita has been \$27.50 for a number of years and I personally do not see a need to raise that amount in the near future.

### Investments

As this was written, returns in 2024 have continued to be strong for stocks while bonds have struggled. As you know this resulted in a value exceeding \$100 on June 30th for each unit of the Endowed Membership Fund which has not occurred for some time. The distribution checks to the lodges, while not as large as last year, were still significant. Each year a handful of lodges do not deposit their check. Make sure your lodge deposited its check. The three funds belonging to the Grand Lodge are invested the same way as the Endowed Membership Fund and are also up significantly.



### Accounting at Grand Lodge

About a year ago we hired Rex Johnson on a contract basis to perform some of the duties that the accounting firm Hornbaker was providing. We continue to use Hornbaker for some duties, but I believe we now have better documentation in our computer records, and it has resulted in a cost savings. I work closely with the new Grand Secretary, Brad Billings, and we have a good relationship.

### Treasurer Schools

Three Zoom schools are scheduled this year and I encourage lodge treasurers to participate. The dates are July 29th, October 7th, and December 2nd. Thank you to Chris Galloway, Cody Cockroft, Sam Gibbins, and Chris Choat for your excellent presentations.

### General thoughts about a lodge investment policy

Any investment policy should start with a spending policy. Are you planning on making withdrawals? If so, when, and how much? Equities have always returned more than fixed income over an extended period of years, but if you will likely need to withdraw substantial amounts from your investment account in the near future, you should probably be more conservative. If you do not expect substantial withdrawals in the next few years, funds should be invested more aggressively.

Asset allocation accounts for 90% of long-term investment returns. Market timing and individual asset selection account for less than 10%. Once selected, asset allo-

cation percentages should remain within fairly close ranges by periodic rebalancing, thus avoiding major swings in and out of market sectors.

Accepting more portfolio value volatility in the short term has historically generated higher returns in the long run. Broad diversification reduces risk and moderates fluctuations in value.

Investments results should be measured against an understandable benchmark appropriate for your chosen asset allocation.

Keeping investment expenses to a minimum becomes increasingly important due to compounding over multiple years.

Transparency, understandability, and Fiduciary responsibility are extremely important when managing other people's money. Investments which are illiquid or difficult to value may be appropriate for your own account but are ill suited in accounts you manage for others.

Simplicity of a plan helps keep the investor in control. Complexity works for the benefit of the financial advisor and the detriment of the investor.

Fraternally,

Rick Townsend  
Grand Treasurer



Join us!

# Family Day!

Saturday  
Oct. 12  
2024

Free  
Admission  
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10 am - 4 pm

Texas Masonic  
Retirement Community  
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## Biggest Masonic Event in Texas!

Meet

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

Greet

Yum!

Hot Dogs  
BBQ  
Ice Cream  
Kettle Corn

Fun!

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

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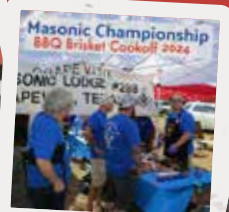
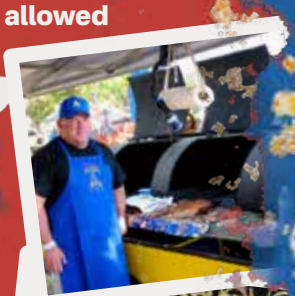
Arts & Crafts  
Masonic Fundraisers  
Holiday Gifts  
Clothing & Jewelry

Note!

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

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Texas Freemason • Fall 2024

# An Indomitable Will: The Rise of Andrew Jackson

Part 1 in a Series By Nathan Giesenschlag, Staff Writer

“You may not be interested in war, but war is interested in you.”

— Leon Trotsky

Surveying American and Masonic history we are struck by how much war and conflict is found in the annals of our history. Many Freemasons have served their beloved country, and a few have given the last full measure of devotion to her. Prominent men such as John J. Pershing of World War I, and Douglas MacArthur and Audie Murphy of the Second World War were three soldiers who were also Freemasons in two of America's 20th century wars.

War has profoundly impacted the craft in other, less obvious ways as well. After many of our most noteworthy wars, the Masonic Lodge and appendant bodies experienced spectacular growth. Golden eras of Masonry followed the wars as do the ripples of water a great ship. Washington's army was filled with Masons, and they planted lodges after they returned home. The men of the Civil War marched home and started probably the greatest era of fraternalism in American history. World Wars I and II ignited great building campaigns that gave us many of our most ornate lodge halls and spectacular cathedrals. Men joined the lodge in droves to maintain a camaraderie they experienced in the armed services.

That war has a legacy beyond the battlefield surprises no one; it is one of the supreme trials we might face in life. Some of you are descendent of soldiers, sailors, and Marines who left hearth and home in World War II. Surviving the war, they charted a new pathway that took them away from their heritage, because the G.I. Bill gave the plowboy or common laborer the opportunity to go to college, earn a degree, move to a city for work, and leave the family farm behind.

Texas Masonry has a similar origin story as well. The branch of Masonry that comes from Mexico grew out of the revolutionary fires of the 1810 Mexican Revolution. The political parties in Mexico during the 1820s were Masonic in nature. One faction, the Escoceses (Scottish Rite) were led by Lucas Alaman; another, the Yorkinos (York Rite), took much of their inspiration from Lorenzo de Zavala.

The Grand Lodge of Texas charts its American lineage from South Carolina through Louisiana. Texas Masonry which traces its roots back to the American colonies came to Texas through the struggle for American independence and the turbulent west-

ward migration later to be known as “Manifest Destiny.” War changed the life trajectory of Masons whom we consider to be our earliest Texas brothers.

The War of 1812 lives in the shadow of the other wars America has fought. Compared to the American Revolution, Civil War, or the World Wars, no great proposition or object was at stake. Arguably, it was fought by accident. President James Madison, better suited for writing constitutions, largely failed at being a wartime president: the whole war effort, shambolic in execution, nearly led to the destruction of the Union. Whatever else may be said about the government's waging of the war, the War of 1812 brought about the rise of Andrew Jackson.

Most men concern themselves with conflict only when it comes to their doorstep; Andrew Jackson's whole life was one of struggle and will. He struggled against his enemies, real and imagined. He warred with the goal of imposing his will upon others, his situation in life, and ultimately the United States. Jackson invited conflict; Jackson sought war; and Jackson fought to dominate. Of all the epochs of American history, there is only one period of time named after a man, and that is the “Age of Jackson.”

The early life of Andrew Jackson lifted the curtain on his trials. He never knew his father, also named Andrew, because he died in a logging accident shortly before the future general was born. Jackson's mother Elizabeth exhibited all the virtues of the upright woman portrayed in Proverbs. She nursed her sons Andrew and Robert as they grappled with smallpox contracted as POWs. Robert succumbed, but Andrew recovered. Later, while performing the great virtue of charity, she died from cholera while nursing POWs on boats in Charleston Harbor. By the time Jackson was sixteen years old, he was without a family.

More germane to Jackson's military life, Andrew Jackson fought in the American Revolution in militia outfits that dotted the southern American colonies. This theatre of the Revolution witnessed some of the most brutal and at times ghoulish fighting of the whole war. (The movie, “The Patriot,” by Mel Gibson is loosely based on this theatre of the war.) When Jackson was captured, an English officer told Jackson, who was of Scott-Irish descent, that the young POW was to be the officer's personal va-



Andrew Jackson at The Battle of New Orleans, ca. 1810s



let. Jackson, who was no man's valet, evidently told the Englishman "No" in discourteous language. The officer slashed Jackson across his face with his saber; Jackson wore the scar the rest of his life as a badge of honor.

After the war, Jackson struggled with what we would probably call post-traumatic stress disorder. In simple terms, the young veteran sewed his wild oats to cope. However, Providence did not mark Andrew Jackson to die of dissipation, but fired his will to seek advancement in society. He did that by becoming a lawyer and a Mason.

Then as now, a young man seeking to move up society's ladder often accomplishes it as an attorney. The young Jackson read the law in North Carolina under an established lawyer, moved to Tennessee when he passed the bar, and quickly separated himself as a young man on the rise. Tennessee was a frontier in the latter decades of the 18th century, much like Texas was in the 1820s and 1830s. Both societies allowed for maximal social mobility because there was no established aristocracy. Movement was the ethos of the frontier. As one can imagine, any competent

lawyer who could write up contracts, deeds, titles, and wills, while comporting himself in a courtroom, would ascend to the upper echelon in a frontier society. In time, Jackson became a judge, confidant, land speculator, politician, and major player in Nashville and the state of Tennessee.

Always controversial and possessing a disposition that left no one who knew him ambivalent, Jackson understood that his ambitions could only be realized by military victory and its attendant glory. Andrew Jackson was interested in war, and war returned the attention in the form of the War of 1812. When the Red Stick Creek Indians attacked Fort Mims in south Alabama in 1813, this event summoned Andrew Jackson from frontier obscurity and set his course toward altering the history of the United States and of Texas.



# Grand Lodge and Grand Master's Activities

By Dean Bryant, Staff Writer

## Shriners Children's Texas Hosts Masonic Cornerstone Ceremony May 20, 2024

On May 20, 2024, Shriners Children's Texas hosted the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Texas, who conducted a Masonic Cornerstone Ceremony amidst the construction of the hospital's new patient housing facility and parking garage. In attendance at the ceremony were a number of local Masons and Shrine Nobles, as well as past and present hospital board members. Also present were Imperial Potentate Ed Stolze, Jr., Imperial Sir Jerry Gantt and Imperial Sir Mark Hartz.

This 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. The garage addition will provide improved parking and accessibility for outpatient and surgical visits, as well as additional spaces for hospital employees and guests.

According to Imperial Sir Mark Hartz, "Today's ceremony marks a very important milestone in the ability of Shriners Children's to take care of the kids from all over the world. When completed, this facility will give us a resource to make sure those children and their parents who come for our care have a place to comfortably rest their heads, knowing we are here to not only treat their child, but to care for our patient's family during what might be a difficult time."

"The Masons have gathered as operative workers to construct the great cathedrals and buildings of stone throughout the world.



El Mina Shriners Patient Transportation Vehicle.

Today's ceremony gives us the opportunity to recognize that Masonic heritage that we have in building this great cathedral, and making sure that children are taken care of," says Hartz.

The new additions, located on the south side of the hospital building along Post Office Street, will be completed in the fall of 2024.



Thank you to all the Nobles that attended this wonderful ceremony.



## Masonic Oak Picnic and Pilgrimage May 19, 2024

The land called Texas was a land where survival was the most important thing in a settler's day-to-day life. There wasn't any such thing as churches, schools and Lodges, or homes and unless they brought a woman with them, there weren't any of them here either. They had to build shacks or dugouts of one kind or another until they could find the time and means to build something more substantial while they were trying to scratch a living from the land while they defended it against the Indian and outlaw raiders.

But some of the men brought something very important with them. In the winter of 1834-5, five Master Masons, who had made themselves known to each other near Brazoria by March of 1835, decided that it was time to have a Masonic Lodge in Texas. On March 10, 1835, these five men, Brothers John A. Wharton, Asa Brigham, James A. E. Phelps, Alexander Russell, Anson Jones and by then Brother J. P. Caldwell had joined them, met in a secluded grove near Brazoria. The area was secluded, and out of the way of cowans and eavesdroppers, and they felt they were alone. They held the meeting sitting in the shade of a majestic oak tree. Ever since then it has been known as the Masonic Oak. They decided to petition the Grand Lodge of Louisiana for a dispensation to form a new Lodge to be called Holland Lodge.

They had ignored the risk of possible damage to themselves by the Mexican government for petitioning a Lodge in the United States. The Texans were watched closely at that time, with jealousy and distrust by the Mexican government. In the 1820s a group of Masons, including Stephen F. Austin had attempted to organize a Masonic Lodge. In 1828 they met at San Felipe and petitioned the Grand York Lodge of Mexico for a charter dispensation. The petition evidently reached Mexico at the height of a quarrel between two factions of the Lodge, and it disappeared.

On December 27, 1835, the dispensation from Louisiana was granted and the first meeting of Holland Lodge No. 36 was conducted. A charter was eventually given to Brother Anson Jones just before the battle at San Jacinto, and he carried it in his saddlebags until after the battle.

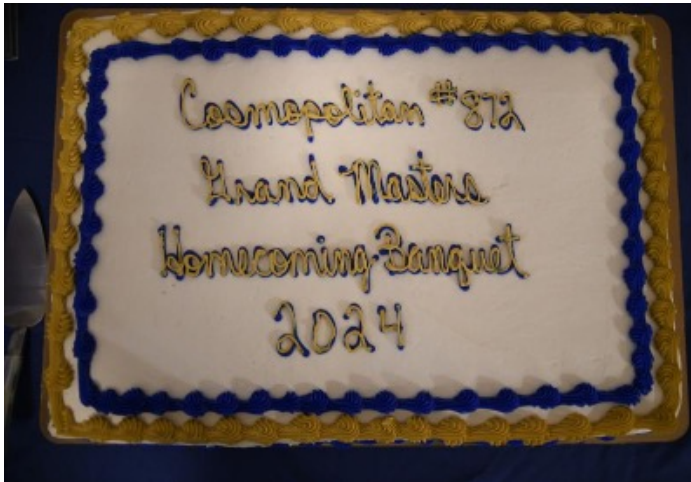
Brother Anson Jones was elected the first Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of the Republic of Texas when the Grand Lodge was formed.



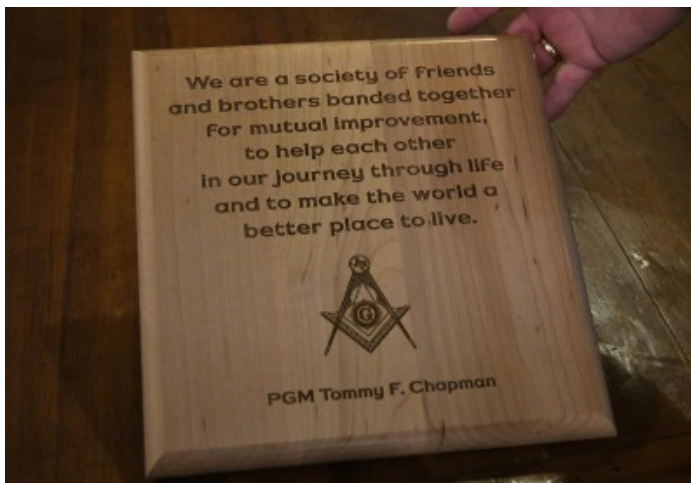
## Southeast Texas Conference April 20, 2024



A large turnout for the Grand Master Southeast Texas Conference at Cosmopolitan Lodge. These Grand Master Conferences offer an ideal opportunity to hear the Grand Masters message and enjoy fellowship with brethren from across the State. This year, the Southeast Conference was hosted by Cosmopolitan Lodge No. 872, a beautiful building to visit in Port Arthur.



It just would not be a celebration without a cake.



## De Zavala Elementary School, Channelview, Cornerstone Ceremony April 20, 2024

There was a large Masonic presence at the De Zavala Elementary School Cornerstone laying as Most Worshipful Grand Master, Tommy F. Chapman presided over the Ceremony. Cornerstone ceremonies are impressive and well worth attending if you have not had the opportunity to have seen one. A big thank you goes to the Officers and members of C.A. Fortner Lodge No.1304 for hosting the ceremony.



Most Worshipful Grand Master, Tommy F. Chapman presiding over the Cornerstone Ceremony.



Right Worshipful Jim McCormick, District Deputy Grand Master assisting with the ceremony, and ensuring the stone is good and square - Great job Right Worshipful Sir.



C.A. Fortner Lodge No. 1304, located in Channelview





## What Induced You and Goosed By a Goose

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



The phone call came about 10:30 last Thursday morning. The person on the other end was attempting to disguise his voice but I knew who it was, and I figured I would play along....at least for a little while. He wanted to know if he brought his vehicle in for an oil change, does the service include feeding the driver. Duh.... I told him that he had called the right place at the right time because we were running a "Blue Light Special" on an oil change and box lunch for only \$250.00. I heard him sputter a couple of times and when he finally replied he forgot to disguise his voice. "You must be kidding charging \$250.00 for changing oil and lunch," he huffed. "Weeeeeeeeeeeell John," I said. "I am just protecting my company from bankruptcy. You are the only one who would expect to eat while getting an oil change." His cover being blown he chose to ignore my comment and said, "Where do you want to eat durn-it..... I am hungry." "I had a Brother suggest to me that I should have lunch by the river in Boerne sometime," I said. "I will meet you on Hwy 46 along the river just east of Main Street in Boerne." "What's the name of the place," he asked? "It's called a picnic table," I answered, "and we are going to eat outside since it's such a beautiful day. "Outside?" he asked, sounding a little surprised. "Well, OK.... that, sounds good." I told him I would see him there.

I stopped at the Church's Fried Chicken on the way and got a family pack (yes, a family pack that feeds a family of four) of fried chicken and all the fixins and drinks and headed over to meet John. As I drove up, I couldn't believe my eyes. John was standing on the top of one of the picnic tables looking down at about ten geese that had surrounded him. I got out of my truck

and grabbed the food and approached the table trying (not very successfully) to be respectful and not laugh at him. It wasn't easy cause he looked pretty ridiculous perched up there like that like he'd just seen a mouse. I said, "John what the heck are you doing up there?" "What does it look like," he yelled above the honking geese. A couple of cars drove by and teased John for his being a big sissy. "Brother Chris" he said between clenched teeth, "these are the meanest gol-durn geese I've ever been around. That big white one over there is extra mean. Get 'em away from me, will ya." I waded in among them waving my bags and they scattered in all directions, stopped about twenty-five feet away and stared at us.

I laid out our lunch, but before we could eat John started in on me about leaving him with the kids and the bill last month. "Hey," he said. "Why did you run out on me and leave me with all those kids. When I finally realized what they were cheering about it was too late to turn down the free dessert they brought me." "Oh yeah John, I am sure you had a hard time turning that down," I answered with a grin. "There you go," he said. "Being sarcastic again but you are right...there was no way I was turning down a big piece of choke - let cake with ice cream. It was awfully good. I guess I accept your apology." (Is it just me or did I not remember apologizing?)

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



## A Look Back Have You Cleaned Your Slate?

From Texas Freemason Magazine July 1924

**B**ro. Briggs Franklin Reed, Mason, and Shriner, lives up in Seattle. He recently celebrated his 60th birthday in a way that is beautiful. And a way that is Masonic.

Bro. Reed went up to the Kittitas valley from Kansas thirty years ago, a young man in a young country. He raised cattle, and when the farms came in, he farmed, growing as the country grew, and he prospered. He is now rich and able, if he so desired, in the phrase of the street, to "look any man in the eye and tell him to go to hell."

But that's not what he wants to do. He is not merely a Noble. He is a noble Noble.

Any man that does things makes enemies. In the hard game of building a country and a State, he drew to him friends that sticketh closer than a brother, but he likewise made enemies, some bitter ones. But as his 60th birthday approached, the overbrimming love of mankind in him simply rebelled at the thought of hatred, and he asked himself, "What's the use?"

So, Bro. Reed rented the Elks' hall, planned a big feed with all the trimmings, and sent out a personal letter to a host of sworn friends and to a number of known enemies and asked them to put their feet under the table with him on this occasion. He freely forgave any real or imagined wrongs done to him, and asked forgiveness, reminding them that "they who forgive most shall be most forgiven." And they came!

That night there sat with him one man to whom he had not spoken in 19 years; another 10, and others, 6 and 5. And what a glow there was in the hearts and on the faces of all of them!

Truly Bro. Reed can now say-not because of ripened fields and barn overflowing, but from the bounty of priceless fellowship--"Soul, take thine ease!"

Brethren do you get the point? This is a most unusual thing, but should it be unusual? Does not more than one degree in Masonry teach us to do this very thing?

But do not too many of us "come to the altar smiling, and take upon ourselves the most solemn obligations without proper care to keep them?"

Bro. Reed has kept his obligation. He has cleaned his slate. Have you cleaned yours?

It's an old, old poem, that of Leigh Hunt's, much quoted, but so aptly fitting to Bro. Reed that we close with it here:

### *Abou Ben Adhem.*

*Abou Ben Adhem (may his tribe increase!)*  
*Awoke one night from a deep dream of peace,*  
*And saw, within the moonlight in his room,*  
*Making it rich, and like a lily in bloom,*  
*An angel writing in a book of gold,*  
*Exceeding peace had made Ben Adhem bold,*  
*And to the presence in the room he said,*  
*"What writest thou?"--The vision rais'd its head,*  
*And with a look made of all sweet accord,*  
*Answer'd, "The names of those who love their Lord."*  
*"And is mine one?" said Abou. "Nay, not so,"*  
*Replied the angel. Abou spoke more low,*  
*But cheerily still; and said, "I pray thee, then,*  
*Write me as one that loves his fellow men."*  
*The angel wrote, and vanish'd. The next night*  
*It came again with a great awakening light,*  
*And show'd the names whom love of God had bless'd*  
*An lo! Ben Adhem's name led all the rest.*







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MASONIC WIDOWS

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- ✓ Widow of Texas Mason
- ✓ Application signed by Masons
- ✓ Deadline: December 31, 2024

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# Get to Know Your MWSA

By Roger Landry, Staff Writer and President, 14th District MWSA Dallas, Texas

In Texas Freemasonry, Masters, Wardens, and Secretaries Associations (MWSA's) play a pivotal role in fostering a strong sense of community and support among Masons in the state. Specifically, these associations serve as important pillars within the Masonic organization.

MWSA's are normally composed of Past Masters in their districts. They are elected to serve one-year terms in their various offices, coming in as Treasurer, then Secretary, Vice President, and then onto President. Positions of Chaplain and Ambassador are often appointed by the President. Many Past Presidents have gone onto serve in much higher Grand Lodge levels. MWSA's may serve only a few Lodges in their district in rural areas to as many as forty Lodges in a major metroplex area. They normally travel and hold their monthly meetings in a sponsoring Lodge on a set day of the month.

Now let's look at the significant benefits that MWSAs bring to Texas Freemasonry, as we shed light on their functions, impacts, and overall contributions to the Masonic community.

MWSAs in Texas Freemasonry are entrusted with various key responsibilities that contribute to the smooth functioning of Masonic Lodges and the overall well-being of their members. All of us know that Masters are responsible for leading and overseeing the Lodge, ensuring that the principles and values of Freemasonry are upheld. Wardens assist the Master in his duties and serve as valuable mentors to fellow members. Secretaries, on the other hand, manage the administrative tasks of the Lodge, maintaining records and facilitating communication among members.

In supporting these key functions, MWSA's play a crucial role in preserving the traditions and customs of Freemasonry while adapting to the needs of the modern world.

One of the significant benefits of these associations is the support and guidance they provide to both new and experienced members of the Masonic community.

Masters, Wardens, and Secretaries often act as mentors, offering valuable advice and wisdom based on their own experiences within the organization. This mentorship fosters a sense of camaraderie and unity among members, creating an environment where individuals can learn, grow, and contribute to the fraternity.

Another key benefit of these associations lies in their dedication to educational and ritualistic advancements within Texas Freemasonry.

MWSA's frequently organize educational programs, workshops, and events aimed at deepening members' understanding of Masonic teachings, history, and symbolism. Additionally, they play a vital role in preserving and passing on the intricate rituals and traditions that form the core of Freemasonry, ensuring that they are upheld with reverence and authenticity.

The associations also serve as platforms for community building and networking within the Masonic fraternity. By bringing together Masters, Wardens, and Secretaries from various Lodges, these associations create opportunities for collaboration, idea exchange, and mutual support. Through gatherings, meetings, and collaborative initiatives, members are able to forge meaningful connections, share best practices, and collectively work towards the betterment of the Masonic community in Texas.

The creation and impact of MWSA's for Texas Masonic Lodge's over the last one hundred years can be directly attributed to the caliber of Lodge leadership and district involvement for the members in their Lodges and communities. So often energetic Lodges will work tirelessly developing programs to involve and develop their members with remarkable success, but then, as energy levels tire, these programs often fade away. When Lodges share these programs and opportunities in their district with other Lodges and across the state, they can spark other interested Mason's and develop into larger and more sustained programs.

One of the primary responsibilities of a districts MWSA is to share inspiring activities for their Lodges and to continue introducing or reacquainting various members in the district to each other. Many







times, simply the fellowship of seldom seen friends is worth the visit by itself.

Countless Masons, upon entering, the fraternity have said that attending meetings of their MWSA inspired them to get more involved in their Lodge and dramatically increased the size of their circle of friends.

Many regions around the state have established very active MWSAs. Some of them are the 9th MWSA- North East of Dallas, the 13th MWSA- East of Dallas, 14th MWSA- Dallas, the 30th MWSA- Houston, the 31st MWSA- South of Houston, the 39th MWSA- San Antonio, the 50th MWSA- Austin the 64th MWSA- Ft Worth, the 84th MWSA- North Texas and the 108th MWSA- South of Houston.

If your region does not have one established, it is certainly possible to formulate one and reap the benefits for your area Lodges. Some of the key things to remember are that to be truly successful, an MWSA should focus on adding to the stability of Lodges and mentoring all interested Masons in their district as opposed to trying to put on elaborate programs that are funded by the local Lodges by soliciting donations.

Past President Jeff Haven commented that “the MWSA’s are a sound- ing board of good ideas where each Lodge can attend and hear from

others as to what works for, and also allows you to share what works for your Lodge. It’s an opportunity to hear from those Lodges who are succeeding and growing. We want all Lodges in our district to be successful and every Lodge should want to improve. It’s a way to hear from other current officers or Past Masters NOT from your home Lodge in hopes that you will take away lessons learned or a new idea to try with your home Lodge.”

In summary, the Masters, Wardens, and Secretaries Associations in Texas Freemasonry are invaluable components of the Masonic structure, providing essential support, guidance, and resources to members and Lodges. Their dedication to preserving traditions, fostering mentorship, and facilitating educational and networking opportunities significantly enhances the overall Masonic experience. As guardians of the Masonic legacy, these associations play a paramount role in upholding the principles of Freemasonry and ensuring its continued vitality in the state.

So, whether you are a seasoned Mason of many years or are new to the Fraternity, we encourage you to seek out your local MWSA and encourage your friends and Lodge members to visit them, as well as pursue opportunities to visit other nearby MWSAs to see what they are developing.

## TEXAS FREEMASON

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