



T E X A S

FREEMASON



**The Confederate
Texans' Submarine**
Page 6

**Officer
Leadership Training**
Page 8

**Order of the
Easter Star**
Page 16

A Word from the Grand Master

Page 3





★ **On the Texas Masonic Road**
A delightful journey to three historical lodges.
PAGE 10

GRAND LODGE

- 3 A Word from the Grand Master
- 4 A Word from the Grand Secretary
- 5 e-Commerce Merchandise Sales
- 6 The Confederate Texans' Submarine
- 16 Order of the Eastern Star
- 21 Texas Masonic Charities Foundation
- 22 Masonic Children and Family Services

FEATURE

- 10 On the Texas Masonic Road

EDUCATION AND COMMITMENT

- 8 Officer Leadership Training
- 18 Texas MasoniCon
- 20 Texas Lodge of Research

IN EVERY ISSUE

- 13 The Profound Pontifications of Brother John Deacon
- 14 A Look Back
- 15 Grand Lodge Committee Profile
- 23 Merchandise Order Form

ON THE COVER

Morton Lodge in Richmond, TX

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

Contributing Writers

Jeremy Hogan, William Crow, Jerome Weilmuenster, James "Chris" Williams, Jim Hoffpauir, Rhit Moore, Charles E. Maddox and Don Comedy

Image Credits

Doug Fitzjarell, Melissa Clendenin Ramos, Konnie Harrell, Tina O'Shields, Charles Broussard, Jeff Haven

Editors

Ken Curry, Deputy Grand Master. Assisted by the Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Education and Service

Associate Editors

Bruce Hammond and Larry FitzPatrick

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, P.O. 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-mason-magazine-archives/>

A WORD FROM THE Grand Master



My Dear Brethren, it is my hope that each and every one of you are safe and healthy as we look forward to the end of this historic pandemic. I miss being with you in your lodges so very much. Our Governor is taking steps in Texas to provide for a phased in approach to opening our economy, and our lives returning to some version of normalcy. God Bless everyone as we continue this journey.

Your Grand Lodge Trustees continue to meet virtually to deal with the business of Grand Lodge. As the Governor provides state guidance and direction in the coming days and weeks, the Trustees will adjust the guidance and direction of Texas Masonry to conform to his decisions. We all want to resume our lodge meetings and fellowship activities as soon as we can safely do so.

At this point, all Grand Lodge events scheduled before the pandemic and since have been canceled and in some cases rescheduled for a future date. We were unable to complete the Grand Master Conferences in Corpus Christi, Waco, Austin, Abilene and Fort Worth. We are working on a video to provide a virtual version of these conferences so everyone else can see some of what was presented in the actual conferences. The Grand Masters Homecoming Banquet

will be rescheduled for August-September time frame.

Nominations and elections of lodge officers are still scheduled for the last stated meeting prior to June 23rd. Your Trustees will provide any additional direction that may be needed.

It continues to be a sign of the goodness of our Fraternity to see and hear of the acts of kindness and charity Texas Masons and Lodges continue to do, especially during this pandemic and the needs of others come to our attention. God Bless all of you for what you do to assist our fellow man.

Online merchandise sales should be a reality near the time of this magazine release. Craig Enderli and Justin Duty have worked tirelessly with others to bring this long-awaited idea to reality.

Our Grand Senior Warden, Brad Billings is spearheading another application that will provide for online purchase of the law book and monitor. That should be in production in the coming weeks.

Earlier in February at the Conference of Grand Masters of North America in Louisville, Kentucky a web-based program was announced in partnership with the Northern and Southern Jurisdictions of Scottish Rite along with Shriners International. It is an excellent example of all levels of Masonry working together to help each other. That program is called WWW.BEAFREEMASON.ORG. It is a wonderful nationwide website to answer questions to those interested in Freemasonry and provide a path for further light toward membership if desired. I strongly encourage all Texas Masons become familiar with it and have it available to share with anyone interested in Freemasonry.

Over the next six months we will get back to our lives, economy, and our Fraternity, within the parameters allowed by our government. I know all of us eagerly await those opportunities to regain our lives and fellowship. Whatever these coming months allow, I know Texas Masonry will be ready to address the challenges of today and tomorrow, and our beloved Fraternity will be stronger and more resilient because of it.

God Bless all of you and I look forward to being with you soon. Stay safe.

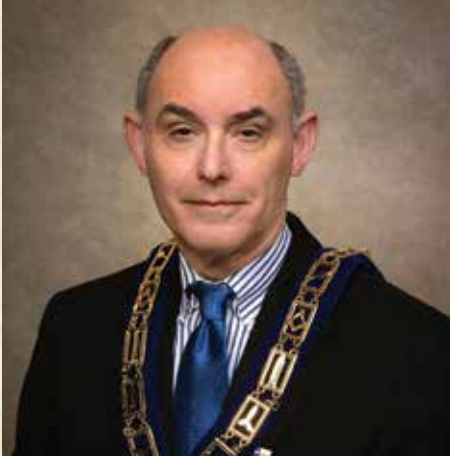
Sincerely and Fraternally,

Paul D. Underwood
Grand Master



GRAND LODGE

A WORD FROM THE Grand Secretary



W O W, I sure didn't see this one coming! Who would have thought this Masonic year would go the way this one has? The COVID - 19 virus and the resulting shutdown of Texas lodges has been unprecedented in the experience of any Mason living today. The 1918 Spanish Flu pandemic is about the only historical point of reference we have, and things are certainly a lot different now than they were then, or are they?

From a philosophical perspective, not that much has changed. We are still going about the important work of Masonry in much the same way, and always for the same reasons. The character of our fraternity remains unchanged from the terrible days of the Spanish Flu. Just as we faced the challenges of the last century with all of its plagues, wars and social upheaval, we are facing the challenges of this one. Freemasonry remains unchanged in its desire and ability to build better men and a better world through our gentle Craft.

During these challenging times the business of the Grand Lodge of Texas has continued without interruption. The dedication of the employees who serve the Masons of Texas has been remarkable. With the benefit of technology, they have worked from their homes without pause or interruption. Each of them deserves your

gratitude and expressions of appreciation for continuing to keep the vital heartbeat of Texas Masonry going during what for many must have seemed to be an impossible time.

The trustees of the Grand Lodge of Texas and the directors of the Masonic Grand Lodge Library and Museum of Texas have been meeting remotely every week, and often several times during a week. These meetings deal with complex and challenging topics and have no other purpose than to guide the Grand Lodge as it faces the issues and challenges that are confronting it.

The Grand Master's proclamation has given all of us the first cautious optimism on reopening our lodges and setting the Craft to labor. The process of reopening Texas lodges, much like the governor's plan for reopening Texas, will take place in phases. It will take time, patience, and perseverance to overcome the inertia of inactivity and gain the momentum which is characterized Texas Masonry since its inception.

Please note that the latest requirements for the Vanguard Award are now available in the Grand Lodge portal. The time for completing the requirements for Vanguard recognition are likely to be extended to allow Texas lodges the opportunity to make up for lost time.

The Grand Lodge law book has been updated so that the numerous typos and errors which have persisted through several editions are now largely eliminated. The updated version will be printed in the next couple of weeks and print and CD versions will be available.

Despite it all, like you , I remain committed to the future of our fraternity and to doing the work that it calls upon us to do namely, being the best versions of ourselves.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,
Allan R. Lazor, Grand Secretary



Grand Lodge of Texas e-Commerce Merchandise Sales

By Jerome Weilmuenster



For as long as memory serves, this magazine has offered unique Masonic gifts ranging from t-shirts to cuff links, including items for our OES sisters. In addition to offering items that can only be found through the Grand Lodge of Texas, this merchandise has provided an annual income stream of \$250,000 to \$300,000 to the Grand Lodge of Texas.

Beginning June 1, 2020 M.:W.: Paul Underwood's Grand Lodge merchandise will be available for purchase online at the Grand Lodge of Texas website - <https://grandlodgeoftexas.org/shop/>

GLOT merchandise will still be offered for purchase at the Grand Annual Communication, Grand Master Conferences and other Masonic events. E-Commerce is expected to substantially increase GLOT sales. M.:W.: Paul Underwood initiated the concept of GLOT E-Commerce when he served as Grand Junior Warden and has shepherded the process to fruition.

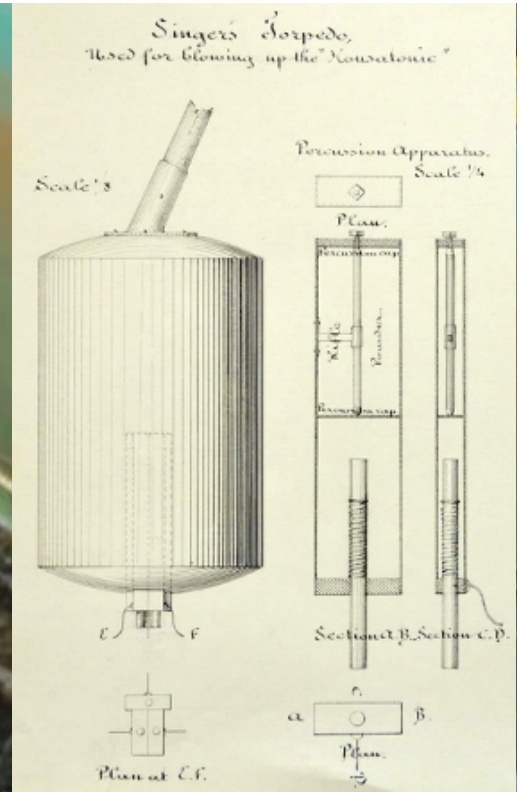
Items for sale will initially include the 2020 Grand Master merchandise. Eventually past Grand Master merchandise will be offered.

The Grand Lodge Merchandise Committee, chaired for over ten years by Brother Don Keasler, devotes many hours to the direct and in-person sale of merchandise. They travel countless miles and spend many nights on the road, most often at their own expense, to sell the merchandise that helps fund the activities of your Grand Lodge. Brother Keasler humbly points out that deceased Brother William J. Hale and Brother Thomas Leon McJunkins of Mike H. Thomas Lodge No. 1314, who previously co-chaired the Merchandise Committee, led the way in establishing sales of GLOT merchandise and that the current committee is following in their footsteps.

Brothers Justin Duty, Craig Enderli, and Don Keasler are implementing M.:W.: Paul Underwood's E-Commerce vision of making the merchandise available to all Texas Masons. Brother Doug Fitzjarell photographed the merchandise; Brother Enderli organized the pictures and generated the web page for presentation of the merchandise and ordering. Brother Duty has established the fulfillment process.

The Confederate Texans' Submarine – *HL HUNLEY*

Contributed by the Grand Lodge of Texas Committee on History



Moonlight reflected off the still waters of Charleston Harbor as the Confederate submarine *HL Hunley* made its way toward the *USS Housatonic* and into the pages of naval history. On 17 Feb 1864, the *Hunley* would become the first submarine to sink another ship. A project that was started by a group of Masons from La Vaca, Texas (now Port Lavaca) had ushered in the era of submarine warfare.

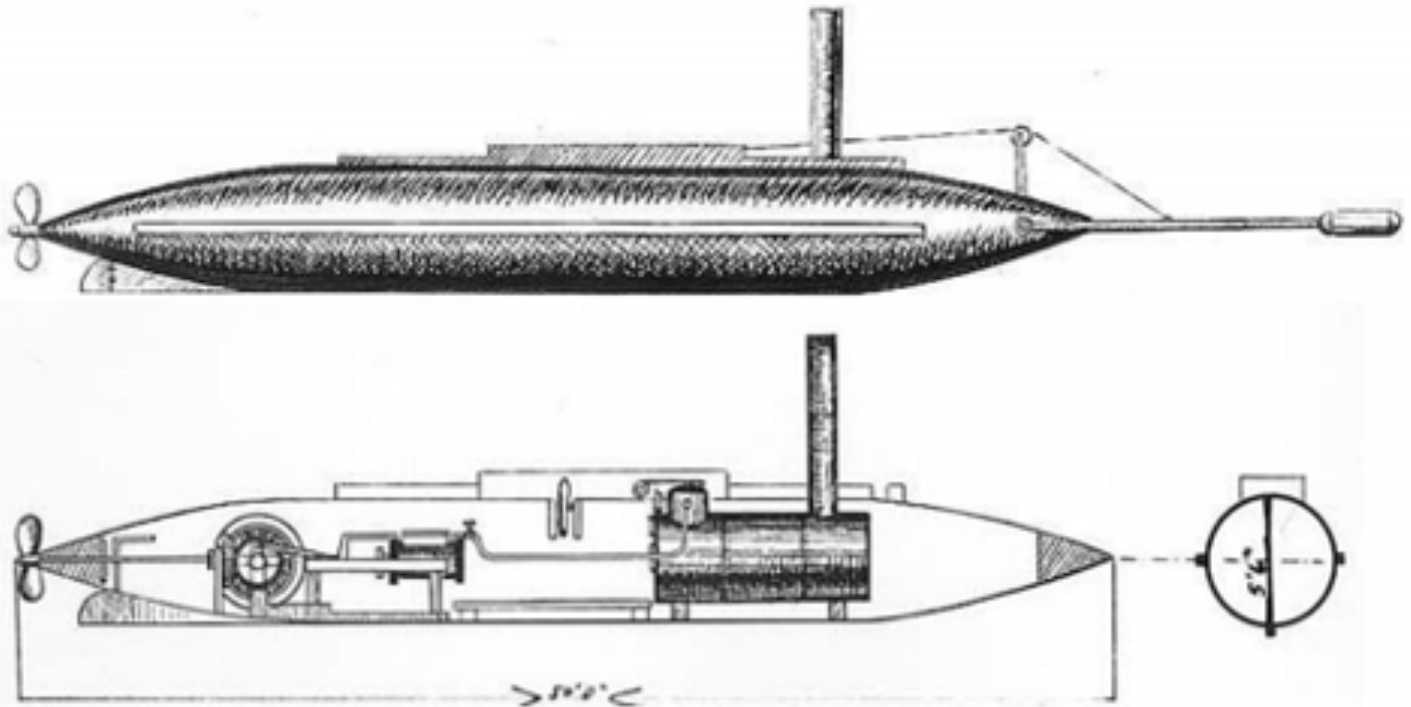
This project began in 1862 with Brother Edgar Singer, nephew of the inventor of the Singer sewing machine. Brother Singer had joined Lavaca Lodge No. 36 after arriving there in 1840, and in the early years of the Civil War, Brother Singer joined the CSA as a private in the artillery. After experiencing a shelling of La Vaca by Union warships, Brother Singer decided to seek retribution.

Having success blowing up barrels in his backyard, Brother Singer moved to the nearby bay and began experimenting with torpedo ideas that essentially consisted of long rods with an explosive bulb attached to the end. (It should be pointed out that in the late 1800's the word "torpedo" was a term used for any underwater explosive device.) This bulb could be triggered using a line from the boat deploying the device. Brother Singer

needed manpower for his work, so he asked the lodge leader, Brother John Fretwell, to help out. He did.

And so, it was that a Past Grand Master of Texas, John Fretwell, co-invented the "spar torpedo" as well as other innovations for history's first successful wartime submarine. It was primarily funded and tested by the brothers of Lavaca Lodge No. 36. The brethren of Lavaca Lodge banded together and developed an early torpedo, incredible submarines, underwater mines, and massive ships armed with torpedoes.

After demonstrating the potential destructive power of their devices, Brother Singer was ordered to form a military organization to do further research and development. La Vaca Lodge supplied the men who would form the core of the "Singer Secret Service Corps" also known as the Submarine Corps: Brothers James Jones; William Longnecker, John D. Braman, Robert W. Dunn; C.E. Frary, (Singer's brother-in-law), David Bradbury (who was later commander of Singer's torpedo facility at La Vaca and then of all torpedo operations west of the Mississippi), and "Gus" Whitney.



Later this group would team up with three Masons from New Orleans who had already been working on their own submarine inventions: Brothers James McClintock, Baxter Watson, and Horace L. Hunley. This New Orleans group had already built and lost two submarines.

Together, using their own personal funds, they began building entire submarine vessels for use by the Confederate Navy, and one of them was the *HL Hunley*. Unfortunately for the crew of the *Hunley* the large amount of black powder used in the torpedo sent a deadly shock wave through the submarine. As far as can be determined, the crew died instantaneously, and the shock wave drove the submarine away from the incident. With no one to operate the bilge pumps, the craft drifted out of the bay, slowly sinking to the ocean floor. The *Hunley* was lost for over 100 years, but in 2000 she was raised and is now on display in Charleston, South Carolina (<https://www.hunley.org/>).

The explosive devices built by the Singer Secret Service Corps were also used successfully to sink various other ships such as the *USS Dekalb* and the *USS Tecumseh*. The brothers from Lavaca Lodge, still known as the Singer Submarine Corps, found their underwater exploding device worked just as well as a stationary mine.

The Singer Secret Service Corps returned to the Lavaca area where they set about building enormous ironclad ships for the

Confederate Navy. But before the ships were finished, the war ended. The entire group of Lavaca brothers soon walked into a Union office and surrendered. Their days as wartime inventors were over.

The fact that Masonic brothers of Lavaca Lodge held patents for the submarine and its torpedoes, and that the members of the Lodge took such an active role in support of their efforts, makes this one of the most fascinating stories in early Texas Masonic history.

Interesting Side Note

In 2017, Lavaca Lodge donated gold officer jewels to the Grand Lodge of Texas Library and Museum. These jewels were made for Brother Fetwell by Singer Secret Service member Brother James Jones, who was a jeweler by trade, just before they all started working on submarines and torpedoes.

EDUCATION AND COMMITMENT



OFFICER LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Summer 2020

It takes less than 10 minutes for a visitor to your Lodge to see that your officers have attended an Officer Leadership Training Program. Participants in our Grand Lodge Officer Leadership Training, lead their Lodges with greater confidence, efficiency, and effectiveness.

(Graduating this program satisfies the requirement to complete a Grand Lodge approved course in Lodge Administration as outlined in Art., 276a No. 2)

2020 Dates and Locations

July 31–August 2	Houston
August 7–9	Dallas
August 21–23	Waco
September 18–20	Corpus
September 25–27	Lubbock

The 2020 OLT Registration Form is available to Lodge Secretaries through the Grand Lodge Website.

Ladies Program

The Ladies Program will begin on Friday evening with a short introduction to the program, and an opportunity to meet and visit with each other.

Saturday Morning, 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

The Structure of Freemasonry
Masonic Philosophy
Inside the Lodge Room

Sunday Morning, 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Masonic Philanthropy
Masonic Funeral Planning Guide
Q&A with Grand Lodge Trustees

The Ladies are encouraged to attend all meals, breakfast, lunch, and sit-down dinner on Saturday, as well as breakfast, the Devotional, and Graduation on Sunday morning.

Attention!

The dress is business casual for all sessions. However, there will be an opportunity for pictures with the Grand Master during graduation.

We offer two sessions open to all Master Masons.

Officer Leadership 101

Mentoring, Planning, Grand Lodge Law, Balloting, Masonic Education

As a result of participating in this program, you will be better prepared to:

- institute an effective mentoring program for candidates and newly-raised Master Masons
- fill your term calendar with impactful events
- interpret Grand Lodge law when necessary to resolve ambiguous situations
- identify and utilize resources to provide meaningful Masonic Education to the members of your Lodge
- execute Masonic Parliamentary Procedure for a Stated or Called Meeting
- follow protocol for presenting and communicating with dignitaries
- mediate conflicts and maintain harmony within your Lodge
- run a balloting procedure on a candidate legally and fairly
- better understand Lodge officer duties and distribute the workload

Officer Leadership 201

The Practice of Freemasonry, Grand Lodge and Lodge Finance, Investigations, Membership, Leadership

As a result of participating in this program, you will be better prepared to:

- re-energize the membership and activities of your Lodge
- assemble an effective annual budget
- ensure that the required financial forms are completed properly
- deal with membership challenges in your Lodge
- produce a successful fund-raising project for your Lodge
- lead, not manage, your Lodge's officer team
- organize your first Officer's meeting and subsequent Stated and Called meetings
- establish measurable goals that make an impact for Lodge administration, membership, finance, and community

The Men's Program will begin on Friday evening at 6:30 p.m. and finish at approximately 10:00 p.m. Saturday will begin with breakfast at 7:30 a.m., followed by the morning session at 8:30 a.m., Lunch at Noon, afternoon session at 1:00 p.m., and conclude with a Q&A session directed to the Grand Lodge Trustees at 5:00 p.m.

A short break, and then a sit-down dinner at 6:00 p.m. will follow, with our R. W. Deputy Grand Master as the keynote speaker.

In addition to the programs listed below, there will be a joint workshop session on Sunday morning after the Devotional, which will be followed by Graduation and a closing message from our Grand Master. The program is scheduled to be completed by 12:00 Noon on Sunday.

Officer Leadership 101: If you have a Laptop PC with Microsoft Office Word and Microsoft Office Excel, please bring it fully charged, along with a current copy of the Grand Lodge Constitution and Laws, a Monitor of the Lodge, your Lodge By-laws, Lodge Rules and Regulations, a Notebook and Pen/Pencil.

Officer Leadership 201: If you have a Laptop PC with Microsoft Office Word and Microsoft Office Excel, please bring it fully charged, along with a current copy of the Grand Lodge Constitution and Laws, a Monitor of the Lodge, a copy of last year's Form 71 and IRS Form 990, 990E, or 990 E-Postcard receipt, a Notebook and Pen/Pencil. Lastly, please meet with your Lodge Secretary and Treasurer to obtain the following information about your Lodge: Membership – Total members, No. of Endowed, Life, 50 year, Income – Annual Dues, Degree fees, Average number of each degree conferred annually, Expenses – Average utilities, rent, etc.

EDUCATION AND COMMITMENT



2020 OFFICER LEADERSHIP TRAINING Registration Form



IMPORTANT – MUST PRINT CLEARLY AND COMPLETE ALL INFORMATION

TODAY'S DATE: _____ DATE RECEIVED AT GRAND LODGE: _____

NAME: _____ ID NO. _____
LAST FIRST MIDDLE G.L. Membership ID NO.

LADY'S NAME: _____ EMAIL: _____
LAST FIRST

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

HOME PHONE: (____) _____ - _____ WORK or CELL PHONE: (____) _____ - _____

LODGE NAME & NO.: _____ DISTRICT NO.: _____

LODGE CITY: _____

Mark your choice City, and either the Officer Leadership Program 101 or 201.
 (Due to space limitations, registration is limited to the first (70) seventy in each men's program at all locations, total of 140)

Houston July 31 - Aug. 2, 2020 **Registration Deadline – Fri., July 10, 2020**
 Officer Leadership 101 OR Officer Leadership 201

Dallas Aug. 7, 8, & 9, 2020 **Registration Deadline – Fri., July 17, 2020**
 Officer Leadership 101 OR Officer Leadership 201

Waco Aug. 21, 22, & 23, 2020 **Registration Deadline – Fri., July 31, 2020**
 Officer Leadership 101 OR Officer Leadership 201

Corpus Christi..... Sep. 18, 19, & 20, 2020..... **Registration Deadline – Fri., Aug. 28, 2020**
 Officer Leadership 101 OR Officer Leadership 201

Lubbock Sep. 25, 26, & 27, 2020 **Registration Deadline – Fri., Sep. 4, 2020**
 Officer Leadership 101 OR Officer Leadership 201

Officer Leadership Training Registration Fees**

(Includes all program materials and supplies, refreshments, See next page for Meal Details –
 Hotel accommodations are NOT included)

Officer \$220.00 \$ _____

Lady (Meals only)..... \$100.00 \$ _____

Indicate Food Allergies or other Special Needs, Diabetic, etc.: _____

REGISTRATION CUT-OFF DATES ARE ABSOLUTE!!! NO EXCEPTIONS!
REGISTRATION FORM AND FEES MUST BE RECEIVED AT GRAND LODGE BY DATE INDICATED TO BE ABLE TO ATTEND!

Make check payable to Grand Lodge of Texas

Mail to: The Grand Lodge of Texas, Officer Leadership Training, P.O. Box 446, Waco, TX 76703
****Registration Fees are subject to the registration deadlines. Registration fees are NON-REFUNDABLE. All participants must pay the appropriate fees. There will be NO "walk-ins" accepted! Hotel arrangements, other meals, and transportation are at the participant's discretion.**



We can always count on our Brother Texas Masons to get excited when they see their name or their Lodge name in print and we at the *Texas Freemason Magazine* are no different. Excitement abounds at the opportunity to begin a series of featured articles in the *Texas Freemason Magazine* about our great Texas Lodges and their communities. What follows is the first in the series.

On the Texas Masonic Road

Just about 30 miles West, South West of Houston, Texas lies a small historic town; Richmond Texas. Richmond has a unique Texas history and a significant Masonic history. Richmond is the County Seat of Fort Bend County and has a population of approximately 11,642. Might sound insignificant to some, but Richmond is not insignificant to many Texas Historians and Masons.

In 1822, a group of Austin's colonists went up the Brazos River, stopping near present day Richmond where they built a fort called Fort Bend. Named after Richmond, England, the town was among the first 19 cities incorporated in the short-lived Republic of Texas.

Early residents of the city include many prominent figures in Texas lore such as Jane Herbert Wilkinson Long, "The Mother of Texas", Erastus "Deaf" Smith, "Hero of the Texas Revolution" and Mirabeau Bonaparte Lamar, "Father of Texas Education" and the "Second President of the Republic of Texas. All of these Texans are buried in Richmond Cemetery.

On August 16, 1889, the town was the site of the Battle of Richmond, a deadly fight culminating in the Jaybird-Woodpecker War, a violent feud over post-reconstruction political control of Fort Bend County. The election of 1888 engendered much anger and bitterness and became deadly. Serious altercations occurred between rival candidates. On August 2, 1888, J. M. Shamblin, Jaybird leader, was killed. In September, Henry Frost, another Jaybird leader, was seriously wounded. There were two more killings; Kyle Terry, Woodpecker tax assessor, killed L. E. Gibson at Wharton on June 21, 1889; a week later Terry was killed by Volney Gibson.

Albeit, Richmond, Texas is also the home of the Morton Masonic Lodge No. 72, the Charter was granted on January 24, 1851. Morton Lodge owns and meets in a historic two-story brick building erected in 1913 and leveled with a cornerstone by the Grand Lodge of Texas in 1919, celebrating its 100th centennial in 2013. It was not until 1926 that a wooden door with the Masonic emblem was placed at the ground level to enclose the stairway that led to the Lodge Room. Some years past this old door was removed and donated to the George Foundation collection of

Fort Bend County memorabilia. Today a glass front door displays the Lodge name and the Masonic emblem.

In 2017 Morton Lodge completed an aesthetic, functional and historical renovation of the historic Lodge Room. Most of the work was done by members of Morton Lodge, Rosenberg Lodge, Sugar Land Lodge, Bellaire Lodge, and their respective families.

In 2019, under the leadership of Worshipful Master Chip Entz, the Morton Hall Preservation Society (MHPS), Rajinder Bhalla and friends of Morton Lodge, the Lou Payton Fellowship Hall was fully renovated with a new floor, kitchen, appliances, doors, projector screen, and coffee bar. The wall between the kitchen and the restroom hall was razed to promote an open concept setting and flow pattern for meals.

Morton Lodge opens its doors to public events such as Miracle on Morton Street, City of Richmond Art Walks, and other public festivities. The Texas Historical Marker on the exterior of the building was installed in 1994. Masonic Brothers and others visiting the great town of Richmond, Texas will want to visit the Morton Lodge in downtown Richmond at 211 Morton Street. Contact Worshipful Master Chip Entz, at (281) 206-0031 or Lodge Phone: (281) 342-1234 for an opportunity to lodge with our Brothers, or to visit the Lodge Building.

Our next stop "On the Texas Masonic Road" was Port Isabel, Texas. Port Isabel is on the point where Texas Highway 100 meets the Laguna Madre in southeastern Cameron County, sixteen miles northeast of Brownsville. It is connected to South Padre Island

by the two-mile-long Queen Isabella Causeway.

The famous Port Isabel Lighthouse was built in 1853 and served as a lookout during the conflict with Juan Cortina, known as the Cortina War. During the first three years of the Civil War, Port Isabel was a haven for blockade runner's due to its proximity to Mexico. Port Isabel provided a safe harbor (perceived notion) for commercial and militia ships and vessels providing commerce and support to the South Texas coast and the Confederacy. Ironically, all the ships in the harbor were destroyed or captured during a Union attack on May 30, 1863.



Above: Morton Lodge
Below: Port Isabel Lodge



Port Isabel has a unique Masonic history. According to its history, General Zachary Taylor brought a large force to defend the city when it was rumored that it was under siege. Officers and members of his command requested a charter in 1847 for Point Isabel No. 33 from the Grand Lodge of Texas. For some unknown reason the charter was never issued. However, about the same time, Rio Grande Lodge No. 81 located at Brownsville, went under dispensation and received a charter in 1851. General Taylor's forces were subsequently deployed to Fort Brown (Brownsville) and perhaps this is the reason that the charter was never issued to Point Isabel. In December 2007, a charter was issued by the Grand Lodge of Texas entitling the lodge, as originally intended, Point Isabel No. 33.

Port Isabel Brothers just completed a renovation of the Lodge Room and support facilities of their Lodge and are anxious for other Brothers to visit and see what they have accomplished. The renovation project is complete, and the first Stated Meeting of the Port Isabel Masonic Lodge met in their new facilities on Monday, July 29, 2019

RW David Gower is the current Worshipful Master. If you travel to Port Isabel, you will want to stop and visit the Lodge and view the results of their handiwork.

The Lodge members meet at 9 a.m. every Wednesday at the Lodge located at 409 South Shore Drive for fellowship and education. All Masons and non-Masons are invited to attend. On the fourth Thursday of each month, a Stated Meeting is held only for Masons. For more information on the Point Isabel Masonic Lodge No. 33, call (956) 525-0541.

One more "On the Texas Masonic Road" visit and I will be near home. Travel North from Port Isabel via Interstate I-35N to the DFW metroplex and you will find Hillcrest Masonic Lodge No.1318 located in the "Quarry" area, near Love Field Airport in Dallas, Texas.

On January 4, 1949, the Hillcrest Masonic Lodge Charter was presented and the Lodge was constituted. There were approximately 175 Master Masons that attended the ceremony held in the Highland Park Masonic Lodge. On January 6, 1949, Hillcrest Masonic Lodge No.1318 held its first Stated Meeting in the Highland Park Lodge room.

Hillcrest Lodge originally "Lodged" in a two-story building near Southern Methodist University (SMU) and subsequently moved to their current location; 8525 Midway Rd, Dallas, TX, the previous location of the Love Field Lodge, following the Love Field

Lodge merger with Hillcrest Lodge. James V. Callan Daylight Lodge No. 1422 also meets at the Hillcrest Lodge location.

Hillcrest Lodge recently completed an absolutely magnificent and purposeful renovation of its Lodge room and Dining area. Obviously, the renovation may have been costly in terms of participation and or contractor costs but, the results are those

expected of such a great Lodge. I am looking forward to attending Lodge at Hillcrest because I want to have time, in a proper setting, to gaze upon and "inhale" the beauty of the Lodge room and its see its effect on those who appreciate appropriate Masonic architecture and craftsmanship. (Pictures are included with the article)

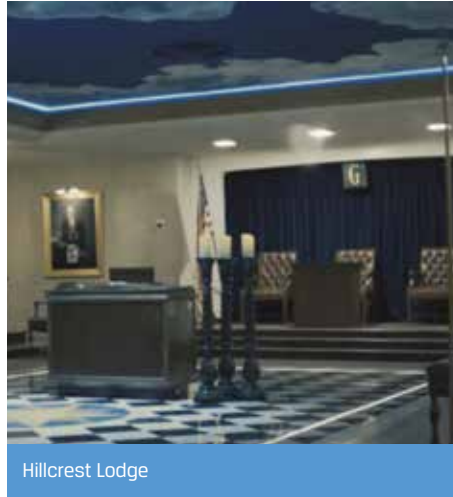
If you are visiting in the Dallas area, please stop by the Hillcrest Lodge and take a look at the Lodge room and Dining area. If you reside in the DFW area, take the opportunity to visit Hillcrest Lodge to see what they have accomplished. Seth Alston is the current Worshipful Master of Hillcrest Lodge.

You can contact the Lodge at

(214) 937-9156 to find a good time to visit, and or to attend Lodge with the Brothers at Hillcrest Lodge.

This "On the Masonic Road" was a great opportunity to begin making contact with and visit with Brothers around Texas. The essence of this article includes remarkable history and information about the Lodge community and about the work, the renovation, repair and up-keep of the Lodges. Our Lodges and their appearance represent who and what we are. Our success in attracting good men to become Masons and keeping them involved has a lot to do with whom our communities perceive us to be. Texas Blue Lodge Masonry is a dedicated fraternity of men who sincerely believe in Masonry as a way of life, and a fraternity of Brothers who desire to be perceived in the best of reputation, character, and purpose.

We hope you enjoyed this first featured article about your community and your Lodges. Keep up the good work, support your community and make sure the appearance of our Lodges represents us well. If your Lodge has done something remarkable or purposeful to its facilities, please let our *Texas Freemason Magazine* staff know about your Lodge and what your Lodge has accomplished in the community. Submissions may be sent to: texasfreemasonmag@gmail.com. ★



Hillcrest Lodge



Remember the Alamo and It's Not All You Can Eat

By James C. "Chris" Williams IV



It was Friday night and I was on my way home from work reflecting on a busy week and looking forward to the weekend. My cell phone rang and when I answered it was him.

"I hope you didn't call me to ruin my weekend cause it's been a rough week and I need some rest."

"Enough of the small talk my Brother; do you know what tomorrow is?"

I knew this had to be a trick question but what could I do? I said, "Ok I'll bite. What is tomorrow?"

"Tomorrow is the anniversary of the fall of the Alamo", he said. "Are you going to be there for the Masonic celebration?"

"Ah, well I have always wanted to go but I am usually working," I replied. "I really hadn't thought about it."

"Well you need to think about it", he yelled in my ear "and meet me down there in the morning."

I didn't even know he was in town but I agreed to meet him at the designated meeting place for all the Brothers behind the Alamo. I got up on Saturday morning and looked out the window and it was a little cloudy but looked like the start of a nice day. I got ready and when I stepped outside I realized it was cold and the wind was blowing. Since I was wearing a coat and tie I was not real happy about the wind and temperature but I headed downtown anyway. About halfway there it started raining and since the temperature hadn't gone up any and the wind was still blowing I said the heck with it and found a place to turn around and I was going back home. John was just going to have to tell me about what happened. I swear that guy must have a GPS on my truck 'cause as soon as I started back toward home my phone rang and I looked at the caller ID and it was him.

"Where the heck are you?" He said.

"Headed home," I said. "I am chickening out."

"If you don't show up down here there will be heck to pay," he snarled.

"Look John, it's raining and the wind is blowing bad and its cold out there."

"You need to turn around and get down here," he growled. "The sun is out and the wind has stopped and it's not raining. Just come on."

So I turned around again and made my way downtown and found a place to park. When the machine spit out my receipt for parking it promptly disappeared down the street before I could grab it. Yup, you guessed it... wind, and lots of it. By the time I worked my way through the crowd of Brother Masons to where John was standing I was damp from the drizzle and I was cold... and not happy.

"I thought you said it was dry and sunny and calm down here," I said through clenched teeth.

"Well it was when I talked to you," he said innocently.

I looked at all the brothers on either side of him and they all shook their heads. I glared back at John but before I could speak he pointed at the bag-pipers in their kilts who were forming up in the middle of the street for the walk over and said, "You ought to be glad you aren't one of them. Just pray that a gust of wind doesn't blow them there skirts up. That would ruin a perfect morning."

I looked... and he was right. The procession was forming up and we fell in with everyone and walked over to the front of the Alamo behind the Grand Master and the other Grand Lodge officers, with bagpipes blaring. It was quite a sight all those Brothers in their Masonic regalia, joined by members of the Shrine Temple and even the DeMolay were there. John and I positioned ourselves so that we could see everything that was going on. After paying our respects to the Supreme Architect of the Universe and the flags of Country and State, one of the Brothers gave a stirring talk about the American Flag. We listened while the Grand Orator introduced officials from the city and from the Daughters of the Republic of Texas and made some opening remarks about the Alamo and its importance in Texas as well as American history.

Visit <https://grandlodgeoftexas.org/remember-the-alamo-and-its-not-all-you-can-eat> for the rest of the story.

A LOOK BACK

Study Course in Masonry – June 1920

By Bro. C. P. Boon, San Antonio (Author of Trestle-Board and Working Tools of Symbolic Freemasonry)



III. Symbolism of the Entered Apprentice Degree-Continued

INITIATION - A term used by the Romans to designate admission into the mysteries of their sacred and secret rites. It is derived from the word “initia” which signifies the first principles of a science. It is now as it has been for countless ages, employed as a symbol of the birth and endless development of the human mind and soul. The Entered Apprentice degree represents birth and the preparatory stage of life, or in other words, youth.

PREPARATION - Great care was taken of the personal condition of every Israelite who entered the Temple for divine worship, and they were instructed that no man should go into the Temple with his staff, nor with shoes on his feet, nor with outer garments, nor with money tied up in his purse. Dr. Mackey says the preparation of the candidate for initiation is entirely symbolic. It varies in the different degrees, and therefore the symbolism varies with it, and cannot be altered, abridged, or added to in any of its details, without affecting the esoteric design. Bro. Gage says the apprentice in the moral science should give up the rags of his own righteousness and also all precious metals, symbolical of worldly wealth and distinction, and all baser metals, symbolical of offense and defense, in order that he may realize his dependence upon moral forces only. He should be clad in a garment signifying that he comes with pure intentions to learn the noble art and profit by its lessons.

THE LODGE - There are three definitions of a lodge. 1st. It is a place where Freemasons meet. 2nd. It is the assembly or organized body of Freemasons duly congregated for labor or for business: 3rd. It symbolically represents the world. Its covering is the clouded canopy or starry decked heavens, the abode of those who do the will of the Grand Architect. It is furnished with the theological ladder, which reaches from earth to heaven, and is illuminated as is the world, by the refulgent rays of the sun, symbolically represented in his rising in the east, his meridian height in the south, and his setting in the west. This meaning was more manifest at the period when Freemasonry is supposed to have had its origin, for the then known world living around the shores of the Mediterranean sea was literally of the form of an “oblong square.” If the lodge symbolizes

the world, and the Mason symbolizes man, it follows that initiation must symbolize the introduction of the individual into the world or the birth of a child. It was so regarded in the ancient systems of initiation and is now so understood by Masonic scholars everywhere.

CABLE TOW - A cable tow is a rope or line for drawing or leading. The word is purely Masonic. In its first inception, the cable tow seems to have been used only as a physical means of controlling or binding any one. It has however, a deeper symbolism. It represents those forces and Influences which have conducted not only the individual, but the race out of a condition of ignorance and darkness into one of light and knowledge. This symbolical meaning of the cable tow seems to have been accepted in all of the ancient systems of initiation. The length of a cabletow is three miles. But the Baltimore Convention in 1842 defined it to mean the scope of a man’s reasonable ability. Tradition informs us that for certain crimes committed in ancient times, the penalty was death, and the body buried in the sea three miles out from the shore. That was considered outside the jurisdiction of the country in which he lived, and was a cable tow’s length.

METAL TOOLS - We are told in the scripture that the Temple was “built of stone made ready before it was brought thither, so that there was neither hammer, nor axe, nor tool of iron heard in the house while it was in building.” (I Kings vi. 7) It is a well authenticated historical fact that the Jews, not to mention other ancient peoples, believed that an iron tool was polluting to an altar to Deity. Hence, in the days of Moses the laws prescribed that in erecting an altar of stone to Jehovah no iron tool should be employed upon it. The work of erecting the Temple therefore went on noiselessly, but with speed and perfection. Masonry has adopted this as a symbol of the peace and harmony which should reign in a Lodge, itself a type of the world, and the erection and adornment of the moral and spiritual temple in which we are engaged, that of human character, and of which Solomon’s was typical, is not characterized by the clang of noisy tools. About true character-building there is nothing of bluster and show; it is a silent, noiseless process.

It also teaches us that the Temple was a type of the kingdom of God, and that the souls of men are to be prepared here, for that place of bless-

edness, so the stones must all be squared, and fitted here for their place in the New Jerusalem.

PRAYER - Freemasonry is a religious institution, and hence its regulations inculcate prayer “as a proper tribute of gratitude.” The custom of commencing and ending labor with prayer was adopted at an early period by the Operative Freemasons of England. Their Lodges were opened at sunrise, the Master taking his station in the East and the brethren forming a half circle around him, and received his instructions. At sunset they again assembled after labor; prayer was offered, and their wages paid to them. Bro. Riviere says we are taught that a Mason should never enter upon any great or laudable undertaking without invoking the aid of Almighty God. In the light of that lesson, prayer becomes a duty as well as the privilege of every Mason. How few understand the nature and effects of prayer. Prayer that has become merely a bed-time custom is not prayer; it is an incantation to sooth the conscience or satisfy the demands of a habit formed in more innocent and unsophisticated days. The object and effect of prayer are to bring the soul into conscious harmony with the all-wise Father, whose laws are true and just and righteous altogether. “Prayer is the soul’s sincere desire,” so says the old song. If that be true, how earnestly should the compasses be used to circumscribe our desires, so that no unrighteous, no unworthy, no covetous, no licentious prayer insult the Father whose All-Seeing Eye looks into the innermost recesses of our being. Prayer reveals a man to himself. For what do you pray, on what do you meditate, what thought do you ponder over and keep in your heart? Be sure that it will find expression in your outer life, for “the within is ceaselessly becoming the without.”

SECRECY - Is one of the first lessons we learn in Masonry. Bro. Riviere says this great virtue is necessary in our order so that Mason’s will appreciate the lessons taught. As a secret shared between two people binds them together, so the secrets of our fraternity bind the Brethren together. Anything taught you that is a profound secret makes a greater impression upon the mind. If our teachings of beautiful truths were scattered broadcast through the world, they would become commonplace; so they are taught under secrecy, only to those deemed worthy to receive and practice them.

Visit <https://grandlodgeoftexas.org/study-course-in-masonry> for the rest of the story.

Grand Lodge Committee Profile



This installment of our recurring column about Grand Lodge Committees was planned to be a look at the Gift of Life, however, those plans changed as our lives and activities as Masons changed. Instead, we will review with greater detail the program available through the Grand Lodge Assistance Fund (Fund). The Grand Lodge Trustees and the Fund have taken steps to assist worthy Brothers impacted by the societal changes related to the Pandemic and its effects on Texas Freemasons abilities to remain financially solvent.

As a quick recap, the following is excerpted from the last column.

This fund is defined in Grand Lodge Law Article 123 in the following manner:

Art. 123. Grand Lodge Assistance Fund: Administration and Duties. The Finance Committee shall exercise control, supervision, and disbursement of the funds of the Grand Lodge Assistance Fund under such rules and regulations as may be adopted from time to time by such Committee, or by this Grand Lodge. Contributions from the fund shall be limited to those individuals whose sponsoring Lodge also contributes to the recipient. Such limitation shall not apply when the Lodge submits satisfactory evidence of its inability to contribute to such assistance. Provided further that the total contribution of the plan to any recipient shall not exceed an amount as established from time to time by the Grand Lodge Trustees. (Revised 2018)

The background of this fund is a long and storied one. The Fund was originally setup by a Brother in the early 20th Century as the Tuberculosis Relief Fund, since at that time tuberculosis was rampant, costly, largely untreatable and there were no or very limited resources for payment for treatment. After successful eradication of tuberculosis, the fund remained but was morphed into the Grand Lodge Assistance Fund, but not as we know it today. The Fund has never existed to benefit individual lodges nor in modern times as a first line resource for individuals.

The irony of a program started to deal with the financial impacts of a respiratory disease more than 100 years ago is now being utilized in the midst of a new respiratory disease threat. The Trustees have met and

developed an expedited assistance plan to deal with the Covid-19 economic impact. The Fund is not large enough to deal with every issue, nor for a protracted time, what was true before, as Brother Steve Pepper said, it is difficult to balance needs and resources is still true. The revised mechanism is designed to provide some measure of relief allowing the Trustees to be as responsive as possible.

The Grand Lodge Trustees allowed an expedited process and shorter application form that deletes significant paperwork for the one-time award. The form along with instructions is available online through your Lodge Secretary on the Grand Lodge website. This process allows that three of the five principal officers of the Lodge sign the request, forward it to the DDGM who is required to verify the need, recommend approval and forwards it to the Grand Secretary via email. This process is available for a one-time amount as determined by the Trustees. Ongoing, traditional, awards must still go through the normal process.

This revised process, relying on the elected Lodge and Grand Lodge leadership is able to provide relief in a timelier manner. How long this process will continue is not known but given the amount of communication from the Grand Lodge officers we can certainly anticipate the Masons of Texas will be informed. To be sure you receive new information, please remember to keep your profile updated on the Grand Lodge website.

Brethren, these are some difficult times we are living in and the beauty is our fraternity has once again risen to the occasion.

The next article will focus on the Gift of Life Committee, be sure to look for that article on a program unique to the Grand Lodge of Texas and beneficial directly to those charities Masons support the most and its connection to help our military personnel.

GRAND LODGE

Order of the Eastern Star

Written by Jim Hoffpauir

Photos by Memories of the Heart (Facebook). staff - Melissa Clendenin Ramos, Konnie Harrell, Tina O'Shields, Charles Broussard

Just in case you haven't noticed, The Order of The Eastern Star (OES) is 'alive and kicking' in the great state of Texas. Texas freemasonry is well served by the close ties that bind The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas (GLoTX) and the Grand Chapter of Texas Order of the Eastern Star, a world-wide masonic-related fraternity of women and men dedicated to belief in the existence of a Supreme Being, charity, truth, and loving kindness.

This rich-and-wholesome relationship has existed well over 100 years across Texas and has benefited local masonic lodges in fundraising and community activities as well as monetary and actual physical support for the caring of lodge facilities. Many are the master, fellowcraft, and entered apprentice members of local lodges who have marveled at the organization, leadership, and hard work generated among his OES peers.

"They know where everything goes, how to get it there, and how to keep track of all the things we seem to be misplacing around here," is a comment generated around lodge coffee pots across the state. "Yeah, it's just like around the house ... how do they know? Say, who made this pot of coffee?"

And the year 2020 is no exception.

Worthy Grand Matron Linda Winn-Christenson, Worthy Grand Patron Paul Garner, Associate Grand Matron Terri Rozell, Associate Grand Patron Tom Brisko, Grand Secretary Ellen Pickrell, Grand Treasurer Greta B Spradling, Grand Conductress Phyllis Macon, and Assistant Grand Conductress Susan Dormady head up the Grand Chapter Texas - OES in 2020 and are doing yeoman's job keeping the gears turning.

"A year of giving and believing' is my motto for the year 2020," smiles Grand Matron Winn-Christenson. "I am honored to be a part of this great organization. Our ladies and guys across the state are again making it all happen. What a great group of people to be among."

WGM Winn-Christenson chose Scottish Rite Hospital, Patient

Care, as her charity of choice in 2020. She has a close family member who(was) treated by doctors and staff of the hospital system since birth. The child suffers from Spina Bifida. "I love the fact that the doctors staff treat patient and family with special care and consideration. It is truly special."

Last year, OES members in Texas supported the Scottish Rite Hospital Dyslexia program and donated enough to purchase approximately 15 special computers and software upgrades needed to train teachers across the state. Hundreds of books and blankets were also funneled to the hospital to deliver to patients and family members.

Other charities supported by Texas OES members include Autism research, scholarships for Texas high school graduates who are OES and Masonic family members, training for ministerial religious students, Disabled Veterans Transportation Fund, the Harry Belmont Foundation, temporary and long-term aid to OES male and female members, and Patriot PAWS (Define) – to train and provide service dogs of high quality to disabled American Veterans and others with mobile disabilities, to help restore their physical and emotional independence.



Texas OES plays a major roll in Masonic Family Day activities at the Texas Masonic Retirement Center, located at 1501 W Division Street, Arlington 76012. As a 501(c) (3) Foundation responsibility, the (OES) attends to the day-to-day care of four ladies living at the center. Members are available and work diligently during the Friday and Saturday weekend of Masonic Family Day throughout the facility.

In addition, the Texas Order of the Eastern Star assigns each of the five state Districts (see below) one of the five party dates held yearly at the Retirement Center. Residents, families, and friends are entertained with \$800-in-prizes bingo games, sandwiches, cookies, and walk around visits from International Order of Rainbow girls and DeMolay International boys, as well as local OES and Masonic members.

Party dates occur for Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas,



Linda Winn-Christenson
Worthy Grand Matron



Paul Garner
Worthy Grand Patron



Perry Belmont Mansion, International
Temple of the Eastern Star, Dupont Circle,
Washington, DC

Valentine's Day, Easter, and Patriotic Day around the fourth of July each year.

The Order of the Eastern Star is composed of three bodies: General Grand Chapter headquartered in Washington, DC, and Grand Chapters in states and international locals; and Sub-ordinate (or local) Chapters are located world-wide.

Texas' Grand Chapter is located in Arlington. There are five districts within the state: Dallas-to-Texarkana, Lufkin-to-Beaumont, Central Texas (including Houston, Austin, and San Antonio), Amarillo-to-El Paso, and San Angelo-to-Rio Grand Valley.

The Order of the Eastern Star was organized by freemason, lawyer, and educator Robert Morris in Richland, Mississippi in the 1850s. He and wife Charlotte aspired to build an organization of women and men linked to freemasonry. Morris established the signs, passes, colors, emblems, lessons, and values of the OES based on five Biblical heroines; then compiled and published his efforts under the title The Rosary of the Eastern Star. Robert Macoy, of Macoy Publishing fame, joined in the effort in 1869, publishing Adoptive Rite for the Eastern Star which propelled the establishment of Chapters of the OES in the United States and internationally, and the eventual adoption and approval of the group as an appendant body to the Masonic Fraternity in 1873.

The first Grand Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star was organized in Michigan in 1867. The Grand Chapter of Texas was recognized by the MWGLoTx in 1884. Previous to that recognition, 10 Chapters were chartered by the General Grand Chapter. The first, Friendship Chapter No.1 in Dallas, was no longer working in 1884. Representatives from Sam Long No. 4, Hadassah No. 7, Fort Worth No. 8, and Jonesborough No. 10 joined Cedar Bayou No. 11, Excelsior No. 12, and New Hope No. 13 at the recognition convention. Of those bodies, Cedar Bayou No.11 is still working and, thus, is the oldest Chapter in the state.

Currently there are 269 OES Chapters working in Texas of the 1145 Chapters chartered since its inception.

Other Notable Order of the Eastern Star Texas members include:

Past Worthy Grand Patron of Texas OES Henry S. Martin became the Most Worthy Grand Patron, General Grand Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star at the 49th Triennial Assembly in 2018. He will serve in that capacity through October 2021.

Right Worthy Grand Secretary of the General Grand Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star Alma Lynn Bane,

Past Worthy Grand Matron of Texas OES resides, as is the custom, in the Perry Belmont Mansion, International Temple of the Eastern Star, Dupont Circle, Washington, DC. The mansion was completed at a cost of \$1.5 million in 1909 and purchased by the OES international in 1935.

Anyone interested in becoming a member of the Order of the Eastern Star should contact a member of a local Chapter or by any of the following means: https://grandchapteroftexasoes.org/Chapter_search.asp, 817-563-1244, FAX 817-563-1701. Eligibility includes women with masonic affiliation and Master Masons. Petitions can be downloaded from the website. For locate Chapters, go to the website, locate Information on the tool bar, open to Locate Chapter, and enter City, Zip Code, or Texas (to pull up all appendant Chapters).



Captain James Blackledge and members of Harris County Constables Precinct 4 receive stuffed toys donated by Cypress Lodge No. 1423 and OES Chapter No. 1102 to be dispersed to children who, during times of high emotion and loss, come in contact with local constables on a daily basis. Members of the bodies came up with a plan and purchased 100 stuffed dogs, at a cost of \$1000, during the 2019 OES charity drive for Scottish Rite Hospitals in Texas and present them to the local constable's office ... just another example of how Texas freemasons and members of the OES work together to serve their communities.

EDUCATION AND COMMITMENT

Texas MasoniCon

By Rhit Moore, PM, Fort Worth Lodge No. 148 A.F. & A.M.

Texas MasoniCon is an educational conference with many speakers covering Masonic topics of all kinds. The purpose is to support the spreading of light amongst the Brethren and create further opportunity for fraternalism. This event is hosted by Fort Worth Lodge No. 148 at the Masonic Temple in downtown Fort Worth. The idea for something like this had been brewing in the back of our minds for many years and with a little time, patience, and perseverance, we have brought that dream to fruition. We knew the desire for Masonic education was growing; this coupled with the feeling of a responsibility to utilize and share our magnificent edifice with the Brethren of Texas and abroad, cemented our decision to move forward with the idea in 2017. Ft. Worth Lodge No. 148 hosted the first Texas MasoniCon in 2018. With the success and ardent encouragement we received from the attendees we knew we were onto something good, and we were off to the races.

Let me back up a bit and fill you in on a little of the backstory before we get into the meat and potatoes. If you are not familiar with the current trend for the use of the word “con” this might strike you as off-putting so let me explain the meaning. The term “con” has become commonplace especially among the younger generation as an abbreviation for conference or convention. Arguably the convention that made this term famous was Comic Con which has become a worldwide phenomenon. We knew using the abbreviation would be a marketing advantage for us and to get this event off the ground we would need all the advantages we could muster. Additionally, and maybe more importantly to the Masons, is the Latin definition for the word “con.” “Con” in Latin means with or together, and as Masons, the Great Light teaches us the power of gathering together. Furthermore, “Masoni” in Romanian is the plural of Mason. As Texans, most have heard the origin story and translation of our State’s name, which means friend, ally, or friendly. Using these three different languages would translate the name Texas MasoniCon to Friendly Masons Together. Could there be a more fitting name?

I would be remiss not to give credit to Ezekiel Bates Lodge in Attleboro, MA for hosting the first Masonic Con in 2016. They were a big inspiration for getting our event off the ground and certainly for our conference’s name. We wish them all the continued success.

Texas MasoniCon was not an instantaneous idea. It grew over many years and from experiences in the quarries. When the initial talks of a large event like Texas MasoniCon began it was more of a pipe dream, or wishful thinking than something we felt we could actually pull off. Fort Worth No. 148 had a long way to go rebuilding as a Lodge, much less hosting a massive Masonic educational symposium. Over the years as the rebuilding went on at the Lodge, this idea kept coming up and evolving. To give you an idea of how long this idea has been brewing within me and others at the Lodge. I have two distinct moments I would like to share that I can look back on as catalysts which helped create the drive in me to bring something like Texas MasoniCon to life.

First, there is a Latin phrase that resides in the Grand East of the auditorium in the Grand Lodge building. The phrase says “Fiat Lux.” Translated to English means “let there be light.” I can remember well the first time I saw it as a young Mason in 2008 and the impression it made upon me. The place of reverence our Texas Masonic forefathers gave the phrase seared its importance to me. I had been taught the word “light” was a synonym for wisdom to the Mason, and with the adoration of Fiat Lux in the Grand East, this created a conflux moment within me. From that moment, unbeknownst to me, I began to tailor my Masonic path to make me a better, wiser, and ultimately happier man. Looking back this was the onset moment for my desire to not only farm life for wisdom, but to take that harvest to market and share it with the people. This has since become a driving purpose in my life.

The second moment came a few years later in 2011. The desire for more Masonic presentations was growing fairly quickly by this time. While some Lodges in Texas had and

still have a long standing focus on Masonic Education for the most part at that time, finding any challenging or substantive Masonic presentation took some effort. Around this time a Brother of our Lodge named Ashton Lawson contacted me and asked if I would be interested in riding with him to Round Rock Lodge for an educational talk by Brother Cliff Porter from Colorado. It was about a three hour drive one way, but I had heard good things about Brother Porter and thought I would give it a go. To be honest I was not expecting much, but I was always up for a road trip with my Brothers. At this point in my Masonic career I had seen some interesting presentations, but I had no idea how deep the rabbit hole went and I was about to get a glimpse. That night at Round Rock I got a taste of “the good stuff” and I was hooked. I thoroughly enjoyed Brother Porter’s presentation entitled the “The Secret Psychology of Freemasonry” that evening. After three hours of listening to him speak I was ready for another three, but as good as the presentation was it was the whole event that made the deepest impression on me. There was thought provoking education, great discussion, fellowship, food, and best of all meeting new Brothers and getting to know them. Round Rock Lodge, and in particular, Brother Carlos Castillo, had put in a lot of work to make that event happen. Whether it was in Brother Carlos’s plan or not, the events of that night changed my life. The law of reciprocity set in, and I was determined to recreate that catalyst moment for someone else.

The officers began to host and bring in educational speakers for our members at Fort Worth No. 148 and it was a hit. Texas MasoniCon or the idea was being talked about from time to time, but was still squarely in the category of wishful thinking. That is until with the team of Gabriel Jagush, Billy Hamilton, Mark McCaghren, and I, began to coagulate around and breathe life into the idea. Evve Kuykendall has recently joined the team as well. When we got the green light on funding from the Lodge we took the ball and ran with it never looking back. We knew to get this off the ground and make it an annual event we had to make it top-shelf, so we

EDUCATION AND COMMITMENT



started swinging for the fences.

We planned an all-day event for Master Masons with a total of six speakers. One keynote and five breakout speakers. There are quite a few Masonic vendors that come to sell books, merchandise, coffee, and other goods. Lunch is provided and we allow for ample time for fellowship with Brothers.

We reached out to well-recognized Masonic scholars to headline the event and have had speakers such as Chuck Dunning, Michael Poll, Piers Vaughn, and S. Brent Morris, as headliners. We try to exclusively use Texas Masons to speak during the breakout sessions, and have had many great speakers thus far. For a full list of former breakout speakers check out our Facebook page @ TexasMasoniCon.



Fast forward to the second Texas MasoniCon in 2019 and we saw about a 30% growth in attendance. With the increased attendance we hit a crucial goal of breaking even on the financial investment Fort Worth Lodge No. 148 makes to host the event. We saw Brothers coming from all over Texas, quite a few from other States and even Brothers from other countries. We held a Festive Board the night before that was such a huge success it instantly became a tradition for Texas MasoniCon. We have received so many thank yous and words of encouragement which fuel our tank to make the event bigger and better each year.

Texas MasoniCon is not, nor will it ever be, a fundraiser for our Lodge. It was created to spread light and create opportunities for fellowship. Every penny of profit will be reinvested into future events which hopefully will create a colossal jubilee for Texas Masons to look forward to and enjoy each year.

If all goes as planned this year Texas MasoniCon will be held on Saturday July 25th. We have another great lineup of speakers in store for this year. Friday night, the 24th, we will be holding the Festive Board Brother and Brother Chuck Dunning will be speaking. For more details and ticket purchase visit www.TexasMasoniCon.com



EDUCATION AND COMMITMENT

Texas Lodge of Research



I will never forget the first time I saw our fabled aprons. It was December 2000, I was fifteen (15) years old, an active DeMolay who was asked to perform the arch of steel at the Grand Lodge Installation for then-incoming Grand Master David Dibrell, and then-incoming Grand Junior Warden Reese L. Harrison. I saw some gentlemen walking around wearing the Grand Lodge of the Republic of Texas apron, and I asked my DeMolay Advisors what that apron was. When I was told they are Full Members of the Texas Lodge of Research, I knew I wanted to join.

To earn the historic and honored apron, you must first affiliate with the Texas Lodge of Research. Speak with the Secretary or any member to get you a petition for affiliation. Once affiliated, you still need to write a research paper; Every Mason, has a research paper in the making.

The first step in writing a research paper is to brainstorm. Ask yourself: “What is something about Freemasonry I do not understand?” “What history would I like to know?” “What is incomplete about my Masonic Experience?” If you are asking these questions, it is entirely possible others have them as well.

Your next step would be to talk with learned and respected brethren within your lodge, or whom you know. Typically, they can give you some bits of information here and there, and can lead you in the right direction to find primary and secondary resources. If you are stuck

ask any member in the Texas Lodge of Research for assistance. We can help find other resources for your research, and help you formulate your thesis.

Once you have an idea of your thesis and what sources you will use to help write your paper, you will then complete and submit a Notice of Intent to the Secretary. The Secretary will then help forward the Notice to the Editorial Committee, who will make sure the paper is of a Masonic nature, the sources are reliable, and suitable for presentation.

Ask yourself:

What is something about
Freemasonry I do not understand?

What history would I like to know?

What is incomplete about my
Masonic Experience?

Once approved, it is time to continue to research and write. When drafting your paper, it is important to consult the Form and Style Manual of the Lodge. This is to help maintain consistency and proper citation for your paper. Set aside some time each day to write your paper and take breaks to avoid fatigue.

When your paper is completed, you will submit it to the Senior Warden, who will coordinate with the Editorial Committee to critique. Remember, the criticism is constructive, and designed to make your paper better. After some back and forth, and your paper is approved, you will present it at the next Stated Meeting of the Texas Lodge of Research. Only then will you be presented with our coveted apron!

To review the process, including read the Form and Style Manual and the Notice of Intent, visit our website: <http://www.texaslodgeof-research.org>

The officers and members of the Texas Lodge of Research are here to help you in this process and are eager to assist. Reach out to any of us!

Fraternally,
Charles E. Maddox

Texas Masons Meet Challenge Grant

By Don Comedy
TMCF Executive Director

Texas Masons have stepped up and met the chal-

lenge of an anonymous donor to help the Texas Masonic Charities Foundation qualify for a \$400,000 gift. The challenge included the stipulation that TMCF raise \$200,000 before August 1, 2020 and if that goal was met, the donor would contribute \$400,000 to TMCF. 2019 Grand Master Terry W. Stogner had is-

ssued a Blue Envelope appeal early in 2019, but that request did not fall in the time frame to meet the challenge, so the GM issued a second appeal in late 2019. That appeal generated about \$117,000 leaving a shortfall of about \$83,000 to qualify. Early in 2020, Grand Master Paul D. Underwood issued a Blue Envelope appeal and to date, that appeal with other donations has generated \$89,000, meeting the challenge. TMCF board of directors wish to thank GM. Stogner, GM Underwood and the Masons of Texas for their generosity in meeting this challenge. In response to the generosity of the donors, TMCF Board President said, "Once again Texas Masons, from the youngest Entered Apprentice to the Grand Master, have exhibited their dedication to the lesson of charity. Because of your willingness, TMCF will be able to continue to help others. It is on their behalf that I thank you. These funds will enable us to continue to support Texas lodges."

The Texas Masonic Charities Foundation was created by a vote of the Grand West in 2004 to create a vehicle which would allow Texas Masonic charitable efforts to move forward without restrictions. Since that time, TMCF has assisted Texas Lodges in supporting Texas youth through scholarship and other individual assistance programs; individual Texas Masons who have suffered financial disaster from

wildfire, flood, hurricane, tornado or other natural disaster; Masonic widows with specific needs; and Texans with no Masonic affiliation who have experienced emergency financial needs.



Since 2010, TMCF has contributed over \$5 million dollars to over 725 Texas Lodges in matching scholarship funds. Those lodges added over \$10 million dollars for a total scholarship support of over \$15 million to over 35,000 Texas students.

During massive wildfires across much of the state, TMCF set

up a trailer in the hardest hit area and processed requests for assistance on site until most of the demand was met.

The Charities Foundation exists solely to support the subordinate Lodges of the Grand Lodge of Texas. This is accomplished through matching grants to assist lodge charities and scholarship programs. A major goal of the TMCF is to assist lodges in gaining recognition and publicity in their local communities. This recognition and publicity comes as a result of conducting raffles and fundraisers and the charity they are supporting as well as public presentations of the check or scholarship. Simply writing a check from the lodge treasury and mailing it to the charity completely misses the mark of publicity and recognition. TMCF urges lodges to be seen in public. No one drives by a lodge building at 8 o'clock in the evening on the night of a stated meeting and sees a dozen or so cars parked in front, and says, "Boy, I want to be a part of that". People want to get involved in an organization that is seen actively helping their community and part of the TMCF program is to encourage lodges to do just that. To support TMCF and the lodges of Texas with a tax deductible donation go to:

<https://donate.txmcf.org>



MASONIC CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES OF TEXAS STEPS UP TO ASSIST FAMILIES IMPACTED BY COVID-19 PANDEMIC

From the moment our state and federal officials began to inform us that our country was affected by the world-wide COVID-19 pandemic, it began to impact families everywhere. We have become accustomed to watching our televisions and witnessing disasters, disease, and heartbreak around the globe. Still, when it hits home – it brings us together as a nation, as a community, and as individuals helping our neighbors.

Our hearts are filled for compassion and empathy for families who have lost loved ones to the virus, and for families who are experiencing financial hardships as well. According to the Texas Workforce Commission, more than 1 million Texans have applied for unemployment since mid-March. Families reaching out to Masonic Children & Family Services for assistance all express loss of jobs and the ability to care for their families as an utmost concern.

Our MCFS team began seeing the number of applications skyrocket within the first week of stay-at-home orders. For comparison, in March of 2019, we helped 100 families total by providing funding for medical and dental treatments, therapies, and for other family needs. During one week of March 2020 alone, we received requests for help from more than 120 families who are in crisis because of COVID-19 complications.

Fortunately, MCFS has been able to provide peace of mind to hundreds of families devastated by COVID-related income loss by stepping in to pay rent, utilities, and even help offset food costs during these unprecedented and turbulent times. Our staff has been working day and night to facilitate assistance to Texas families, knowing that so many are counting on us for stability. MCFS has made the difference for hundreds of children and their parents who are able to stay in their homes, have food on the table, and essential utilities covered. We get “Thank You’s” from families all over the state – all grateful for the assistance they received when there was nowhere else to turn.

MCFS has supported children for over 121 years. We are proud and humbled by our legacy as an organization that has truly made a difference in the lives of so many children over the years. We will continue to fulfill our mission to improve the quality of life for children and families of Texas and to make life brighter for them.

If you are interested in supporting our efforts to continue to provide Texas families with the help they need, please take a moment and visit our website at www.mcfstx.org to learn more about our unique and impactful programs. You can also go through our website to make a donation that makes a life-changing difference for the families who turn to us for help — now more than ever.



For more information on how you can help, contact **Sandy Shelby Lawrence, Director of Development** at **817-503-1510** or email sandy@mcfstx.org

2020 MASONIC MERCHANDISE

QTY	ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	COST Ea.
	521PU	LAPEL PIN -	\$5.00
	521PU-C	CHARM -	\$5.00
	532PU	BAR CLIP TIE CHAIN - w/Charm	\$15.00
	523PU	2" PMJewel W / 29" Chain	\$20.00
	535FOB	POCKET KEY FOB MM	\$40.00
	535FOB-PM	POCKET KEY FOB PM	\$40.00
	CUFF-PU	Cuff link Set	\$20.00
	520PU	BRONZE COIN	\$5.00
	524PU	ENAMEL COIN	\$10.00
	525PU	SILVER COIN	\$80.00
	526PU	LARGE BUCKLE Enamel w/Grand Masters Logo	\$30.00
	522PU	SMALL BUCKLE Enamel w/Grand Masters Logo	\$25.00
	526PU-BRZ	LARGE BUCKLE BRONZE w/Grand Masters Logo	\$30.00
	515PU	MONEY CLIP	\$15.00
	534PU	Masonic Pasport	\$15.00
	PU-ECKNIFE	Commerative Knife, Boxed & Numbered W/Enamel Coin	\$50.00
	PU-SCKNIFE	Commerative Knife, Boxed & Numbered W/SILVER Coin	\$140.00
	527PU	BOLO TIE- w/Grand Masters Logo	\$15.00
	530PU	3" CAR EMBLEM w/Grand Masters Logo	\$15.00
	528PU	LOGO DECALS -	\$1.00
	529PU	TAIL LIGHT DECALS (PAIR) S&C	\$5.00
	529PU-PM	TAIL LIGHT DECALS (PAIR) PM	\$5.00
	529GM	8" WINDOW DECAL S&C	\$10.00
	536PU-NAVY	Cap - - Mesh Back NAVY	\$15.00
	536PU-KHAK	Cap- SOLID BACK KHAKI	\$15.00
	533PU-BLAK	Shirt - M-L-XL-2XL-3XL BLACK	\$35.00
	533PU-RED	Shirt - M-L-XL-2XL-3XL RED	\$35.00
	540PU-R TIE	Tie Red w/Grand Masters Logo	\$40.00
	540PU-BOW	Bow Tie Red, untied w/Grand Masters Logo	\$40.00
	LADIES PIN	LADIES PIN/PINDANT, SAND DOLLAR	\$30.00
	LADIES-E R	LADIES EARRINGS, STARFISH	\$30.00
	LADIES SET	LADIES SET PIN & EAR RINGS	\$50.00
	LADIES PUR	LADIES PURSE HOLDER	\$10.00
	LADIES KEY	LADIES KEY FINDER	\$10.00
	LADIES BAG	LADIES BAG ROYAL/BLACK	\$25.00
	FIREING GL	FIREING GLASS	\$20.00
	KOOZIE	Can Koozie W/ Grand Master Logo	\$5.00
		SUB-TOTAL	
		Check Enclosed (Make Check Payable to Grand Lodge of Texas)	S/H Under \$50.00 \$7.00
			S/H over \$50.00 \$12.00
		VISA/MC/DISC ONLY CARD # _____	TOTAL
		Exp: _____ / _____ CVN# _____	
		NAME: _____	RETURN TO;
		Address: _____	GRAND LODGE OF TEXAS
			PO BOX 446
			WACO, TX 76703
		CITY/STATE _____ ZIP _____	
		Phone: (____) _____ - _____	
		Signature: _____	



<https://grandlodgeoftexas.org/shop/>

TEXAS FREEMASON

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



CONSTITUTED
APRIL 1838



SHOW YOUR SUPPORT OF OUR FRATERNITY WITH THE GRAND LODGE OF TEXAS MASONIC LICENSE PLATE PROGRAM!

<https://renew.txdmv.gov/Renew/SpecialPlateOrderServlet?grpid=60&pltid=342>

A great way to support the Grand Lodge of Texas and to raise awareness of Masonry in Texas, is the Grand Lodge Masonic License Plate Program. Please note that 100% of the proceeds from this program go directly to supporting Grand Lodge of Texas and its educational, benevolent, and charitable purposes.