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FREEMASON

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

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A WORD FROM THE Grand Master



My Brothers,

HONOR AND PRIVILEGE. It is an honor and privilege to serve you in 2021. I intend to fulfill my duties and serve you with pride and competence. To do so, I will need your hopes and prayers just as we each need each other's hopes and prayers to fulfill the promises we have made to each other.

MEMORIES. I have great Masonic memories of the past three years. Memories such as working on the Texas Freemason and associating with truly great Masons such as Sam Gibbins, Larry FitzPatrick, Gerald Harris, Jeff Smith, and Russ Eberley. I have sad memories of attending too many Masonic funerals. This past year we buried many of our Brothers of the Greatest Generation. One particularly, Brother Ben Fay, passed in February of last year. Unknown to me, he worked with my father in the 50s and 60s. Brother Ben provided me glimpses of my father that I had never seen or imagined. I met Brother Ben in 2014 long after my father passed in 1994. Those stories and antidotes from Brother Ben were like messages from Heaven.

SOAP BOX TIME. Nearly fifty percent of our Brothers, who pay dues or are endowed members, are not active in a lodge and have no good reason not to be active. These are Brothers who are not too sick, aged, or infirmed to attend Lodge. They are not burdened with young children or the pressure of careers.

They choose not to be involved. Why is this? Simply put, their lodge is not relevant to them. The absent Brother sees no need or reason to participate in his lodge's activities. He may have fond memories of his initiation and progression through the degrees and feels an obligation to pay dues or be endowed. But in the end when it comes to his daily life the lodge does not mean enough to him to earn a place in his life.

We like to blame the absent Brother for his lack of commitment. But the question we should ask is what is missing from the Lodge that would make the absent Brother want to be a part of it. Why is the lodge not fulfilling some need of the absent Brother such that he would want to be involved? We tell the new Brother we need you to pay dues, be an officer, fill a seat in the lodge room, help clean up the lodge or to serve meals. Yet we do not ask the Brother what his needs of us are. Does he need fellowship beyond thirty minutes before a meeting? Does he need a shoulder to cry on? Does he need someone to explain how to cope with the loss of a father or mother? Does he need for the lodge to have a mother/father day out program so that the Brother and his wife can escape for a few hours? Does his wife need someone to explain Masonry and its demands that Brothers must seek to improve themselves? Does she have an emotional support system? The questions go on and on.

Masonry in Texas is in a crisis. If we do not change course, in a few short years there may be 500 lodges in Texas instead of 776 today. If we do not change course, in a few years the number of Brothers in Texas will be less than 50,000 instead of 63,403 today. If we do not change course, in a few short years there will be no lodges in the small towns of Texas.

The solution to the crisis is simple. Lodges must make themselves relevant to the Brothers. We must find out the needs of our Brothers and then fulfill those needs. We must say to the Brother who is far away from his home lodge that we have a lodge for him and then take him to that Lodge. We must call that absent Brother and talk with him.

ABSENT BROTHERS. Come home to Texas Masonry! If you worry that you will not be admitted because you are missing some words, then rest easy. Grand Lodge law provides that a Texas Mason is entitled to entry in a Texas lodge if he presents a current dues card and photo identification. The Brothers will take care of you! I was gone twenty years and when I stepped back into Lodge I was welcomed. You will be, too!

US OLDER MEMBERS. I include myself in this category. For some of us older members inertia has set in. We are content to sit home reading and watching the television. We are comfortable doing that which we have been doing for some time. We have forgotten the joy of fellowship with our Masonic Brothers. To you my Brother, break that pattern and appear at a Masonic activity. If you need a ride, reach out to a Lodge. If you need to hear a friendly voice, reach out to a Lodge. To our Lodges, call all the older members of your Lodge. Make it work for them to be involved in your Lodge.

HOPE. It is my fervent hope that in the coming year our Lodges act to make themselves relevant to all their members. My hope for this coming year is that I serve you with distinction and earn your commendation.

Thank you again for the honor and opportunity to serve you! Until next time, my Brothers,

LET'S BE CAREFUL OUT THERE!

Ken Curry

Ken Curry
Most Worshipful Grand Master 2021



SAM HOUSTON HALL OF FAME **BLACK TIE BALL**

HOSTED BY
**Masonic Grand Lodge Library
and Museum of Texas**
Formal Dinner and Charity Auction

Saturday, May 15, 2021

Grand Lodge Memorial Temple

715 Columbus Ave, Waco, TX 76701

Social Hour
6:00 P.M.

Dinner
7:00 P.M.

Tickets are \$75.00 each

Dress: Black tie formal. Theme: Sam Houston and the Texas Republic.
Register and buy tickets at (will redirect to an EventBrite registration page):

<https://www.grandlodgelibrary.org/formal>

Hotel Accommodations

Waco Hilton, 113 South University Parks Drive, Waco, TX, 76701

Contact Person for Questions

Billy Hamilton, 254-753-7395, admin@grandlodgelibrary.org

Agenda

Auction and dinner, special guests include Most Worshipful Grand Master Ken Curry
and Texas State Historian Monte Monroe, Ph. D.

INTRODUCTION TO THE Grand Junior Warden



My Brethren,

On January 16, 2021, I was overwhelmed with gratitude, when you elected me to the office of Grand Junior Warden of our Grand Lodge, and I am pleased and honored to have this opportunity to serve you!

Thank you,
H. Bart Henderson,
Grand Junior Warden

Howard Bart Henderson was born in Ponca City, Oklahoma, on November 30, 1957, to Dorothy Mae and George Bartram

Henderson, and resided there until the Spring of 1971, when CONOCO moved their world headquarters to Houston, Texas, subsequently transferring his Father there as well.

Bart attended High School at Northwest Academy, Houston, Senior Class of 1976, and began his secondary education at Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas, as a Criminal Justice Major, later transferring to the University of Houston, Central Campus, Houston, Texas, graduating in 1980, with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Technology.

In June, 1976, Bart met his beloved, Linda Rae Hubbell, in Houston, during her High School graduation ceremony, and they married in June, 1983, at St. Marks United Methodist Church, in the Houston Heights.

Bart was very fortunate to have an early introduction to Freemasonry, by being an Active DeMolay from 1973-1978, with Reagan Chapter, Houston, Texas; later, Bart has served as a DeMolay Advisor; Conclave Director, 1994-2013, and was honored with the DeMolay Legion of Honor in 1996, the Order of DeMolay Chevalier in 1997, and the Guild of the Leather Apron in 2008; he became a Deputy Member of the DeMolay International Supreme Council in 2002; and currently serves as an Active Member of the DeMolay International Supreme Council since 2006.

After watching and admiring what the Freemasons represented, and discussing it at length with his Father-in-Law, Brother Edward R. Hubbell, Bart asked for a petition for the Mysteries, and was subsequently Initiated, Passed, and Raised a Master Mason in Woodland Lodge No. 1157, in July, 1986. Since then, Bart has served our Gentle Fraternity as Master of Bellaire Lodge No. 1336, Houston, in 1999-2000, and Master of DeMolay Lodge No. 199, San Antonio, 2015-2018. Brother Henderson was presented the Golden Trowel by Bellaire Lodge in 2018. Since 2001, Bart has been honored to serve on several Grand Masters Planning Teams, from 2001-2015; has Chaired the Youth Activities Committee from 2001-2007, and the Audit Committee in 2018, and as a member of several Grand Lodge Committees; he served as Asst. State Coordinator for Grand Masters Dibrell, Nanny, and Harrison; District Deputy Grand Master, District 30-B, in 2004, and State Coordinator and Grand Senior Deacon for Grand Master Dodson in 2006; he has also served as Grand Masters Regional Coordinator from 2009-2012, 2015; Brother Henderson was made a Grand Representative to Austria in 2006-2008, then to "Grande Loja Maconica Do Estado de Rondonia-Glomaron", Brazil in 2015-current; Bart also served as the Recording Secretary of the Masonic Counterparts of Texas from 2002-2006.

Brother Henderson has also been very active in the Appendant Masonic Bodies in Texas, as well as his Blue Lodge and Grand Lodge work. Companion Henderson was exalted a Royal Arch Mason in Will N. Kidd Chapter, RAM No. 424, in 1987, and served as High Priest in 1993, and appointed District Deputy Grand High Priest in 2003; He was greeted a Royal & Select Master in San Jacinto Council No. 347, R&SM, Houston, in 1987, and served a Thrice Illustrious Master in 1992, and as District Deputy Grand Master in 1997; since then, Bart has served on many Committees for the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, Chairing several, as well as being appointed to several Grand Chapter Offices; he also served as the State Coordinator for the Grand Chapter in 2005, and was honored with the Golden Keystone in 2005; Companion Henderson is the Grand Representative to Eastern Canada. In the Grand Council, Companion Henderson has also served as several different appointed Grand Council offices, and on several Committees since 1993, many as Chairman. Companion Henderson is the Grand

Representative to Minnesota.

In other York Rite appendant bodies, Sir Knight Henderson has been very busy, being knighted in 1987, and serving as Commander of Ruthven Commandery No. 2, Houston, in 1994, and was conferred the Knight Commander of the Temple in 2003, and served as Grand Commander, Grand Commandery, Knights Templar of Texas, 2013, and was appointed Grand Representative to Oklahoma; he continues to serve the Grand Encampment, Knights Templar, USA, as Aide de Camp for Past Grand Master Kenneth B. Fischer.

Brother Henderson is also a: Past Sovereign Master, Sam Houston Council, No. 275, Allied Masonic Degrees, 2002 and was conferred the Red Branch of Eri in 2003; Past Excellent Chief, Anson Jones Council No. 47, Knight Masons, 2003; Past Governor, Gulf Coast York Rite College No. 106, Houston, 2001-2002 and was elected to receive the Order of the Purple Cross in 1999, served as Deputy Grand Governor, 2006-2012, and Grand Governor in Texas, Sovereign York Rite College of North America, 2014-2018; he is a Past Prior, Thomas H. Ridout Priory No. 75, KYCH, 2007-2008, and continues to serve Convent General, KYCH, as the Personal Representative to the Grand Master General, District 14, 2010-present. He has also served as: Past Thrice Illustrious Master, Texas Council, Order of the Silver Trowel, 2007; Past Sovereign, San Jacinto Conclave No. 93, Red Cross of Constantine, 2009; Past Preceptor, Resurrection Tabernacle No. 21, Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests, 2009; Past Preceptor, Texas Chapter, Order of Knights Preceptor, 2011-2012; Past Most Excellent High Priest, Order of High Priesthood, Grand Chapter of Texas, RAM, 2012; Past Worthy Master, Lone Star Chapel, St. Thomas of Acon, 2017-2018, Provincial Grand Prior, Texas Province, St. Thomas of Acon, 2021; Second Vice President, High Twelve International, Houston Club No. 736; Member, International Order of Odd Fellows, Greater Houston Lodge No. 6.

Brother Henderson is also a very active member of the Scottish Rite, beginning his service, after being initiated in 1987, on the 21st Degree Team, and Standard Bearer's Committee, but quickly realized his calling the serve in the kitchen, and later as Chairman of the Duck's Kitchen. He continues to serve ritually on the Remembrance and Renewal Conferral Team and has served as Wise Master, Chapter of Rose Croix, and Venerable Master, Lodge of Perfection, Order of the Duck, and currently the Orator, Council of Kadosh. He was Invested as a Knight Commander of the Court of Honor in 1993, and Coroneted a 33rd Degree Sovereign Grand Inspector General-Honorary in 2001.

Since 1986, Brother Henderson has also served as Worthy Patron of Houston Chapter No. 258, Order of the Eastern Star in 1991-1992, and as Chairman of the Executive Committee, Grand Chapter of Texas, OES, 2001, and Co-Chairman of the Executive Committee, Grand Chapter, OES, 2011; Past Royal Patron, Houston Court No. 2, Order of the Amaranth, 1996-1997; Past Associate Bethel Guardian, Bethel No. 2, Houston, Job's Daughters International, 1997-2000, and Past Associate Jurisdictional Guardian, Texas, Job's Daughters International; Past Chairman of the Board, Houston Heights Assembly, Texas Rainbow, 1988-1991, Advisory Board, 2007-2014, Invested the Grand Cross of Color, Supreme Assembly, International Order of Rainbow, 2002; Past Dean, Houston Preceptory, DeMolay Legion of Honor, 1996; Vice Dean, Texas State Preceptory, DeMolay Legion of Honor, 2007-present; Past Commander, Gulf Coast Court Chevaliers, Texas DeMolay, 2000, and Past Grand Commander, Texas State Court of Chevaliers, Texas DeMolay, 2002-2003; Past President, Masters, Wardens, and Secretaries Assn., 30th Masonic Districts, 2000-2001; Associate Member, Texas Lodge of Research; Member, Arabia Shrine Temple, Houston, 1987-present; Member, Order of Quetzalcoatl, Tlaloc Teocalli 2012-present; Member, Chinar Grotto, MOVPER, 2018-present.

In his community, Brother Henderson is a Member of the Rotary E-Club of the Southwest, and Paul Harris Fellow, Rotary International; Executive Board Member, High Bidders (Livestock Buying Group, Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo), 2011-present; Life Member, Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo, 1983, and has served on various Committees, 1992-present, and as Chairman of The Stockman's Club, HLSR, 2009-2001, and currently serving the 'Show' on the Wine Committee, and the Calf Scramble Greeters Committee.

As a Member of St. Mark's United Methodist Church, Brother Henderson served as a Youth Counselor, Usher, and Sunday School Teacher.

The 185th Grand Annual Communication

By Jeff Haven, Contributing Writer



The 185th Grand Annual Communication is now completed, and what an historic event it was. Due to the global pandemic and to maintain compliance with the state and local restrictions on attendance, only 1,000 members were allowed in person this year. Grand Master Paul Underwood assigned a special committee led by Craig Enderli to organize and assemble a virtual streaming option. WOW! Who would have thought that in just a few months the team would be able to pull it all together? It was outstanding! We were able to show recorded videos from the Scottish Rite, and Prince Hall Grand Lodge, and the sound for those attending in person was greatly improved. This allowed the historic event to engage Texas Masons from the comfort of their homes or lodges with the ability to virtually attend, vote, and even comment on resolutions. Due to the technology mix of in person clickers and voting online, we experienced a slight delay while merging the tally, but nothing like the days of paper balloting... a job well done our good and faithful servants. I am sure some Brothers would love to see this virtual option next year, but I sincerely hope that the pandemic will no longer be an issue.

No one really likes change, but this year was like none other and forced change for everyone across the world. We all had to implement new routines in, and alterations to, our daily lives due to COVID-19. Many of our events and regular activities had to be cancelled, greatly affecting the interaction and fun we

regularly experience through the fellowship opportunities our fraternity offers. Nevertheless, it was the right thing to do, as first and foremost is the health and safety for our membership.

During the Annual Communication, change was present all around us and several familiar faces were not in attendance. Eight PGM's were unable to attend. Even though our numbers were restricted, the love of our fraternity was still present and in full force, and the vibe was strong. It was noticeable that some upgrades and enhancements to our glorious facility had been made. It's nice to see that we are starting to make some long overdue improvements having deferred needed maintenance in recent years.

This year we had one Resolution and one Grand Master's Recommendation that dealt with raising the per capita so we could increase funds set aside to use for maintenance and upkeep of our Memorial Grand Lodge Temple. Unfortunately neither one of the resolutions passed, and this greatly saddens me since it appears that everyone I talked to wants to keep our beautiful edifice, but the majority of Texas Masons do not want to pay for it. We heard several brothers share heartfelt reasons why we need the money, but this fell on deaf ears. I challenge all Masons of Texas to discuss this at your own lodge and let's pool our collective ideas into ways we can provide the necessary money for the maintenance, repairs, and renovations, necessary so

that we can keep our Memorial Grand Lodge Temple. I overheard one brother during the discussion say that \$8 increase was too much but he would agree to pay \$2 more. I really think some of our members feel that Freemasonry should be FREE. Brethren lets open our hearts, our minds, and our wallets, and let's start putting money into our Grand Lodge Building. I want to attend Grand Lodge in years to come in our majestic building and not at some hotel.

Each year we elect a new Grand Junior Warden to work with the other elected officers for the good of our fraternity in leadership and membership growth, and to bring in new ideas to consider for the benefit of Masonry in Texas. In my opinion one thing we need is to somehow have more continuity over a several year span, working together, rather than just plan and implement for each GM's year. We must also incorporate new technology as it comes available to foster and embrace the world around us. More efficient use of technology available on our smart phones to have documents readily accessible via apps and to improve communication with our brethren would make our Masonic lives much easier. I was surprised to hear that only 48% of our members have a verified email address in Grandview.

We elected a new Grand Secretary this year and I am very excited to have someone of Justin Duty's youthful energy and talents in a leadership position. Congratulations, and good luck to you R.⚔.W.⚔. Duty!

Congratulations and thank you to R.⚔.W.⚔. Paul Underwood and his lady Rebecca for a successful year despite the pandemic, we know you had to make tough decisions and we appreciate your dedication and commitment. Best wishes on your next journey.

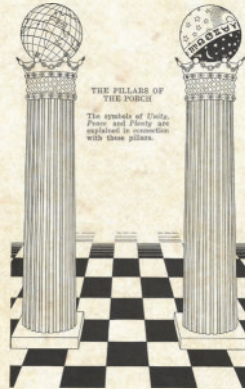
Lastly, congratulations to M.⚔.W.⚔. Ken Curry for his election as Grand Master of Masons in Texas – I am confident that we are in good hands under his leadership.

A complete listing of all the newly elected and appointed officers is provided on page 12 in the issue.



GRAND LODGE

A WORD FROM THE Deputy Grand Master



Brethren of Texas,

Unity within our beloved Fraternity is growing! When I first began traveling as a fairly new Mason with Texas Lodge of Research, I met with Brothers from around the State. Every time I traveled to a meeting, I greeted old friends and continued to meet new ones as my Masonic network began to expand. Years later, I made myself available for office and began to travel more often and to more Lodges. I was amazed at how this early network had multiplied, and now a decade later, I could travel anywhere in the state and find a familiar face.

I thought I was one of a few, one of the lucky ones, who had the time and opportunity to travel the state and get to know everyone. However, I went to the concert this year during Grand Lodge, sponsored by Waco Lodge No. 92, and I observed Brothers from Laredo sitting with Brothers I knew from McAllen, Brothers from Round Rock and Houston, Beaumont and Weatherford, grouped together as if they had all traveled to Grand Lodge together. The connectivity has continued to spread and Grand Lodge has truly become like an annual family reunion that gets better every year as your network grows.

That in-person connection, so valuable to men in every culture, instantly reminded me of the Pillars of the Porch, illustrated on page 32 (page 46 on the app) of the Monitor, which has the following description: “The symbols of Unity, Peace and Plenty are explained in connection with these pillars.” Thus, signifying that the three are grouped: unity leads to peace and the two together lead to plenty.

As unity continues to expand in our jurisdiction, I pray that peace and plenty will follow. If you haven’t taken the opportunity to travel and visit other Lodges or attend your Grand Lodge, you are missing out on one of the best experiences our Fraternity can provide. Take the first step, grow your personal Masonic network, expand our unity, and a decade from now you will look back, as I have, amazed at how this Brotherhood works.

With Fraternal Gratitude,
Bradley S. Billings, Deputy Grand Master

A WORD FROM THE Grand Senior Warden



My Dear Brethren,

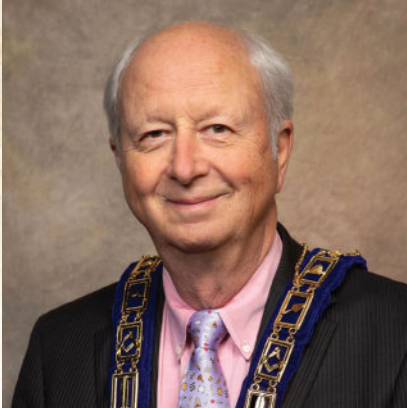
I am grateful beyond words for your confidence and trust in advancing me to the office of Grand Senior Warden of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas. I look forward to serving you, the Masons of Texas, to the best of my ability. I pledge my support to the Grand Master and the other Grand Lodge Officers as we approach the challenges that are confronting our fraternity. We are facing some difficult times and with Gods blessings may we be successful in our endeavors to assist the Lodges of Texas, improve our Grand Lodge, and our fraternity.

The year 2020 will go down in history as one of the most disruptive times in the fraternity of Freemasonry. We have been restricted from having traditional in person meetings and every Lodge has suffered for nearly a year. However, we are beginning to open up, to some extent, and hopefully this pandemic will soon be behind us and we can get back to practicing Freemasonry as it is intended.

I pray that the future will bring a new beginning of enthusiasm and determination to Texas Masons to practice not only our beautiful ritual, but more especially the principal tenets of our great fraternity. The practice of brotherly love, relief, and truth should be our objectives daily as we go forward guided by the Holy Scriptures. The Great Architect of the Universe oversees all things and it is our duty to praise Him and follow His directions. May God bless you and your family and may the coming year bring health, happiness, and prosperity your way.

With Warm Fraternal Regards,
G. Clay Smith, Grand Senior Warden

A WORD FROM THE Grand Treasurer



Brethren,

Thank you very much for electing me as your Grand Treasurer. I am honored and excited to be part of the Grand Lodge Trustees for 2021. I promise to work hard to ensure that the Grand Lodge of Texas is run prudently and efficiently and to support all the fine lodges and Masons in our great state. In 2020 I had the pleasure of working with three great Masons in their role as Grand Secretary, Allan Lazor, Tommy Ellison, and Justin Duty. They each helped me in fulfilling my duties as acting Grand Treasurer.

Many accounting changes were implemented in 2020. We anticipate building on those changes to make our finances more transparent and to provide useful and needed information to those making decisions. I hope to find ways to increase Grand Lodge support of all the lodges in Texas and to be a valuable resource to all of you.

During the past few months, I have been so impressed by the number of men who volunteer their time and talent to guide and support our craft. In many cases they bring both technical and professional expertise as well as years of valuable experience. I am immensely proud and humble to be part of this team.

Again, thank you for your vote of confidence and I will work hard to earn your trust. I look forward to meeting and seeing you during the coming months.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,
Rick Townsend, Grand Treasurer

A WORD FROM THE Grand Secretary



Brethren,

I want to take this opportunity and thank you all for giving me the privilege of serving the Masons of Texas as your Grand Secretary. This position is one of paramount significance, and I have no shame in admitting that I will need all the support and encouragement I can get in order to make this office successful.

The business of our Grand Lodge takes place in the Grand Secretary's office, and I want to assure you that my goal is to improve the modernize and the way we communicate with the constituent lodges and the Masons of Texas. I would often come to the Grand Secretary's office and visit with Bro. O'Neil, Bro. Lazor and Bro. Ellison, usually in conjunction with some task I had been asked to complete. Now, having the opportunity to sit on the other side of the desk, I am eternally grateful for the wisdom and good council these Brothers offered me over the years. I know you all will join with me in wishing Roxie O'Neill a blessed future, as well as wishing Brothers Lazor and Ellison health, happiness, and prosperity, in the years to come.

Finally, I want to thank all those Brothers who volunteer their time each year to ensure that our Annual Communication takes place. I wish to extend thanks to all the Brothers of M. Denton Stanford Lodge No. 594 and Crawford Lodge No. 585 for all their hard work and dedication in the weeks leading up to our Annual Communication, and I would like to personally thank Bro. Craig Enderli, Bro. Jim Fisher and Bro. Al Holomon, for their dedication.

Sincerely and Fraternaly Yours,
Justin B. Duty, Grand Secretary

2021 Summary of Proposed Resolutions and Recommendations Results

Resolution No. 1

This Resolution would amend Art. 172 and require all portions of Committee reports proposing any change in Grand Lodge or Grand Lodge law to be filed with the Grand Secretary on or before November 15 of each year and included in the copies of proposed Resolutions forwarded to the secretaries of the subordinate Lodges by the Grand Secretary.

Withdrawn

Resolution No. 2

This Resolution would amend Art. 83 and would change the date for filing DDGM reports on the status of the Lodges in his District from September 15 to December 31 of each year.

Withdrawn

Resolution No. 3

This Resolution would amend numerous Articles in both the Constitution and laws with regard to certain action dates. The requested date changes are requested in light of the movement of the date of commencement of the Grand Annual Communication from the 1st Thursday in December to the 3rd Thursday in January.

Passed

Resolution No. 4

This resolution would amend Art. 338 regarding the safe-keeping of the minutes of Constituent Lodges to permit the digital storage of Lodge minutes in the "Cloud" which would allow Lodge members to review Lodge minutes "on-line" in a secure environment.

Withdrawn

Resolution No. 5

This resolution would delete Art. 629, 631, 632, 638 and 639 and would amend Art. 630 by requiring a suspended or expelled Mason, except for those suspended for nonpayment of dues, to file a written petition for reinstatement of restoration with the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Texas. The petition would be considered by the Grievances and Appeals Committee and, after certain action, its findings and proposed action would be forwarded to the Grand Master for approval. The actions would be included in the Grievances and Appeals Annual Report.

Passed

Resolution No. 6

This resolution would create a new Art. 22(a) and would give the Grand Master authority, with the approval of the Grand Lodge Trustees, to suspend or modify any law of the Grand Lodge of Texas (a) during the period of a world, national or state emergency; or (b) to conform with any lawful Federal or State directive that would affect the operations of the Grand Lodge of Texas and/or its constituent Lodges.

Withdrawn

Resolution No. 7

This resolution would amend Art. 316 by adding Endowed Members to the list of those Masons who are exempt from paying dues and their Lodges to be exempt from paying per capita to the Grand Lodge.

Tabled

Resolution No. 8

This resolution addresses the proposed realignment of Masonic Districts 26A, 26B and 26C in Southeast Texas. 225.

Withdrawn

Resolution No. 9

This resolution would create a new Art. 224c which would modify the position of the Grand Lodge of Texas regarding consumption and possession of alcoholic beverages on Lodge premises.

Amended and Failed

Resolution No. 10

This resolution would change the name of Fort Hancock – Fort Bliss Lodge No. 1297 to Taft-Diaz Lodge No. 1297.

Passed

Resolution No. 11

This resolution requests the realignment of Lodges in District 30.

Withdrawn

Resolution No. 12

This resolution would create a new Art. 74b and would require the Grand Secretary, with approval of a majority of the Grand Lodge Trustees, to annually review, revise, add or delete Masonic forms as may be necessary for compliance with Grand Lodge laws and to provide the Masonic Jurisprudence Committee and written report for that committee's action pursuant to Art. 1075.

Amended and Passed

Resolution No. 13

This resolution would amend Art. 163a and would require each Lodge to pay an annual assessment of \$40.00 for each member on its rolls until a total assessment of \$200.00 per Lodge member has been paid. The monies would be first placed in the Grand Lodge General Fund and then transferred to a Reserve Fund, in trust, to be solely used for structural maintenance, renovation, remodeling and repair of the Memorial Masonic Grand Lodge Building.

Failed

Resolution No. 14

This resolution would amend Art. 4, Sec. 8 of the Constitution and would permit the Grand Master to appoint District Deputy Grand Masters from either a Lodge in that District, or from a Lodge in an adjoining District.

Failed

Resolution No. 15

This resolution would amend Art. 75 by adding that if a Masonic District is not composed of three or more Lodges, the Masonic District shall have one year to submit a plan for redistricting. If no plan for redistricting is submitted, the Grand Lodge shall redistrict accordingly.

Passed

Grand Master's Recommendation No. 1

This recommendation would amend Art. 508 by making it a Masonic offense to make any negative reference, or take any negative action, in regard to a petitioner's or member's faith, creed or race at any time.

Failed

Grand Master's Recommendation No. 2

This recommendation would permit the Grand Master to allow the participating Lodges to participate in a "Join the Move" program during his Masonic year. The program would be designed to advance those Entered Apprentices and Fellowcrafts who did not complete their degrees within the prescribed time to become Master Masons. The specific provisions of the program are included in the published Recommendation.

Tabled

Grand Master's Recommendation No. 3

This recommendation would delete Art. 163b, 163e and 318a in their entirety and would create a new Art. 318a regarding Endowed Memberships. The minimum amounts for an endowment would be set at an amount not less than 20 times the Lodge's current annual dues, if under age 65; or 10 times annual dues if over age 65. All monies presently in the Delaware Trust, the current holder of the endowment assets, would be returned to the Lodges who would be required to establish and manage an Endowed Membership Fund. Only the income from the fund could be withdrawn and used by the Lodge for its operations.

Failed

Grand Master's Recommendation No. 4

This recommendation would amend Art. 163(11) by increasing the amount from \$1.00 to \$9.00 to be remitted by the Lodge for the Grand Lodge Library and Museum with its Annual Return for each member on the rolls of the Lodge.

Failed

2021 Election Results

Grand Junior Warden – H. Bart Henderson

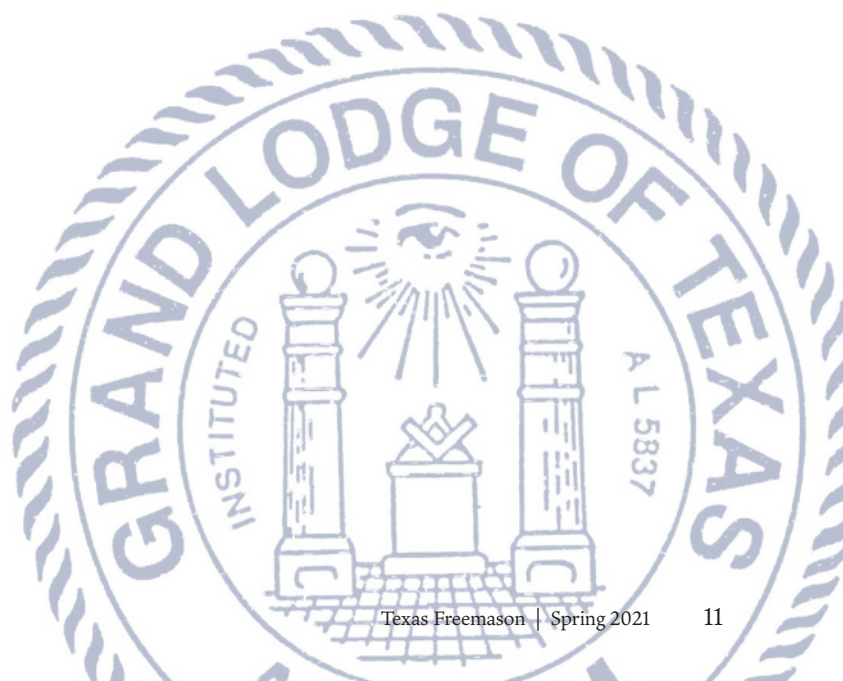
Grand Treasurer – Rick Townsend

Grand Secretary – Justin Duty

Committee on Work – Charles "Chuck" R. Forsyth

Grand Lodge Library & Museum Board of Directors – Brian R. Dodson

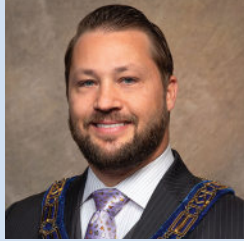
Masonic Home & School Board of Directors – Bradley Kohanke



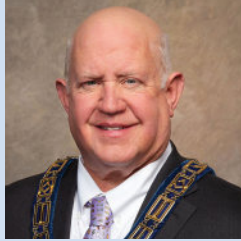
2021 Grand Lodge Officers



**Most Worshipful
Kenneth Charles Curry
Grand Master 2021**



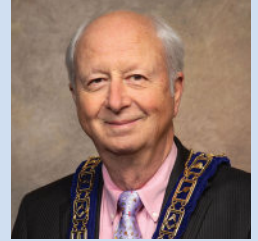
**Right Worshipful
Bradley Scott Billings
Deputy Grand Master**



**Right Worshipful
G. Clay Smith
Grand Senior Warden**



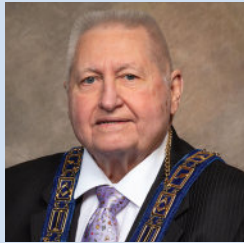
**Right Worshipful
H. Bart Henderson
Grand Junior Warden**



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



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



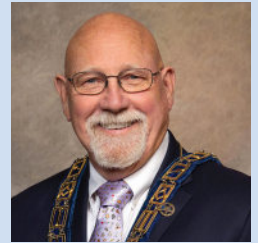
**Right Worshipful
Edwin Scott Malone, III
Grand Chaplain**



**Right Worshipful
W. "Rhitt" Moore
Grand Orator**



**Right Worshipful
Jeff Smith
Grand Marshal**



**Worshipful
W. Gerald Harris
Grand Senior Deacon**



**Worshipful
Larry Cleveland Gilley
Grand Junior Deacon**



**Worshipful
Wiley E. Brookshire
Grand Senior Steward**



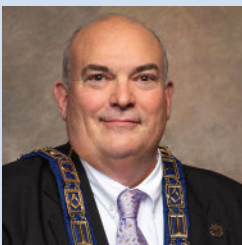
**Worshipful
Scott Garrett Hill
Grand Junior Steward**



**Worshipful
Chip Green
Grand Pursuivant**



**Worshipful
Michael Joyal Cote' II
Grand Musician**



**Worshipful
Russell Lyn Roberson
Grand Photographer**



**Worshipful
Dennis Duane Reader
Grand Tiler**

On the Masonic Road

By Bill Crow, Staff Writer

Recently, I helped a friend retrieve his 1957 Chevrolet Bel Air 2 door hardtop from another friend's shop in Amarillo, Texas. A failed wheel bearing on the trailer put him, the trailer, and the car on the side of the road as he returned from California where the car had just been reupholstered. He called and I went to get him and the car.

Having lived in Wayside, Texas as a boy, I began to remember the past and view the changes that have occurred over the last 60-70 years to many of the small towns along US Highway 287 and around Canyon, Happy, Clarendon, Memphis, Quanah, Claude, and many other towns. My thoughts turned to wondering if any of my friends I had as a boy were still around, and further, if any were Texas Masons. So, upon returning home I began researching Texas High Plains Masonic Lodges to see if I could find a name or two that I might remember from my boyhood.

For those of you that know and love the West Texas panhandle, the Palo Duro and Tule Canyons, and the greatness of the area, I hope you will enjoy a distant look at the "hardy and self-sufficient" people, communities, and Masonic Lodges, that began Texas Masonic work in this remote part of Texas in the late 1800's.

FEATURE

The High Plains region in the United States is composed of the Southern portion of the Great Plains, or, specifically the Northern portion of the Llano Estacado ("Staked Plain"). The High Plains cover the Northernmost Panhandle of Texas, Northeastern New Mexico, Eastern Colorado, and Western Kansas. The High Plains are generally flat grassland, drained eastward by the Platte, Arkansas, and Canadian rivers. The economy is based on cattle, irrigated and dry farming, and some natural gas and petroleum extraction.

The Texas High Plains is a large region in the Texas Panhandle covering more than eight million acres of the Trans-Pecos region. It is the second largest Texas region after the Texas Hill Country.

The topography of the area is "Mesa, Table, Flat," until you leave the High Plains traveling west where you encounter the rising and rolling hills and topography changes in the far West panhandle, Northeastern New Mexico, and mid-Eastern Colorado.

There is an exception to the "Mesa" topography of the area, that directs the flow of the Red River, Prairie Dog Fork, that cascades (very occasionally) through the bottoms of the Palo Duro Canyon. The Canyon covers an area from Canyon, Texas to the canyon tail tracings near Claude, and Wayside, Texas.

As I continued researching the Lodges and the history of the Texas High Plains, I often came face-to-face with the tragedy often referred to as "the last Indian War of the Plains Indians." History is not always kind, especially when a tragedy occurs. Here is what I found...

On September 28, 1874, Colonel Ranald S. Mackenzie at the head of the 4th U.S. Cavalry attacked and destroyed a large Indian encampment in Palo Duro Canyon. A number of Comanche, Southern Cheyenne, Arapaho, and Kiowa warriors led by Lone Wolf had left their assigned reservations and were hiding out in Palo Duro Canyon located in the Texas Panhandle.

As part of the Red River War of 1874-75, Colonel Mackenzie was ordered by General Christopher C. Augur to find the Indians and force them back onto the reservations. Colonel Mackenzie, leading the 4th U.S. Cavalry, departed Fort Clark, Texas on August 15, reached Fort Concho on the 21st, and the mouth of Blanco Canyon on the 23rd, with eight companies plus three from the 10th Infantry and one from the 11th Infantry.

By September 25th, the Indians began to gather near Mackenzie's troops, and on the night of September 26-27, the Indians were attacked near Tule Canyon and Boehm's Canyon, resulting in the deaths of fifteen warriors including the Kiowa Chief, Woman Heart.

On the morning of September 28th, Mackenzie's scouts followed the Indian trail to the edge of Palo Duro Canyon and then descended the steep slopes to the valley floor 700 feet below. Here, at least five Indian villages were hidden. Taken by surprise, the Indians abandoned their camps and with the people scattered, leaving Indian leaders, Iron Shirt of the Cheyenne, Poor Buffalo of the Comanche, and Lone Wolf of the Kiowa, unable to mount a united defense. The soldiers burned the villages including their winter food supplies.

They also captured more than 1,400 horses. It is said that approximately 1,000 of them were later destroyed to prevent recapture by the Indians. Although only three Indians and one soldier were killed in this battle, the unrelenting pursuit of the troopers and the cold weather ultimately forced the Indians to surrender, thus bringing to a close the Red River War.

It is very important to remember history, both the good and the not-so-good, as

through history we will praise and be thankful for the good and great things, and we learn to not repeat the bad.

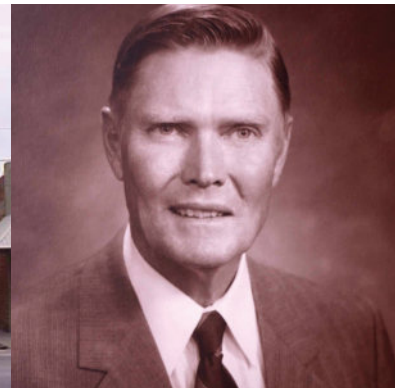
We are blessed by the vibrant and colorful history of our early beginnings as Texas Masons during the Texas Revolution, the beginnings of our Texas Republic and our Texas Statehood. We would all agree that the trials and tribulations endured during that time and at those locations in South Texas were most important, and were the pinnacle of Texas Masonry.

Likewise, the early hardships and dangers of prairie life and disasters that occurred in the West Texas High Plains and the High Plains Texas Masonic History are a significant part of who we are as Texas Masons. As the Palo Duro Canyon is only second in size to the Grand Canyon, the Palo Duro Canyon area and Texas High Plains Masonic history are significant to all Texas Masons.

As you travel northwest from Fort Worth, Texas on Highway 287, around Highway marker 447 we arrive in Childress, Texas. The city and county were named in honor of George Campbell Childress, who was the principal author of the Texas Declaration of Independence. Our Texas Past Grand Master, Graham H. Childress (1988) was the fifth generation Grandson of George Campbell Childress. Grand Master Childress's Father and both of his grandfathers were members of Ozona Lodge No. 747 where his father and one grandfather received 50-Year Masonic Service Awards.



Ozona Lodge No. 747



GM Graham Childress



Childress Lo

Childress Masonic Lodge No. 695 was issued a Charter on December 11, 1890 and for a number of years held meetings in the lodge building located at 200 Commerce Street, downtown Childress, and later moved to their present location at 344 N. Main Street. The Childress Lodge completed 130 years of service on December 11, 2020. This great lodge has come through countless drought, hail storms, tornados, severe months, and years of "dust bowl" conditions, decreasing populations, and difficult times. It may not be the biggest or most affluent lodge, but it has "grit" and is still there after 130 years. What a testament to men of commitment and stature.

If you are in the Childress, Texas area and need a friend or need to stop for a night's rest, visit or contact the Childress Masonic Lodge while there. The lodge meets on the 2nd Thursday at 7:00 p.m. The current Worshipful Master is Michael "Mickey" Dewey. Brother Dewey can be reached at 214-794-0925 or contact the Lodge at 940-937-3281.

Continuing our journey to the northwest around mile marker 504, we arrive in Donley County and the "panhandle" town of Clarendon, Texas. "If you're like me, when you hear the name Texas Panhandle, you probably think Blue Northerners and the Palo Duro Canyon. It gets cold, cold, cold, in the Panhandle, where there's hardly anything but barbed wire fence to keep out the harsh arctic wind in the winter.

Donley County was formerly the domain of the Plains Apache and later the

Comanche and Kiowa Indians. This region was once overrun with buffalo until white men settled in the late 1870s. Many fierce battles ensued between the tribes and the whites, including the decisive Red River War of 1874-75. Thereafter, when the buffalo were slaughtered to extinction, many vast cattle ranches were established. This is about when Methodist preacher Lewis Carhart established "Saints Roost" (Clarendon) up in the panhandle. Actually, Carhart called his no-liquor, no-gambling, Christian colony "Clarendon" after his wife, Clara.

Texas Past Grand Master, George F. Morgan (1919) played an important part in the progressive Masonic work in the Panhandle, helping organize many lodges in all parts of the territory.

When Grand Master Morgan moved to Clarendon, the now progressive city was a tent town. As District Deputy Grand Master, R. W. Morgan traveled from one end of the Panhandle to the other. He encountered Indians, buffalo, wolves, and other wild animals during his travels. He was caught out in snow storms. He and other Masons rode horseback or in buggies or hacks going to lodge meetings at district locations. Many Masonic lodges in the Panhandle recognize Grand Master Morgan as one of the leading Masons of Texas and the "dean" of Panhandle Masons.

Clarendon Masonic Lodge No.700 was one of three original "first" Masonic Lodges in the panhandle / High Plains area of Texas. Clarendon Lodge No. 700, Childress

to the south of Claude off Texas State Highway 207. Claude, Texas, was originally named Armstrong City after several area ranches in the area. The town then became known as Claude in 1887. Claude, Texas was named after Claude Ayres who was the train engineer of the Fort Worth and Denver Railway, the first train to travel through the area.

In the early fall of 1890, several Masons who lived in or near Claude, who wanted to form a Lodge, were sitting on a box on the north side of the square, facing the courthouse, discussing the possibility of obtaining a Charter for a Masonic Lodge at Claude. As no suitable room could be had, they were about to abandon the idea, when one of them who had been looking across at the courthouse observed the blind dormer windows in the roof and thought it might be a possible place for a lodge room. He asked one of the other Masons (who was a carpenter) if he could tell by measuring around the base of the courthouse, what size room could be had in the attic. The other said he could, whereupon they went over to the courthouse, measured the same and it was found that a room could be had sufficiently large to accommodate a small Lodge for several years.

The organization of a Lodge was then begun in earnest, which was somewhat difficult, as no two Masons were from the same place, and no vouching could be done, but meetings were kept up weekly until February 11, 1891 when Grand Master

John Watson of the Grand Lodge of Texas, granted a charter and set the Lodge to work by installing the following officers:

- John F. Wilson, Worshipful Master
- J. H. Howe, Treasurer
- W. H. Bowie, Senior Warden
- John Hoffer, Senior Deacon
- J. M. White, Junior Warden
- T. S. Cavins, Junior Deacon
- W. G. Cates, Secretary
- W. H. Baker, Tiler

The charter members of Claude Lodge No. 719 were:

- John F. Wilson, W. H. Bowie, J. M. White, J. H. Howe,
- J. H. Lightfoot, T. S. Cavins, J. P. Hill, P. H. Lynch, W. G. Cates,
- W. H. Baker, G. W. Pucket, and A. L. Welch.



dge No. 695

GM George Morgan

Claude Lodge No. 719

Lodge No. 695, and Plainview Lodge No. 709, were all chartered in December 1890. Both Childress Lodge and Clarendon Lodge received their Charter from the Grand Lodge of Texas on December 11, 1890, while Plainview Lodge received their charter on December 10, 1890.

Clarendon lodge continues to be active after 130 years, another testament to the will and hardiness of the folk in the High Plains of Texas. If you are in or near Clarendon, Texas contact the Clarendon Lodge or better yet, make a visit and fellowship with them. The current Worshipful Master is Russel Estlack. You can contact Brother Estlack at 806-874-0609 or 806-205-0089. The Lodge meets on the 2nd Monday at 7:30 p.m. The Lodge is located at 205 S. Kearney, in Clarendon, Texas.

As you continue towards Amarillo, Texas, our next location, Claude, Texas, is located at the intersection of Highway 287 and State Highway 207 at about mile marker 534. Highway 207 takes you to Silverton, Panhandle, Lake Mackenzie, and the Palo Duro Park, and continues south as the only North South highway other than I-27 at Canyon, Texas, that will cross the Palo Duro and Tule Canyons until you are further south around Silverton, Texas.

During the first half of the 16th century, the Spanish conquistador Francisco Coronado and his party passed through Claude and Tule Canyon, a scenic wonder

The room in the Claude courthouse served the lodge until 1903 when the Lodge moved to its own building on the west side of the courthouse square. This building was lost to fire in 1912 along with several other buildings and the records of the lodge. The lodge had to meet in the courthouse again until the present building was completed and furnished in 1916.

The Claude Lodge continues to serve its members and others in Armstrong County and has done so for over 130 years. Great men and Masons all, engaged in their community and county with other Masons. If you are near or in Claude, Texas and would like to visit Claude Masonic Lodge No.719, contact Worshipful Master, Jonny R. Simms at 806-654-1158. The Lodge is located at 102 2nd Street, Claude, Texas. The Lodge meets on the 3rd Thursday at 7:30 p.m.

The history of the West Texas Panhandle and High Plains is enormous and is filled with "stuff" movies are made of. If you travel on Highway 287 and by chance travel as far as Claude, Texas, take the time to visit or contact our Brothers in Childress, Clarendon, or Claude. All of them are hardy, hard-working, and proud, of their Texas Masonic heritage.

See you next time "On the Masonic Road". ★



Vitek's, The Serpent, And A Lesson In Masonic Secrecy

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

Those of you who have been regular readers of this column know that I do not believe in luck or coincidence. I now know that things happen.... because they are supposed to happen. And, that knowledge has been such a great awakening because of all I have realized and experienced. What I don't understand is how my Big Brother John Deacon seems to know where I am every month. It's almost as if he has some kind of a tracking device on my truck or something..... hummmmm. I might ought to check that out..... well anyway here's what happened recently. I was in Waco getting ready to have lunch with two of my closest Masonic Brothers when my phone rings. I saw it was John and figured that he knowing it was about time for my newsletter, was going to tell me when he was coming through San Antonio so we could meet. I answered and he told me that he was on his way to town and wanted to know if I could meet him the next day for lunch. I told him that I was not going to be back for three days and told him where I was and what I was doing. His answer was, "Hey that's great. I am just passing through Waco now....I will be right there." I just stood there with the phone to my ear with, no one on the other end because he had already hung up, a dumb look on my face, and Brad and Larry looking at me wondering what the heck was going on. I told them that there was going to be one more joining us for lunch. They were a lot happier about it than I was.....heck they weren't going to have to pay for him. We were at Vitek's BBQ just getting ready to get in line to order. I explained to the order taker that we had one more coming and that he was a really big guy and he eats like three men. I just wanted to warn him, but right in the middle of my explanation John walked up and danged if every employee in the place didn't walk up and say hi to him..... by name. Apparently, he has been there before.... many times before. He said hi to all three of us and said, "I'll get us a table." And he walked off. I called out to him that he had to order at the counter first and he just laughed and kept on walking. The guy taking the orders laughed and said, "Don't worry, we have his order already." We were all confused, but we went ahead and ordered and picked up our food at the end of the counter and went to look for John. We found him sitting at a big booth in the back. As surprised as we were that he did not have to order his lunch.....he didn't even have to pick it up either.....they brought it to him. I asked him what he ordered as he tried to look over the top of the mountain of food in front of him. He said he got his usual which was four "full" Gut Paks. A Gut Pak is a big cardboard bowl with a layer of Fritos on the bottom and piled on top was chopped beef, beans, sausage, cheese, onions, bread, pickles, jalapeno peppers, and BBQ sauce. Just one was a huge amount of food.... and he had four of them. Larry, Brad, and I just had BBQ plates and were finished long before he was. We made small talk amongst ourselves because John always eats in total silence. Just when we thought he was done, one of the staff came over to shovel.... er...pick up

all the trash he left behind and left him a big bowl of banana pudding, the whole top covered in vanilla wafers just the way I like it. We all looked at that and immediately asked the guy to bring three more.....and boy, was it good!!! Finally all the food on the table was gone and I asked John if he had anything worth putting in the newsletter to share with us. He contemplated for a moment trying to build suspense until I got up and said, "OK, we're outta here...let's go." "OK, OK," he said motioning us to sit back down. "I do have a great story for you." We'll be the judge of that," I said smiling at Larry and Brad who agreed with me. He blinked a couple of times like he was confused but continued, "We talk about Masonic secrecy and for most non-Masons the "secrecy" is Masonry. They don't seem to care about anything else. It's all about the secrecy. Well last week I experienced Masonic secrecy in its purest and most perfect form. I had been invited to install my Brother Nephew as Worshipful Master of



Chambers Creek Lodge, one of our many historic moonlight Lodges. Coincidentally, as it turned out, I was going to mention Masonic secrecy in my remarks to the non-Masons in attendance. But little did I know that I was going to see Masonic secrecy in action." He had our full and undivided attention now and we were all leaning a little forward in our seats. John talks a little loud at times and I was sure that the guys at the table next to us must have heard him because they were leaning a little towards us and not talking to each other at all. I gave John the "lower your voice" signal which he totally ignored so I kept myself ready to jump on him if he said anything he wasn't supposed to. "Now I am going to tell the story as close to how Brother Joe told it," he said seriously. "This is a very old Lodge building, over 100 years old, but still standing strong. Originally, it was a school on the ground floor and the Lodge room on the top floor....and as you can imagine, pest and varmint control is

always a challenge. Brother Joe, the incoming Junior Warden, got to the Lodge before the rest of us and opened up the fellowship hall which is on the ground floor. He then was going to climb the stairs to the Lodge room and get the lights on. To get to the stairs you have to exit the lower level and enter a hallway on the side of the building. As he got to the top of the stairs he saw something move and when he saw what it was, he froze." At this point, dear reader, I have to tell you that when John paused to take a swallow of his tea, with me, Larry, and Brad hanging on that last word, he came really close to being roughed up by all three of us.....and I think we could have taken him. He saw the aggravation on our faces and chuckled and finally continued, "There, against the wall and wrapped around the top of the staircase banister was a snake.

Visit <https://grandlodgeoftexas.org/vitek-s-the-serpent-and-a-lesson-in-masonic-secrecy/> for the rest of the story.



Grand Lodge Committee Profile

By Bruce Hammond, Staff Writer

In this installment of our recurring column regarding the various Grand Lodge Committees, we look at the Committee on Masonic Education and Service. Of the twenty Permanent Committees, this is the one for which it takes four articles and seven paragraphs just to describe its duties. This committee has such broad ranging responsibilities it could easily be called the “Committee on Other Duties as Assigned.” In an effort not to take up the whole article quoting the law, the following is only the first paragraph of the first Article.

This committee is defined in Grand Lodge Law Article 111 in the following manner:

Article 111 Masonic Education and Service. It shall be the duty of the Committee on Masonic Education and Service to formulate and promulgate a system of instruction in the fundamental principles, symbolism, teachings and practical application of Masonry; to aid the Grand Master in extending aid and relief in the case of public disaster arising from cyclones, earthquakes, floods and other catastrophes. In the case of any public calamity, the activities of said Committee shall be subject to the personal supervision and direction of the Grand Master.

The reader is encouraged to continue reading the description and charge in the Grand Lodge Law Book or using new Grand Lodge App.

With such a wide-open description, it is no wonder the committee is constantly working. In an interview with the new Chair of the Committee, Michael Malone, he listed the major items, just in education; Officer Leadership Training, Texas Lodge System of Candidate Information, A.L.L. program, L.I.F.E. program, Briscoe Workshops, Disaster Relief Guidelines, and more. He acknowledges it is nearly an overwhelming set of tasks and credits much of the recent success to Brother Larry FitzPatrick.

Indeed, no article written at this time would be adequate if Brother FitzPatrick were not mentioned. Anyone who has been through Officer Leadership training, attended other educational programs, or read this magazine must at the least know his name. Brother FitzPatrick has been on the Committee for ten years and for the last five years has served as chair, coming off the committee at the end of the Grand Lodge session just held. Brother Malone gives Brother FitzPatrick a large portion of the credit for the Committee’s successes over those years and acknowledges the enormous shoes he must fill as the new chair. Anyone who has tried to keep up with Brother FitzPatrick knows it is a futile venture. The Grand Lodge is deeply indebted to Brother FitzPatrick for his years of dedication and service. Of course, in true Larry fashion, he is quick to point out the foundation for anything accomplished during his tenure as Chair was laid by all the previous Chairs, and from his perspective, Past Grand Master Tommy Griffin who chaired the Committee from 2011-2015. Brother FitzPatrick credits PGM Griffin for mentoring committee members, removing restraints on formats, and for moving the transfer of educational material from a paper to digital platform, providing significantly more information. He emphasized that his comment implies nothing negative to previous Chairs, who forged the way for the committee currently, but rather reflected his efforts as another phase in an ongoing improvement, much as was done by previous Chairs and committee members.

Brother FitzPatrick also pointed out that one new item they had minimal involvement with, but is ultimately a significant improvement in educational and reference resources, is the new Grand Lodge App initiated by Deputy Grand Master Brad Billings. The Committee only provided some resources

to the developers. He did say that in addition to the App, there are also new additional resources behind the “Membership Portal” on the Grand Lodge website, and encourages all Texas Masons to download the app and to make sure they are registered on the Grand Lodge Website Member’s Portal.

The Committee has another ongoing major task, the PGM footstone project. The Committee has been working with internal and external resources to identify locations of Past Grand Master’s graves, contact their families to obtain permission to mark those not previously marked, and secure a host lodge for the ceremony. The current version of this process was begun four years ago and is a revitalization of a 1960’s era project. The committee had to research the original footstone design as it was not preserved, completed that task, and have so far initiated placement of three markers. Four more are ready to be placed with fourteen additionally researched and on order. Once these are placed, all Past Grand Master’s graves back to 1980 will have been marked, with a focus on previous decade sized blocks going forward. The Committee asks that anyone who knows of the location of a PGM grave that is not marked to please contact the Committee. It may be that the site is already identified, but it is better to have more information to ensure that none are missed and all are properly noted in the Proceedings of the Grand Lodge.

As with the Committees on Masonic Jurisprudence and Civil Law, the members of this Committee must be available and engaged all year long, theirs is not a committee which prepares just a committee report to Grand Lodge. Their actions and decisions can have a significant and lasting impact on Texas Masonry. The committee normally meets in person at least two times per year, although recent restrictions have limited these. They also hold virtual meetings and communicate regularly via email throughout the year. They travel to the Officer Leadership conferences, take part in Briscoe Workshops, and assist District Education Officers (DEOs) in the discharge of their duties with visits, guidelines, and support, for Lodge Education Officers.

In the discussion on the Committee on Purposes and Policies we talked about that committee’s focus on a “good for Grand Lodge” question. Like the Committee on Purposes and Policies, this committee is so involved with many aspects of Texas Masonry, they not only affect the present, but are also shaping the future. Leadership and administrative training programs for lodge officers and Masonic education programs for all Masons, provide immediate and long-term benefits to the lodges and their members. The coordination of disaster relief, and a focus on community involvement by promoting the concept that each lodge identify a need in their area and then make it their mission to figure out how the lodge and its members can fill it, has an immediate and long-term impact on lodges, their members, and all whom they come in contact with.

The Grand Master and the Grand Lodge Trustees must, of necessity, place significant trust in the committee members, their knowledge, motivation and dedication. The families of the members make sacrifices for the craft as well, a member’s travel, study, and writing schedules, are significant, and in many ways are like having a second job. We, as the Masons of Texas, should support them at every opportunity, take the time to read what they write, and attend their Workshops and Officer Leadership training. All of which will recognize the Committee and its members for their efforts on behalf of Texas Masonry.

The next article will focus on the Committee on Internet.

Gonzales Masonic Cemetery

By jim hoffpaur, Staff Writer

Gonzales ranks as one of Texas' most historic locations. From a founding roll and the first shot fired in the battle for Texas Independence in the 1830s to Operation Enduring Freedom of the 21st Century, members of this small Gonzales County Texas town have stood together, strong and proud.

Traveling from Seguin, our journey brings us into town along US 183, down St Joseph Street past Gonzales Lodge No. 30 on the 500 block to the corner of 1200 St. Joseph and Knight Street where we turn at the blue and white sign west and one block to our destination, Gonzales Masonic Cemetery. Our destination is located within a highly populated area and surrounded by much activity.

This cemetery has many historical figures resting among its ranks. Yes, Texas freemasons Andrew Ponton and Eli Mitchell are among the interred. Ponton authored the historical "Come and Take It" letter on September 26, 1835 in answer to the Army of Mexico's demand to surrender the cannon loaned to the Green DeWitt colonists as a defense against Indian attack.* Mitchell, who moved to Gonzales in 1828 is said to have fired the first shot in the battle. Ponton was Gonzales' first judge, a member of the Second Congress of the Republic (1837-38), and first Justice of Lavaca County (1846.). Mitchell lived another four decades willingly sharing his memories of that faithful day with all who would listen.

Other Texas Revolution veterans interred at the sight include Jesse David, Edward Dickinson, Charles Mason, William Matthews, Thomas Polk, and Amasa Turner. All members of the group of 18 townspeople who stood on the bank of the Guadalupe River on October 2, 1835 in defiance of the Mexican Army and waving that famous white flag displaying a black cannon and those famous words "Come and Take It."

Thirty-two Gonzales men answered the call of Lt. Colonel William B. Travis to go and defend the Alamo. They reached San Antonio in time

to fight and perish with its other defenders. Following the fall of the Alamo, during the Runaway Scrape, General Sam Houston ordered the burning of Gonzales to delay the Mexican military buildup. Later, following the Battle of San Jacinto, soldiers and townspeople returned to rebuild the town.

Gonzales Lodge No. 30 purchased the original burial ground in 1849 and then added more acreage in 1903, increasing its size to the current total of approximately 18 acres. The graves of Calligaula (1846) and Allen (1848) Walker predate lodge ownership. Margaret Darst, whose husband Jacob died at the Alamo, was among the first buried following the purchase. Their son David was a co-founder of the local newspaper, the Gonzales Inquirer, was among local businessmen who brought the railroad to Gonzales in 1882.

The cemetery was designated as a Texas Historical Site on Saturday, November 13, 2004. Louis Bowen, twice Past Master of Gonzales Lodge, asked Brothers Bob Harless and Paul Frenzel, who led the effort to obtain the historical designation, to unveil the marker. Harless told the crowd present that numerous improvements had been made to the facility after the lodge took over management.**

One year later the Gonzales Masonic Cemetery Veteran's Memorial was dedicated on November 12, 2005 after a 2003 fundraising venture under the leadership of then Worshipful Master Glen Sachtleben and PM Bowen was conceived. Funding for the project was accumulated in only 90 days. The memorial honors the service of 200 Texas veterans who served in the War of 1812, Texas Revolution, Civil War, Spanish American War, World War I, World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War, Desert Storm, Reserve Peace Time service, and Enduring Freedom.

Only Master Masons who are members of Gonzales Lodge No. 30 may purchase a burial space of 12 plots for themselves and family members. The cemetery is not now, nor has it ever been a perpetual-care entity.



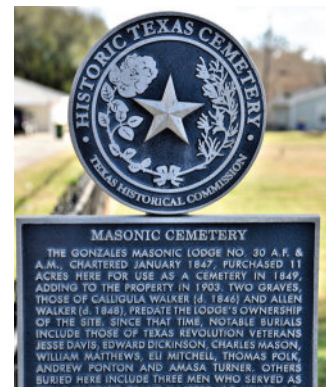
Texas freemason Andrew Ponton was the author of the historic letter "Come and take it" on Sept. 26, 1835. - Sachtleben



Grand Master Benjamin Roberts Abernethy (1896) served with Morgan's Scouts for the Confederate Army, was appointed Texas Deputy District Clerk (1874), elected District Clerk (1876) served at County Judge, and Grand Chancellor of the Knights of Pythias of Texas. - Bowen



Grand Master James Francis Miller (1873) was elected Grand Commander of Knights Templar in Texas, Board of Directors President of Masonic Widows and Orphans' Home, and served as first President of the Texas Bankers Association. - Sachtleben



The cemetery was designated as a Texas Historical Site on Saturday, November 13, 2004.

It is edged and mowed by funds generated from lot sales, donations, and bequests. In 1923, Gonzales Lodge Secretary J. H. Daniel wrote, "Here sleep all that is mortal of the fine old pioneers in Masonry of Gonzales who were called from labor to rest years ago."***

Three Grand Masters of Texas and members of Gonzales Lodge No. 30 are interred in the cemetery. They are James F. Miller, Benjamin Roberts Abernethy, and William Madden Fly.

Grand Master Miller served in the highest position of The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas in 1873. He was also elected Grand Commander of Knights Templar of Texas in 1878. Miller was President of The Council of High Priests, and first Commander of the Gonzales Commandry. He was a 32° Scottish Rite mason and served the Grand Lodge of Texas as President of the Board of Directors of the Masonic Widows' and Orphans' Home.

Upon returning from the Civil War Miller opened a banking house in Gonzales in 1868 and later served as the first President of the Texas Bankers Association. He was elected to Congress: serving two consecutive terms there. During his time in Washington, he served as Chairman of the Committee on Banking and Currency, Committee on Mines and Mining, and the Committee on Education. He declined renomination for a third term and returned home, dying in Gonzales on July 3, 1902.

Grand Master Benjamin Roberts Abernethy was Grand Master in 1896. He served in the Confederate Army with Morgan's Scouts before moving to Belmont, Texas in 1869. He moved to Gonzales and was appointed Texas Deputy District Clerk (1874), elected District Clerk (1876), and served as County Judge. He was also the Grand Chancellor of Knights of Pythias of Texas. After working in his own law practice Abernethy moved to San Antonio due to health issues and passed away on Christmas Day 1905. At the time of his death, he was Grand Chancellor of the Texas Knights of Pythias.

William Madden Fly was Grand Master in 1903. He was the last Grand Master from Gonzales Lodge No. 30. He is famous for attending 57 consecutive Texas Grand Lodge Communications. Until his death on June 24, 1944, he served as Chairman of the Board of Texas State Masonic Home in Arlington for 25 years. Fly was Grand High Priest



Grand Master 1903 William Madden Fly - Sachtleben



David S. H. Darst, considered the Father of York Rite Masonry in Gonzales.

of the Knights Templar in Texas in 1915. He was the son of Colonel William Fly and Mary Mitchell Fly. He served in the Texas Legislature a total of five terms from 1917 through 1929, missing only the 38th house legislative body.

Gonzales Lodge No. 30 was organized August 8, 1846 under the dispensation granted June 12, 1846 by Grand Master A. S. Ruthven and chartered January 18, 1848. Its current location, 519½ St. Joseph Street, has been the lodge home for 115 years.

The Masonic Cemetery is under the direction of the Cemetery Committee. A bank account, trust fund, and budget are established. Lot sales, transfers, funding, and maintenance have been entrusted over the past 30 to 40 years to such lodge members as Past Masters Clifton Poe, Carl Wood, Stephen Henrichs, Lewis Bowen, Glen Sachtleben, Gary Descher, and Butch Gandre.

Sachtleben, a four-term sheriff of Lavaca County, and holder of many masonic positions through the years, was personally involved in two fundraiser mailouts raising \$75,000. The lodge spends between \$1500 and \$2000 monthly for mowing, grave maintenance, electrical, and other repairs. Vandalism, soft-stone markers losing valuable information and difficult to repair, are ongoing battles. Says Sachtleben, "This is a never-ending battle and is most likely the reason there are very few Masonic cemeteries remaining under the control of the parent lodge today. Cash flow, cash flow, cash flow."

Credits:

- Gonzales Inquirer - Bob Thaxton *
- Texas State Historical Association **
- Texas Freemasonry – Blake Bowen ***
- Photos – Blake Bowen, Glen Sachtleben



Dedicated Saturday, November 12, 2005 Veterans Memorial remembers the service of 200 Texas veterans who served in the War of 1812, Texas Revolution, Civil War, Spanish American War, World War I, WW II, Korean War, Vietnam War, Desert Storm, Reserve Peace Time, and Enduring Freedom. - Sachtleben

EDUCATION AND COMMITMENT

Bring a Brother Back

By Eric Stuyvesant, Contributing Writer



A few months after being elected to the Grand South, Most Worshipful Curry held his first 2021 planning team meeting in Waco.

I still remember the feeling I had as I drove down from Garland. It was a mixture of anticipation and trepidation. I was excited for the opportunity to serve our fraternity in an expanded role. I was nervous about what new responsibilities awaited me. Would I be up to the task? Did I really have what it took to be a part of the 2021 planning team? This feeling was not new. I had experienced it many times before. It was the same feeling I had on the first morning of my Scottish Rite Reunion. It was the same feeling I had before being installed as Master of my Blue Lodge. It was the same feeling I had when the Lodge Secretary called me and told me I had been elected to receive the Mysteries. And in talking to Brothers from around the great State of Texas it is a feeling that we universally share.

That April afternoon in 2018 Most Worshipful Curry laid out the groundwork for what would become his principal directive for 2021. The planning team was collectively charged with flushing out ways to reengage our inactive Brothers and reenergize lethargic Lodges. At the time there was no way to know that in 2021 we would be amid a pandemic that has altered every facet of our lives. There was no way to know how imperative Most Worshipful Curry's directive would be to the future of Texas Masonry. In 2018 we were told the initiative would be called "Bring a Brother Back to Lodge" we just didn't know the scope, the form or the shape of the program. We also didn't realize that we would also be reaching out to members who had been regularly active prior to COVID-19, but who, in the change of circumstances, were now engaged in different ventures that occupied their discretionary time.

Over the ensuing months one certainty emerged: There is no "one size fits all" remedy for Texas Lodges. Every Lodge in Texas has a unique personality and there is no program that can be implemented across the board that ensures effectiveness. What Most Worshipful Curry gives you and your Lodge is a plan in the form of a workbook and checklist. You and your Lodge are encouraged to work through the process. It is Most Worshipful Curry's hope that by having meaningful conversations with your Brothers, even those you haven't seen in ages, or have yet to meet, you can better identify the needs of your membership, and in turn produce meaningful Lodge activity and spawn new Masonic growth. The scope, the form, the shape and even the direction of the programs your Lodge institutes is entirely up to you, provided you keep your passions within due bounds.

Leadership is key. Thinking back to that April afternoon in 2018 and the drive to Waco which was filled with nervous anticipation I am reminded that I found comfort in the Lee Lockwood Auditorium. Upon arriving I found myself surrounded by like-minded men, but in addition, when walking through the door I was greeted with the familiar smile, and warm handshake of our new Grand Master of Masons in Texas and a heart-felt "Eric, I'm glad you are here." Leadership comes in many forms. It doesn't have to be loud and boisterous. It just needs to be welcoming. As you reach out to your Brothers and reengage your membership be reminded that everyone is made more welcome with a familiar smile, a warm handshake and a heart-felt "I am awfully glad you're here."

For more information on the Bring a Brother Back Program, please contact a member of your District Service Team.

Presenting Masonry Positively Is Charities Foundation Goal

By Don Comedy, Executive Director, Texas Masonic Charities Foundation

One of the main goals of the Texas Masonic Charities Foundation is to assist lodges in gaining recognition in their communities. The matching grant program was developed to meet that goal. A quick Google search will reveal that the square and compasses is one of the most widely recognized symbols in the world, ranking right up there with the “\$” sign and the “Golden Arches” of McDonalds.

A major issue comes as we dig a bit further and start to see that while Masons, Free Masons and Masonic Lodges are almost household words, there is very little understanding of what Masonry really is and what it does. As a result individuals interested in becoming members generally come from a limited number of groups. They are family members of an active Mason or friends. Another group of interested petitioners comes from the people who see a local Masonic Lodge or other Masonic affiliated organization making a positive contribution to society. Examples include our Shrine and Scottish Rite hospitals, KT Eye Foundation, and others.

The single largest exposure of Blue Lodge Masonry in Texas is the local lodge presenting scholarships and supporting local charities. Each year over 600 lodges give scholarships and support local charities. During many of the scholarship presentations the WM or his representative stands before the graduates, their parents, school administrators and community leaders to present scholarships. Many of those presentations include a brief history of the support of Texas Masonry to public education including Masonic Brother and second President of the Republic of Texas, Mirabeau B. Lamar’s belief that the greatness of Texas rested on the establishment of a sound public education system. Bro. Lamar set aside public lands to support education and urged local lodges to fund the education of local children often times holding classes in lodge buildings with the members paying teacher salaries.

Once again this year the Texas Masonic Charities Foundation will match up to \$1,500 for scholarships by lodges. Texas lodges have been providing scholarships for many years and we have no accurate statistics for much of that time. We do know that TMCF has contributed over \$5.4 million since the matching grant program was begun in 2010. During that time lodges have contributed \$11 million for a total of almost \$16 million in scholarships during the past 10 years. That total represents approximately 32,000 students who have received scholarships from Texas Masonic Lodges. For the past several years lodges have averaged approximately \$2 million per year in scholarships.



Over 600 Texas Masonic Lodges gives approximately \$2,000,000 in scholarships annually.

For 2021 TMCF will again match up to \$1,500 for scholarships and \$500 per year for other charities. Both programs require that lodges match the TMCF contribution with an equal or greater amount of lodge funds and that the total combined amount be given. For example, if a lodge receives \$1,500 from TMCF they must add at least that amount and provide at least \$3,000 in scholarships.

Deadline for matching scholarship funds is March 31 this year. No applications will be received after that date. Matching grants for other charities are accepted all year but are limited to \$500 per lodge each year.

The applications are available at:

<https://txmcf.org/app/index.php>

Send questions to Don Comedy, Executive Director at:

admin@txmcf.org or by calling 830.385.9711

Start a New Chapter in 2021

Move to Texas Masonic Retirement Center

With a big grin and booming voice, Don Cox, 86, welcomes friends and visitors to a late breakfast in the dining hall.

“Hey, how’s it going?” and “Where’ve you been all day?” he asks from his table near the entrance.

They respond with laughter, poke fun at him, and ask about his plans for the day.

Nine months ago, Don lived a starkly different life.

“My wife passed away last May. I found myself in a big house in Fort Worth, with a big yard, and a lot of ghosts from 34 years of living there. I thought I could stay, but everywhere I looked made me sad.

I’ve started a new chapter in my life by moving to Texas Masonic Retirement Center. I’m totally happy here. I’ve made friends, have a beautiful apartment in The Keystone, and sit down to three meals a day. This place is one of the best kept secrets in Masonry.”

Don transformed his apartment into a garden home. Rose bushes,



Don Cox, 86, at home in his new apartment at Texas Masonic Retirement Center

succulents, and pots of flowers fill his balcony. From his fourth-floor location, he looks down on a flowing water feature and gardens. Open sky, clouds, and gorgeous sunsets float above him.

If your life has changed or downsizing makes sense, The Keystone high-rise apartments at Texas Masonic Retirement Center offer sparkling new one-bedroom and two-bedroom floorplans.

You’ll enjoy a familiar lifestyle with residents limited to eligible Texas Masons and their qualified wives, widows, mothers, and daughters.

The Keystone Luxury High-Rise

- No Deposit
- 1 Bedroom & 2 Bedroom
- Huge Patio/Balcony
- Chef-Inspired Dining
- Sophisticated Interiors
- Weekly Housekeeping

Watch a video tour, check out apartment availability, and learn about payment options at YourTMRC.org.

Schedule an onsite tour today, as these units won’t last long. Contact us at 817-275-2893 or send an email to Info@YourTMRC.org.



2021 MASONIC MERCHANDISE - GRAND LODGE OF TEXAS

QTY	ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	COST EA.	TOTAL
	521KC	LAPEL PIN	\$5.00	
	521KC-C	CHARM	\$5.00	
	532KC	BAR CLIP TIE CHAIN - w/Charm	\$15.00	
	523KC	2" PM JEWEL - w/29" Chain	\$20.00	
	535FOB	POCKET KEY FOB MM	\$40.00	
	535FOB-PM	POCKET KEY FOB PM	\$40.00	
	CUFFKC	CUFF LINK SET	\$20.00	
	BTNKC	BUTTON COVER SET	\$20.00	
	520KC	BRONZE COIN	\$5.00	
	524KC	ENAMEL COIN	\$10.00	
	525KC	SILVER COIN	\$80.00	
	526KC-LG	LARGE BUCKLE - Enamel w/Grand Master's Logo	\$30.00	
	526KC-SM	SMALL BUCKLE - Enamel w/Grand Master's Logo	\$25.00	
	KC-ECKNIFE	COMMEMORATIVE KNIFE - Boxed & Numbered w/Enamel Coin	\$50.00	
	KC-SCKNIFE	COMMEMORATIVE KNIFE - Boxed & Numbered w/Silver Coin	\$140.00	
	527KC	BOLO TIE - w/Grand Master's Logo	\$15.00	
	528KC	GM LOGO DECAL	\$1.00	
	529KC	TAIL LIGHT DECALS - Pair w/S&C	\$5.00	
	529KC-PM	TAIL LIGHT DECALS - Pair w/PM	\$5.00	
	529SC8	8" WINDOW DECAL - S&C	\$10.00	
	530KC	3" CAR EMBLEM - w/Grand Master's Logo	\$15.00	
	533KC-BLU	SHIRT - M-L-XL-2XL-3XL/Lt. Blue	\$35.00	
	533KC-WHT	SHIRT - M-L-XL-2XL-3XL/White	\$35.00	
	536KC-DEN	CAP - Mesh Back/Denim	\$15.00	
	536KC-NG	CAP - Solid Back/Navy & Gray	\$15.00	
	540KC-LBT	TIE (LIGHT BLUE) - w/Grand Master's Design	\$40.00	
	540KC-LBBT	BOW TIE (LIGHT BLUE) - w/Grand Master's Design	\$40.00	
	540KC-BLKT	TIE (BLACK) - w/Grand Master's Design	\$40.00	
	540KC-BLKBT	BOW TIE (BLACK) - w/Grand Master's Design	\$40.00	
	LADIES-CH	LADIES' CHARM - Chain Bee Hive & Bee Set	\$20.00	
	FIREINGGL	FIREING GLASS - w/Grand Master's Logo	\$20.00	
			SUB-TOTAL	
		Check Enclosed (Make Check Payable to Grand Lodge of Texas)	S/H Under \$50	\$7.00
			S/H Over \$50	\$12.00
			TOTAL	

VISA/MC/DISC ONLY CARD NO. _____

EXP: _____ CVN: _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

RETURN TO:
 GRAND LODGE OF TEXAS
 CHAIRMAN, MERCHANDISE
 PO BOX 446
 WACO, TX 76703

PURCHASE ONLINE AT:
<https://grandlodgeoftexas.org/shop/>

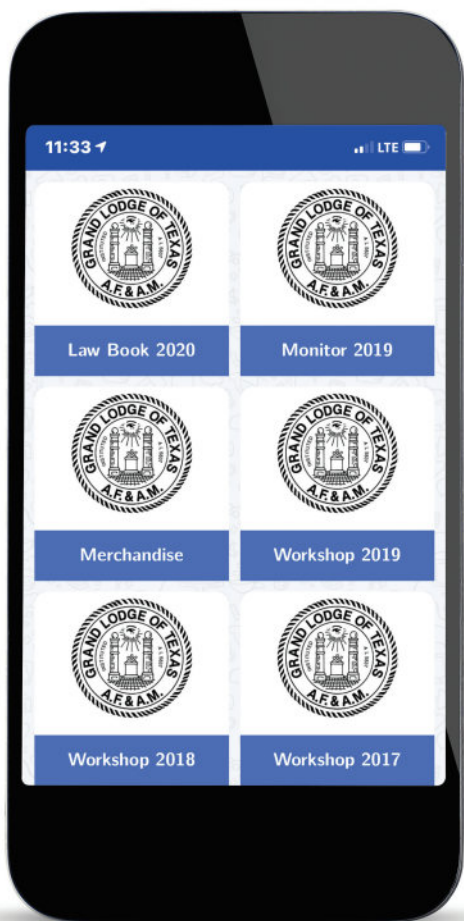


TEXAS FREEMASON

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



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Get Our App and Get Connected!

Introducing the new Grand Lodge app! It can be found in both the Google Play and Apple App stores under the name 'TX Mason'. It is \$6.99 per year and will put the Grand Lodge calendar, Monitor, and most current law book, on your favorite phone or device. It also has quick links to the Grand Lodge merchandise store, back issues of the 'Texas Freemason', and several years of Briscoe Workshops. This platform will allow us to continue to add new technology in the coming years. Please join the more than 800 Brothers already utilizing this new technology!