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Grand Master Bradley S. Billings

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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



Brethren of the Mystic Tie,

I am truly honored and blessed to represent you this year as your Grand Master. It is a tremendous honor, and I hope to live up to the confidence you have invested in me. First and foremost, I would like to reverently pause and humbly acknowledge my dependence on the Most High. May His divine providence continue to be felt throughout our Great State and may His manifold blessings and comforts rest upon us and all regular Masons.

If you did not attend, the 2022 Grand Lodge session showed that Masonry is back! The slow crawl out of the pandemic netted a slightly lighter attendance than in years past, but the renewed fellowship was tremendous.

We began the Masonic year, of course, with the installation of Grand Lodge officers. Standing in the Grand East, I felt every emotion you would imagine. Towering above them all, however, was a profound sense of gratitude to my family and to the thousands of Brothers, some of whom are now with us only in spirit, who made the day possible. The highlight of the installation was when my son

Grayson, with his cousins Tristan and Trace in tow, delivered my hat to me. He then proceeded to take his time and moon-jump down the stairs, to the laughter of all.

As all new Masters of Lodges understand, the solemnity and responsibilities of standing in the East are, in that moment, unfamiliar and daunting. Perhaps Ty Murray, “King of the Cowboys,” summed it up best when reflecting on his first rodeo ride: “You’re never completely ready . . . it just becomes your turn.”

I am especially thankful for the 2022 Grand Officers, DDGMs, and Service Team Members, who continue to bring to life the designs we have laid upon the trestle board. As we are but stewards of these positions for the ensuing year, let us continue with all of our skill and ability, to further the mission of Masonry in the Great State of Texas.

If you have not yet heard, this year’s calendar is filled with big events! While planning the year’s activities, the criteria was simple: 1) is it an event that the Brethren of Texas will want to travel to, 2) is it an event that our families would like to attend, or is there something nearby they can go to instead, and 3) how can we maximize each event to ensure less time on the road and more time together as a Masonic family? This approach allowed us to build weekend-long, family-friendly gatherings. Here are a few of the highlights so far:

- Grand Lodge – Past Master’s Degree/ Grand Lodge Gala (at the Baylor Club)
- League City – SETX Conference / NASA / Holland Lodge No. 1 Official Visit / Anson Jones Fish Fry
- Hella Shrine – 101’s Super Bowl Party

- Laredo – The George Washington Trowel and Gavel / Washington Parade / Washington Apron
- Austin – Capitol Fellowcraft Degree / University No. 1190 Centennial / Austin No. 12 “Full Form” Master’s Degree / Bullock Museum - Masonic Exhibit / Mardi-Gras Boil & Green Bean Cook-off
- Texas Independence Day / Washington on the Brazos / Sam Houston Statue
- San Antonio – Victory Lodge No. 1160 Centennial and Casino Night / SWTX Conference / Alamo / Alamo Lodge No. 44 175th/ Clouded Canopy night at Nat Washer Lodge No. 1270 / Alamo Defenders Last Rites

There is still a wide variety of events scheduled, and the 2022 team hopes you are inspired to check the Grand Lodge calendar and attend one or more events that interests you. Masons have always been called “traveling men.” This year, let us live up to that moniker.

Brad Billings  
Grand Master 2022





**LUBBOCK - ABILENE - AMARILLO - MIDLAND - ODESSA - EL PASO**

# Grand Master's West Regional Conference Weekend Schedule

**MARCH 18 - 20, 2022**

## FRIDAY, MARCH 18, 2022

Yellowhouse No. 841 Lodge Library Dedication to Bro. Bob Clemmons 5 - 6 PM

5015 Gary Ave. Lubbock , TX 79423 - Open meeting family welcome

Texas Lodge of Research No Host Dinner 6:30 - 8:00 PM

The Triple Chophouse & Brew Co. - 1807 Buddy Holly Ave, Lubbock, TX - Family welcome

Clouded Canopy with the Grand Master 8 - 9 PM

Cotton Court Hotel 1610 Broadway St, Lubbock, TX - Enjoy a Cigar with the Grand Master

## SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 2022

South Plains Daylight No. 1443 - Official Visit 7 - 8 AM - Master Masons only event

South Plans Daylight Lodge No. 1443 1101 70th St, Lubbock, TX 79412

Texas Lodge of Research 9 AM - 1 PM

Lubbock Scottish Rite Temple, 1101 70th St, Lubbock, TX 79412

Closed portion to Master Masons only: Receiving of the Grand Master, Conduct Business and elections. Then open session reading TLR Papers, installation of TLR Officers, and Lunch \$12

GM West Conference 2:00 - 4:00 PM

Lubbock Scottish Rite Temple, 1101 70th St, Lubbock, TX 79412 Registration Opens at 1:30 PM

Conference Activites 4:00 - 6:00 PM

Ladies Program winery tour, 42 Tournament, and Tortilla Toss

Grand Master Homecoming Banquet 6:30 - 11 PM

Lubbock Scottish Rite Temple, 1101 70th St, Lubbock, TX 79412

Reservations & Ticket required \$30 per person; purchase a ticket online;

Family welcome Happy Hour, Silent Auction, Formal Dinner. Music by 114

## SUNDAY, MARCH 19, 2022

Devotional by Grand Chaplain David Rogers



**SCAN THE QR CODE FOR CONFERENCE DETAILS**

# The 186th Grand Annual Communication

By Dean Bryant, Staff Writer

The Grand Lodge of Texas 186th Grand Annual Communication that took place in Waco, Texas, January 2022 has passed, and what an awesome event it was. The weather was not as we would have wanted with the cold front coming in, but the warmth of fellowship made it a wonderful weekend for the Brethren in attendance. Registration was like a well-oiled machine; this now appears to be the case each year, great job R. W. Justin Duty and to your dedicated team.



The COVID-19 pandemic obviously affected the attendance, as the numbers were lower than in years past, but many Brethren still braved the cold and turned out to show their love for our fraternity and witness another Grand Communication.



The first session on Thursday afternoon, January 20, 2022 started with a Musical Prelude by the Grand Musician, W. Michael J. Coté II. This gave the Brethren assembled an opportunity to sit back, relax, and get in the mood for the afternoon activities. Thankfully, it was warmer inside the auditorium than outside the building. The Opening Ceremony was conducted by R. W. Thomas F. Griffin, Past Grand Master, with the invocation by R. W. Edwin Scott Malone III, Grand Chaplain, and the honor guard presented by Worth Commandery No. 19. Worth Commandery of Knights Templar, the home Commandery of Grand Master Kenneth C. Curry, was Chartered in April, 1885 and has carried out their wonderful work ever since. There were ten Sir Knights in the Honor Guard, looking sharp with their distinctive uniforms, shining swords and unmistakable Chapeaus. The Honor Guard formed two

lines, with swords drawn for the Grand Entry of the Grand Lodge Officers, starting with the District Deputy Grand Masters, followed by the Grand Lodge Appointed Officers and their ladies, the Past Grand Masters and their ladies, Elected Grand Lodge Officers and their ladies. We were honored to receive Most Worshipful Kenneth C. Curry, Grand Master of Texas Masons, and his Lady Gloria as they passed under an arch of steel, very impressive. The standing ovation was well deserved and appreciated for the wonderful leadership of M. W. Kenneth C. Curry who steered us through 2021 with the utmost professionalism, while showing tireless dedication and commitment to the craft, great job Most Worshipful Sir.



With M. W. Kenneth C. Curry presiding in the Grand East, the reception of distinguished guests commenced followed by the presentation of the colors. The presentation was carried out by the Fort Worth Knights of St. Andrew followed by the Pledges to the United States Flag and the Texas Flag being led by R. W. G. Clay Smith, Grand Senior Warden, and R. W. H. Bart Henderson, Grand Junior Warden, respectively. A welcome to the City of Waco and response to the welcome was followed by greetings from several Texas Masonic Affiliated Bodies. After several Roll Calls came the presentation of Masonic Service Awards and Vanguard Awards by M. W. Kenneth C. Curry, Grand Master. Congratulations to all the award recipients.

Did you attend the Welcome to Waco Grand Masters Pizza Party on Thursday evening at Karem Shrine? If not, you missed a great evening. This was the perfect opportunity to relax with our family, friends and make new acquaintances too. Thank you to the Karem Shriners for their wonderful hospitality.



# GRAND LODGE

Friday morning started promptly with Grand Master Kenneth C. Curry opening the 186th Grand Annual Communication. Reports were made by the Grand Master, Grand Treasurer, Grand Lodge Trustees, and Grand Secretary. There were affiliated bodies in attendance that presented reports which were received by the Grand Lodge that included the Masonic Grand Lodge Library and Museum, Masonic Youth Foundation, and Square and Compasses Holdings Inc., followed by By-Laws, Finance, and Masonic Jurisprudence Grand Lodge Committee reports. The electronic voting devices once again proved to be a great success and evidence of a wise investment. After a full morning of discussion and voting, the Grand Lodge was called from Labor to give all concerned a well-earned rest.

While the Brothers were enjoying the fellowship and working at Grand Lodge, our ladies were able to enjoy an off-site Luncheon and Painting activity. These events were initiated by Mrs. Gloria Curry, 2021 Masonic First Lady of Texas. There were over 100 ladies in attendance having fun, appreciating the togetherness and the opportunity to display their artistic talents. A big “Thank You” goes to Carly First (Instructor), along with Benjamin First and Loretta Reader (Assistants), for taking the ladies through the step by step process of how to create wonderful images on canvas. Great job! The painting event proved to be a huge success and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. Another big “Thank You” goes to First Lady Gloria Curry for hosting these events, and to Terry Vernon for helping with the organization.



Friday afternoon commenced with a wonderful musical prelude as we were entertained by W. Michael Coté II, the Grand Musician, followed by an outstanding Oration by R. W. Rhit Moore, the Grand Orator. A call to labor, and a prayer by R. W. Edwin Malone III, Grand Chaplain, got us on our way for the afternoon events. There were more Grand Lodge reports throughout the afternoon that gave an understanding of the Investments, Committee on Work, Masonic Education, and Membership Committees, as well as other required, and traditional committee reports.



Grand Lodge was called to labor on Saturday morning, and returned to business hearing more interesting reports from several bodies in attendance. As the minutes ticked by, we were anxious for the Grand Lodge Officer Elections scheduled to start promptly at 10.00am as a result of the Grand Master Resolution to set the date and time for the election of Officers made on Friday. The elections resulted in R. W. Brad Billings becoming the Grand Master elect. R. W. G. Clay Smith, Grand Senior Warden, and R. W. H. Bart Henderson, Grand Junior Warden, were also elected to the next chair in the Grand Officer line. Then it was time for the election of the Grand Junior Warden for the ensuing Masonic year. We had two very worthy Brothers that made themselves available for the office of Grand Junior Warden, these being Brothers George Moxley and Raborn Reader. The election for Grand Junior Warden saw Brother Raborn Reader elected to the Office of Grand Junior Warden. I am sure we all wish him the best as he prepares himself to lead our fraternity in the future, Thank you R. W. Reader. Gratitude should also go to Brother George Moxley for making himself available for the Grand South and being a wonderful example of what a candidate should be. I believe we are truly blessed to have had two great men willing to hold this important position in the Grand Lodge line.



The open installation of Officers commenced at 2.00pm as fixed by resolution. The Grand Officer installing team consisted of five Past Grand Masters being; Master of Ceremonies, R. W. Kenneth C. Curry, Past Grand Master; Installing Officer, R. W. Thomas F. Griffin, Past Grand Master; Installing Marshal, R. W. Tommy F. Chapman, Past Grand Master and Installing Chaplain, R. W. Jerry N. Kirby, Past Grand Master. The Sir Knights from several Commanderies around the State performed the honor guard to receive the Officers to be installed. This was an inspiring event to witness and was appreciated by everyone.



Congratulations to Grand Master Brad Billings on becoming the 2022 Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas. I am confident that our fraternity is in good hands with his leadership, and the support of our Grand Lodge teams.

Congratulations and sincere appreciation also goes to R. W. Kenneth C. Curry and his Lady Gloria for a successful year despite being in the second year of the pandemic

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

## INTRODUCTION TO THE Grand Junior Warden



Raborn L. Reader, Jr., a 7th Generation Texan, was born in Giddings, Texas on November 26, 1960, to Raborn L. Reader and Lucille M. Reader. He is the oldest son of four children, Maurine D., Richard W., and Dennis D. Raborn is married to Loretta A. (Strauss) Reader and they have five children: Wesley, Carly, Cameran, Virginia, and Devon.

Raborn spent his time growing up in Smithville, Texas City, and League City where he graduated from Clear Creek High School in 1979. After graduation, he worked at Houston Lighting and Power Company (HL&P) from June 1981 to August 1997 and attended night school at the University of Houston, graduating in 1991 with a BS in Industrial Engineering. He has Professional Engineering Licenses in Electrical Engineering in Indiana and Georgia, and is a Certified Energy Manager with the Association of Energy Engineers.

After leaving HL&P in 1997, Raborn worked for Hoosier Energy Rural Electric Cooperative in Bloomington, Indiana as a Key Accounts Manager until 2001. He then worked in Atlanta, Georgia for Printpack, Inc. as a Utilities Manager and Colonial Pipeline Company as a Power Optimization Leader. In 2005, Raborn returned to Houston, Texas and started working for Enterprise Products Company as a Regional Energy Manager, and is currently the Director of Energy Utilization.

Raborn volunteered for a variety of youth activities as his children were growing up including the Boy Scouts of America, where for 14 years he served in various capacities at the Unit, District, and Council, levels. This resulted in him being awarded the Silver Beaver Award in 2010 from the Sam Houston Area Council. His son, Wesley in addition to being a Master Mason, is an Eagle Scout. Raborn is also a Charter and Life Member of the National Association of Masonic Scouters. He was also active in local activities with involvement in Property Owners Associations in Magnolia and Wimberley, Texas.

Raborn has been a member of the Member of IEEE and Power Engineering Society for over 25 years, and a Life Member of the Association of Energy Engineers. He also a Life Member of the 100 Club of Houston, the Sons of Confederate Veterans – Camp No. 2 and Granbury's Brigade No. 1479, the Texas Rifle Association, the National Rifle Association, and the Sons of the Republic of Texas – San Jacinto Chapter No.1.

Raborn has a long Texas Masonic Heritage, starting with Sam Damon, a veteran of the Republic of Texas, and a member of Saint John's Lodge No. 5 in West Columbia, Texas in the 1850s. As well as Nathan Lafayette Reader, a Charter Member of W. J. Nixon Lodge in Smithville, Texas who served as Worshipful Master in 1885-86 and 1886-87.

Raborn was initiated an Entered Apprentice Mason on September 9, 1982, passed to the degree of Fellowcraft on November 8, 1982, and raised to the

sublime degree of a Master Mason on December 6, 1982, in League City Lodge No. 1053 in League City, Texas. While living in Kennesaw, Georgia in 2001, he joined Meyerhardt Lodge No. 314, and has remained a member since. Upon returning to Texas, Raborn moved to the Magnolia area and joined Magnolia Lodge No. 113 in 2006. He served as Worshipful Master from 2010 to 2011 and was given the Daniel Carter Beard Masonic Scouter Award in 2009. He joined Washington Lodge No. 18 in Navasota, Texas in 2009. Raborn served as Secretary from 2012 to 2013, Master of Ceremonies from 2013 to 2014 and is currently Worship Master. Raborn joined Tranquility Lodge No. 2000 in 2010. He served as Senior Steward from 2020 to 2021 and is currently serving as Junior Deacon. Raborn joined Montgomery Lodge No. 25 in Montgomery, Texas in 2011. He has been the Secretary since 2012 and was awarded the Golden Trowel in 2015. He has also been a member of W. J. Nixon Lodge No. 421, in Smithville, Texas since 2012.

Raborn's service to the Grand Lodge of Texas began when Right Worshipful Michael L. Wiggins asked him to be a part of his resource team in 2012. He served as District Deputy Grand Master of Masonic District No. 28 in 2015 for Grand Master Wiggins. In 2016, Raborn was asked by Right Worshipful Grand Master Tommy F. Chapman to be a member of his planning team. Raborn served as Grand Master Chapman's Grand Marshal and State Coordinator in 2018. He was again asked by Right Worshipful Kenneth C. Curry to be a member of his planning team in 2020. He was then asked by Right Worshipful Bradley S. Billings to be a member of his planning team in 2020. Raborn assisted with the training of District Deputy Grand Masters in 2017, 2020, and 2021. He served on the Texas History Committee from 2015 to 2022, serving as Chairman in 2017 and Vice-Chairman in 2015, 2016 and 2018.

In 1988, Raborn joined the Park Place Chapter No. 458, Royal Arch Masons, Park Place Council No. 373, Royal and Select Masters and Park Place Commandery No.106, Knights Templar, Houston, Texas and has been endowed in all three since 1992. On December 28, 2021, he was asked to join the Southeast Texas York Rite College No. 90 and received The Order Knight of York. Raborn is an endowed member of Nat Pace Council No. 46 Knight Masons and an endowed member of E. B. Nichols Council No. 269 of the Allied Masonic Degrees.

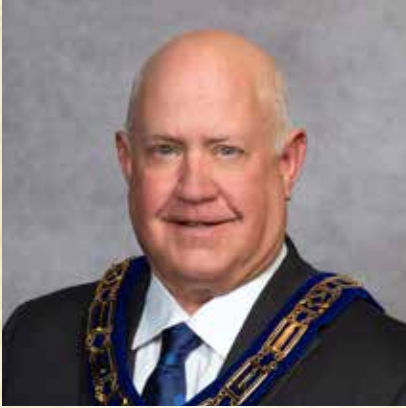
Raborn has been a member of The Scottish Rite Valley of Houston, Texas since 1990 and The Valley of Galveston, Texas since 2011, where he is the Degree Master of the 13th and 27th Degrees and assists in multiple degree teams. He is an Emeritus Member of the Knights of Saint Andrew in the Galveston Valley. Raborn was invested with the Rank and Decoration of Knight Commander of the Court of Honour on September 9, 2017. He is also a member of the Scottish Rite Research Society.

Raborn was created a Noble in 1988 at Arabia Shrine in Houston, Texas. He joined Wahoo Grotto as a Charter member in 2017, and Sayaad Grotto as a Charter Member in 2022. In 2019, he joined The Order of the Sword of Bunker Hill as a Charter Member and is the Grand Tiler.

He is the Grand Representative to Luxembourg, a member of the Sam Houston Hall of Fame, and a Patron of the Grand Lodge of Texas Library and Museum.

## GRAND LODGE

### A WORD FROM THE Deputy Grand Master



My Dear Brethren,

I am grateful beyond words for your confidence and trust in advancing me to the office of Deputy Grand Master 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 Grand Lodge Officers as we approach the challenges of our fraternity.

Brethren, this is the first year in many years that our membership loss was only 1100 members. In previous years our membership loss was as many as 3500 to 4000 per year. This shows that Masonry is making a comeback! I think men are seeking the core values of Truth, Honesty, Justice, and Patriotism, that they know they can find in Masonry.

I continue to pray that the future will bring renewed enthusiasm and determination to Texas Masons, increasing our membership, the practice of our beautiful rituals and, the principal tenets of our great fraternity. 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 bringing the coming year health, happiness, and prosperity.

With Warm Fraternal Regards,  
G. Clay Smith, Deputy Grand Master

### A WORD FROM THE Grand Senior Warden



From the Grand Senior Warden,

As the dust is finally settling from a 'whirlwind' year, I had a moment to reflect on several things that I was privileged to participate with, since last January... Trustees Meetings, which are always interesting and informative; visiting Lodges around the State and meeting many Brethren and seeing the great work that they are doing; attending Grand Master Curry's Conferences and Officials Visits, and listening to his message and watching the audiences respond; participating and presiding over several Cornerstone Ceremonies in our area and experiencing the care that the Cornerstone TEAM takes to make the ceremony itself performed correctly and with the respect that the building and the people who will be utilizing it deserve, not to mention their sincere attempt to represent our Grand Lodge in that ceremony, in a way that we would want to viewed in a very public event; it has been fun and very meaningful, and I THANK ALL those who took part in any of these, and other Masonic events not mentioned... YOU are what makes this gentle fraternity great and your efforts are not unnoticed.

From the Installation of Officers last January, 2021, up to my stumbling onto the Grand Lodge stage/apron for installation on January, 2022, I have visited many Lodges around the state, and I have been impressed with the DESIRE of our Brethren to do what is right, making decisions (sometimes tough ones), and acting upon them; the DEDICATION of our Brethren to do good and square work, both in and out of the Lodge; and the PRIDE that you take in being a Mason, and being a part of The Grand Lodge of Texas!

I very much look forward to seeing you soon, whether it is in your Lodge, or at any of the Grand Lodge events around Texas... Continue to be that difference between Good, and GREAT!

Sincerely and Fraternaly,  
H. Bart Henderson, Grand Senior Warden





## A WORD FROM THE Grand Treasurer



Brethren,

Thank you for the confidence you expressed in me by your vote to elect me to another term as Grand Treasurer. I am honored that you have chosen me to serve the Masons of Texas during this Masonic year. It allows me to continue with my efforts to support the Grand Secretary as he goes about modernizing and streamlining the important business functions and procedures of your Grand Lodge. The improvements being made in accountability and transparency of the Grand Lodge's financial affairs should create cost savings through efficiency and justify your confidence in the financial integrity of our fraternity.

I want to thank members of the investment committee who spent many hours last year evaluating both the Grand Lodge investments and the Endowed Membership Fund which belongs to the Lodges. They researched many and interviewed several investment managers and after careful consideration recommended changing the advisor to Vanguard. The trustees approved the recommendation, and the money was transferred in December. We also adopted what I believe will be safer and yet a more productive investment policy for Vanguard to follow. Our investment costs will be significantly lower, and we will be more broadly diversified.

Because of your approval of resolution 26 in January, Lodges can expect a more predictable annual distribution each July regardless of temporary setbacks or losses in the financial markets. The new system calls for a payout of 5% of the average balance of the Endowed Membership Fund for the last three years. It also prevents Grand Lodge for charging a fee to make that distribution to your Lodge.

I have now had the pleasure of working with three Grand Masters and have been impressed with each of their efforts and dedication. Each man has had different priorities and projects which has resulted in fresh ideas and renewed interest in masonry. I have no doubt that their successors will continue this valuable service to our fraternity.

I look forward to seeing you during this year at upcoming meetings and events.

Sincerely and fraternally,  
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 another year as your Grand Secretary. This past year my office was able to hold three Lodge Secretary and Treasurer Schools, and we were delighted with the response. Many Brethren told me they could not remember the last time the Secretary Schools were so well attended. The inaugural Lodge Treasurer School was also well received, and I look forward to hosting additional schools in the coming year. The Secretary's Schools this past year gave me an opportunity to get to know those Brothers who serve as Lodge Secretary and perform those critical tasks that keep the Lodges moving forward. This past year we continued to make improvements to the Grandview Database System. Many of the improvements were a direct result of comments received at the Lodge Secretary Schools.

This year we will host seven Lodge Secretary Schools at various locations throughout the state. Please consult the Grand Secretary's Monthly Communication for locations and times. We will also host several Zoom calls that will focus on specific aspects of the Secretary's job. These calls will last no longer than one hour, and the recordings will be made available for Lodge Officers to view at their convenience.

The 2022 Annual Communication has come and gone and was a great success. I was very pleased so many Brothers made the trip to Waco. I would like to thank everyone who attended and participated this year. Also, I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to all the volunteers who gave their time and efforts to make Grand Lodge as successful as possible. While the week of Grand Lodge is hectic and stressful for all involved, it is always satisfying to see it come together. It is especially rewarding to see Brothers gather from all over our great state in fellowship.

I would like to congratulate Past Grand Master R. W. Ken Curry on a great year. It was truly an honor to work with him and his team. Everyone involved worked extremely hard to help Texas Masonry recover after such a trying year.

Finally, I would like to congratulate M. W. Brad Billings on his election and installation as Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Texas. M. W. Billings has a great year planned, and I hope to see you all at a Grand Lodge event soon.

Sincerely and fraternally,  
Justin B. Duty, Grand Secretary

## 2022 Summary of Proposed Resolutions and Recommendations Results

### 2021 Holdover Resolutions

#### Resolution No. 3

Change to Section 5 of the Grand Lodge Constitution - Date of Taking Effect of This Constitution.

**Adopted**

#### Resolution No. 7

Adding endowed members to list of members exempt from per capita in Art. 316.

**Not Adopted**

### 2022 Proposed Resolutions

#### Resolution No. 1

Amendment of Article 225 to add Philalethes Society as an authorized user of Lodge Rooms.

**Adopted**

#### Resolution No. 2

Amendment of Article 105a to create a Grand Lodge Committee on Disaster Response.

**Not Adopted**

#### Resolution No. 3

Change name of La Marque Lodge No. 1325 to Cliff Guidry Lodge No. 1325.

**Adopted**

#### Resolution No. 4

Amendment of Article 648 to require that Lodges holding raffles must submit a raffle ticket and receipt for prize to the Grand Secretary prior to selling any tickets.

**Withdrawn**

#### Resolution No. 5

Creation of regions.

**Withdrawn**

#### Resolution No. 6

Creation of the office of Grand Parliamentarian..

**Not Adopted**

#### Resolution No. 7

Amendment of Article 405a to add language banning publication of candidate information on social media sites.

**Not Adopted**

#### Resolution No. 8

Change name of Pentagon Lodge No. 1080 to Pentagon - Highland Park Lodge No. 1080.

**Tabled**

#### Resolution No. 9

Create office of Lodge Historian.

**Not Adopted**

#### Resolution No. 10

Prohibit the streaming of audio and visual representations of Grand Lodge sessions.

**Postponed**

#### Resolution No. 11

Allow photography in tiled Lodges by Photography Committee or persons designated by Grand Master and photographs made of bible and apron in the Master's degree.

**Not Adopted**

#### Resolution No. 12

Amendment of Article 14 requiring the Grand Secretary to send service awards and certificates to Lodges without waiting for a request.

**Adopted**

#### Resolution No. 13

Cause the filing of charges to be with the Grand Secretary and not the Grand Master.

**Adopted as Amended**

#### Resolution No. 14

Redistricting of Dallas Lodges.

**Withdrawn**

#### Resolution No. 15

Amend Article 339a to allow Lodges to form non-profit corporations for scholarship purposes.

**Withdrawn**

#### Resolution No. 16

Delete Article 339 which prohibits Lodges from sponsoring any organization other than DeMolay and Rainbow.

**Withdrawn**

#### Resolution No. 17

Exempt endowed members from per capita calculations and dues payments to local Lodges.

**Removed**

## Resolution No. 18

Change name of Port Neches Lodge No. 1163 to Port Neches-Groves Lodge No. 1163.

**Adopted**

## Resolution No. 19

Move Evadale Lodge No. 1366 from District 25A to 25B.

**Adopted**

## Resolution No. 20

Add Masonic Order of Pilgrim Preceptors to list of organizations which can meet in Lodge rooms.

**Adopted**

## Resolution No. 21

Move Canyon Lake Masonic Lodge No. 1425 from District 39C to District 50.

**Adopted**

## Resolution No. 22

Establish a procedure by which a Lodge may move from one District to another District.

**Adopted**

## Resolution No. 23

Create office of Lodge Historian.

**Withdrawn**

## Resolution No. 24

Provide for standardized sheet music and vocals for Lodge rituals and ceremonies.

**Withdrawn**

## Resolution No. 25

Prince Hall use of Lodge room.

**Adopted**

## Resolution No. 26

Institute a 5% annual distribution from endowment units.

**Adopted**

## Recommendation No. 2

Require EAs and FCs to complete proficiency within two years.

**Adopted**

## Recommendation No. 3

Require Worshipful Masters and Wardens to attend Committee on Work forums unless they meet certain criteria.

**Adopted as Amended**

## Recommendation No. 4

Allow streaming of the non-secret portions of the Annual Communication.

**Withdrawn**

## Recommendation No. 5

Change name of Masonic Graduates Advisory Committee to Masonic Widows and Orphans Committee and provide for a registry of widows and orphans and the support of the same.

**Adopted**

## Recommendation No. 6

Create authority for Trustees to create a Lodge building improvement fund.

**Not Adopted**

## Recommendation No. 7

Create a committee for the revision of the Monitor.

**Withdrawn**

## 2022 Election Results

**Grand Junior Warden** – Raborn Reader

**Committee on Work** – Steve Pepper

**Grand Lodge Library & Museum Board of Directors** – Russell Brown

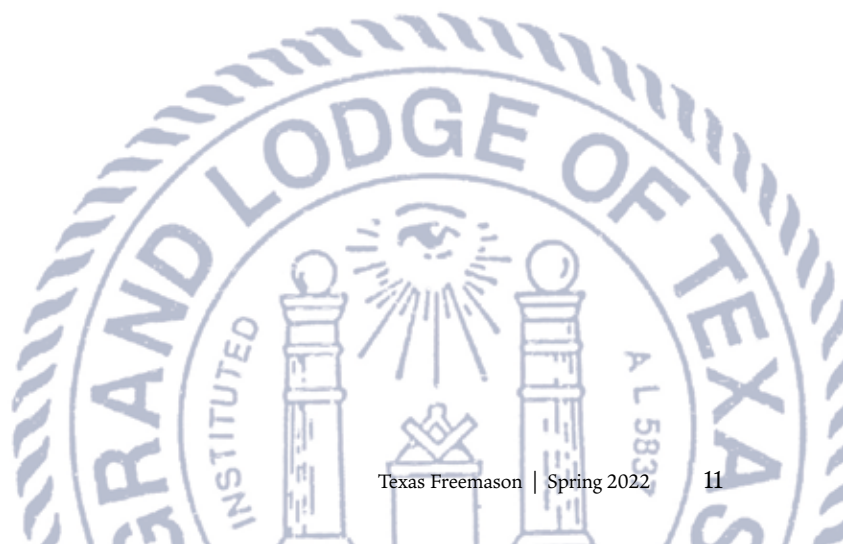
**Masonic Home & School Board of Directors** – Zachary Haston

## 2022 Grand Master's Recommendations

### Recommendation No. 1

Restrict EAs and FCs from pro temping offices of Secretaries and Treasurers except during degrees.

**Adopted**



# GRAND LODGE

## 2022 Grand Lodge Officers



**Most Worshipful  
Bradley Billings  
Grand Master 2022**



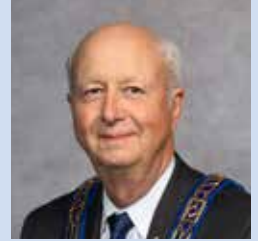
**Right Worshipful  
G. Clay Smith  
Deputy Grand Master**



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



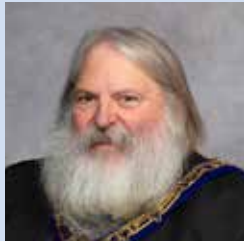
**Right Worshipful  
Raborn Reader  
Grand Junior Warden**



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



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



**Right Worshipful  
David Rogers  
Grand Chaplain**



**Right Worshipful  
Chris Livingston  
Grand Orator**



**Right Worshipful  
Tommy Chapman  
Grand Marshal**



**Worshipful  
Wayne Cliatt  
Grand Senior Deacon**



**Worshipful  
Ricardo Gonzalez  
Grand Junior Deacon**



**Worshipful  
Troy Shugart  
Grand Senior Steward**



**Worshipful  
Todd Binder  
Grand Junior Steward**



**Worshipful  
Kenneth Bernard  
Grand Pursuivant**



**Worshipful  
Craig Enderli  
Grand Musician**



**Worshipful  
Gregory Wright  
Grand Photographer**



**Worshipful  
Corey Harris  
Grand Tiler**

# Grand Master's Gala April 30th, 2022



**Auction Items for Gala**  
Grand Master Billings is searching for Craftsmans to donate unique items to be Auctioned at the Grand Master's Gala held in Grapevine, Texas on April 30, 2022. Contact R.:W.: Gasten Schoonover to make a donation. (817) 304-3792  
LGSCHOONOVER@GMAIL.COM

# Support

THE GRAND LODGE OF TEXAS  
A.F. & A.M.

### **Grand Master's Tie - \$1000**

For the last several years the Grand Officer's tie has been available for \$1000. This year a distinctive purple tie is designed to be worn only by the Grand Master and those Brethren that make a \$1000 donation to the Grand Lodge of Texas.

### **Fundraiser Lapel Pin - \$100**

This Roaring 20's inspired lapel pin comes with a custom made synthetic moonstone and a timeless design meant to be worn proudly for years to come. Only 1,000 lapel pins were made with the goal of raising \$100,000.



# On the Masonic Road

By Jerome Weilmuenster, Staff Writer



Out in the West Texas towns of Pecos and Kermit (not El Paso) two Lodges are having a positive, meaningful impact on their communities. Through an active membership, Pecos Valley No. 736 and Kermit Lodge No. 1258 are each taking part in over twelve community outreach programs.





Some of these programs take place outside the Lodge, and some are open Lodge programs. There are programs of interest to all ages, from kindergarten to adults. Even though they are in small towns, the Lodges in Pecos and Kermit are generating a lot of interest in the fraternity. Following up on 2021 programs, the activities for the first six months of 2022 are already on the trestle board.

If you are not familiar with the area, Kermit and Pecos are in the Permian Basin of West Texas, and both cities have experienced the ups and downs of the petroleum industry. In fact Kermit (founded in 1910) had virtually no population between 1916 and 1926. However, Kermit rebounded as a result of an early oil boom, and in 1928 Kermit Lodge No. 1258 was chartered.

Pecos Valley Lodge No. 736 was chartered in 1892, eleven years after the founding of the town and five years after hosting the alleged first rodeo in the U.S. While the rodeo reflects the agricultural nature of the area, it is petroleum that has done the most for Pecos and Kermit. The most recent boom in the oilfield has resulted in a population of approximately 11,000 in Pecos and almost 7,000 in Kermit.

Drawing on these populations, Kermit Lodge has 98 members while Pecos has 47. Due to the community outreach programs both Lodges are gaining recognition in their communities while adding membership. In the last two years, Kermit has raised seven Master Masons. Five years ago, Pecos had 39 members and Kermit had 98. In the last year, Pecos Valley Lodge has had two initiations and one raising. Over the last five years, Kermit Lodge has lost seven members, but has also admitted seven, so their numbers are steady.

It is worth noting that today, only five of the members of Pecos Valley Lodge actually live in Pecos. Most members of both Lodges participate in the following programs:

- Fantastic Teeth
- Community Builder
- Community Parades
- First responders' dinner
- Scholarships – While Kermit awards scholarships for both Kermit and Wink
- Pecos awards scholarships for Pecos and Balmorhea
- Golden Trowel



Additionally, Pecos Valley Lodge has a Veterans' Day dinner, a Blood Drive, and recognizes educational contribution with the Lamar Award. On December 18, 2021, they had a full day

Open House, the Books for Bikes Program, and Toys for Tots with Santa Claus. As a result of the Open House, several men will be coming to the January Stated Meeting to break bread and investigate Masonry more fully.

One of the most successful programs run in conjunction with the local schools is the Books for Bikes Program. Students are required to read a book, write a synopsis of their favorite scene, and draw a picture of their favorite scene. Children are given one raffle ticket in exchange for completing all three tasks for each book. Bicycles are then raffled off, and the student depositing the most raffle tickets (the student who has read the most books) has the greatest chance to win. Sixteen children received new bikes and helmets this year with the help of Walmart and Peyton's Bikes.

Kermit Lodge also has two open houses a year, a chili supper, a Christmas social, and an evening to honor Masonic widows. It seems that wherever Masons celebrate, a meal is served.

Do these programs bring additional members to the Lodge? As noted above, Kermit Lodge has raised seven Master Masons in the last two years, and Pecos has raised five. Anecdotally, the Pecos fire chief, Adrian Garcia, recently asked Worshipful Master Pell what he had to do to become a Mason, and "Coach" Pell said, "You just took the first step!" Chief Garcia and several firemen are present at all events, and a Masonic "flag" is displayed on fire trucks in parades.

It is through these programs that these Lodges educate and raise awareness. At one of their charitable events, a lady told Worshipful Master Pell she was glad she came because she thought Masons just rode funny cars in parades.

With a plan on the trestle board and a shoulder to the wheel, any Lodge can make an impact in their community. For Pecos Valley Lodge Worshipful Master Pell has a simple platform:

"If we're not in the community, then we're not in anything but our lonely Lodge. Get out and meet the very supportive citizens. They are starving to join a fun and fantastic organization like ours." ★



## Peanuts On The Floor And The Wisdom Of Brother Bill

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



You know how sometimes you are working or doing chores or, whatever and something or someone will pop into your mind and shortly thereafter that person will come walking in the door? Well it's happened to me before and in fact it happened last week. I was at work and all of a sudden John popped into my mind. I tried real hard to put him out of my mind but he wouldn't leave ..... Ha! Kinda like him being here in person. Anyway I was wondering about what had happened between him and his boss last month. I remember he was worried about their meeting. I sure hoped he didn't get laid off because his job was the only reason he came down our way every month. What was I going to do if he didn't show up every month..... hmmm .....

As I was mulling the pluses and the minuses the front door flew open and there he was. "Helloooooo Fellers", he bellowed with his arms spread wide like he was addressing his subjects. "It is I, your Brother John. I can go no further. I must eat." Roger looked over at me and said, "I think he is looking for you." "Don't yell so loud," I said. "You're scaring all the customers." "Oh man, I'm sorry," he apologized as he looked around quickly, "Hey, wait a minute..... there's no customers in here."

I guess that answered my question about his meeting with his boss last month. He was way too happy for a man who had been laid off his job. "So what happened at your meeting last month," I asked. "I was a little worried about you." "Brother Chris, you are not going to believe this," he said. "He wanted to tell me what a good job I was doing and he wanted to ask me about becoming a Mason. He said that when I talk about the Lodge and being a Mason he can tell how proud I that am to be one. He said it seems to be the source of all my energy"

"I could have told him that was wrong," I butted in sarcastically. "The source of your energy is all that food you eat." "I am not going to even dignify that with a response," he said giving me a cold stare. Out of the corner of my eye I could see Roger with his head down laughing as silently as he could. "I'm being serious here Brother," he said. "When he said that to me, I told him that the energy actually came from a higher source but that energy along with the principals and teachings in Masonry are what makes me the man that I am.

Brother Chris it's a good feeling when someone wants to be a Mason because of who you are." I had lost the sarcasm and I noticed that Roger had stopped laughing and I could tell he had liked what John said. "Brother John, that was good," I said. "I have to agree with your boss."

"Well now that you are done being a smart aleck," he demanded. "Take me to eat before I have to get violent. I have a lot to tell you." "OK, Ok calm down," I said, "I am going to take you to the Texas Road House." He said, "I have never been there before so quit talking and let's go.

We apparently showed up at a bad time cause the place was packed and several people were waiting for tables. We ended up only having to wait about 10 minutes before we were escorted to a booth. All the way to the table John was checking out all the peanut shells on the floor and made a comment to the hostess as we were sitting down that somebody ought to do some sweeping up. She smiled sweetly and informed him that there were peanuts in the buckets on the table and he was allowed to throw the shells on the floor.

I didn't think it was that big of a deal but he was like a kid in a candy store. He grabbed a handful of peanuts out of the bucket and began popping them open and eating them one after another. After each shell was empty he ceremoniously flipped it out and watched its travel path all the way to the floor.

He soon realized that having a mouthful of nuts and nothing to wash them down with is not good. He began to frantically look around for a server and finally began waving wildly hoping to attract someone's attention which only served to annoy the two ladies in the booth behind us. I waved at them and apologized as a guy stopped in front of our table and announced he was going to be our server. I noticed that his badge identified him as Tony, the store manager, and I asked him why the manager was going to be taking care of us. He said that it was very busy and two servers had not shown up for their shift so he had to fill in. John was trying unsuccessfully to push out some words but all I heard was gibberish. His face was getting red and he was staring at me with disgust in his eyes. I told Tony, "I think he has had too many nuts and needs something to drink." Immediately John began nodding and grunting in agreement. I ordered two iced teas and Tony went to get them. John was still staring bullets at me when Tony showed up with our drinks and he grabbed his and gulped down about half of the glass before he paused to take a breath.

Tony watched him with amused indifference and asked if we were ready to order and I said we were. He asked if it was going to be on 1 or 2 tickets and simultaneously we pointed at each other. Tony rolled his eyes and said, "Figure it out guys. I don't have all day." I was starting to think that I didn't like Tony's attitude much, considering he didn't know how much money this table was about to make him.

Visit <https://grandlodgeoftexas.org/peanuts-on-the-floor-and-the-wisdom-of-brother-bill/> for the rest of the story.



# The Masonic Gavel of Texas – March 1922

By Brother A. W. Oliphant (from *Texas Freemason*)

In the winter of 1834-1835, five Master Masons, who had made themselves known to each other, consulted among themselves and, after various and much deliberation, resolved to take measures to establish a Lodge of their order in Texas. Every movement in Texas was watched at that time with jealousy and distrust by the Mexican Government. It was well known that Free Masonry was particularly odious to the Roman Catholic priesthood, whose influence at the time was all-powerful. All fear of personal consequence was thrown aside. The five brethren were: John H. Wharton, Asa Brigham, James A. E. Phelps, Alexander Russell, and Anson Jones. The place of meeting was back of the town of Brazoria, near the place known as General John Austin's, in a little grove of wild peach or laurel. Here, and under such circumstances, at ten o'clock, in the morning on a day in March, 1835, was held the first formal Masonic meeting in Texas. Officers named were: W. M., Anson Jones; S. W., Asa Brigham; J. W., J. P. Caldwell. They filled those offices until the close of 1837.

In the meantime the Grand Lodge of Louisiana had issued a charter for Holland Lodge No. 36, and the historic gavel was brought over to Texas from Bro. Holland by Bro. John M. Allen. This gavel, together with some letters from the Grand Secretary and the charter and gavel were handed to Anson Jones by Bro. Allen, on the prairie between Groce's and San Jacinto, while we were on the march. This gavel was sent to Bro. A. Stern and carried by him in his saddlebags to the encampment of the army on Buffalo Bayou, at Lynchburg. Had we been beaten here, Santa Anna would have captured the charter and gavel. The charter was taken safely to Brazoria, but no attempt was made to revive the work there. In October, 1837, however, it was reopened in the city of Houston.

In the meantime two other Lodges were organized. In the winter of 1837-1838, they met in convention at Houston and the Grand Lodge of the Republic of Texas was formed on December 20, 1837. The meeting was called to order in the Senate Chamber at 3 P. M. Bro. Sam Houston was called to the chair. Bro. A. Stern laid this gavel on the stand and Brother Houston used it in conducting the meeting.

They proceeded to organize the Grand Lodge and elected Anson Jones Most Worshipful Grand Master, who used this gavel at the opening of the First Grand Lodge of Texas.

This gavel is now owned by Bro. Alfred W. Oliphant, Past Master of Hill City Lodge No. 456, Austin, Texas. The bowl of this gavel is of ivory and the handle of ebony. It was brought from the Holy Land by a friend of Brother Holland and presented to him while Grand Master of Louisiana.

When the convention and the first Grand Lodge closed Brother Stern took the gavel and retained it for several years. He presented it to his old-time friend, Captain William P. Rutledge, who was at that time Worshipful Master of Milam Lodge No. 7, in the old town of Washington.

When Captain Rutledge moved to Pond Springs, Williamson County, he carried it with him and kept it until early in January, 1873, when he presented it to his brother-in-law, William J. Oliphant, who had just been installed Worshipful Master of Austin Lodge No. 12 Austin, Texas; who used it at all meetings during his term of office. He retained possession of it until he



Brother "William J. Oliphant"

presented it to his son, Alfred W. Oliphant, who was made Worshipful Master of Hill City Lodge No. 456, Austin, Texas.

While in the possession of Bro. William J. Oliphant, the gavel was used by Most Excellent High Priest Swain in opening and closing the Most Excellent Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Texas. The gavel was also used by the Most Worshipful Grand Master Combs in laying the cornerstone of the present granite Capitol of the State of Texas.

I am loaning this gavel to Bro. John Clarke, of Big Spring, Texas, to be used on Washington's Birthday by the Masonic Club, and then to be returned to me. Fraternaly, A. W. OLIPHANT

The Masonic club of Big Spring, celebrated Washington's Birthday with appropriate ceremonies, and used the Interesting and historic gavel described above by Bro. Oliphant, Bro. Jas. E. Morris, secretary of the YMCA at Denison, Grand Chaplain, made the principal address. Bro. John Clarke presided. Ladies of the Eastern Star entertained during the evening.

Big Spring is one of the liveliest Masonic centers of Texas. Every Masonic body there is active, and practically every individual. Liberal funds were voted for the Masonic Home recently and also to the George Washington Masonic Memorial Association.



## Grand Lodge Committee Profile

By Bill Crow, Associate Editor



When considering the number of Texas Masonic Lodges and Texas Masons, and the diversity of communication necessary to reach all or the most of all Masons, a method, or methods for communicating can be a daunting and formidable task. Communications networking being a task all Texas Masons are somewhat responsible to undertake, we have help. Help in the form of the Grand Secretary's Office and our Grand Lodge Committee on Communications.

Our Grand Secretary's Office manages our day to day and necessary member communications through a multitude of information data systems and contact points, the Grand Secretary's monthly newsletter, and information distributed through and to selected groups i.e., District Deputy Grand Masters, Lodge Secretaries, and District Service Teams.

The Grand Lodge Committee on Communications is involved and directly responsible for both internal and external communications. The Grand Lodge Committee on Communications is a Permanent Committee consisting of seven members, the term of their office being seven years.

The Laws of The Grand Lodge Texas A.F. & A.M., CHAPTER 16 – TITLE I, GRAND LODGE PERMANENT COMMITTEES, include the following lawful guidance for the organization, fiscal management and duties and responsibilities of the Grand Lodge Committee on Communication as follows:

*Art. 126g. Committee on Communication. It shall be the duty of the Committee on Communication to formulate and promulgate policies, programs and projects regarding internal and external communications to increase member and public awareness and understanding of Masonry using various communications tools*

*and techniques; to make recommendations pertaining to such matters to the Grand Master and the Grand Lodge and to employ such professional assistance to accomplish its purposes as is authorized by the Trustees of the Grand Lodge of Texas. (Revised 2003)*

In addition, the Committee shall be responsible to assist the Grand Master in the selection and instruction of well-qualified Brethren to represent him and this Grand Lodge as District Communications Officers. These members shall be members of the Grand Lodge of Texas, if such a one is available and willing to serve, otherwise a qualified Brother who is a member in good standing of a Lodge in the district may serve as such. (Revised 2003)

*ART. 126g-126j TITLE I – CHAPTER 16 In matters pertaining to the Community Builder Award, the Committee shall be responsible to develop, promote and assist the Lodges with suitable Grand Lodge programs and materials for uniform presentation of the Community Builder Award; to establish suitable guidelines for qualifications as to properly recognize outstanding community achievement while honoring the commitment of this Grand Lodge to a more effective relationship between the Lodges and the communities they seek to serve. This Committee shall be required to meet as necessary during the recess of Grand Lodge. (Revised 1991)*

*In matters pertaining to the W. B. and Brandon Carrell Humanitarian Award, the Committee shall be responsible to evaluate all nominations for the Award, and to make its recommendations as provided in Article 14b of these Laws. (Revised 1992)*

In addition to the statutory duties assigned to the Committee on Communications, the committee has also been working heavily with the Trustees and the staff of the Grand Secretary's office in streamlining and updating our use of electronic media. The committee has produced several educational videos on Masonic topics like; Cornerstone Ceremonies, DDGM Reception, Masonic Service Awards, and many more. Under the guidance of Past Grand Master Curry, we developed a monthly electronic newsletter for all Grand Lodge officers and the Masters, Wardens, Secretaries, and Treasurers of the 765 lodges across the state. We are very happy to announce that Grand Master Billings has chosen to continue this hugely popular newsletter into his term.

With over 65,000 Master Masons, Fellowcraft, and Entered Apprentices, the ability to communicate quickly, easily, and effectively is paramount to our success as a fraternity. All of the members on your Communications Committee welcome your feedback and look forward to serving you and the amazing brethren of Texas.

If you have any questions regarding the Committee on Communications or have comments to contribute to the Committee on Communications team, contact: Chris Holder, Chairman, Committee on Communications or Rusty Garrett, Vice Chairman, Committee on Communications at: 832-224-6212 or [communicationcommittee@grandsecretaryoftx.org](mailto:communicationcommittee@grandsecretaryoftx.org)

## Alexander Joseph Di Caro, Jr. MD., Part Two

Freemason, Arabia Shrine, Scottish Rite Valley of Houston – 50 year member of each  
By jim hoffpaur, Staff Writer

Continued from the Winter 2021 issue of the *Texas Freemason*.

### Statues to Mexico

Through his ties with Shriners International in Tampa, Di Caro found himself involved with a rather interesting adventure in Old Mexico in 2014-15. It involved the rather questionable transportation of two bronze statues - one of which being the well-known Shriner walking with a crutch carrying a small child - to the Shrine Hospital in Mexico City.

“It seems the gentleman responsible to find safe passage to Mexico City of a couple of bronze statues to place in the entrance of the Shriners hospital there knew I donated lots of medical instruments to Mexico from San Antonio. How could ‘I’ get them down there?” laughs Di Caro.

Wife Sandra had the answer: they would wrap them up and drive them to Mexico City. ‘Stashed’ among the couple’s luggage in the back of the car went the two heavily wrapped statues. Past US and Mexican customs they maneuvered. All was well until reaching the final Mexican check point 10-12 miles south of Nuevo Laredo at Anahuac in the Mexican state of Tamaulipas.

“Senor, what do you have wrapped up in those packages?” spoke the border guard in the finest of English. After guarded, but truthful, explanation by Di Caro the guard rubbed his chin and smiled, “No problem brother – I am a Mason too.”

### Dyslexia

Dr. Di Caro became involved with the Scottish Rite Dyslexia program when he noticed his son Bryan was unable to read by the second grade. He then looked into the 2nd Baptist School in Houston which took in slow learners where he learned that Bryan’s problem could be dyslexia. Di Caro soon moved to Jourdanton and opened his business in San Antonio where he was told to take the child to the Dallas SR Hospital for testing.

There he asked Anna Rammie to go down to Jourdanton where she located Brenda Franklin, wife of County Judge Thomas Franklin, who had been trained in the Dallas program. They worked out the particulars that launched the effort. Dyslexic programs now cover most of the school districts in both Atascosa a McMullen Counties. Di Caro became instrumental in the introduction of dyslexic training for students in the Jourdanton school system when he purchased program books set up after-school training for seven or eight children in the area.

Later Bryan off-handily said, “Dad, I forgot my sun glasses. When I have them, I can read this pretty good.” Dr. Lucius Wade then told Di Caro that the introduction of color separates, rather than overlaps, letters and makes them easier to put in word and sentence form. Bryan began wearing his sun glasses in class and started making good grades. He then graduated from Jourdanton High School and Texas A&I – now UTAM at Kingsville – and is now a successful entrepreneur in the home building

and ministorage fields.

While at Texas A&I, Bryan was under the tutelage of Mary Hernandez, Assistant Professor of English, under Dr. John Lowe, Prof. of English, who, together, held classes for dyslexic students at the university.

### DRs. DeBakey, Cooley, Di Caro, and the Artificial Heart

Doctor Michael Ellis DeBakey was born to Lebanese Maronite Christian immigrant parents in Lebanon September 7th, 1908. The family moved to Lake Charles, LA, where the name was eventually anglicized from its original spelling AlBinali. DeBakey read the entire Encyclopedia Britannica before entering high school. At age 23 he graduated from Tulane University School of Medicine in New Orleans becoming a medical prodigy when he created the roller pump – a medical device that provided continuous blood flow during operations. DeBakey used the device to transfuse blood directly from donor to patient. This was before blood banks became common. Twenty years later it became a crucial part of the heart-lung machine used in open-heart surgery.



Dr. Cooley and his staff were the originators of the first artificial heart.

He completed surgical fellowships in Europe before returning to Tulane in 1937. During World War II he helped develop Mobile Army Surgical Hospital (MASH) units which became key elements of medical care placed near the front lines during the Korean War. He later established the Veterans Administration Medical Center Research System. The Michael E DeBakey International Cardiovascular Surgical Society, founded 1976, which was later renamed the Michael E DeBakey International Surgical Society, was founded in his honor.

Among his credits in surgical innovations were the coronary bypass, carotid endarterectomy, artificial hearts, and ventricular assist devices. He was presented the Presidential Medal of Freedom, National Medal of Science, and Congressional Gold Medal. He led in operations on over 60,000 patients, including several heads of state.

Described as a “tough taskmaster,” DeBakey was said to be “sweet as dripping honey” to patients and medical students but brutal with surgical

## ACROSS THE STATE

residents. He had a reputation of terrorizing co-workers who fell short of his standards.

Doctor Denton Cooley was born in Houston in 1920. He was the founder and Surgeon-in-Chief of the Texas Heart Institute, Chief of Cardiovascular Surgery and clinical partner at Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center, Consultant in Cardiovascular Surgery at Texas Children's Hospital, and Clinical Professor of Surgery at the University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston. He studied Pre-Med at UT Medical Branch in Galveston and received his Medical Degree and surgical training at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. He was called to active duty in the Army Medical Corps in 1946. He was discharged with the rank of Captain in 1948 before returning to complete his Residency at Johns Hopkins. He was hired by Dr. DeBakey in 1951.

On April 4, 1969 Cooley, with the help of DeBakey's artificial-heart technician, Dr. Domingo Liotta, took the artificial heart from DeBakey's lab and implanted it in one of Cooley's patients at St. Luke's. Di Caro, who was in the operating room had stepped out for a break, and reentered when the team did the, now historic, procedure. The patient lived 36 hours. DeBakey had developed the artificial device in his Baylor lab with funds from the National Heart Institute. Later Cooley defended his actions as a desperate attempt to save a life. Liotta justified his contribution through frustration from limited time he claimed DeBakey was putting into the project.

DeBakey, it is true, had not sought approval to use the device in human patients due to a lack of evidence of its success in animal trials. Learning of the Cooley implant during a National Heart Institute meeting, he flew back to Houston and began an investigation, announcing Cooley's unauthorized action broke federal rules and jeopardized Baylor's grants. Cooley later said his actions were justified and that he had been performing more heart operations than DeBakey on a yearly basis: that he considered himself the appropriate person to do the first implant of the artificial device. He then resigned from his Baylor position.

The parties did not reconcile their differences until October 27, 2007. DeBakey and Cooley exchanged warm handshakes during a ceremony when DeBakey accepted a lifetime achievement award from the Denton A Cooley Cardiovascular Surgical Society shortly before DeBakey was presented the Congressional Gold Medal by then President George W Bush in Washington, DC.

### Heartbeats

One of Dr. Di Caro's proudest and most rewarding adventures has been as a member of The Heartbeats. The Heartbeats, now renamed The Jazz Medics, were a group of Houston doctors and friends who originally banded together to play for their own enjoyment. The group was organized in 1965 as the Heartstrings by Drs. Cooley and Hallman. This name was chosen because most of the physicians worked in the field of heart disease and string instruments predominated. Cooley played the upright bass and Hallman the trombone with Di Caro on percussion drums. The band soon recruited saxophones, trumpets, and additional trombones, thus the change from The Heartstrings to The Heartbeats.



"The Heartbeats" performing at the Annual Convocation for Cardiologists

At first the Heartbeats presented short programs at parties for their medical colleagues. They were soon asked to play at larger social events held to raise money for worthy causes such as the Texas Heart Institute of St. Luke's Episcopal and Texas Children's Hospitals. At these affairs, they shared the bandstand with some of Houston's outstanding dance bands, usually presenting 30-minute intermission programs. By 1969 the band numbered twenty-three members, and went national when they played in February for the annual banquet of the American College of Cardiology at the New York Hilton, sharing the program with George Jessel, John Gary, Myron Cohen, and Gloria Loring. In October of 1969, they performed at the Distinguished Alumni Awards Banquet at the University of Texas and were accompanied by Lyndon Johnson - 36th President of the United States - on the tambourine in "Tijuana Taxi." In February of 1971, the Heartbeats played at the National Gallery in Washington for the American College of Cardiology.

The Heartbeats have made two records and one tape. Proceeds benefit the Texas Heart Institute, and also helped in construction of the Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center and Texas Children's Hospital. They were: in 1968, "Presenting, The Heartbeats," and in 1972, "The Heartbeats Again." By the mid-70s the band's composition included doctors in a wide range of specialties. In 1974 it became The Jazz Medics. Today's band primarily performs at retirement homes, hospices, and private events in the Houston area.

It might be said that the man, Alexander Joseph Di Caro, Jr., lives daily by the classic motto spelled out in the old Jimmy Buffett ditto "with all of my running and all of my cunning, if I couldn't laugh, I would just go insane." Stay tuned!

# The Value of a Penny

By Bill Crow, Associate Editor

What has more value, a United States Silver Dollar, or a simple penny? Which would you choose if you were to receive a gift and had to choose between one and the other?

As Texas Masons, we are all concerned with value, and we always want to make good choices in all that we do and how others and we perceive ourselves as a part of our Masonic fraternity. So, let's start with who we are; an *Ancient and Honorable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons*. That statement holds within itself a monumental responsibility and high accountability for all Texas Masons, regardless of Masonic title, age, tenure, wealth or the lack thereof.

Freemasonry is an "*Ancient Craft*" and is identified in the Masonic manuscript, *Regius Poem* or *Halliwel Manuscript* believed to be dated to 1390 A.D. The *Regius Poem* provides irrefutable proof that Freemasonry existed during medieval ages, it provides evidence of the spread of Freemasonry to diverse and far-away lands. It states Masonry was brought to England during the reign of King Athelstan who reigned as the King of Anglo Saxons from 924 A.D. to 939 A.D. The *Regius Poem* contains 15 rules that are considered as moral codes for all Freemasons.

The oldest lodge in the world is Mary's Chapel in Edinburgh, Scotland. It has been in operation since 1599 and existed over a century before the modern United Grand Lodge of England was established in 1717 A.D.

Freemasonry is an "*Honorable Fraternity*" of men who proclaim belief in a deity, believe in non-sectarianism, and non-religious Masonic philosophy. Honorable, in that a part of the furniture of the lodge and the Great Light in Masonry; the *Sacred Book of the Law*, are inculcated and revered in the rule, guide and practice of our lodge. Honorable, as Freemasonry has a stated purpose of helping good men become better men and a keen desire to help good communities become great communities.

"*Free and Accepted*" in that Freemasons derive that name from our ancient operative mason brothers who were selected to build the Temple of Solomon and were declared free and exempted, together with their descendants, from imposts, duties and taxes. They were also privileged to bear arms as we recall from the building of the second temple. Following the destruction of the Temple by Nebuchadnezzar, the remainder of the masons (operative) were taken into captivity along with the ancient Jews. Later King Cyrus gave them permission to build the second Temple, giving them liberty and freedom for that purpose. It is from that history that we bear and continue the name of "*Free and Accepted Masons*."

So back to the question, if you were to choose between a gift of a U.S. Silver Dollar with a value of around \$18.75 to several hundred dollars for just the right one, or a 1943-s Lincoln Wheat Cent Penny in Bronze/Copper valued about \$565,610.00 or more. The answer is obvious; a special penny may be more valuable than most all other coins.

The same is true when placing a value on the elements of our Masonic Fraternity. What is the greatest asset or value we have as Masons? Is it the lodge building, our endowments, our fellowship, our ritual, or is our greatest value evidenced in our Brothers?

All Brother Masons are great assets, and have great value in our fraternity, but there is a special group of Masons that may be our greatest asset, our Masonic future, and our "Special Penny." This group of Masons are indeed Masons, but are not yet a member of a Masonic lodge. They are our newest Masons; our petitioners, our Entered Apprentices, Fellowcraft Masons, and our soon to be raised, Master Masons. They are the Masonic fuel keeping the flame and light of Freemasonry alive and they are our future because they represent the greatest longevity towards the future.

As collected metrics have shown, Freemasonry loses a significant number of Entered Apprentices after initiation. We have all discussed why they may not return following initiation, and to a degree we may not have spent enough effort to really know why some did not return. There is a consensus however, that a preponderance of those who did not return were not properly prepared for initiation into the mysteries of Freemasonry.

One of the greatest responsibilities of a Masonic lodge, leaders of lodges and rank and file Master Masons have is to prepare, instruct, educate and fellowship with our newest Masons.

The preparation for a new candidate should begin in the months he is becoming acquainted with the lodge, its members and introducing his family to the fraternity. Preparation should begin informally before a petition is presented and trained mentors should be assigned to lead the initiate through the processes of initiation, passing and raising in his Masonic walk.

Our Most Worshipful Grand Master has stated his intent to highlight Masonic education for 2022 and is placing an increased emphasis on the preparation, initiation, and education of our new Entered Apprentices and their preparation for receiving the degrees in Freemasonry. As we begin this New Year 2022, The Grand Master, supported by the Freemason Magazine will be preparing and publishing a continuing series of educational articles highlighting and illuminating the Entered Apprentice Degree, preparation for the degree and appropriate non-esoteric education for the whole of all Texas Masons.

All Masons must work diligently to support our new Masons; we must not let the flame and light of Freemasonry dim or become complacent. Our work must be intentional to assure our new Masons are educated in the meaning of the ritual, not just the words. Education is the key to understanding and understanding is the vehicle to wisdom. We must preserve and strengthen our legacy and that of our ancients, of which we are a part; an "*Ancient and Honorable Fraternity of Free Accepted Masons*."



# A CENTURY OF GIVING CHILDREN BACK THEIR CHILDHOOD

By Hayley Hair, Contributing Writer

Scottish Rite for Children officially turned 100 in October, and congratulations are in order as this remarkable institution provides excellent care to thousands of patients from around the state and beyond. One of the nation's leading pediatric orthopedic centers, Scottish Rite treats a wide range of orthopedic conditions, including sports injuries and fractures, as well as certain arthritic, neurological and learning disorders, such as dyslexia. Patients receive outstanding treatment regardless of the family's ability to pay, and there are three locations in North Texas — Dallas, Frisco and The Star in Frisco.

"Although our centennial year is different than what we originally planned, it is clear that our one-of-a-kind institution has a commitment that has endured the test of time and will continue to do so," said Robert L. Walker, CEO/President of Scottish Rite for Children. "We are all proud of our achievements and grateful to contribute to that unshakable mission for another 100 years."

In the early 1920s, Texas Masons and Dallas' first orthopedic surgeon W. B. Carrell, M.D., created a place like no other and cared for the children of Texas affected by the polio epidemic. That union in 1921 would forge the institution's values and mission, bridging the Masonic tenets of loving your fellow man, compassion

for the sick and the quest for that which is most worthwhile with expert medical care with compassion and respect no matter the family's status or ability to pay.

As the hospital's reputation continued to grow, parents brought children affected by disease, accidents and congenital conditions, such as clubfoot, developmental dysplasia of the hip and scoliosis, to Dallas for care, broadening the scope of pediatric orthopedic treatments available. These treatments would open up the world for children who might have experienced more restricted lives without Scottish Rite's dedicated care.

Throughout the 100-year history, Masons have been an integral part of the institution's leadership, helping steer and guide the organization's initiatives and directives through the decades. Still today most members of the board of trustees belong to the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry.

The organization's physicians and surgeons treat thousands of

children annually in six Centers for Excellence in spine, foot, hand, hip, limb lengthening and reconstruction and sports medicine. "Through Scottish Rite's six Centers for Excellence, groundbreaking research takes place consistently, and each area of specialty is focused on one goal — finding the best, most innovative treatment options," said chief of staff Daniel J. Sucato, M.D., M.S. "This type of teamwork welcomes new and fresh ideas within our walls and extends outward to other hospitals across the country."

Their experts continue to lead the way with exceptional treatments, world-class education and leading-edge research, impacting children around the world. So many experts have devoted their careers to caring for and nurturing their patients. Today nearly 350,000 children have received the life-changing treatments required to thrive and excel through their personal challenges to go on and inspire others. These kids, and all the patients at Scottish Rite for Children, inspire them to keep up the good work each and every day!



Masons checking in with a Scottish Rite for Children patient.



Scan the QR code to watch the story of Kinzie, of Amarillo, and learn more about her journey with Scottish Rite for Children.



We are celebrating our centennial with our first-ever capital campaign. The *Boundless Centennial Campaign* celebrates the organization's first century of milestones and accomplishments while paving the way for the next 100 years of discovery and innovation. Scan the QR code to learn more about Scottish Rite for Children's century-long history and help more children be boundless!

Patient Athena, of Mesquite



# The Book of Ruth

By Brad Kohanke, Contributing Writer

There is only one specific Book of Scripture mentioned in the entire ritualistic catechism of Freemasonry. Do you remember which one it is? Did the mention of it in our ritual cause you to want to read it? Have you read it? What does it mean to you?

This month I want to talk a little bit about the Book of Ruth. For most religious scholars, as well as for members of the Eastern Star, this is a Book for and about women. Summarizing the story: Bethlehem was experiencing a famine. An Israelite couple (Elimelech and Naomi) along with their two sons leave in search of food and end up in Moab where they set up house. Eventually their sons marry local Moabite women, Ruth and Orpah. One by one, Elimelech and his sons die, leaving Naomi and her daughters-in-law without husbands. Naomi decides to go back to Bethlehem and tells Ruth and Orpah to stay in Moab. Orpah stays, but Ruth refuses to abandon her mother-in-law. Her statement to Naomi has become one of the most beautiful quotes from the Old Testament and is central to the beliefs held by Christians, Jews, and the Eastern Star about loyalty, friendship, and what it means to truly have faith. She says, "Do not urge me to leave you or turn back from following you; for where you go, I will go, and where you lodge, I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God, my God."

This is indeed a beautiful story, but it's only the first of four Chapters. To me, the subsequent three Chapters are where the lessons central to the teachings of Freemasonry are found. Finishing the story: The two widows, Naomi and Ruth, arrive back in Bethlehem but have no means to provide for themselves. Ruth suggests that she go out into the grain fields that have already been harvested and pick up the extra that has been left behind. It just so happens that she is picking up the extra grain from a field that belonged to a relative of her father-in-law, Elimelech. His name is Boaz (where have I heard that name before?). When he sees her in the field, he tells his men not only that they should allow her to pick up the extra, but instructs them to leave additional grain for her and even allow her to take from the harvested sheaves. Ruth asks Boaz why he is being so nice to her, and he tells her that he has heard how she stayed with

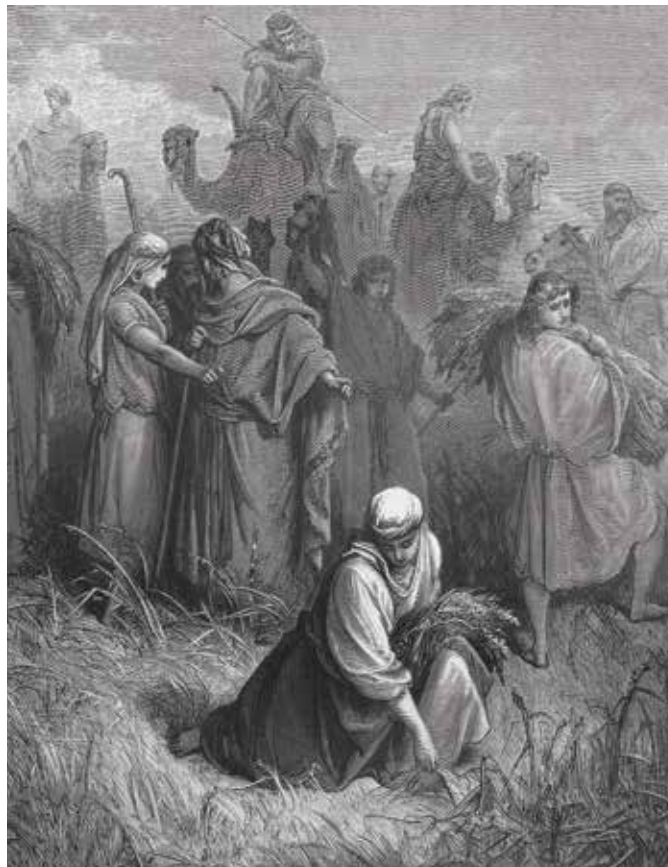
Naomi and left her people to follow the teachings of the God of Israel. Boaz even invites her to share bread and wine with them. When Naomi heard that Ruth had been treated so well by Boaz, she said, "The Lord bless him. He has not stopped showing his kindness to the living and the

dead." Naomi then tells Ruth that Boaz is a relative and to continue working only in his fields, so she would not be harmed by others.

Naomi then tells Ruth that she should approach Boaz as a "Kinsman Redeemer." There was a custom at the time that a widow could be taken as a wife by the closest remaining male relative, if he bought the land formerly belonging to the widow's dead husband. Boaz is very honored that Ruth chose him over the younger and richer men, but tells her there is another relative who is closer than him and therefore had the first right to purchase the land and marry her. He sends her back to Naomi with additional grain and tells her he will speak with the other man on the following day. Boaz met the other man at the gates of the City along with the elders and told him he had the right to purchase Naomi's property, but if he did so he must also take Ruth as a wife. The other man did not want to marry, so he granted Boaz the property and Ruth, and to signify the legality of

the transaction he took off his sandal and handed it to Boaz. Boaz held it up for all to see and announced his intention to purchase the land and take Ruth as his wife. Boaz and Ruth had a son named Obed, who was the grandfather of King David – father of King Solomon.

So as you can see, not only does the Book of Ruth explain the meaning behind the removal of one sandal, it also teaches very valuable lessons on honesty, integrity, and how we are to treat widows. Additionally, it establishes the genealogy of King Solomon, who is so vitally important in the teaching of Freemasonry. Take a few minutes to read the Book of Ruth, it's worth it.



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