



T E X A S

FREEMASON

The 187th Grand Annual Communication

Page 5

Resolutions and Election Results

Page 10

Grand Lodge Officers

Page 12

On the Masonic Road

Page 14



★ On the Masonic Road
PAGE 14



GRAND LODGE

- 3 A Word from the Grand Master
- 4 Grand Master's Dallas Conference and Homecoming Banquet
- 5 The 187th Grand Annual Communication
- 7 Introduction to the Grand Junior Warden
- 8 A Word from the Deputy Grand Master
- 8 A Word from the Grand Senior Warden
- 9 A Word from the Grand Treasurer
- 9 A Word from the Grand Secretary
- 10 Resolution and Election Results
- 12 Grand Lodge Officers

FEATURE

- 14 On the Masonic Road

IN EVERY ISSUE

- 13 A Look Back
- 17 The Profound Pontifications of Brother John Deacon
- 19 Grand Lodge Committee Profile

ACROSS THE STATE

- 20 Brother Bussemey's Corvair

EDUCATION AND COMMITMENT

- 22 Masonic Children and Family Services 125th Anniversary
- 23 Texas Masonic Charities Foundation

ON THE COVER

Grand Master G. Clay Smith

The Texas Freemason Magazine is an official publication of the Grand Lodge of Texas A. F. & A. M. It is published four times a year for the members of Texas Lodges and subscribers. Spring and winter issues are available in print. Summer and fall issues are available in PDF format at <https://grandlodgeoftexas.org>. Opinions expressed by the Editors and contributing writers do not necessarily reflect official positions of the Grand Lodge of Texas Copyright 2020, by the Trustees of the Grand Lodge of Texas. All rights reserved.

Publisher
The Trustees of The Grand Lodge of Texas

Editor
Larry FitzPatrick

Associate Editor
Bill Crow

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

Image Credits
Front cover and Grand Lodge Officers – Doug Fitzjarrell, Grand Lodge – Darrell Hefley and Jeff Haven, On The Masonic Road – R. W. Mike Gower, Across the State – Corvair Preservation Foundation

The Texas Freemason Magazine encourages submission of articles and photographs of general interest to Masons in Texas, reserving the right to edit and use the articles and pictures as needs and policies dictate.

News and articles from around the state will continue to be published in a web-based format on the Grand Lodge of Texas website The Grand Lodge website is accessible at <http://www.grandlodgeoftexas.org>

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

The preferred method of submission is via email with an attached Microsoft Word document. Pictures should be separately submitted in JPEG format to TexasFreemason@grandsecretaryoftx.org. If you do not have email, submissions may be sent to the Grand Lodge of Texas, Attn.: The Editor of The Texas Freemason Magazine, PO Box 446, Waco, Texas 76703. All materials become property of the magazine and cannot be returned.

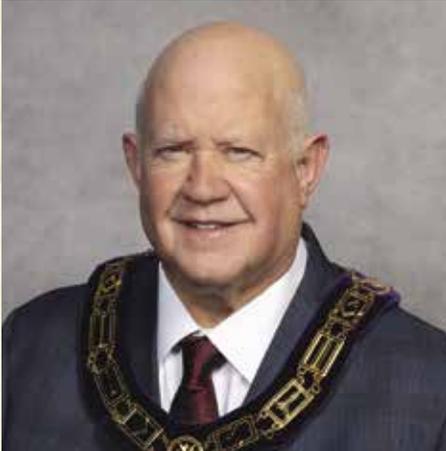
Submissions
texasfreemasonmag@gmail.com

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

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

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

**A WORD FROM THE
Grand Master**



My Brethren All,

I am grateful to be your Grand Master. The Station of Grand Master represents the greatest servant leader of the Fraternity. Leading up to the 187th Grand Communication, I often reflected upon a verse of scripture found in Luke 12:48, “For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more.” I commit to each of you that I will give you my best and I will lead our Fraternity with a code of honor and the utmost humility.

2023 will be an exciting and engaging year to be a Texas Mason. I am thankful for each of you for your contributions to the Craft. I am also thankful for your families, and I hope to thank each of them for their willingness to share you with us.

Following are five of the eight subjects that I am focused on this year. The District Deputy Grand Masters will speak about each in more detail during their official visits, and each will be discussed during the Grand Master Conferences.

1: Texas Masonic Code of Honor:

Texas Masons:

Do not lie, cheat, or steal

Square ourselves by the square of virtue and maintain accountability to our Brother

Hold in due veneration the Three Principal Masonic Virtues

By Obligation, super-elevate the Three Principal Tenets of Freemasonry

2: Investigation Standards & Procedures for Constituent Lodges & Members of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas (Investigation Manual & Checklist)

One of the most important duties of a Mason is to protect the West Door. This makes us accountable to one another. We must be educated in the laws, and more importantly, in the behavior to conduct proper investigations with confidence and resolve. In so doing we safeguard the honor, glory and reputation of the Institution that we hold most high.

3: Master, Wardens, and Secretaries Associations (MWSA)

Many Districts across the state are currently engaged in an MWSA. I have personally observed that a well-organized MWSA provides many benefits to the Texas Mason. These benefits include communications, education, charity, and leadership development. My goal for the Districts that do not have an MWSA is to consider establishing one for the benefit of their members. I believe the MWSA can be an extension of the individual Blue Lodge and more works can be made lighter for the overall benefit of the Fraternity.

4: Texas Masonic Charities Foundation (TMCF)

Per the 1900 Corporate Charter, the Grand Lodge of Texas was formed for charitable and benevolent purposes, and to cement bonds of good fellowship and brotherly love among its members and adherents, and to practice the art of Ancient Free and Accepted Masonry as has been done from time immemorial. It is my opinion that the greatest Masonic Virtue is Charity. And, what better way to extend our charitable nature than by investing into our leaders of tomorrow? I will lead a Blue Envelope Appeal this year to support this great Masonic organization and I ask each of you join me in our investment to our young adults and the society that they will eventually lead.

5: Legacy Program

I hope you will join me in show and instilling pride in Masonry by sharing with family and friends the special brotherhood that comes with membership in our Fraternity. Most often, a man joined our Fraternity because he was inspired by a family member or a friend who was a Mason. There is value in communicating these stories and

I encourage your Lodge to have special programs to recognize these Masons in public meetings and provide a lapel pin of distinction.

I encourage our existing Lodge leaders and those in line to become leaders to take an Officer Leadership Training course this year. Masonic Education, Leadership, and Management are a focus of these modules and they are great environments to share ideas and fellowship with your brothers. There is much data indicating that our Fraternity is recognizing the benefits of the educational investments that our Fraternity’s leaders are engaging in.

I also encourage each Lodge to apply for Vanguard status this year. I would ask that this application not be looked upon as administration taxation, but rather a strategic tool that can be utilized for actionable planning, financial strengthening, and succession planning. I have included a Grand Master’s Emphasis section that, if properly utilized, will have long-lasting positive results for your Lodge, and it may result in your Lodge being recognized as a top 5 Lodge in the State of Texas.

In closing, I am looking forward to practicing Masonry with my brothers in 2023. I have scheduled many opportunities for us to do so. I encourage you to look at the Grand Lodge Calendar and plan to attend Grand Master and District Deputy Grand Master official visits, Grand Master Conferences, and Historical Observations. It will be my honor to shake your hand and thank you for being an engaged Texas Mason for the benefit of present and future – day society.

“May the God of love and peace delight to dwell with and bless you.”

G. Clay Smith
Grand Master 2023



Grand Master G. Clay Smith

Dallas Conference & Homecoming Banquet 2023

Saturday June 3, 2023 at Hella Temple

2121 Rowlett Road Garland, Texas 75243

Conference at 10:00 AM (Registration at 9:00 AM)

Homecoming Social at 6:00 PM - Dinner at 6:30 PM

All Masons, wives, & friends are welcome

Tickets \$50 per person (\$500 for a reserved table of eight)

Tickets available through the website or QR code below

Blue Lodge Dues Card required for registration and Vanguard verification

For more details, contact:

David Hefner
214-629-0391

Darrell Hefley
817-846-9224

Live and silent auction
benefiting The Texas Masonic
Charities Foundation

Music by
Michael Cote

**Reservations
close May 19**

**Dress Code
Dark suit or cowboy tux**



<https://txmcf.org/smith>

The 187th Grand Annual Communication

By Dean Bryant, Staff Writer

The 187th Grand Annual Communication that took place in Waco, Texas, January 2023 was very well attended following a few years of decreased numbers due to the global pandemic. It was great to see so many familiar faces taking part in the spectacular weekend at Grand Lodge. The anticipation during the weeks leading up to Grand Lodge, seeing old friends, and making new acquaintances, is something that many Texas Freemasons have really come to appreciate. After all, this was Grand Lodge weekend.

There is a lot of preparation required to make certain that the Grand Lodge Temple is ready to receive the many Brothers who make the trip to Waco each year. Precise planning and setup are essential to the accurate check in of the Brethren attending, not to mention the efficient distribution of their registration packets. Thank you to all that carried out the backroom work to ensure the Brethren had all they required for the days ahead. Our Grand Secretary, R.◌W.◌ Justin Duty, his team, and the Brothers of M. Denton Stanford Lodge No. 594 and Crawford Lodge No. 585, have the process down to a science. Great job once again!



I would also like to show appreciation to the Committees on Audio-Video and Internet. They start their on-site preparation a week or so prior to the opening of the Grand Lodge doors. The Audio-Video Committee is responsible for the display of live cameras and pre-recorded videos working out a small room adjacent to the Grand Lodge auditorium. They coordinate with the Committee on Credentials to make sure that the voting is done and counted accurately. They also work with the Committee on Jurisprudence to display of resolutions and ballot results, and any last minute amendments that need to be shared with the Grand West for consideration. The Committee on Internet coordinates the broadcast of the public proceedings on YouTube, and works diligently to ensure there are no technical hitches during our time in the Auditorium. Great job Brothers Chris Holder and Craig Enderli, along with your committee members and volunteers, for the many hours you dedicate to preparing for and working at the Grand Annual Communication.



On Thursday, January 19, when entering the Grand Lodge foyer, prior to Registration, we pass by Brothers Ralph Royall and Stanley Payne, members of the Committee on Merchandise. This, and the area where other committee members are setup downstairs, is always a good place to stop, view, and purchase some goodies to take home. The Committee on Merchandise attends numerous events annually making it convenient to purchase past and current Grand Master and Grand Lodge merchandise - always worth a few minutes of our time.

The first session on Thursday afternoon, started with a musical prelude giving the Brethren an opportunity to settle in for the upcoming events, it was time to sit back and relax in our impressive Grand Lodge Auditorium. This was followed by the Opening Ceremonies with R.◌W.◌ Thomas F. Griffin, Past Grand Master, presiding, and the opening prayer by our Grand Chaplain.

The Grand Lodge Officers were, as in 2022, fortunate to have the opportunity to pass through an Honor Guard when entering the auditorium. The Honor Guard was once again presented by Worth Commandery No. 19 with the support of Sir Knights from across our great State. Their precision was spectacular to witness, with thanks to Sir Knight Brent Casiglio, Eminent Commander of Worth Commandery No. 19, delivering the commands. Having the Commanderies of Texas being part of the opening ceremonies is something I hope will continue for future Grand Lodge Communications. The Grand Entry of the Grand Lodge Officers commenced with the District Deputy Grand Masters from the several Masonic Districts, followed by the Grand Lodge Appointed Officers and their ladies, the Past Grand Masters and their ladies, Elected Grand Lodge Officers and their ladies. M.◌W.◌ Bradley S. Billings, Grand Master of Texas Masons, and his Lady Brittany and son Grayson, passed under an arch of steel while receiving a well-deserved standing ovation for their commitment to the craft over the last twelve months.

GRAND LODGE



With M. W. Bradley S. Billings, Grand Master, presiding in the Grand East, the Thursday afternoon session commenced with the presentation of the six flags of Texas, followed by the pledge of allegiance to the United States flag and Texas flag. A welcome to the City of Waco and the response followed the flag presentations with greetings from several of the Masonic Affiliated Bodies of Texas. Roll Calls commenced with several well deserved presentations to follow. The Thursday afternoon session was closed in prayer by our Grand Chaplain.

The Grand Lodge Welcome Party, hosted by Karem Shrine was very well attended, and we were honored to be able to attend the Karem Shrine Officer Installation. Congratulations to R. W. Justin Duty on being installed as Potentate for the ensuing year.

The second session of the 187th Grand Annual Communication was opened on Friday, January 20, 2023 by M. W. Bradley S. Billings, Grand Master. There were many Brothers in the auditorium, enjoying the proceedings as the morning passed by. It was delightful to receive greetings from the Masonic Affiliated Bodies of Texas. A special thank you to the great leaders of the Texas York Rite Bodies:

- i. Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Texas, M. E. Robert M. Loflin, Grand High Priest
- ii. Grand Council of Royal and Select Master of Texas, M. I. David Melear, Grand Master
- iii. Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Texas, R. E. Richard R. Jernigan, Grand Commander

The morning commenced with updates on Reports and Committees from the Grand Master, Grand Treasurer, Grand Lodge Trustees, Grand Secretary, plus more. It was a productive morning with discussion and voting that ended with the Grand Lodge being called from Labor to give all in attendance an opportunity for some refreshment.

While the brethren were enjoying the activities at Grand Lodge, our ladies were able to enjoy time together at the Ladies Luncheon, which was followed by Painting with a Twist. These two events were well attended and proved very successful. Thank you to the First Lady of Texas Masons, Brittany Billings, for hosting the luncheon. Also a big thank you to Carly First for hosting Painting with a Twist, your fine instruction, and ensuring that the event included FUN!

With refreshments completed, we returned to the Auditorium to commence with the third session, there was work to be done. The musical prelude again helped us to settle and relax awhile prior to the afternoon events. Grand Lodge was called to labor, and we were

inspired with another prayer from our Grand Chaplain. There were more Committee reports presented throughout the afternoon giving us all an insight and understanding of the Investments, Committee on Work, Masonic Education, and Membership Committees, these were followed by the required and traditional committee reports. Business for the day was now completed, Grand Lodge called from labor to refreshment. There were a lot of Brothers in the foyer after close of business, enjoying the fun and fellowship before heading out to their evening activities. It was another good day at Grand Lodge.

The fourth session, on Saturday morning started with Grand Lodge being called to labor, giving the brethren an opportunity to follow more reports from the several committees in attendance. The election of the Grand Lodge Officers was scheduled for 10.00am following the Grand Masters resolution to set the date and time during the Friday morning session.



The elections resulted in R. W. G. Clay Smith being elected as Grand Master elect, R. W. H. Bart Henderson Deputy Grand Master elect, R. W. Raborn Reader Grand Senior Warden elect, and R. W. Jim Rumsey Grand Junior Warden elect. Appreciation for continued dedication and commitment to our Grand Lodge goes to Grand Treasurer, R. W. Richard Townsend and Grand Secretary, R. W. Justin Duty for making themselves available for another year.

Congratulations to Grand Master G. Clay Smith on becoming the 2023 Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas, and also a big thank you to R. W. Bradley S. Billings and his Lady Brittany for service to our Grand Lodge in 2022.

Finally, congratulations to all the newly elected and appointed Officers, we wish you and the Masons of Texas all the very best for the ensuing Masonic Year.

INTRODUCTION TO THE
Grand Junior Warden



Dr. Jim Rumsey was initiated, passed, and raised at Pine Tree Lodge No. 1396 in Longview, Texas, in 2003. He served as Worshipful Master of Pine Tree Lodge in 2009-2010, and as Secretary from 2011-2015. During his tenure as Worshipful Master, the lodge experienced a net growth in

membership, and earned the Vanguard Award for the first time in two decades. While serving as Worshipful Master, Right Worshipful Rumsey helped establish the Masters', Wardens' & Secretaries' Association of the 10th Masonic District of Texas, and was honored by his District 10 Brothers as the charter president of the MWSA.

While going through the chairs at Pine Tree Lodge and attending a Wardens' Retreat, he learned of Texas Lodge of Research, and fell in love with the replica Grand Lodge of the Republic of Texas apron. He earned that apron in 2010, when he was admitted as a full member of Texas Lodge of Research after publishing his first (of 9) research papers with that august lodge. He was honored by the scholars of TLR and was elected Worshipful Master in 2014. While serving as Worshipful Master of TLR, he affiliated with St. Alban's Lodge No. 1455 in College Station.

Right Worshipful Rumsey moved from Longview to the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex in 2014. Before leaving East Texas, he affiliated with Robert E. Lee Lodge No. 431 in Henderson in 2012, and served a Secretary from 2013-2020. In 2020, he was elected and installed as Worshipful Master.

After settling in DFW, Right Worshipful Rumsey affiliated with Hillcrest Lodge No. 1318 in Dallas. He served as Worshipful Master of Hillcrest Lodge in 2021-2022. While in DFW, he also affiliated with Claude L. Austin Lodge No. 1450.

He was invited to petition as a reconstituting charter member of Ocean Lodge No. 230 in Weatherford when that lodge was reconstituted in 2020, and was installed as the reconstituting charter Tiler. Additionally, he petitioned as a reconstituting charter member of both Union Lodge No. 82 in Waco, where he was installed as the reconstituting charter Marshal, and Tusculum Lodge No. 86 in Longview, where he was installed as the reconstituting charter Chaplain. He is also proud to be an endowed member of Tranquility Lodge No. 2000.

He is a two-time recipient of the Golden Trowel Award. He was recognized and awarded by Pine Tree Lodge in 2014, and by Robet E. Lee Lodge in 2017.

Right Worshipful Rumsey has served the Grand Lodge of Texas in various capacities over the years. He was appointed an Assistant Regional Coordinator by Grand Master Gene Carnes in 2011, and reappointed to that role by Grand Masters Jim Brumit in 2012, and Walt Rogers in 2013. In 2014, Grand Master Jerry Martin promoted him to Regional Coordinator, a position he held until 2022, when he was appointed State Coordinator by Grand Master Brad Billings.

He served on the Grand Lodge Committee on Membership from 2013-2018, and served as chairman of that committee in 2014. In 2018 he was elected to a full term on the Grand Lodge Committee on Work, representing the lodges and members in the DFW, Northeast, and North-Central region of Texas. He was elected by his peers on the Committee on Work to serve as chairman in 2021. During his tenure on the Committee on Work, he held 129 ritual forums and conducted over 150 certificate examinations. In 2020, he was appointed by Grand Master Paul Underwood to serve on the special committee for the 185th (virtual) Grand Annual Communication. In 2022, he was appointed by Grand Master Billings to serve on the special committee on Ancient Landmarks. He also served as the chairman of the Special Assignments Committee in 2022.

He was appointed by Grand Master Brumit to serve as District Deputy Grand Master of Masonic District No. 10-A in 2012, and served as Grand Junior Deacon of the Grand Lodge of Texas in 2020.

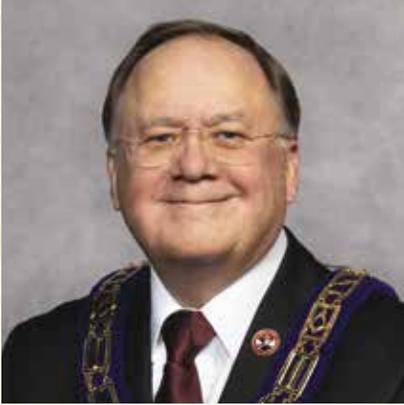
He is a member of the Sam Houston Hall of Fame, and he and his wife Afton are proud Patrons of the Masonic Grand Lodge Library and Museum of Texas.

Right Worshipful Rumsey is an active member of both the Scottish and York Rites of Freemasonry, as well as the Shrine, Grotto, Eastern Star, and several other Masonic appendant bodies in Texas. He is proud to serve on the Board of Governors of Shriner's Texas Hospital in Galveston.

Right Worshipful Rumsey is extremely humbled by the honors that have been bestowed upon him by the Masons of Texas. However, more than any of those titles or awards, he is humbled to have the support of his peers, and honored to have the opportunity to serve the Masons of Texas, and is looking forward to opportunities to continue to do so.

GRAND LODGE

A WORD FROM THE Deputy Grand Master



Greetings Brethren,

As a new year has begun, we are given another opportunity to be better men, better examples, and better Masons.

I hope that 2023 has brought you great health and prosperity, and a continued desire to improve our Fraternity. I/we are very much looking forward to our Grand Master G. Clay Smith's leadership and TEAM building for our amazing Fraternity; I know that the Grand Master has many things in store for us, including an interesting Membership program for us to utilize, building our ranks, and fostering unity for all.

I hope that you are planning to attend some of the many events planned for this year, including the Grand Masters Conferences; the Historical Observances, such as the annual visit to the Alamo; to the San Jacinto Memorial Monument; the Presidio La Bahia at Goliad; the Masonic Oak Picnic; the always popular Officer Leadership Training Sessions; the many Lodges celebrating 175, 150, 100 years of 'Making Good Men Better'; and many other 'Special Events' occurring around our Great State!

I would encourage you to bring your families to as many events as possible, as we promote 'Family' at every opportunity; and when you get a chance, invite a non-Mason to a special dinner, or fun event that your Lodge (or another Lodge) is hosting... there's a good chance that they may show an interest in what is going on and want to be a part of it! You/we are what we promote, what we exemplify, and we want to 'put our best foot forward.'

I look forward to seeing you all at several events, this year, as we travel across Texas... and I ask that you continue to be that difference between Good and Great!

Sincerely and Fraternally,

H. Bart Henderson, Deputy Grand Master

A WORD FROM THE Grand Senior Warden



My Brethren all,

I am honored that the Brothers of the great state of Texas have entrusted in me the privilege of being their Grand Senior Warden for the coming year. I along with the other Trustees take these positions with great sincerity to ensure the Masonic traditions, values, and fellowship, flourish throughout the state.

My wife, Loretta, has asked me in the past about my bucket list. I always responded that I really do not have a bucket list, but wanted to make an impact on at least one person's life. I tell her, you may never know you have accomplished this, and one day after you have turned in your working tools, someone would state how you made an impact on their life.

As a Lodge, we make an impact on our local communities by providing scholarships to students, toys for less fortunate children at Christmas, or assisting our local towns with parades and activities as needed. We make an impact on the DeMolay and Rainbow Girls by opening our Lodges, giving our time, and providing mentorship to develop these young people into upstanding citizens with our Masonic values. As a fraternity, we make an impact by providing services through our Scottish Rite Hospitals, the Knight Templar Eye Foundation, the Shrine Orthopedic and Burns Hospitals, the Grotto Dental Services, the Texas Masonic Charities Foundation, the Texas Masonic Retirement Community, and the Order of the Eastern Star with their benevolent and charitable actions.

As we progress through 2023, I would ask that we as Brothers should strive to make an impact every day, be it by mentoring a young person, or a fellow Brother, assisting others in need, or our local communities in general.

I pray Most Worshipful G. Clay Smith has a successful and prosperous year by making an impact on Masonry across our state with his conferences and programs.

Fraternally,

Raborn L. Reader, Jr., Grand Senior Warden

A WORD FROM THE Grand Treasurer



Brethren,

Thank you for allowing me to continue in the roll of Grand Treasurer during 2023. I have enjoyed my duties in the Grand Lodge of Texas very much and I think we have made significant progress in several areas. The Grand Secretary and I continue to work together to streamline administrative procedures and make them more transparent.

Thanks to your approving a resolution in January 2021, the annual distributions to Lodges last summer were similar to prior years even though the markets fell significantly in 2022. I believe this is important to the Lodges' financial health and that it will not cause long term damage to the Endowed Membership Fund.

Speaking of the market decline in 2022, I know many Lodge treasurers (as I did) had to stand up in front of their members and announce that their investment accounts had lost money for the calendar year. This is always an uncomfortable experience but necessary if your Lodge has long term funds invested, which you do not expect to need for a few years. Allowing your investments to fluctuate to a degree, will provide much higher total income after ten or fifteen years. If you may need the money in the more immediate future, it should be invested more conservatively.

I also recommend that your Lodge members consider whether the number of units you require for an endowed membership is high enough. You now know that you will receive around \$5.00 per unit each year in distributions. How does this compare to the annual dues receipt the Lodge will be foregoing? I realize that annual distributions continue after a member passes away, but while he is attending Lodge costs are incurred in the Lodge as well as per capita payments to Grand Lodge. Low requirements for endowed memberships are a great deal for the member but they may be hurting the Lodge.

Lastly, I think Cody Cockroft and his team did a nice job last year holding a treasurer school using a Zoom meeting. I hope we can continue or even expand this training in 2023. I look forward to seeing many of you during the coming year.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

Rick Townsend, Grand Treasurer

A WORD FROM THE Grand Secretary



Brethren,

I want to thank you all for allowing me to serve as Grand Secretary for another year. In 2022 my office conducted six Secretary Schools, and I want to thank the brethren of each Lodge who so graciously hosted a school. We would not have been successful without your help! This year my office will conduct Secretary Schools in Longview, Waco, Ft. Worth, Houston, and Corpus Christi. Also, we plan to hold a "Secretary Bootcamp" which will be a more in-depth two-day school. This event will be a great opportunity for new or existing Lodge Secretaries looking for additional instruction. Please check Grandview for dates and times for the 2023 Grand Secretary's Schools of Instruction.

I had a great time seeing everyone at the 2023 Grand Annual Communication. It is always great seeing old friends in the hallways and being able to catch up. We made several improvements to the registration and check-in process this year, and I plan to make additional improvements for the 2024 Grand Annual Communication. I want to thank Bro. Bobby Bain, and all the brothers from Crawford Lodge No 585, who made sure those arriving for the Annual Communication were able to pick up their packets as efficiently as possible. Also, I would like to thank Bro. Gerald Skipper, and all the Brothers at M. Denton Stanford Lodge No. 594, who prior to the Annual Communication helped assemble the preregistration packets. We also expanded the shuttle van program servicing several hotels downtown, and everyone I spoke with appreciated the additional transportation options. I am grateful to Bro. Tommy Grusendorf, and all his volunteers, who donated their time and effort driving Brothers from their hotels, the Grand Lodge, and other locations in and around town.

I offer my congratulations to R.◌W.◌ Brad Billings on a successful year as Grand Master. It was an honor to serve on his team prior to my election as Grand Secretary, and it was my privilege to work alongside him during his eventful year as Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Texas.

Finally, I would like to congratulate M.◌W.◌ G. Clay Smith on his election as Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Texas. M.◌W.◌ Smith and his team have a full year ahead of them, and I send my best wishes to them all.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

Justin B. Duty, Grand Secretary

2023 Summary of Proposed Resolutions and Recommendations Results

2022 Holdover Resolutions

Resolution No. 11

Audio/Visual transmission and streaming of Grand Lodge Proceedings.

Amended and Passed

2023 Proposed Resolutions

Resolution No. 1

Creating the Anson Jones Endowment Fund to allow members to purchase per capita relief for Lodges.

Failed

Resolution No. 2

Changing the name of Pentagon Lodge No. 1080 to Pentagon-Highland Park Lodge No. 1080.

Passed

Resolution No. 3

Amending Article 57 regarding the deadline for Lodges Annual Returns.

Passed

Resolution No. 4

Amending Articles 384, 385, 387, and 392 by removing the need for a physical Certificate of Good Standing when pluraling with another Lodge or Lodges.

Passed

Resolution No. 5

Amending Articles 60 and 222 to allow for the use of an Electronic Seal when authenticating official documents.

Passed

Resolution No. 6

Amending Article 223 adding additional Volumes of Sacred Law as paraphernalia for Lodges in Texas.

Amended and Failed

Resolution No. 7

Changing the name of Rising Star Lodge No. 429 to Rising Star Ranger Lodge No. 429.

Passed

Resolution No. 8

Amending Article 319 to better describe the status of members in arrears.

Passed

Resolution No. 9

Amending Article 333 to add the Pledges to the Order of Business.

Passed

Resolution No. 10

Removing Article 339 in its entirety.

Withdrawn

Resolution No. 11

Amending Article 339a to remove restrictions on Lodges creating 501(c)(3)s.

Withdrawn

Resolution No. 12

Amending Article 225 to add the Tall Cedars of Lebanon of North America as authorized users of Lodge Rooms.

Withdrawn

Resolution No. 13

Amending Article 411 to automatically disqualify petitioners for providing false information on petition.

Passed

Resolution No. 14

Changing the Grand Lodge Retirement Benefits from restricted to unrestricted funds.

Passed

Resolution No. 15

Amending Article 172 by changing language in paragraph 9 regarding the number of copies of the Proposed Resolutions sent to the Lodges from the Grand Secretary's Office.

Passed

Resolution No. 16

Changes language in several Articles expanding on the requirements to hold the position of Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Senior Warden, and Grand Junior Warden.

Withdrawn

Resolution No. 17

Amendment to Article 512a changing the language of "Status of a Mason Under Indictment or Held to Answer."

Failed

Resolution No. 18

Amendment to Chapter 2, Title 1, Article 2b allowing the broadcast and local viewing of the Annual Communication.

Withdrawn

Resolution No. 19

Amendment to Article 508 changing the language for the use of a Masonic cipher/code book.

Failed

2023 Grand Master's Recommendations

Recommendation No. 1

Amends Articles 245 and 248 regarding the Lodge consolidation process.

Amended and Passed

Recommendation No. 2

Adding a permanent Real Estate Committee and providing for their participation with the Civil Law Committee in the real estate approval process under Art. 340.

Passed

Recommendation No. 3

Adds Article adopting 4 "Landmarks" of Freemasonry.

Tabled

Recommendation No. 4

Separating the Committee on Masonic Education and Service into two separate permanent committees and defining their respective duties.

Passed

Recommendation No. 5

Amends Article 273 regarding what is allowed on a Past Masters Apron.

Passed

Recommendation No. 6

Creating an alternative arbitration procedure for resolving Masonic Disciplinary Charges.

Passed

2023 Election Results

Grand Junior Warden

Jim Rumsey

Committee on Work

Cody A. Stewart

Grand Lodge Library & Museum Board of Directors

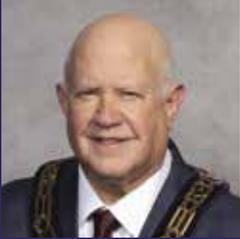
Paul D. Underwood

Masonic Home & School Board of Directors

John D. Denson



2023 Grand Lodge Officers



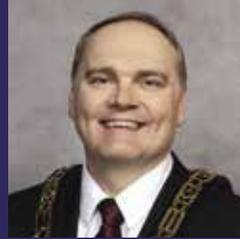
**Most Worshipful
G. Clay Smith
Grand Master 2023**



**Right Worshipful
H. Bart Henderson
Deputy Grand Master**



**Right Worshipful
Raborn L. Reader, Jr.
Grand Senior Warden**



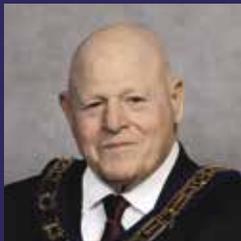
**Right Worshipful
Jim Rumsey
Grand Junior Warden**



**Right Worshipful
Richard C. Townsend
Grand Treasurer**



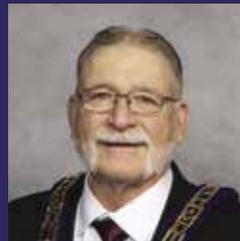
**Right Worshipful
Justin B. Duty
Grand Secretary**



**Right Worshipful
Clarence J. Laney Jr.
Grand Chaplain**



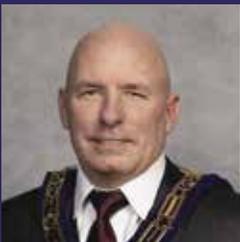
**Right Worshipful
David A. Gower
Grand Orator**



**Right Worshipful
J.W. Irick
Grand Marshal**



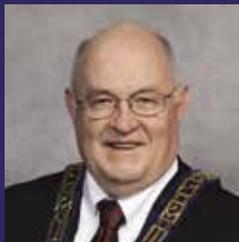
**Worshipful
Charles A. Murchison
Grand Senior Deacon**



**Worshipful
Ricky Cox
Grand Junior Deacon**



**Worshipful
Lewis M. Eldridge
Grand Senior Steward**



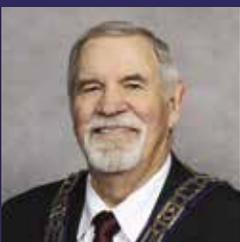
**Worshipful
Jeffrey K. Haven
Grand Junior Steward**



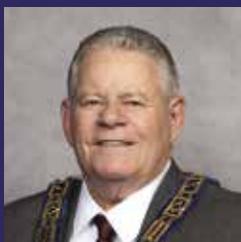
**Worshipful
Michael Omar P. Sevilla
Grand Pursuivant**



**Worshipful
Michael Joyal Cote
Grand Musician**



**Worshipful
Larry C. Gilley
Grand Photographer**



**Worshipful
Alvin L. Holomon
Grand Tiler**

A Look Back

Application for dispensation to form a lodge at Coblenz, Germany

From the Report of M.: W.: Grand Master D. F. Johnson December 1922

Shortly after my installation as Grand Master I received an application from American soldiers of the Army of Occupation, located at and near Coblenz, Germany, asking for the right of forming a lodge at that place, this petition was signed by eleven brothers, holding membership in Texas, and by seventy-nine Masons holding membership in various lodges scattered over the United States.

After many days and nights of consideration and taking counsel from some of the best informed Masons in Texas, I wrote to the Masonic Club at Coblenz, that I would grant them a dispensation when they had conformed to certain formalities required by the Constitution and laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas.

On February 22nd these brethren wrote me as follows:

“To tell you that your letter of January 16th brought joy and happiness into the hearts of all American Masons on the Rhine is expressing it mildly. When Brother Forbes presented your letter to the club on the 3rd of February it marked a turning point in our history, and the enthusiastic, appreciative manner of its reception by the American Masonic Club would have brought tears into your eyes, when a result that we have hoped for, worked for, and prayed for seemed to be at last realized, the singing of the Doxology seemed to be the only thing that answered. We hope the notes somehow reached across the ocean to you.”

Before writing them that I would grant a dispensation I wrote to United States Senator Brother Morris Sheppard, and secured through him a statement from the War Department at Washington that the Army of Occupation would remain on the Rhine for almost an indefinite period, and would probably be several thousand in number.

These matters had scarcely been adjusted, and the details of the matter worked out, when it was announced through the press that the entire Army of Occupation would be returned to the U. S. at once.

This news also reached the brethren at Coblenz, who immediately sent a cablegram notifying me of this fact, and asking me to hold up the granting of the dispensation, which lasted, for several months, during which time there was sent to me from all over the United States demits from various lodges, and finally on June 22nd I mailed a dispensation to the following named brothers, whose demits had been received:

John P. Griebel, a Past Master and life member of Independence, Mo., as special representative of the Grand Master, with powers coequal to that of a District Deputy Grand Master; C. O. Bailey, first Worshipful Master; H. B. Jordon, first Senior Warden; H. L. Kingston, first Junior

Warden, and the following named brothers: Melvin G. Brownson, T. H. Burwell, Gottfried Buetttschle, Barney Forbes, Roy M. Hare, W. H. Saddler, John Sasser, Wm. L. Wylie, Paul Audus, Walter S. Bennet, F. W. Brown, F. O. Bryson, Paul J. Casey, E. E. Cole, J. H. Cross, J. A. Dolan, D. H. Finley, Andres Florin, J. E. Grimes, G. F. Hobson, L. W. Hulet, J. H. Johnson, Aaron Kapler, E. E. Lockhart, W. A. Lowenberg, J. H. McFall, J. W. McKeever, C. E. Macey, J. W. Marshal, V. E. Miltonberg, R. J. Pahnke, J. S. Patrick, J. T. Priestly, H. H. Siff, H. S. Purnell, J. M. Yaylor, J. H. Walton and W. B. Wisely.

This dispensation was received in due time, and on July 4th the American Lodge, working under a dispensation from the Grand Lodge of Texas was set to work in the presence of two of the most distinguished Masons of the United States, Brother John H. Cowles, Sovereign Grand Commander of the Southern Jurisdiction, Scottish Hite Masons, and Past Grand Master Edward C. Day of Montana – who were sojourning in Germany.

And thought I had understood from the first report that still another distinguished Mason and statesman, former Vice President Thomas R. Marshall, was also present, a later letter informs me that Brother Marshall was one day late in reaching Coblenz, and failed to witness the establishment of the Texas American Lodge in Germany on the historic day of the birth of our nation.

Name of the Lodge at Coblenz At the request of the petitioners for the dispensation, the lodge was christened “Lahneck Lodge, U. D.,” the petition reciting the following reason for naming it “Lahneck” Lodge: “We desire to have the lodge named Lahneck Lodge, in commemoration of those sterling Masons (Knights Templar), twelve in number, who made the last sacrifice in defense of their beliefs. It is fit and right that on this historic grounds, our lodge should perpetuate the memory of the last of the Noble Order of Knights Templar, for it is within a stone’s throw almost of our meeting place, that the last of the Knights Templar laid down their lives in the defense of those principles which we hold dear.

“Phillip and the Pope conspired to destroy the organization in order that they might share between them the property which had belonged to the Knights for centuries. The Grand Master and fifty of his followers were burned at the stake by those whose chief motive was rather a desire to confiscate the possessions of the Templars, than any religious war against heretics and sinners.

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

On the Masonic Road

By Bill Crow, Associate Editor

Driving across Texas in search of noteworthy history and legend, I thought about the time when I was much younger helping on the home place in Wayside, Texas, helping my Uncle and family brand calves. I recalled the smell of the smoke and burned cowhide and the pungent odor of the horses, the tack and the men. I don't know how it lingers dormant for over 65 years and can be recalled by sensory smell on demand. I still can remember the smell ...



Cattle ranches and branding cattle is a long standing purposeful tradition, becoming the most obvious method of determining ownership of Texas Cattle and livestock along with ear marking and tags.

Having been introduced to the Pala Dora and Tulia canyons at a young age and living on property immediate adjacent to the famed Goodnight Ranch land and the original “Dugout Home” of the Goodnights, just a stone’s throw over the rim of the canyon, I am still amazed at the grandeur of Texas Ranches and the brands that identify the Ranches and Cattle.

There are many large Texas Cattle ranches in Texas, some so large it is difficult to measure in your mind’s eye, the expanse of land and the logistics of managing the land and operation that continues today, much like it did early in Texas and the ranches history.

There are several large ranches that have significant size, and two of them in particular in or near the Panhandle of Texas are the Waggoner Ranch near Vernon, Texas and the XIT Ranch near Dumas and Dalhart, Texas.

The Waggoner Ranch is reported to be the largest contiguous ranching operation of its kind under one fence in Texas, and one of the largest in the United States. This is a diverse operation consisting of cattle, horses, farming, oil, recreational lakes, and wildlife. It may be hard to truly comprehend the sheer vastness of the Waggoner Ranch. In total, the ranch spans nearly 800 square miles and measures about 510,000 acres. This sprawling property is approximately three-fourths the size of Rhode Island.

The Waggoner Ranch Reversed D Brand is burned on the right hip of calves, and dates back to June 11, 1849. This historic brand has been used in one form or another since that date, making it one of the very oldest brands in Texas. Originally, Dan Waggoner burned the Reversed 3D’s into the right hip, thigh or rib of his cattle; however, as the price of hides increased, it made economic sense to only use one Reversed D in order to save more of the hide.

The XIT Ranch was once one of the largest ranches in Texas, comprising 3 million acres along the Texas-New Mexico border in the Panhandle area of the state. In 1879, the State of Texas was looking for funds with which to build the Capitol building in Austin. The Texas Legislature appropriated the remote Panhandle acreage to a syndicate led by Illinois natives John and Charles Farwell in exchange for an agreement to build the Austin structure. The original cost of the Capitol building was projected to be \$1,500,000 but wound up costing about \$3.7 million with the syndicate funding all but about \$500,000 that the state picked up.

The XIT Ranch included parts of 10 counties at its peak: Dallam, Hartley, Oldham, Deaf Smith, Parmer, Castro, Bailey, Lamb, Cochran, and Hockley. It is only a popular legend that “Ten in Texas” inspired the famous brand, XIT. The accepted story however, is that rancher Abner Blocker

scratched the brand in the dirt with the heel of his boot in order to illustrate a brand that would be hard for rustlers to change.

By 1929, the XIT Ranch owned about 450,000 acres (compared to 3 million), while 14 years later, in 1943, they only owned 350,000 acres. The XIT Ranch was originally made from public lands owned by the government. However, because it was unused and there were several buffalo and cattle grazing the lands, they decided to make it a Ranch.

The barbed wire surrounding the XIT ranch has been there since the ranch was started in 1885. Today, there is more than 6,000 miles of wire surrounding the ranch!

Two more significant ranches are located in south central Texas; The Four Sixes (6666) ranch and the King Ranch, among the largest in Texas.

The Four Sixes Ranch is truly worthy of being called a legendary property. Located in King County, TX, the 6666 Ranch itself is comprised of 142,372 acres, although it’s part of a larger land holding with the 6666 Dixon Creek Ranch Division (Dixon Creek Ranch) and 6666 Frisco Creek Ranch Division (Frisco Creek Ranch).

In total, it encompasses approximately 266,255 acres of Texas land. 1,000 acres are typically farmed in wheat for grazing; 700 acres are bluestem pasture, and the remaining 140,000 acres are native pasture.

Not that it needed any more prestige, but it gained even more notoriety recently when it was featured in the TV series “Yellowstone.” In 2021, the Four Sixes Ranch along with the other land holdings sold for the first time in its history. The total asking price was \$341,000,000. The famous four sixes, “6666” brand is known everywhere cattle and horses are used and traded or purchased.

In 1853, Captain Richard King purchased a creek-fed oasis in the Wild Horse Desert of South Texas, sparking generations of integrity, preservation, and innovation and named it the King Ranch. King Ranch now covers 825,000 acres, larger than the state of Rhode Island. Over the course of over 160 years, King Ranch led some of the first cattle drives, developed the Santa Gertrudis and Santa Cruz breeds of cattle, bred the finest Quarter Horses, and produced champion Thoroughbreds—all under its iconic Running W® brand.

The Running W® brand was first registered in 1869. Some have said that it represents one of the ranch’s many diamondback rattlesnakes or the Santa Gertrudis Creek, while others are sure it signifies the sweeping horns of a Texas Longhorn bull. The Running W® could also be interpreted as a section of a continuing wave pattern signifying the uniting of the past with the present and suggesting continuity into the future.

For brevity, with purpose, the four Texas ranches represent an “across Texas” reminder of the greatness and stature of Texas ranching and gives

FEATURE ARTICLE

insight and value to the branding process used by cattlemen worldwide.

Other than the obvious meaning and purpose, there are “branding” processes other than cattle, horse, and other livestock ownership. Marketers use company brands to attempt to protect and value their products and often some folk copy those brands in a not so legal manner, in an attempt to gain a part of the legally branded markets. Branding is a legal process and all or most United States “brands” are listed in official documents and books recognizing their legal status.

There are also other “brands” that have significant value, some that are simply exoteric and others that are esoteric. As an example, we as Ancient Free and Accepted Masons (AF&AM) have a “brand,” or commonly stated, “symbols” - symbols that identify us and symbols that are respected by most non-masons world-wide.

Just like the brands used by the ranches, their brands state an on-going, standard that can be stated, acknowledged and assured. Their brands are recognized and trusted with little exception.

We as Texas Masons, having our “brand”; the Square and Compasses, have similar responsibility for our duty and character, maintaining high standards, practicing benevolence, and establishing our priorities for God, Family, Vocation, and our Fraternity. All of which are in the public “eye” just like the brand on livestock or products.

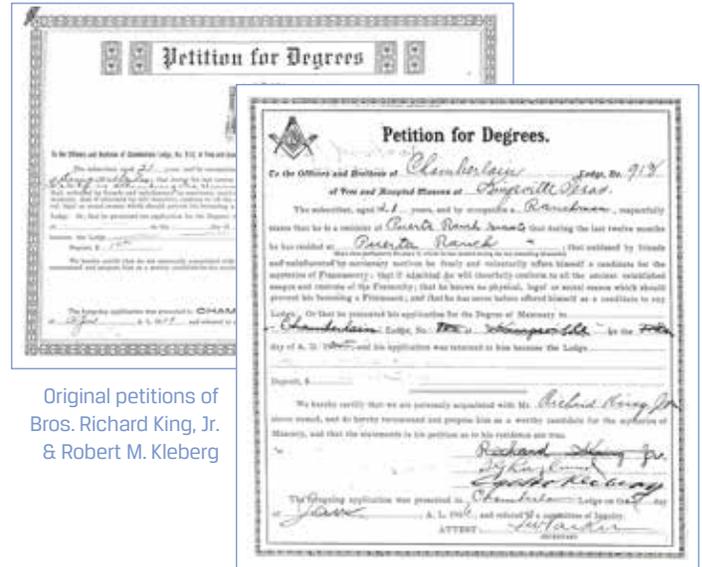
It is important that all of us, Texas Masons, recognize that the public, a majority of the public, see Texas Masons as men of integrity, high character, unblemished morality, and as men involved in our communities, who can be called upon without expectation of any return.

We should have a confidence, with surety and good conscience, that Texas Masons exhibit those attributes and sincerely have a desire to help where and when needed in our communities. We must remain diligent, knowing that our “brand” is there for all to see; our license plates, our jewelry, and our conduct and presence, precede us every day and night, wherever we go.

To be one of “our brand” is a high calling. A calling to do right in all things regardless of the outcome, to be there when needed, to help a brother, to be a part of something larger than ourselves. When we reach out to others and accomplish a kind deed or give a blessing to someone, both they and we will be further blessed beyond our expectation.

Oh, and if you didn’t know, Texas Masons were responsible for a great many of the Texas heritages we enjoy today. Everywhere we look there is a trademark, symbol, brand, and or information that can take us back to those Texas and Texas Masonic beginnings of which we are so proud. Here are a couple of instances that are a part of the great Texas Ranches we spoke about in this article;

Charles B. Farwell (1823-1903) U.S. Senator from Illinois 1887-91. He was born on July 1, 1823 at Painted Post, N.Y. In 1838, then moved to Ogle Co., Ill. and worked at farming and on government surveys until 1844. Then fate found him as a bank teller and later county clerk of Cook County, Illinois. Later he and his Brother formed the firm of John V. Farwell in 1891 and became president of the Law Firm. He and his brother built the Texas state capitol in 1887 and received in turn three million acres of land for it on which they stocked 150,000 head of cattle. Charles Farwell was a member of U.S. Congress. And, of particular



Original petitions of
Bros. Richard King, Jr.
& Robert M. Kleberg

interest in the book; “10,000 Freemasons,” he was identified in “Who Was Who as a Mason,” but Grand Lodge records of Illinois do not show his membership. Charles B. Farwell died in 1903. He and his Brother with the help of the State of Texas, founded the great XIT Ranch in the panhandle of Texas.

You will probably also be interested to note, the Great King Ranch also had two very noteworthy Masons, Brother Robert M. Kleberg, who was instrumental in the growth and leadership of the King Ranches. Brother Kleberg was Master Mason in the Kingsville, Texas, Chamberlain Masonic Lodge, No. 913 Brother Kleberg’s original Petition for the Degrees in Masonry, dated January 5, 1906 along with an additional Petition for the Degrees in the Kingsville, Texas, Chamberlain Masonic Lodge No. 913 for Richard King Jr., founder of the Puerta Ranch, one of the several ranches that are now part of the King Ranch empire ...

Other states also have their heroes and that includes Masonic “firsts” as well. The Great State of Montana has a “first” when we talk about brands, cattle brands. The first registered cattle brand in Montana was the Square and Compasses.

It seems that if we look behind every pine tree in East Texas, every oak tree in the Hill Country, Palmetto plant, on the Gulf Coast of Texas, the prickly pear cactus throughout north and central Texas, and the creosote plant in West and South West Texas, you will find a Texas Mason who has made a significant investment in Texas or has contributed to our great Texas Legacy. We as Texas Masons are proud of our heritage and we are proud to be Texas Masons. ★

All of the ranches listed have visitor centers and solicit the public for tours, hunting, fishing, and trail rides, etc. Any of these would be a great place to visit and while you are there you might also find a local Lodge where the Brothers can share firsthand their Lodge’s part in the history and greatness of Texas.

Gotta stop writing and riding, got saddle sores and dust in my throat ... Do something for someone today and again tomorrow ... It’s great to be a Texas Mason, see you again soon ...



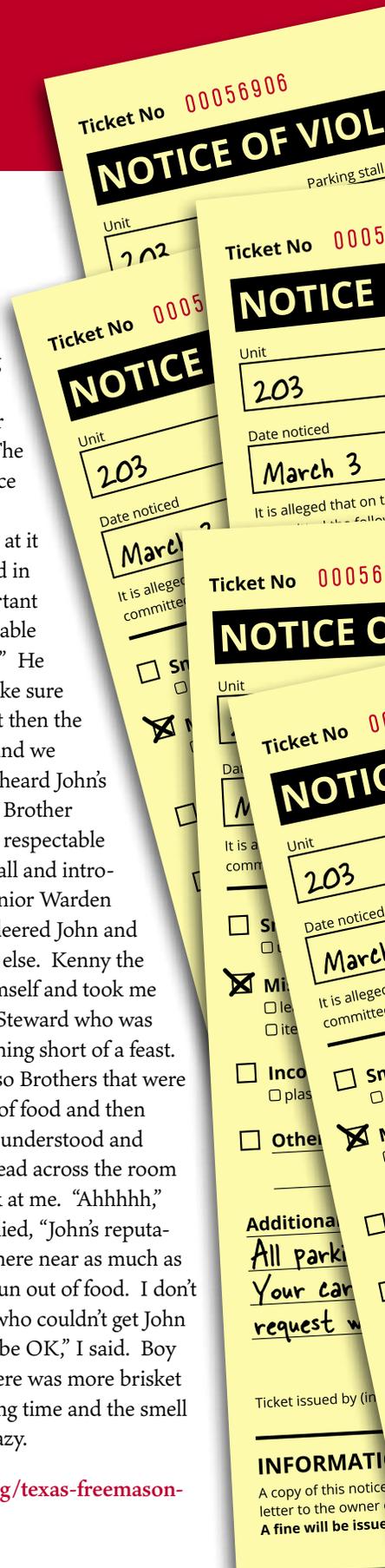
Grandfather's Lodge and the Lesson of the Arrows

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

I called John to make sure he was not going to come the week I was going to be on vacation. He wanted to know where we were going and what we were doing. I told him we were taking a road trip through East Texas, Mississippi, Tennessee, Kentucky, Missouri, back through Oklahoma and down through north Texas. Our final stop would be to visit the Lodge that my Grandfather was Master of in 1942 to see his picture on the wall of the Lodge and then come back home. He realized that the Lodge I was going to visit was about fifty miles from his Lodge and immediately wanted to come and visit the same night I was there. I told him that would be great and said I would meet him there. I had been communicating back and forth for about a year with Brother Donnie, the Secretary of the Lodge so I called and made sure it was OK if John came with me to visit. Donnie said he'd been reading the newsletters for the last year and if they could put together enough money to buy food for the night they would love to have both of us. Before I could respond he laughed and said, "I'm just kidding. Y'all just come on" and I thanked him and told him that we would be there. I had touched base with John about what time I would be at the Lodge and he said he would be there at the same time. When I got there I realized that the Lodge was on a one way street and I was on the wrong end so I went down another block and came back. I noticed there were only a few parking spaces in the front on the street so I parked in the back and walked around to the front door to wait for John. I didn't have to wait long. I heard a horn honk, actually there was a lot of honking, and I looked up the street to see John going the wrong way on the one way street. People were swerving all over the place trying to avoid him, yelling and waving their hands. I noticed that a few were only waving one finger. Now, John was only going about 10 MPH and no one was in danger of getting hurt but they were all pretty upset with him. He saw me standing on the sidewalk and made a big U-turn and pulled that big F-350 up in front of the Lodge and climbed out. People were still yelling at him and he was flinching as if he was dodging rocks. As he came up to me I saw the panic look on his face and he said, "Brother Chris, is it just me or are the people in this here town awfully unfriendly? I was shaking my head with disbelief, "John, you were going the wrong way.... didn't you see the arrows?" "Arrows, heck Brother Chris, I didn't even see the Indians," he exclaimed as he walked right past me into the Lodge and left me standing there alone on the sidewalk. It was probably good that he did because it took me several seconds to shake the cobwebs of confusion out of my brain. Luckily for me I had long ago resigned myself to the fact that when dealing with John there were going to

be things that were impossible to attach logic to.....and this was one of them. I turned and followed him through the front door and there was Donnie waiting for us in front of his office. "Y'all get in here," he said as he shook our hands and gave us big bear hugs. The first thing I noticed in Donnie's office was the century old walk in safe on the South wall. He saw me looking at it and said, "Our Lodge was chartered in 1885 so we have some pretty important stuff in there that, while not so valuable to Non-Masons, is invaluable to us." He took a look at our dues cards to make sure we were who we said we were. Just then the Worshipful Master, Bill walked in and we were introduced to him. When he heard John's name suddenly I became invisible. Brother Bill led John with me following at a respectable distance behind to the fellowship hall and introduced us to Don and Randy the Senior Warden and Junior Warden, who commandeered John and took him around to meet everyone else. Kenny the Tiler came over and introduced himself and took me into the kitchen to meet David the Steward who was preparing what appeared to be nothing short of a feast. I looked around at the eighteen or so Brothers that were there and then back at the amount of food and then to David with a quizzical look. He understood and without saying a word angled his head across the room towards John and then looked back at me. "Ahhhhh," I said. "I understand." And he replied, "John's reputation precedes him. If he eats anywhere near as much as you say he does, then I still might run out of food. I don't want to go down in history as guy who couldn't get John Deacon fed." "Oh, I think you will be OK," I said. Boy they sure had a spread laid out. There was more brisket than I had seen in one place in a long time and the smell was driving my appetite and me crazy.

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





Grand Lodge Committee on Membership

By Jerome Weilmuenster, Staff Writer

According to Article 126e of Grand Lodge Law, the “Committee on Membership...shall be responsible...for implementing and coordinating membership activities” such as maintaining membership, promoting membership growth, and assisting Lodges in membership matters.

The new Committee Chairman, Brother Scott Hill, plans to put an emphasis on maintaining membership through maintenance of membership rolls. Grand Lodge rolls indicate we have over two hundred Brothers on the rolls that are over one hundred years old. Needless to say, current phone numbers and other contact information is missing for many of these Brothers.

The lack of contact information for members is compounded by the fact that much of what is recorded is inaccurate. This is especially true where the listed phone number or e-mail address is for a member who has been gone for some time. How can a prospective member find out more about Masonry (and your Lodge in particular) if no valid contact information is available?

The primary effort on promoting membership growth has been handling leads coming through the Grand Lodge website. If you have been a Mason for a few years, you might not know this function is available.

When an inquiry comes in through the Grand Lodge website, it generates an auto-reply. This inquiry is then forwarded to the Secretary of the Lodge(s) closest to the inquirer. With approximately seven hundred inquiries a year coming in, the responses would average about one per Lodge per year. Of course, Lodges in less-populated areas will not see even one a year. But if your Lodge has a website, there is a solution.

There is an application called HubSpot that can be installed on a Lodge’s website. It will operate the same as the application on the Grand Lodge website. And the best news is that it is free. If you are interested in the HubSpot application, someone on the Committee on Membership should be able to help you get it set up and running.

One Lodge that is using an application similar to HubSpot has set up a formal procedure for follow up. One person contacts the inquirer and invites him out for coffee. Two Lodge members will meet with the inquirer for a conversation to determine interest and intent. With a positive result from this meeting, the inquirer is invited to visit the Lodge.



If your Lodge would like to increase its membership, you should consider establishing a website with valid contact information. You might also want to consider a presence on Facebook. If you need help, your DDGM or the Membership Committee can certainly point you in the right direction.

There will be no knock on the door unless a potential candidate has enough information to generate his interest and find your Lodge.

For more information on the Committee on Membership initiatives, please contact Brother Scott Hill:

Scott G. Hill
Grand Lodge of Texas Membership Committee
SGHill05@gmail.com
979-220-3196

For more information on the HubSpot app, go to:
<https://www.hubspot.com/>

TRANQUILITY LODGE NO. 2000

Space Center Houston

Luncheon & Stated Meeting



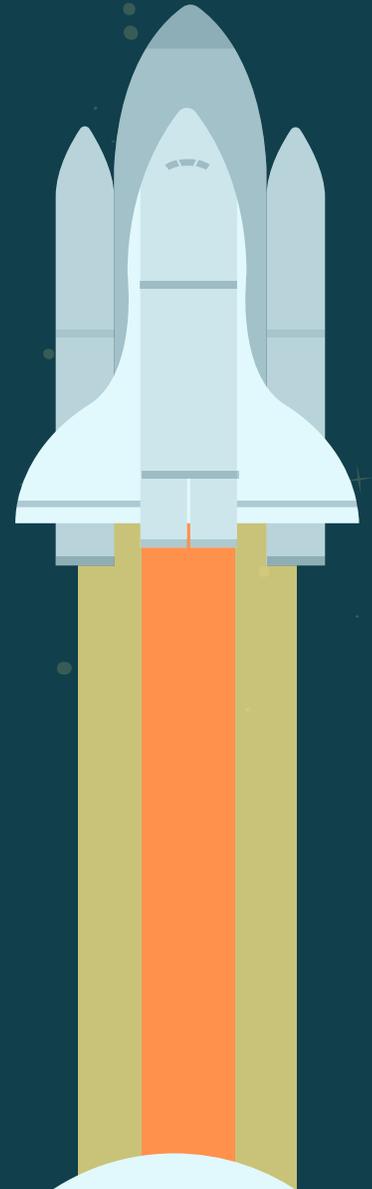
April 22, 2023

12 PM to 3 PM

Space Center Houston

Lunch with the Grand Master, meeting presentation by Space Center Houston and access to tour Space Center Houston with family and friends!

Entry to the event is \$50 per person. Scan the barcode to RSVP or go to <https://tranquility2000.rsvpify.com>



Brother Bussemey's Corvair

By jim hoffpaur, Staff Writer

This month we are going to make a little bit longer journey. Instead of across the state we are going to follow Brother Emile Bussemey literally from coast to coast of these United States in his 1961 black Chevrolet Corvair Monza. We start out in Oakville, Connecticut in 1961 and end our travels at Houston's Jimmie Green Chevrolet in 1965. Buckle up!

Most Freemasons in the Houston area and many across the state of Texas know Emile Bussemey as a rather quiet, unassuming, nice gentleman who is well versed in esoteric Masonry. He has served District 30A as District Instructor for the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas since 2005. He petitioned Holland Lodge 1 in 1969 and received his Master's degree on April 29, 1970. He is a 33° Inspector General Honorary member of the Valley of Houston Scottish Rite, Red Cross of Constantine York Rite member, Knight Mason and Allied Masonic Degree member of the Houston area.

Emile grew up in Oakville, a neighborhood of Watertown, Connecticut in Litchfield County northwest of Hartford. He attended and graduated

went on display. Most of the excitement was generated by the Corvair and new Ford Falcon. The Corvair made history with its Unibody chassis, Z-body platform, rear-mounted air-cooled, flat-six engine and its 20-25 mpg. Losing out early to the more conservative Falcon on the buyers' market, the Corvair became Motor Trend's 1960 Car of the Year. Later, in 1962, it was dubbed the "poor man's Porsche" with the world's first gasoline-powered, turbocharged production model.

Emile was surprised by his birthday and pending graduation gift of 1961 when his father presented him with the new black Corvair purchased from a friend at the local Chevy dealership. WOW! Hoping for an Impala sport coupe, Emile immediately knew "the Corvair was a means of someday getting that Impala."

Though a very thoughtful gift, papa purchased the vehicle as a practical option for Emile's summer internship between his junior and senior years at Lehigh. His position was with Dallas GSI Geophysical Service Inc, a division of Texas Instruments at the time. His assignment with GSI took



from Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania in the spring of 1962 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mining Engineering. From there, in the fall of 1962, he left the east coast for five trimesters in search of a Master's degree from Stanford University in Palo Alto, California. After completing all his class and laboratory credits there, before writing a thesis, he returned to Oakville to take his physical exam for military service. This being shortly before the Viet Nam callup, he was denied entry into the military due to poor eyesight. From there, through the placement program at Lehigh, Brother Bussemey found work in Houston in 1964. He left his full-time position at Amoco in 1977 and finally retired as a consultant from the oil industry in 2010.

Back to that Corvair. Us 'been-around-and-about' old-timers remember that fall of 1960 when all the local showrooms in every town across the country filled with local town's people and the new automobile editions

him to Metairie, Louisiana near New Orleans.

TRIP ONE: Oakville across the Pennsylvania Turnpike to Chicago, St Louis, Oklahoma City and down to Dallas (1961). "The Corvair kept throwing the fanbelt," reflects Emile. The first place was in Missouri, then again on the trip to Dallas. "When I received my assignment and headed out it happened again in New Orleans." First trip to a Chevy dealership to "fix" the issue. Emile, ever the pragmatic thinker, purchased a couple of wrenches to make future repairs himself. Good idea? "It happened every four or five hours of drive-time until I got it back to Oakville after the internship was over."

Upon completion of the summer internship and immediately upon arriving in Oakville Bussemey drove to the dealership. Thankfully, the plaguing problem of the Corvair fleet had been solved by then. The fan belt pulley system was modified and "it never happened again."

Upon graduation at Lehigh, acceptance at Stanford meant an immediate trip to Palo Alto was in the works. “I decided to add seatbelts. That and the fan belt repairs were the first major things I did to the vehicle,” Emile reflects.

TRIP TWO: Oakville, Penn Turnpike to Chicago, Route 66 - St. Louis, MO - Kansas City, MO - Tulsa, OK - Albuquerque, NM - Las Vegas, NV, side trip north to Salt Lake City, UT, Pikes Peak, CO, Lincoln HWY - Donner Pass, CA - Sacramento - San Francisco, US 101 - Palo Alto: 50 - 55 mph all the way. “I still have the bumper sticker from that first trip to Pike’s Peak,” smiles Emile, who reached campus a week early and had to find a place in town to wait for school to open. Does it really pay to start a trip early?

TRIP THREE: Palo Alto - California Central Valley - Crater Lake, OR - Spokane, WA - Custer National Park, SD - Mount Rushmore, SD - Scotts Bluff, NE - Pikes Peak, CO - Santa Fe, NM - Yuma, AZ - Mexicali, Mexico - Palo Alto via US 101. After all, what does one do with

The Corvair made history with its Unibody chassis, Z-body platform, rear-mounted air-cooled, flat-six engine and its 20-25 mpg.

time off between trimesters at Stanford? “I had nothing to do and wanted to see more of the West.”

One of Emile’s geology field courses sent him south to a field camp in Ojai, CA 327.6 miles from Palo Alto and later to Bridgeport, CA 305.9 miles east of the Stanford campus.

TRIP FOUR: Palo Alto west to the Pacific Coast Highway at Half Moon Bay, south through Monterey to Ojai. Four weeks in Ojai then back on the road to Bridgeport on the Nevada border just south of Carson City and Reno. “During the stay in Bridgeport I had to go to Carson City and then Reno for tooth repair. That wasn’t pleasant,” remembers Bussemey.

Finally, everything completed but that infernal thesis, Emile headed home to Connecticut. But things were somewhat more complicated. During his time at Stanford, he had collected “baggage.” A U-Haul trailer filled with record player, record, books, assorted other items, and 2-300

pounds of rock and pebble samples collected on his collegiate journeys and side trips was delicately mounted to the lower frame of the Corvair. That’s right - the one that broke down every four or five hours before the fan belt issue was solved.

November 22, 1963 was the faithful day. Too, it was the day President John F Kennedy was assassinated as he rode in a motorcade through Dealey Plaza in Dallas. Emile unhooked the U-Haul and headed into San Francisco to spend the evening with his parents who were in town.

TRIP FIVE: Southern route to avoid steep mountain passes from Palo Alto across California - Tucson, AZ - Las Cruces, NM - Pecos - Dallas (stop at Deale Plaza) - Jackson, MS - Birmingham, - Atlanta, GA - Petersburg, VA (stop at Civil War Battleground) - New Jersey Turnpike north - Washington, DC - across George Washington Bridge in NYC, NY - local routes to Oakville. Eight-day trip, two-day layover in Pecos, 12-14 hour straight shot from Petersburg to Oakville. Why layover in Pecos? Frequent stalls and difficult starts ended up being a \$160 valve job. “I found a hotel a block from the dealership and a theater another block beyond. Watched Gidget Goes to Rome for 25 cents. Next evening, they started a new movie. I was lucky, there was only one movie theater in town,” muses Emile.

Shortly after returning to Oakville Emile took his first job with Pan Am Petroleum located in Tulsa. He was offered three choices of location: Tyler, Corpus Christi, or Houston. Pan Am, a subsidiary of Standard Oil of Indiana, later became Amoco who was bought up by British Petroleum.

FINAL TRIP SIX: Oakville - Shenandoah Valley, VA - Luary Caverns, VA - Lookout Mountain, Chattanooga, TN - Birmingham - Houston. Four or five-day trip, one night in hotel and four at park campsites. “I wanted to see the sights. Plus, I could keep rhythm to the old saying, ‘See the USA in Your Chevrolet,’ chimed Emile without missing a beat.

Hope came to fruition that year of 1965 when Emile sold his Corvair to a friend for \$500. It had 100k miles on the odometer and many memories on that worn steering wheel. “That’s the day I went to S Shepherd here in Houston to purchase that 1965 Impala Super Sport SS with a 365 hp engine. It was light blue and well worth the wait,” beamed Emile in fond memory. (Jimmie Green Chevrolet closed in the 1980s).

Photos courtesy of:

1962 Corvair Monza

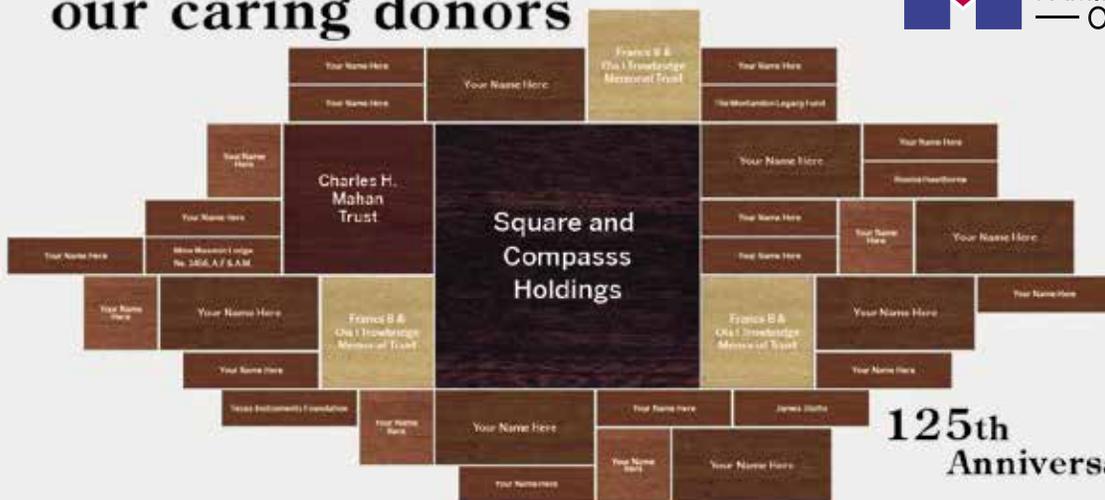
REF: Corvair Preservation Foundation - all photos

Currently owned by Jeannette Alberte and husband Ray Morales. Jeannette is Director of CORSA - Corvair Society of America

125th Anniversary

Help us celebrate this historic milestone of caring for Texas children by purchasing a plaque on our new Donor Appreciation Wall.

**Thank you to all
our caring donors**



**125th
Anniversary**

The historic Masonic Home and School of Texas was established in 1899 as a shelter and school for orphaned children and Masonic widows. Today, the organization has evolved to meet the needs of children and Masonic widows across the state - as Masonic Children & Family Services of Texas. We provide funding and other services to meet the needs of underserved children, families, and widows on a larger scale.

DONOR LEVELS: \$500-\$25,000

- \$500 - \$2,499 - small wood
- \$2500 - \$4,999 - medium wood
- \$5000 - \$9,999 - large wood
- \$10,000-\$24,999 - XL wood
- \$25,000 - Centerpiece



CONTACT US TODAY!



From the Desk of: G. Clay Smith Grand Master Grand Lodge of Texas

Per the 1900 Corporate Charter, the Grand Lodge of Texas was formed for charitable and benevolent purposes, and to cement bonds of good fellowship and brotherly love among its members and adherents, and to practice the art of Ancient Free and Accepted Masonry as has been done from time immemorial. In my opinion, one of the greatest virtues of Masonry is charity. And what better way to extend our charitable nature than by investing into our leaders of tomorrow?

I am asking the Masons of Texas to join me as benefactors to our young adults in their quest of seeking a higher education. For my Blue Envelope Charity Appeal this year, I have selected the Texas Masonic Charities Foundation (TMCF) Scholarship Fund.

Since its inception, the TMCF has provided more than \$18,000,000 to 20,000 Texas High School students in matching funds. Just last year, 79% of our Lodges participated in the scholarship matching program. That is 600 Lodges! Consider the economic impact to Texas that our Fraternity is making.

Join me in continuing the 186-yr old tradition of Texas Masons supporting public education. This will provide a brighter tomorrow for our future leaders, and in consequence, a greater and more educated society of Texans. Our public presentations of the scholarships will positively affect parents, siblings, teachers, and administrators. The intentional result will be a positive reflection for Texas Masonry.

Sincerely & Fraternaly,

G. Clay Smith
Grand Master

Texas Masonic Charities
Foundation
PO Box 2156
Waco, TX 76703
<https://txmcf.org>

YES! Grand Master, I will step up and be counted among the Brothers of Texas who, along with you, support the Texas Masonic Charities Foundation Scholarship Fund.

Name: _____ ID Number: _____

Phone: _____ Address: _____

City: _____, State: _____ Zip: _____

Email address: _____

I can help by enclosing: \$50 \$100 \$500 Other \$ _____

Make checks payable to: TMCF or Online contributions @ txmcf.org click DONATE

TEXAS FREEMASON

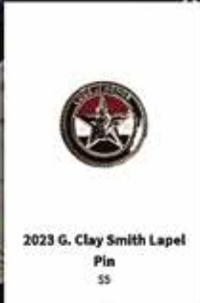
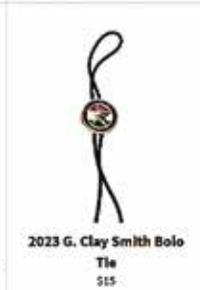
The Grand Lodge of Texas
715 Columbus Ave
Waco, TX 76701



CONSTITUTED
APRIL 1838



2023 MERCHANDISE AVAILABLE NOW!

 <p>GRAND MASTER VIEW ALL</p>	 <p>2023 G. Clay Smith Lapel Pin \$5</p>	 <p>2023 G. Clay Smith Button Hook Tie Chain with Charm \$15</p>	 <p>2023 G. Clay Smith Spur Tie Chain \$40</p>	 <p>2023 Past Master Jewel With 29" Chain SOLD OUT</p>
 <p>2023 G. Clay Smith Challenge Coins From \$5</p>	 <p>2023 G. Clay Smith Belt Buckle From \$25</p>	 <p>2023 G. Clay Smith Commemorative Knife Box From \$60</p>	 <p>2023 G. Clay Smith Bolo Tie \$15</p>	 <p>2023 G. Clay Smith Decal \$1</p>

2023 Grand Master G. Clay Smith Items Now Available

Grand Lodge of Texas Online Store

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