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SPECIAL COMMUNICATION REGARDING ARTICLE 264 FROM THE GRAND MASTER

I would like to remind the brethren that the word “shall” imposes a duty under the law. Furthermore, Art. 264 of the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas provides that the officers of the Lodge “shall be” as follows:

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|---------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| * - Worshipful Master (Elected) | * - Secretary (Elected) | * - Senior Steward |
| * - Senior Warden (Elected) | * - Chaplain | * - Junior Steward |
| * - Junior Warden (Elected) | * - Senior Deacon | * - Tiler |
| * - Treasurer (Elected) | * - Junior Deacon | |

The Marshal, Master of Ceremonies, and Musician are optional officers of the Lodge and should be included in your Lodges By-laws if your Lodge utilizes them.

If your Lodge did not appoint any of the usually appointed officers for the 2024-2025 Masonic year (Chaplain, Senior Deacon, Junior Deacon, Senior Steward, Junior Steward, and/or Tiler) you are requested to make such appointments and install those officers prior to midnight July 31st.

The Worshipful Master, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Treasurer, and Secretary are elected officers, but some Lodges do include other usually appointed officers as elected officers (i.e. Chaplain or Tiler). Any additional elected officers would be reflected in the By-laws of your Lodge.

Art. 264. Officers Listed.

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

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

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

Form 23 Art. III

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

Form 23 Art. IV, Section 1

Section 1. The Worshipful Master, Wardens, Treasurer, Secretary and _____, _____, _____, shall be elected. All other officers shall be appointed. (Note: Appointments by Worshipful Master.)

The aim of this communication is to educate the Brethren of Texas, as several Lodges were apparently unaware of the required officers. We are all governed by the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas and should uphold them as they come to our attention.

Fraternally,

Tommy F. Chapman
Grand Master of Masons in Texas

