

Official Publication of The Grand Lodge of Texas

TEXAS FREEMASON

WINTER 2025

Summary of
Proposed Grand
Lodge Resolutions

PAGE 7

190th
Grand Annual
Communication
of the Most
Worshipful Grand
Lodge of Texas
A.F. & A.M.

PAGE 8

CONTENTS

WINTER 2025



Grand Master Raborn L Reader, Jr. – 2025 Grand Master Recent Activities

GRAND LODGE

- 3 A Word from the Grand Master
- 4 A Word from the Deputy Grand Master
- 6 A Word from the Grand Secretary
- 7 Summary of Proposed Grand Lodge Resolutions
- 8 Grand Annual Communication
- 11 Statements of Availability

FEATURE

- 14 On the Masonic Road: The Hoodoo War of Mason County

IN EVERY ISSUE

- 18 The Profound Pontifications of Brother John Deacon
- 19 A Look Back

ACROSS THE STATE

- 20 Recent Activities of the Grand Master

EDUCATION & COMMITMENT

- 22 Year of Impact: Bringing Hope to Texas Families
- 23 No Mason Left Behind Project

ON THE COVER

The Memorial Masonic Grand Lodge Temple is at 715 Columbus Ave. in Waco.

TEXAS FREEMASON

The Texas Freemason Magazine is an official publication of the Grand Lodge of Texas A. F. & A. M. It is published four times a year for the members of Texas Lodges and subscribers. Spring and winter issues are available in print. Summer and fall issues are available in PDF format at <https://grandlodgeoftexas.org>. Opinions expressed by the editors and contributing writers do not necessarily reflect official positions of the Grand Lodge of Texas. Copyright 2025, by the Trustees of the Grand Lodge of Texas. All rights reserved.

Publisher

The Trustees of The Grand Lodge of Texas

Editor

Larry FitzPatrick

Associate Editor

Bill Crow

Staff Writers

Dean Bryant, Jim Hoffpauir, Roger Landry, Jerome Weilmuenster, James C. "Chris" Williams IV, Nathan Giesenschlag, Martin Solis, David Banastre

Image Credits

Cover picture – Doug Fitzjarrell, Across the State – Grand Photographer, Charles Broussard, On The Masonic Road – Scott Evans

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

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

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

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

Submissions

texasfreemasonmag@gmail.com

Subscriptions

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

Permission to Reprint

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

Archives

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



A WORD FROM THE Grand Master Raborn L. Reader, Jr.



It has been the greatest honor of my life to serve as your Grand Master—a privilege that has allowed me to witness, and contribute to, the profound impact of Freemasonry in our lives and our world. From the depths of my soul, I thank you for entrusting me with the gavel of leadership, for it is through your faith and brotherhood that we have made a lasting difference together.

Freemasonry is more than a fraternity; it is a force for transformation, a call to build a better world through service, integrity, and brotherly love. As your Grand Master, I accepted the charge to lead our Grand Jurisdiction not for personal acclaim, but to amplify the light of our Craft—to make an impact that resonates in our lodges, our communities, and the hearts of every brother.

Your unwavering support, your wisdom, and your dedication have been the foundation of every step we've taken together.

To the Past Grand Masters: Your sage counsel has been my compass, guiding me through challenges with the wisdom of those who've carried this gavel before. To the Deputy Grand Master and Grand Wardens: Your tireless partnership has turned vision into reality, making our collective efforts a beacon of hope. To the District Deputy Grand Masters, Grand Officers, and Committee Chairs: Your leadership has ignited our lodges, ensuring that our principles shine brightly across this jurisdiction. And to every Worshipful

Master, every Officer, every Brother: Thank you for your trust, your passion, and your commitment to making an impact through Freemasonry. You are the heartbeat of this fraternity.

We've expanded our charitable outreach, touching countless lives—funding scholarships for aspiring students, supporting teachers, and assisted communities struck by disaster. We've welcomed new brethren, mentoring them to carry our values forward, ensuring our Craft's legacy for generations. We've navigated modern challenges—embracing technology to connect lodges, fostering education to deepen our understanding—while holding fast to our ancient landmarks. Each of these efforts has left a mark. Every scholarship awarded is a young mind empowered. Every act of charity is a community uplifted. Every brother mentored is a life transformed.

Serving as your Grand Master has changed me forever. This role has taught me that true leadership is about lifting others, about wielding the square of morality and the trowel of love to build something enduring. The quiet moments—listening to a brother's struggles, sharing the profound lessons of our degrees, witnessing your selfless service—have been my greatest reward. You have shown me the depth of brotherhood, the strength of humility, and the joy of serving a cause greater than ourselves.

As I lay down this gavel, I do so with

confidence that our Grand Lodge is poised to make an even greater impact. To my successor and future leaders: Carry this torch with courage, knowing that every decision you make, every brother you inspire, every community you serve adds to our legacy. To every brother: Never underestimate the power of your actions. Be the Mason who mentors with passion, serves with generosity, and lives with integrity. Let us show the world that Freemasonry is a force for good—a force that unites, uplifts, and transforms.

Thank you, brothers, for allowing me to serve as your Grand Master. This journey has been the pinnacle of my life, a testament to the strength of our brotherhood and the impact we can achieve together. As I step aside, I carry with me the memories of our shared triumphs, the warmth of your support, and the pride of knowing we've made a difference. May the Great Architect of the Universe guide us all, and may our fraternity continue to shine as a beacon of light, making an impact that endures for generations.

On behalf of Loretta and myself, thank you and may the Great Architect of the Universe bless and watch over everyone you.

Raborn L. Reader, Jr.
Grand Master of Masons in Texas

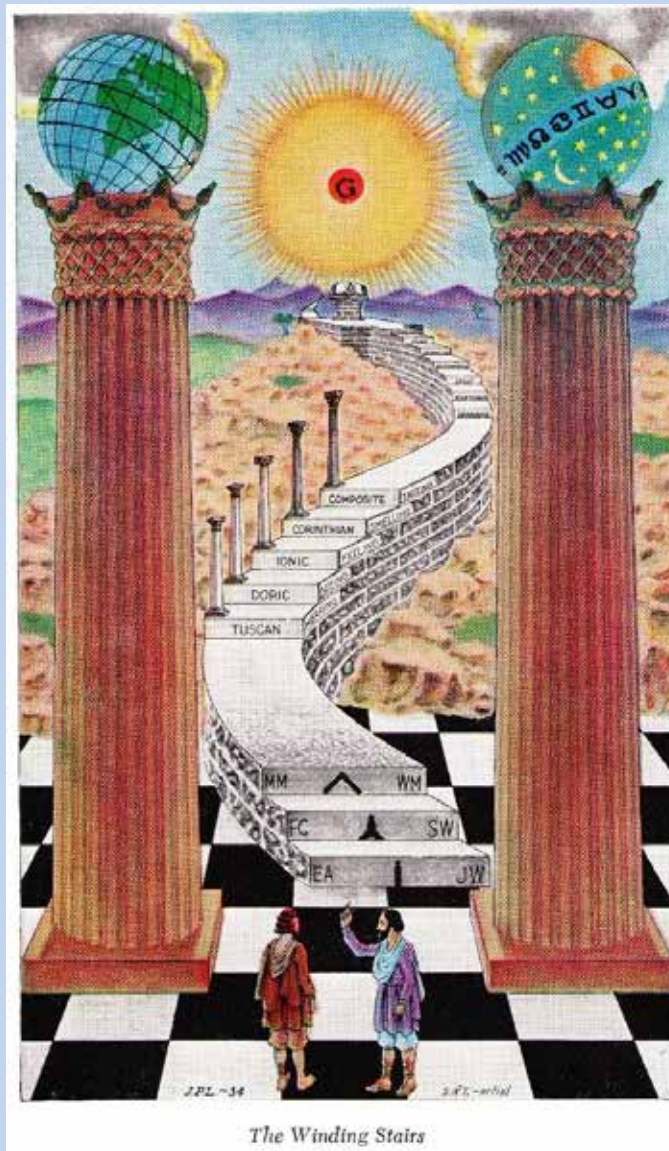
A WORD FROM THE Deputy Grand Master



Brethren, as we approach the end of our Grand Lodge year, I want to thank you for the opportunity you have bestowed upon me and the faith you have entrusted in me. I hope to have met your expectations thus far, and am looking forward to the future.

Traveling our great state, I have had the opportunity to stop in and visit a variety of lodges from the panhandle to the fringes of the south Louisiana bayous, and dozens of lodges in between. More than a few fine men were completely shocked that I randomly stopped in their lodge to break bread and enjoy the camaraderie of Masonic brotherhood. I can report, albeit a vast countryside, peace and harmony prevails within our lodges and among our members. We must work to maintain it.

Our annual session is on the horizon. There were 30+ resolutions submitted. These resolutions combined with the presentations, committee reports, and election of officers, have paved the foundation for an extremely busy and exciting session. That excitement can allow passions to flow among our members. Let us all remember a lesson we were all taught regarding keeping our passions and prejudices within due bounds. It is okay to have feelings and to feel strongly about Masonic issues. It is also okay to disagree with a brother regarding his feelings upon the same. We can disagree, but we should temper our passions as to not become disagreeable with one another.



It is okay to have feelings and to feel strongly about Masonic issues. It is also okay to disagree with a brother regarding his feelings upon the same. We can disagree, but we should temper our passions as to not become disagreeable with one another.

While reflecting upon the past year and preparing for the annual communication and the year to come, I contemplate the philosophies of the winding stairway. One of the magnificent joys of Masonic symbolism is that symbols are interpretative. I want to share my interpretation of the winding stairway as a path that Masons take upon the journey of life, and take a deep look at the often-overlooked step of Music.

Music is perhaps the most complex of the liberal arts and sciences. Music has

nothing to do with strumming a guitar or striking a chord on a piano. Music is composed of two elements; time and harmony. To master Music, one must master time. This is a foreshadowed lesson of the Master Mason Degree and the explanations of the hourglass and the scythe. However, this is an illusion; time cannot be mastered as we have a finite allotment and are not in control of it. Therefore, Music teaches us to manage time we are given, an allusion to the lessons of the first degree and the twenty-four-inch gauge, and to

understand that it takes time, patience, and perseverance to accomplish life, again foreshadowing the lessons of the Master Mason degree and the marble monument.

Harmony is bringing all things together and managing conflict. All of the aspects of our life, including our relationships, must be in harmony in order for us to achieve peace. Music is practiced throughout our life to maintain the balance or the equilibrium which is the royal secret of life.

Music is composed of seven distinct notes, just as light is composed of the seven distinct colors of the spectrum. We seek

harmony just as we seek light. I challenge you to ponder if music could be representative of the light in which we are taught to seek. It is no coincidence that it lies on the run of seven steps in the Winding Stairway immediately preceding the seventh step which could represent death and eternity.

Unlike the other liberal arts and sciences, there is no specific period in our lives where the practice of Music begins. There are distinct periods in which we learn grammar, arithmetic, and so forth. Music, however, is time, it is a constant and therefore perhaps the most complex of the

sciences. Appreciate this complexity and know that we will never master it, but it is our desire to do so that brings all things into harmony (our never-ending quest for light). Like sands through the hourglass, our time will expire. Let us bring harmony and light to our life and our lodge.

Sincerely and Fraternally,
Jim Rumsey
Deputy Grand Master

Grand Master's Conferences

All 2026 Grand Master's Conferences will be **MASTER MASON ONLY**.
Dress Code for all attendees will be **COAT AND TIE** preferred.

All conferences will be held on Saturdays. Unless otherwise noted; AM sessions will be registration at 8:00 and conference start time at 9:00, while PM sessions will be registration at 2:00 conference start time will be 3:00.

- **Longview: January 29th (AM)**
- **Nacogdoches: January 29th (PM)**
- **San Antonio: February 28th**
Registration at 7:30, conference starts at 8:30
- **Dallas: March 7th (AM)**
- **Fort Worth: March 7th (PM)**
- **San Angelo: March 14th (AM)**
- **Houston: March 28th (AM)**
- **Beaumont: March 28th (PM)**
- **Waco: April 4th (AM)**
- **El Paso: April 11th (AM)**
- **Amarillo: May 2nd (AM)**
- **Lubbock: May 2nd (PM)**

Alamo Observance

Saturday, February 28th at 11:00 AM following the conference.

Procession will form at the San Antonio Scottish Rite immediately after the conference, and will begin at 10:45. It will be a formal procession adhering to all Masonic protocols, and will be limited to **MASTER MASONS ONLY**. Aprons (not provided) will be required.

COAT AND TIE preferred for all Masons taking part in the procession.

Grand Master's Gala

Saturday June 20th
Dallas Scottish Rite Cathedral

Dress: Black Tie
(no cowboy tux)

Advanced tickets only.
There will not be any
tickets sold at the door.

A WORD FROM THE Grand Secretary



Brethren,

Each year, the Grand Lodge publishes a detailed schedule of events outlining everything from the Opening Ceremonies through the Installation of Officers and Closing. In recent years, however, many new social opportunities have sprung up for those attending our Grand Session. Unfortunately, many Brothers—especially those visiting from out of state—aren't always aware of these wonderful gatherings. To help everyone make the most of their time, I've compiled the following "Grand Secretary's UNOFFICIAL Grand Lodge Schedule."

Wednesday January 14th, 2026

- **Hospitality Room**
5:00 p.m., Hotel 1928
- **Welcome to Waco**
5:00 – 9:00 p.m., Columbus Avenue
(in front of Grand Lodge)
- **Lions Paw Social**
(in conjunction with Welcome to Waco)
- **Hospitality Room**
8:00 – 10:00 p.m., Hotel 1928

Thursday January 15th, 2026

- **Newberry Hospitality Suite 5**
7:30 p.m., Hilton Brazos Rooms A & B
(please bring dues card)
- **10th annual Pub Crawl**
Leaves from Newberry Hospitality Suite

Friday January 16th, 2026

- **Operative Masonry in a Speculative World**
2:00 p.m., Grand Lodge Auditorium
(W.: Tyler Whittaker, Grand Marshal, Grand Lodge of Indiana)
- **Grand Lodge Paint Party!**
2:00 pm to 4:00 pm
Hosted by The First Lady of Texas Masons, Loretta Reader,
Instructor: Carly First
\$40 per person

Register online and the
password is "FUN"
<https://www.paintingwithatwist.com/studio/houston-champion-forest/event/4173204/>
- **Austin 12 Hospitality Suite**
5:00 – 8:00 p.m., Hilton Brazos Rooms A & B (please bring dues card)
- **Lion's Paw Social**
7:00 – 9:00 p.m., Barnett's Restaurant
- **Waco 92 Concert**
8:00 – 12:00 pm, Backyard Stage and Grill

Saturday January 17th, 2026

- **Hospitality Room**
(From 30 minutes after installation to 6:00 p.m.), Hotel 1928

• Grand Lodge Gala

6:00 – 12:00 p.m., Hotel 1928
(bottom floor, ballroom, roof top)
Dress Code: Cowboy Tux (jeans and a jacket) and semi-formal for ladies

Sunday January 18th, 2026

• All Masons Brunch

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., The Olive Branch

Booths at Grand Lodge to check out:

• Old Fashion Masonic Podcast

Interviewing Texas Masons for future videos and content



THE · GEORGE · WASHINGTON
MASONIC · NATIONAL · MEMORIAL

• The George Washington Masonic National Memorial

First time at Grand Lodge in 20+ years

• Amity

New partnership with Grand Lodge of Texas

PLEASE NOTE

There are likely several other great events happening during the Session that I may not be aware of. These were simply the ones brought to my attention.

I look forward to seeing all of you at Grand Lodge.

Sincerely and Fraternally,
Brad S. Billings
Grand Secretary

<https://grandlodgeoftexas.org/2026-ac>



Summary of Proposed Grand Lodge Resolutions

Hold over Resolution 24

1. Duty – Background Checks
2. Townsend – Grand Lodge Assistance Fund Resolution
3. Billings - Form Revisions
4. Anderson – Charitable Reporting
5. Holder – A/V Committee
6. Enderli – Committee on Technology
7. Haven – Photo Committee
8. Rumsey – Temporary Committees
9. Rumsey – Committee on Communication
10. Rumsey – Committee on Grand Lodge Assistance Fund
11. Ross – Restoring Charters
12. Parker – Cornerstone
13. Corley – Digitization of Lodge Records
14. Sisemore – Masonic Charges Timeline
15. Wiener – Burden on Prosecution
16. Siems – Time of Election
17. Siems – Qualifications of Officers
18. Newberry – Electioneering
19. Garrett – Deferred Adjudication
20. Gray – Masonic Disciplinary Charges
21. Maddox – Adding Skull to Art. 273
22. Parsons – Leases
23. McGettrick – Knights of Pythias
24. Upton - Odd Fellows

For detail on each resolution, please refer to the "Proposed Resolutions and Statements of Availability to be Considered at our Grand Annual Communication" handbook distributed by the Grand Secretary's office, or the link below: <https://grandlodgeoftexas.org/2026-ac>



190th Grand Annual Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas A.F. & A.M.

DAY ONE

FIRST SESSION

Thursday Afternoon, January 15, 2026

1:00 p.m.

Musical Prelude, W. Keith A. McCoy, Grand Musician

1:30 p.m.

Pre-formal Opening Ceremonies, R. W. Thomas F. Griffin, Past Grand Master, Presiding

Prayer by R. W. Christopher J. Lyons, Jr., Grand Chaplain

Honor Guard Entrance by the Grand Commandery of Texas

Entrance of Grand Lodge Officers (in order):

District Deputy Grand Masters

Grand Lodge Appointed Officers and their Ladies

Elected Committees and Boards and their Ladies

Past Grand Masters and their Ladies

Elected Grand Lodge Officers and their Ladies

Grand Master and his Lady, Loretta

M. W. Raborn L. Reader, Jr., Grand Master, Presiding

Reception of Distinguished Guests by M. W. Raborn L. Reader, Jr., Grand Master, assisted by R. W. Dennis D. Reader, Grand Marshal, W. Scott L. Mills, Grand Senior Deacon, and W. Stephan L. Blackman, Grand Tiler

Presentation of the Colors by the National Sojourners

Salute to the United States Flag by R. W. Justin B. Duty, Grand Senior Warden

Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag led by R. W. Justin B. Duty, Grand Senior Warden

Salute to the Texas Flag led by R. W. H.N. "Chip" Green, Jr., Grand Junior Warden

Pledge to the Texas Flag led by R. W. H.N. "Chip" Green, Jr., Grand Junior Warden

Welcome to the City of Waco

Response to the Welcome to the City of Waco

Greetings from Texas Masonic Affiliated Bodies:

Grand Chapter of Texas, Order of The Eastern Star,

Worthy Grand Matron, Sister Glenda Klemm, and

Worthy Grand Patron, Brother Gary Drescher

Grand Assembly of Texas, International Order of the

Rainbow for Girls, Mrs. Angela Seymour, Supreme Deputy, Mrs. JoAnn Weaver, Past Supreme Inspector, Mrs. Marlene Dibrell, Past Supreme Inspector and Member of the House of Gold, and Grand Worthy Advisor, Keera Schrandt

Order of DeMolay, Executive Officer in Texas, M. W. Tommy F. Chapman, and State Master Councilor, Mason Messer Scottish Rite, R. W. and Illustrious Michael L. Wiggins, Sovereign Grand Inspector General in Texas

Grand Chapter of Texas, Lawrence E. Tucker, Most Excellent Grand High Priest

Grand Council of Texas, R. Brian Cook, Most Illustrious Grand Master

Grand Commandery of Texas, Jason L. Lesikar, Right Eminent Grand Commander

Roll Call and Welcome of Grand Lodge Officers by R. W. Brad Billings, PGM, Grand Secretary

Response to Roll Call of Grand Lodge Officers by R. W. Jim Rumsey, Deputy Grand Master

Roll Call and Welcome of Past Grand Masters by R. W. Brad Billings, PGM, Grand Secretary

Response to Roll Call and Welcome of Past Grand Masters by R. W. Kenneth C. Curry, Past Grand Master

Roll Call and Welcome of the District Deputy Grand Masters by R. W. Brad Billings, PGM, Grand Secretary

Response to Roll Call and Welcome of the District Deputy Grand Masters, by R. W. Robert W. Royal, Jr., District Deputy Grand Master At Large

Roll Call and Welcome of the Grand Representatives by R. W. Brad Billings, PGM, Grand Secretary

Response to Roll Call and Welcome of the Grand Representatives by R. W. Kevin T. Binder, Grand Orator

Memorial Service R. W. Kevin T. Binder, Chairman and Committee on Memorials

Masonic Service Awards, M. W. Raborn L. Reader, Jr., Grand Master

Vanguard Lodges Awards, M. W. Raborn L. Reader, Jr., Grand Master

Prayer by R. W. Christopher W. Lyons, Jr., Grand Chaplain

DAY TWO

SECOND SESSION

Friday Morning, January 16, 2026

9:00 a.m.

Opening of the One Hundred Ninetieth Grand Annual Communication of The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas, by M.: W.: Raborn L. Reader, Jr., Grand Master

Report of Committee on Credentials by Brother Mark D. Dieckmann, Chairman

Resolution seating all Master Masons by R.: W.: Jerry N. Kirby, Past Grand Master

Resolution fixing day and time for the election of Officers of the M.: W.: Grand Lodge of Texas for 10:00 a.m., Saturday, January 17, 2025, by R.: W.: Thomas F. Griffin, Past Grand Master

Resolution setting day and time for Installation of Officers of the M.: W.: Grand Lodge of Texas for 2:00 p.m., Saturday, January 17, 2025, by R.: W.: Brian R. Dodson, Past Grand Master

Report of the Grand Master by M.: W.: Raborn L. Reader, Jr., Grand Master

Report of the Grand Treasurer by R.: W.: Rick Townsend, Grand Treasurer

Report of the Grand Lodge Trustees by R.: W.: Brad Billings, PGM, Grand Secretary

Report of the Grand Secretary by R.: W.: Brad Billings, PGM, Grand Secretary

Report of the Texas Masonic Charities Foundation by Brother Cody Cockroft, President

Committee on Fraternal Relations Report by Brother Christian D. Moore, Chairman

Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence Initial Report on Resolutions

Consideration of Resolutions

12:00 p.m. (approximately)

Grand Lodge Called from Labor

THIRD SESSION

Friday Afternoon, January 16, 2026

1:00 p.m.

Prelude of Music by W.: Keith A. McCoy, Grand Musician

1:15 p.m.

Grand Oration by R.: W.: Kevin T. Binder, Grand Orator

1:30 p.m.

Presentation of Grand Lodge of Texas Awards

W. B. and Brandon Carrell Humanitarian Award

BBQ Cook-Off Trophy Presentation

2:00 p.m.

"Operative Masonry in a Speculative World" presented by W.: Tyler Whittaker, Operative Stone Mason, Grand Marshall of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Indiana

2:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Grand Lodge Paint Party! Hosted by The First Lady of Texas Masons , Loretta Reader, Instructor: Carly First \$40 per person

Register online and the password is "FUN"

<https://www.paintingwithatwist.com/studio/houston-champion-forest/event/4173204/>

2:30 PM

Grand Lodge called to labor

Prayer by R.: W.: Christopher W. Lyons, Jr., Grand Chaplain

Report of Committee on Credentials by Brother Mark D. Dieckmann, Chairman

Continuation of Consideration of Resolutions

Prayer by R.: W.: Christopher W. Lyons, Jr., Grand Chaplain

5:00 p.m. (approximately)

Grand Lodge Called from labor to refreshment

6:30 p.m.

Grand Master's Banquet and Awards sponsored by 30th District MWSA

DAY THREE

FOURTH SESSION

Saturday Morning, January 17, 2026

9:00 a.m.

Coffee honoring Loretta Reader and Afton Rumsey in the Lower Level, Grand Lodge Building. All Ladies are invited

8:00 a.m.

Masonic Home and School Graduates:
Robert Elwell and Roy Milton Jacks

8:15 a.m.

Grand Lodge Called to labor

Prayer by R.° W.° Christopher W. Lyons, Jr., Grand Chaplain

Committee on Finance Report and Grand Lodge Assistance Fund by Brother Ronald C. Wise, Chairman

Report of Committee on Credentials by
Brother Mark D. Dieckmann, Chairman

Continuation of Consideration of Resolutions

Final Report of Committee on Credentials immediately preceding elections by Brother Mark D. Dieckmann, Chairman

The election of Grand Officers shall be held at such hour as the Grand Lodge may fix by resolution adopted the previous day and shall have priority over all other business

Committee on Purposes and Policy Report by
R.° W.° Lawrence E. Tucker, Chairman

Final Report of the Masonic Jurisprudence Committee

Unfinished business and new business

Prayer by R.° W.° Christopher W. Lyons, Jr., Grand Chaplain

Grand Lodge Called from labor

Griffin, Past Grand Master – 2008, Installing Grand Pursuivant - R.° W.° Jerry N. Kirby – Past Grand Master – 2017

Presentation of Grand Master's Ring by
Immediate Past Grand Master, R.° W.° Raborn L. Reader, Jr.

Presentation of Dillard Bible to Grand Master by
R.° W.° Thomas F. Griffin

Presentations to the Most Worshipful Grand Master,
Jim Rumsey

Presentation of First Lady's Broach by
Loretta Reader to First Lady Afton Rumsey

Presentation of Past Grand Master's Apron by
R.° W.° Donald W. Broughton

Presentation of Past Grand Master's Jewel by
R.° W.° Thomas F. Griffin

Presentation of Past Grand Master's Certificate by
R.° W.° Jerry N. Kirby

Presentation of Past Grand Master's Ring by
R.° W.° Brian R. Dodson

Remarks by the Most Worshipful Grand Master, Jim Rumsey

Closing of Open Installation by M.° W.° Jim Rumsey,
Grand Master

Grand Lodge Called to Labor

Closing of the One Hundred Ninetieth Grand Annual Communication of the M.° W.° Grand Lodge of Texas by
M.° W.° Jim Rumsey, Grand Master

FIFTH SESSION

Saturday Afternoon, January 17, 2026

1:30 p.m.

Musical Prelude - Installing Grand Musician:
Hunter Schappaugh

2:00 p.m.

Open Installation of Officers as fixed by resolution; Grand Master of Ceremonies, R.° W.° M. Boyd Patterson, Jr., Past Grand Master – 2003, Installing Grand Master R.° W.° Donald W. Broughton, Past Grand Master – 2007, Installing Grand Marshal R.° W.° Brian R. Dodson, Past Grand Master - 2006, Installing Deputy Grand Marshall – R.° W.° Tommy F. Chapman – Past Grand Master – 2018 & 2024, Installing Grand Chaplain R.° W.° Thomas F.

Statements of Availability



George D. Moxley
for Grand Junior Warden

T. Neal Porter No. 1354

Raised September 18, 1974
Endowed 2011
Worshipful Master 1978, 2018
Secretary 2009-2018, 2019-Present
Golden Trowel 2018
40 Year Service Award 1999
50 Year Service Award 2024

Gunsight No. 838

Plural member
Endowed 2023

Tranquility Lodge No. 2000

Plural member
Endowed 2020

Sweet Home No. 576

Plural member
Endowed 2013

Texas Lodge of Research

Plural member
Endowed 2022

Freedom No. 100

Plural member
Endowed 2023
Senior Deacon 2024
Junior Warden 2025

Holland No. 1

Plural member
Endowed 2020

Grand Lodge of Texas

Esoteric "A" Certificate,
1976 – 1985, 2011 – Present
Golden Trowel, 2012
25 Year Service Award, 1999
40 Year Service Award, 2014
50 Year Service Award, 2024
District Deputy Grand Master, 2013
District Instructor District 50,
2014 – Present
Full Member Sam Houston
Hall of Fame, 2019
Special Assignments Committee,
2015 – 2018
Texas History Committee,
2018 – 2024, Chairman 2023-2024
Grand Lodge Security Committee,
2020 -Present, Chairman 2025
Member Mediation Committee No. 1,
West, 2025
Grand Master's Regional Coordinator,
2020
Grand Master's Planning Team, 2022

Grand Master's Conference
Coordinator, 2023

Education

Graduated Sidney Lanier
High School, 1968
Attended University of Texas
at Austin, 1968 – 1972

Personal / Professional / Civic

Austin Police Department –
Police Officer – Retired 1972 – 1998
State Certified Accident
Reconstructionist 1981 – Present
Austin Independent School District –
Police Officer 1999 – 2005
Austin Police Department – Civilian
Background Investigator 2005-2017
Austin Police Department –
Security Officer APD Headquarters
2017-present
Founder and operator of American
Karate of Austin 1999 – present
Member University of Texas Longhorn
Band 1968 - 1972
Member Longhorn Alumni Band
1972 - present
Austin Area Representative –
Longhorn Alumni Band 1985 - present
Longhorn Alumni Band Board of
Directors (President 2004)
2000-2004
President Longhorn Alumni Band
2005-2006
Longhorn Alumni Band Board
of Trustees 2006-2010
Life Member University of Texas
Alumni Association 1985
Member Austin Police Association
1972 - Present
Member Austin Police Retired Officers
Association 1998 – Present

Family

Married to Linda Sevigny Moxley
May 23, 1981
Children, Garrett Moxley, Ashley
Moxley Bruno, and Brandon Moxley
Grandchildren. Ethan, Yalena,
Gwenyth, Colin, Braydon,
Blake, Charlotte



Robert M. Park
for Grand Junior Warden

Alamo Lodge No. 44 Merit No. 727

Raised March 9, 2013
Worshipful Master 2018-2019
Golden Trowel Award 2024

Merit No. 727

Secretary 2023-2024, 2024-2025

Centennial No. 500

Reconstituting charter member
Secretary 2023-2024, 2024-2025

Cibolo No. 151

Plural member

Highland Hills No. 1373

Plural member

Grand Lodge of Texas

District Deputy Grand Master – Masonic District 39C – 2020
William M. Beck award – 2022
Sam Houston Hall of Fame Member
Civil Law Committee 2022 Chairman 2022-2023 Vice Chairman 2023-Present
Grand Master's Planning Team – 2022, 2026

Education

Texas State University, BA Art History 2007
St. Mary's University School of Law, JD 2011, Summa Cum Laude

Personal / Professional / Civic

Partner at Uhl Fitzsimons PLLC, 2011-Present
Fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation
Board Certified in Oil, Gas and Mineral Law 2016-Present
Christ Episcopal Church, San Antonio – Member
Board Member Acorn School for Young Children
Board Member San Antonio Scottish Rite Learning Center
Chairman of San Antonio Scottish Rite Library & Museum Corporation
Board Member - Alamo Masonic Cemetery

Family

Wife - Carly
Daughters - Claire, Cora, Cate

Statements of Availability



John M. Wilkerson
for Grand Junior Warden

Allen Lodge No. 1435 (Home Lodge)

Raised; June 29, 1982
Worshipful Master; 1989 – 1990
Treasurer; 1983, 1990 – 1994, 2001 – 2004
Endowed Member; 1989
Life Member; 1990
Golden Trowel; 1994

Melissa Lodge No. 569

Plural Membership; 2019

Claude L. AUSTIN No. 1450

Plural Membership; 2022
Endowed Member; 2022

Humble Masonic Lodge No. 979

Plural Membership; 2025

St. Johns No. 51

Plural Membership; 2025

Masters, Wardens, and Secretaries, Associations

9th Masonic District
14th Masonic District

Grand Lodge of Texas

District Communications Officer; 1990 – 1992, 1993
District Deputy; 1995 – (District 9A)
District Deputy at Large; 2014
District Deputy at Large; 2025
Committee on Grievances and Appeals; 2001
Committee on Petitions and Returns of Lodges UD; 2008 – 2010
Grand Masters Planning Team; 1995, 1998, 2025
Public Education Committee – 2023 – 2031
Masonic Charities Foundation; Board Member – 2025

Education

Tyler Junior College with a Degree in Drafting (1976)

Personal / Professional / Civic

Creative Lighting - Owner since 1982-present
Members of First United Methodist of McKinney (1991-Present) involved with Facilities lighting maintenance and parking security
We will be moving over to Global Methodist Church in Frisco
RNC – Collin County

Family

Married to Maureen Wilkerson
Three sons Ryan Cross, Sean and Kevin Persons



Kevin D. Moss
for Committee on Work

Sunrise Daylight No. 1433

Raised February 27, 1989
Worshipful Master 2020-2021
Senior Warden 2019-2020, 1994-1995
Junior Warden 1993-1994
Treasurer 1992-1993
Senior Deacon 2018-2019
Junior Deacon 2017-2018, 1989-1990

Meridian No. 268

Hillcrest No. 1318

Iredell No. 405

Endowed 2024
Worshipful Master 2019-2020
Senior Warden 2018-2019, 2021-2022
Secretary 2022-2025
Chaplain 2020-2021

Webb No. 1454

Worshipful Master 2021-2022
Senior Warden 2020-2021
Secretary 2022-2025
Senior Deacon 2019-2020
Junior Deacon 2018-2019

Grand Lodge of Texas

District Deputy Grand Master District 68 – 2022
District Instructor District 110

Esoteric

Class C 2020
Class B 2021
Class A 2022-2025

Business / Professional / Civic

Owner Operator Avante Graphics Printing Company 1986-1999
Printing Sales 1999-2004
Owner Operator Kevin Moss Financial Management 2004-Present
Orientation/Retention Ministry Leader Woodland West Church of Christ

Family

Married Joyce Ann Moss – January 22, 2011
Sons Trey, Dean, and Andrew
Grandchildren Calley, Cassidy, and Linkin

Statements of Availability



Bradley E. Kohanke
for Masonic Children and
Family Services of Texas
Board of Directors

Davy Crockett Lodge No. 1225

Raised 1992

Worshipful Master 2013-2014 & 2015-2016

Golden Trowel Recipient – 2018

Merit Lodge No. 727

Plural Member

Worshipful Master 2021-2022 & 2022-2023

Tranquility Lodge No. 2000

Plural Member

Brady Lodge No. 753

Plural Member

Little Rock, Arkansas

South Pass Historical Lodge No. 1869

Charter Life Member

South Pass City, Wyoming

Grand Lodge of Texas

Grand Orator – 2019

Board of Directors Masonic Children & Family Services of Texas 2021-present
Secretary 2021-2024

Vice President 2025-present

District Deputy Grand Master District 39B – 2017

Masonic Education & Service Committee – 2014-2019

Memorials Committee – 2020-2024

Grand Master's Planning Team – 2019 & 2020

Grand Master's Regional Coordinator – 2021 & 2022

District Education Office District 39B – 2018

Scottish Rite

Personal Representative to the SGIG for the Valley of San Antonio – 2020-2023

Chairman of the Orient of Arkansas Education Committee – 2023-present

Venerable Master San Antonio Lodge of Perfection – 2018

Chief of San Antonio Knights of St. Andrew – 2014

Education

Texas A&M University – Bachelor of Business Administration 1985

All Paths Divinity School – Graduate studies in Comparative Religion

Professional & Civic

Author – "Light Reflections: Philosophical Thoughts and Observations of a Texas Freemason"

Owner – Balanced HR Solutions, 2009-2019

Head Human Resource Officer – The Gambrinus Company, 1999-2009

Director of human Resources – Miller Curtain Company, Inc., 1992-1999

Board of Directors San Antonio Dyslexic Learning Center – 2017-2023

Board of Directors San Antonio Scottish Rite Library & Museum – 2019-2023

Family

Wife – Crystal Houser Kohanke

Sons – Shawn & Ian



W. "Dave" McHam
for Library and Museum
Board of Director

Waco Lodge No. 92

Raised 2014

Endowed 2014

Worshipful Master 2018, 2020

James H. Lockwood No. 1343

Plural Member 2022

Worshipful Master 2024

Gunsight No. 838

Plural Member 2022

West Lodge No. 475

Plural Member 2022

Grand Lodge of Texas

Regional Conference Planning Team 2020

District Deputy Grand Master 2022

District Communications Officer 2023

Gift of Life Committee Member 2022 – 2024

Grand Master Special Appointment Masonic Service Committee Chairman 2022

Grand Representative Grand Logia Del Estado de Nuevo León,
México 2022 – Present

Internet Committee 2024 – Present

Masters, Wardens, and Secretaries, Association

President 2019-2020, and 2023 – Present

Education

Tarleton State University Bachelor Social Work – 2013

Certified Energy Professional – 2016

Personal / Professional / Civic

Owner and President of Big Wave Energy

Office Lead for the Office of the Grand Secretary 2024 – Present

Waco Chamber of Commerce Ambassador/Community Business Liaison

Family

Daughters – Chloe and Eva



ON THE MASONIC ROAD

By Bill Crow, Associate Editor

A few years past, around 1996, I and three hunting friends were sitting around a campfire in Mason County, Texas, where we had leased a deer and quail hunting ranch to “bag” a big Mason County Buck. There was total darkness, and the stars were so bright they seemed to cover the night sky from every direction. We were “chowing down” on Mustard and cayenne pepper rolled and roasted “back-strap” over the campfire. Each morning, setting out on our hunt, the deer seemed to be everywhere, and you might see twenty-five or more while waiting for just the right ten pointer to come along.

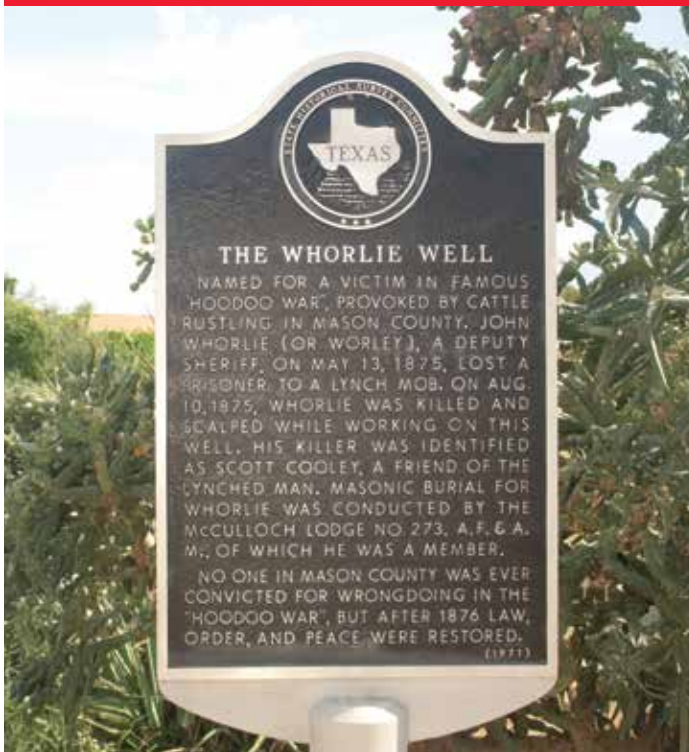
It was here where I first heard the tale about the HOODOO War that occurred in Mason County, Texas. The HOODOO War was the common name for the Mason County War, which took place in the middle 1870s over the killing and rustling of cattle. This was typified by attacks from vigilantes wearing masks to conceal their identities and to generate terror. These vigilantes essentially took

the law into their own hands in an effort to defend against the alleged perpetrators.

Fort Mason had been established in 1851 as a frontier outpost to help settlers defend against Indian attacks. A number of settlers were attracted to the area because of the fort, which remained in service until it was abandoned around 1868. As was sometimes experienced in other parts of Texas, the post-Civil War years were sometimes characterized by an increase in crime.

Though the HOODOO Mason County War was officially between cattle owners and cattle rustlers, there was another issue that involved ethnic differences. Mason County had become home to a number of German immigrants and there was a general air of suspicion between them and the other Anglo settlers. Some of the Texas residents of German heritage had also tended to be Union sympathizers, or “unionists,” during the Civil War and some of the old Civil War hostility carried over after the war

Though the HOODOO Mason County War was officially between cattle owners and cattle rustlers, there was another issue that involved ethnic differences.



ended. Though there may have been incidents where German vigilantes attacked Anglos, the violence seems to have generally been directed by Anglos against those of German heritage.

One of the pivotal incidents occurred in February of 1875, when a group of about forty masked individuals (thought to be from the Anglo side) broke into the county jail to apprehend suspected rustlers in Mason, overpowering the local law officers. Nine suspected rustlers of the Backus or Baccus gang had previously been arrested by newly elected Sheriff John Clark, but four had already escaped. The remaining five suspected cattle thieves were dragged out of the jail and hung, although two of the five somehow survived. The hangings were investigated, including a pursuit by Texas Ranger Daniel W. Roberts, but no charges were brought.

The February hangings touched off other incidents of violence including the alleged murder of an Anglo rancher named Tim Williamson in May of 1875. Williamson had been wanted for

cattle rustling, specifically the suspected theft of a yearling, while Williamson had been in the employ of a German rancher named Lehmborg. Williamson made bail for the arrest. Sheriff Clark was said to have gone to the home of Williamson in connection with an unpaid tax debt. In Williamson's absence, Clark was accused of somehow abusing Williamson's wife (the accounts are vague on this point), causing bad blood between Williamson and the law.

Williamson was later arrested and happened to be in the custody of a deputy named John Worley, in an incident in which the prisoner Williamson was shot and killed by a group of about a dozen riders, unidentifiable because they had blackened faces. The deputy was able to escape. In response to the killing of Williamson, a friend of, or an adopted son of, Williamson named Scott Cooley, a former Texas Ranger, retaliated by gathering his own group of vigilantes, shooting and scalping deputy Worley several weeks later in August 1875. After killing Worley, Cooley and some of his associates continued to commit acts of violence in the area.

Among those now involved with Scott Cooley was an orphan raised by the Williamson family who vowed "he would get the men who did it". Cooley had been carried off by Indians after they killed his parents but later raised by the Williamsons.

Cooley served in Texas Rangers Company D under Captain Perry before taking up farming near Menardville. After Williamson's murder, Cooley came to Mason, learning as much as he could about the circumstances and the names of those involved. His first act of revenge occurred on August 10, 1875, when Cooley shot Worhle in the back of the head while he helped Doc Charley Harcourt dig a well, taking Worhle's scalp as would an Indian.

Cooley formed a gang whose members included George Gladden, John and Mose Beard and Johnny Ringo. Gladden and Mose Beard were ambushed south of Mason by sixty men led by Peter Bader, Dan Hoerster, and Sheriff Clark, resulting in the death of Beard. Cooley's men, including Johnny Ringo, then killed Cheney at his home, who had led Beard and Gladden into the ambush. Hoerster was killed as he rode past the Mason barber shop by Scott Cooley, Gladden and Bill Coke. The next day, Coke was captured and killed by a Mason posse at John Gamel's.

In 1874, Wilson Hey, Mason County Judge, appealed to Governor Richard Coke in Austin, requesting that troops (Texas Rangers) be sent to the area to assist the cattle ranchers in dealing with the rustling problem. After the Worley killing, another appeal was made to Austin for Texas Ranger support. Violent incidents continued until a company of Rangers headed up by Major John B. Jones arrived.

This is where the HOODOO War becomes interesting. We find at least two Masons that were tactically or sadly involved in the HOODOO War.

Those familiar with Texas Masonic history will recognize the name of Major John B. Jones, who Governor Richard Coke appointed as the new Texas Ranger Commander of the Company of Texas Rangers deployed to bring an element of law and order to the area. The Company of Texas Rangers, specially named "The Frontier Battalion" initially consisted of forty Rangers, with ten men from Company D (Scott Cooley's old Texas Ranger unit) and thirty men from Company A. Major Jones promptly sent scouts looking for Cooley but after two weeks recalled his company scouts, as Cooley was not found.

When accepting the job of organizing the "Frontier Battalion" of Texas Rangers, Major John B. Jones wrote his own Oath of Office, which has come to be known by Texas Historians as "the Jones Oath"

"I, John B. Jones, do Solemnly Swear that I will bear true allegiance to the State of Texas, and I will serve her honestly and faithfully against all her enemies and opposers whatsoever, and observe and obey orders of the Governor of the State, and the orders of the officers appointed over me according to an Act of the Legislature for raising a Battalion for frontier protection" Approved April 10, 1874, John B. Jones R.⬤ W.⬤ John B. Jones was elected Grand Master of Texas Masons in 1879 by the Grand Lodge of Texas. During the Grand Communication in 1879, R.⬤ W.⬤ Jones make it clear in his opening remarks to the Grand Lodge he was against partying, drinking, and dancing in Texas Lodges. He also made it clear he was against gambling in any form including horse racing. Some evidence showed the partying slowed down but the concern over horse racing reached a consensus stating, "in no case we should label horse racing as gambling, it was a gentleman's sport and wagers were personal choices, not gambling" ...



In January 1879 Jones was also appointed Texas State Adjutant General, by Governor Oran M. Roberts, and on February 25, 1879, he married Ann Eloise Holliday Anderson, the widow of Thomas J. H. Anderson. While serving as Adjutant General of Texas and still commanding the Frontier Battalion, he died in Austin on July 19, 1881. He is buried in Oakwood Cemetery there in Austin, Texas,

R. W. John B. Jones was an adept and studious military man, a Texas Ranger and a Grand Master who consciously believed that the credibility of a man was of utmost importance. In his memoirs he regarded the Masonic investigation of petitioner's process as the ultimate determination of a man's character, as follows.

"In the days when a man's character was often hidden in the last town where he resided. John B. Jones needed only to know if a man was a Mason. As all Masons are properly vetted and their character vouched for prior to becoming members, it is thought that Masonic Lodge membership was good enough background

check. A Texas Ranger that would be hired by Jones must be impeccably honest and trustworthy. They had to be men of faith, capable of charity and compassion. They had to have a sense of duty and justice, for more times than not, those traits were tested daily."

The position taken by R. W. John B. Jones, Past Grand Master of Texas and the Commander of the Texas Rangers highlighted the importance of fully and properly investigating a man's character. John B. Jones was confident the Masonic investigation was "bullet proof," and it was anticipated, if a man was a Mason he was acceptable to the Texas Rangers without further need to investigate. Hopefully, we are still guarding the West Gate as we should, when examining and investigating a petitioner, to the level of R. W. John B. Jones, Past Grand Master's expectations.

There is a historical marker that locates the scene of a tragic murder and scalping of Deputy Sheriff and Masonic Brother John Whorlie (or Worley). It is located in Mason County on Farm to Market Road 1871, 0.1 miles west of South Avenue D, on the left when traveling south.

On Aug. 10, 1875, Brother Whorlie was murdered and scalped while working on a well. His killer was identified as Scott Cooley, a friend of the murdered Williamson. A Masonic Burial for Brother Whorlie was conducted by the McCulloch Lodge No. 273, A.F. & A.M., of which he was a member.

You might recall Scott Cooley was orphaned and stolen by Indians and later raised by the Williamson family. This might explain why Cooley after shooting Whorlie in the back of the head, he felt justified in further scalping his victim.

Finally, after over a year, the Mason County incidents died down and the fighting appears to have worn itself out. The HOODOO war was assumed to be over but, over a dozen people had died in the months of Mason County violence, though many more were injured. In January of 1877, a fire suspected to be arson burned down the courthouse in Mason, and along with it, many of the legal documents pertaining to the conflict.

If you love Texas history and Masonic history, and want to learn what Masons really stood for and what actions they took part in Texas History ... Open a Book ... Thanks for looking ...

Those familiar with Texas Masonic history will recognize the name of Major John B. Jones, who Governor Richard Coke appointed as the new Texas Ranger Commander of the Company of Texas Rangers deployed to bring an element of law and order to the area. The Company of Texas Rangers, specially named "The Frontier Battalion" initially consisted of forty Rangers, with ten men from Company D (Scott Cooley's old Texas Ranger unit) and thirty men from Company A. Major Jones promptly sent scouts looking for Cooley but after two weeks recalled his company scouts, as Cooley was not found.

Research Credits to: TSHA, Historical Marker Data Base, Texas History Notebook, Wikipedia

Photographs are courtesy of Brother Scott W. Evans, PM McCulloch Lodge No. 273



Scenic Loop Café and Why is Masonry Anti-Religious?

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



The truth is that I wasn't feeling very well.....my head felt foggy, and I hadn't had much sleep in the last two nights. Pam and I had celebrated our son's birthday and then attended the local college's football game with friends on successive days, and the combination of dinners, refreshments, and late nights was screaming something in my ear that sounded like nah nah nah nah nahhhh nah. Yup, I was thinking and moving slowly. So you can imagine my mood when I looked up from my work and saw a rather bizarre sight. Pulling into the first space in front of the shop was a big black F350 which, considering this is an auto repair shop is, in and of itself, not unusual. This truck however, had a huge Christmas wreath complete with ornaments and evergreen...which covered the front grill area. It was also wrapped with Christmas lights that twinkled off and on about every 2 seconds. There was what looked like antlers attached to the top of each front door and there were two eyes and a nose painted on the windshield to finish off the reindeer illusion. If that wasn't enough, there was a white square border painted on the driver's side windshield like the ones you see on newlywed's cars advertising their wedding. This one had one word painted at the top leaving only a small hole that the driver could see out of. That word was SANTA. I have to say that the truck looked like it was embarrassed.....heck I was embarrassed having it sitting in front of my shop. And if things couldn't get any worse the driver's door opened and Santa stepped out. Actually it was crazy John Deacon with a white beard, pointed cap, and bright red coat with several sets of bells attached to it and black cowboy boots. I just shook my head in disbelief as he walked into our lobby, bells-a-ringing. "I don't know how or why Mrs. Deacon let

you out of the house looking like that," I said cringing from the sound of those bells..... (remember my foggy head and lack of sleep?) "But I guarantee that I am not going anywhere in public with you looking like that." "You boys need to get in the Christmas spirit," he laughed out loud, hopping around like a 5-year-old ringing those bells, seemingly unfazed by my comment. "And you need to feed me quick before this here Santa suit starts getting loose." I looked over at Roger who was staring hard at his computer screen trying not to laugh. I looked back at John and said, "Ok, Ok, here is the way it's going to be. We will go in separate vehicles, and you will arrive first and go to the most inconspicuous table in the place, and I will walk in by myself. Those are my rules." "Heck, my Brother," he laughed. "As long as you are paying I am good with anything. Tell me where we are going." In my weakened condition I was not thinking properly. There was a place I had been wanting to try but hadn't yet. I had been told that the Scenic Loop Café was really good, so I told John where it was and reminded him again of the rules. By the time I got there I could see that he was already inside. As I parked I saw a few people had walked by his truck and were bewildered by how it looked. When I walked in the door I realized that maybe I ought to not have picked this place for Santa John. This was not just your average neighborhood restaurant.

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

A Look Back: Early Craft Symbolism

By BRO. R. J. Meekren, from The Builder Magazine – January 1926 (Sourced by Martin Solis, Staff Writer)

To begin with it is necessary to state very plainly that practically nothing is known about the private, or as it might be termed, the esoteric symbolism of the Medieval Masons. It has been shown in the two preceding articles that so far as their abilities went our Operative predecessors might have had a system of symbols of any degree of complexity they desired. They recorded in carved stone, not once nor twice, but hundreds and thousands of times their possession of constructive imagination, of spiritual insight and perhaps even the mystical temper that fully qualified them as a group to work out a system of philosophy, veiled or clothed in allegory and set out by emblems and symbols. Those who are inclined to dismiss this possibility by speaking of them as mere ignorant workmen have not fully appreciated the realities of the situation. As has been intimated, the organization contained in its ranks precisely the same kind of men who in our own day are the true leaders of civilization--artists, sculptors, engineers, scientists. There is not the least indication that the proportion of men of genius has varied much in the few thousand years about which history is able to tell us anything. Even prehistoric man seems to have had mental powers quite equal to the average today. Civilization, our own as well as those that have preceded it, is the result of social organization and corporate activity. It is all a matter of the opportunity afforded by the environment. The men who invented the sling or the bow and arrow rank mentally with those who in our day have made telegraphs and telephones, automobiles, and aeroplanes. The actual result depends on what the individual was given to work with--measured that way the most stupendous inventions in the history of the race were of the individuals who first discovered the uses of a sharp-edged stone or how to light and feed a fire. The Medieval Mason, even the obscure workman, would probably have surprised many of those who incline to dismiss with uninformed contempt his claims to a real share in the secrets and organization of the Fraternity to which he belonged. The Masons were men of their age naturally, as we are of ours, they labored under the limitations of the state of society in which they lived, as we also do. We do not easily realize these limitations in our own case, though we very plainly see (or think we see) theirs--which in their day they also took as a matter of course, and as part of the eternal scheme of things. For example, most of them probably could not read or write. To us to be ignorant of letters is to be quite uneducated. It was not so then. We have multitudes of books, and learn a great deal from them--their books were scarce, and as much valuable works of art as intended for use; while society was built up on a system of oral and traditional teaching. In our dependence on books we have lost very largely the organization and mental habits of the earlier system, and it is difficult for us to realize how very efficient it was

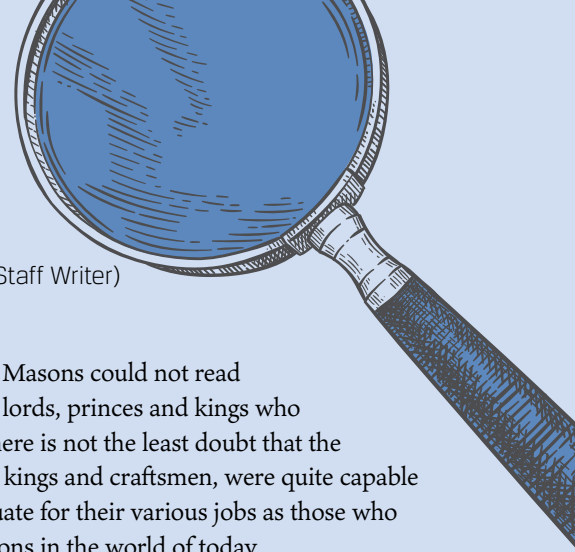
within its limits. If the Masons could not read neither could the great lords, princes and kings who employed them. Yet there is not the least doubt that the majority of them, both kings and craftsmen, were quite capable men and as fully adequate for their various jobs as those who fulfill equivalent functions in the world of today.

But having thus noted the possibilities what can we say of the actualities? Very little indeed. All we have to go on are a very few contemporary allusions, a few Masonic devices on tombstones, in stained glass windows and the like; the MS. Constitutions or Old Charges, and precarious deductions from post Grand Lodge lectures and catechisms. A most unpromising outlook and it is little wonder that enthusiastic writers have turned to Hermetic, Rosicrucian, Kabbalistic, Neo-platonic, and other mystical and more or less esoteric systems to fill out the gaps in our knowledge of the inside of Operative Freemasonry.

Symbolism Defined

In these studies we have up until now dealt with symbolism in the most general way. The primary object was to show that the principles and modes of thought underlying the use of symbols, even of the most abstruse or recondite nature, are exactly the same in kind as those involved in all the ordinary usages of speech and representation, in which one thing is put for another, part for whole, individual for species and the like; that the differences to be noted in the varying meanings of the word, and of those other words more or less synonymous with it, are differences of degree and not of kind, of quantity rather than essential quality. Now however that we approach the esoteric side it may be as well for the sake of clearness and brevity to define and distinguish the various grades. Without any underlying symbolical intent we may suggest three of these, and following ordinary usage quite closely we may designate them as devices, emblems, and symbols proper. It would be possible to borrow from the mathematicians and devise new characters entirely, as letter S = symbolism in general, and then distinguish our grades as S1, S2, and S3. The advantage of this kind of symbolism is its precision. The characters have no associations at all, or at least none related to the assigned meaning--it is always necessary to refer back to the definition or assumption with which the argument began. But though there is a symbolical logic, the method is not a literary one, and the first suggested terms will serve our purpose.

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



Recent Activities of the Grand Master

By Dean Bryant, Staff Writer

Wednesday, June 25, 2025 Silsbee Lodge No. 927

Silsbee Lodge No. 927 had the honor of receiving the Grand Master, Grand Officers, DDGM's, Brethren and family from across the State for his Official Visit.



What a wonderful evening at Silsbee Masonic Lodge No. 927 for the Official Visit of M. W. Raborn L. Reader, Jr., Grand Master of Masons in Texas!

The Grand Master delivered an inspiring and fraternal message, reminding us all of the profound impact of Texas Masonry and the importance of living our obligations with purpose and unity.

A highlight of the evening was the presentation of a Fifty-Year Service Award to a truly great Brother Albert W. Wiggins,



a man whose dedication, humility, and decades of faithful service have left an indelible mark on his Lodge and our Craft. Congratulations, Brother! Your example inspires us all.

A heartfelt thank you to the Brethren of Silsbee Lodge for their warm hospitality, and to the Order of the Eastern Star ladies for a fantastic meal that brought everyone together in fellowship and brotherly love.

Thursday, August 7, 2025 Anahuac Lodge No. 995



Anahuac Lodge No. 996 was honored to host an official visit from Most Worshipful Raborn L. Reader, Jr., Grand Master of Texas Masons. Approximately fifty Masons attended to receive Most Worshipful Raborn L. Reader, Jr., Grand Master of Texas Masons, and our Grand Lodge Officers. It was another inspiring evening with shared stories, and conversations with the brothers in attendance. A wonderful evening with great fun, fellowship, and awesome meal.



Friday, August 9, 2025

Cornerstone Ceremony in Texas City

On Friday, August 29, 2025, Texas City Lodge No. 1118 hosted a cornerstone ceremony for Calvin Vincent Early Childhood Center.



The formal laying of a Cornerstone by Freemasons is a ceremony that is impressive and displays symbolic meaning. These ceremonies are open to the public, showing Freemasonry's support for civic life and community development. This long tradition has a deep meaning and roots going back many years, reflecting the Freemasons ties to Stonemasons. The ceremony is hosted by a local lodge and conducted by the Grand Master or one of his designates.

All Texas Cornerstone Ceremonies are coordinated by Right Worshipful Kevin Binder, State Cornerstone Coordinator. His



guidance and support ensure that everything is in place on the day of the ceremony. Great job Right Worshipful Sir!

The "testing" of the cornerstone is traditionally carried out by three principal Grand Lodge Officers, or a designate. Each officer in turn applies their working tool to the stone and proclaims it to be suitable for laying. The three officers testing the cornerstone for this ceremony are:



Right Worshipful Justin Duty, Grand Senior Warden – applying the "Level"

Right Worshipful H. "Chip" Green, Grand Junior Warden – applying the "Plumb"

Right Worshipful Don Williams, District Deputy Grand Master at Large – applying the "Square"

A big thank you to all that made this ceremony a great success.

A large Masonic presence was on hand to assist with the cornerstone ceremony, again, showing the dedication and commitment from the Masons of Texas.

It was impressive to see Sir Knights from San Felipe de Austin Commandery No. 1 at this cornerstone ceremony. The flag presentation was carried out by Sir Knights in full uniform and is impressive to witness. San Felipe de Austin Commandery No. 1, the oldest Commandery in Texas was Chartered on December 9, 1835, when a Charter was granted by the General Grand Chapter of the United States.

YEAR OF IMPACT: BRINGING HOPE TO TEXAS FAMILIES



How You Can Help in 2026

- **Give a Gift:**
Visit www.mcfstx.org to make a donation.
- **Plan for the Future:**
Create your free will at FreeWill.com/mcfstx—our gift to you.
- **Honor a Loved One:**
Consider a memorial or honorarium gift to leave a lasting tribute.
- **Sponsor Our Concert:**
Become a sponsor for next year's fundraising concert, "Banding Together for Kids."
- **Share Our Story:** Watch and share our new video to spread the word about the work we do.

Together, we are more than an organization—we are a family of compassion, making sure no child or widow is left without hope.

*From all of us at MCFS,
wishing you a
Happy Holiday Season and a
very Merry Christmas!*

As the holidays draw near, we pause to reflect on the lives touched and the hope restored through Masonic Children & Family Services of Texas (MCFS). Thanks to the generosity of our supporters and the commitment of our partners, thousands of children and families across Texas experienced brighter days in 2025.

HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE

This year, **1,205** children received assistance through our Children's Services program. From emergency dental and medical treatments to therapies for autism and learning disabilities, from tuition at specialized schools to basic needs like clothing, food, rent, and utilities—MCFS stood beside families when they needed it most. Every number represents a child whose future looks brighter because someone cared enough to help.

SUPPORTING FAMILIES FACING AUTISM

Through our **Parent Autism Program**, MCFS partnered with Cook Children's Child Study Center in Fort Worth and the University of Houston—Clear Lake to provide free two-week intensive training sessions. These programs give parents the tools to better communicate, manage behavioral challenges, and navigate daily life with their children. In 2025, **92 children** were served at CSC and **22 children** at UHCL, ensuring more families are empowered to face autism with strength and confidence.

SMILES ACROSS TEXAS

Our signature **Fantastic Teeth Fan Club** continued to grow in impact. With the help of **644 Masonic lodges** and **1,927 elementary schools**, MCFS distributed **155,645 dental hygiene kits** to first-graders across the state. Since launching in 2010, this initiative has placed more than **1.7 million kits** into the hands of Texas children—an incredible milestone in preventive dental care.

INVESTING IN BRIGHT FUTURES

Education opens doors, and our **scholarship program** supported **200 Texas high school students** this year with \$2,500 each to pursue higher education. These scholarships not only honor achievement but also provide opportunities for the next generation to succeed.

CARING FOR WIDOWS WITH COMPASSION

Through our **Widows Programs**, including the Blue Slipper Program and support at the Texas Masonic Retirement Center, MCFS provided assistance with essentials like medical care, food, clothing, utilities, and even funeral costs. Nearly **50 widows** received help this year, ensuring they remain connected to the Masonic family and supported with dignity.

For more information, contact: Sandy@mcfstx.org | 817-503-1510

No Mason Left Behind Project

Painful Medical Condition, Felt Like a Burden

George, age 81, moves slowly some days. On other days, he just doesn't feel well enough to visit with his friends at Texas Masonic Retirement Community.

"I have rheumatoid arthritis. Some days the pain just won't let up," says George.

Then he adds, "Living here, they check on me all the time. I don't have to worry about making doctor appointments, getting to the doctor, or having prescriptions filled. The staff here does all that for me. It's a huge relief."

"I don't feel like a burden to my family anymore. It's not just the help with medical care. Food, things to do, rent, clothes, personal needs—I don't have to worry about any of it."

George grew up in San Antonio and became a member of Triune Lodge #15 in December 1978—joining his stepfather, stepbrother, and uncle.

With 45 years as an active Mason and his status as a Texas Master Mason, George qualifies to live in a private room at TMRC and enjoy all the benefits offered at no charge for the rest of his life.

Today he says, "When I was younger, I didn't realize how much TMRC had to offer a guy like me. If I have a problem, they are very caring. It's a good place for me to be."



"It's a huge relief to live at TMRC. I don't have to worry about anything."

— George with his Triune Lodge life membership certificate

How to Donate to the No Mason Left Behind Project

You can help provide older Texas Masons in need and their loved ones with safe, secure living arrangements.

You may donate using our secure online service at YourTMRC.org/donate.

Or, feel free to mail a check to TMRC, 1501 W. Division St., Arlington, TX 76012.

Your gift will be honored based on your level of giving, with wall plaques, desktop awards, and Honor Roll listings on posters, banners, & websites.

Texas Masonic Retirement Community is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, therefore your donation is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

100% of your generous donation to the No Mason Left Behind Project 2026 goes to our permanent endowment.

Questions? We're glad to visit with you. Contact us at 817-275-2893 or Info@YourTMRC.org.

Learn more or donate at YourTMRC.org/donate.



"When I was younger, like in this black and white picture, I didn't realize how much TMRC had to offer a guy like me. If I have a problem, they are very caring."

— George

Your 2026 lapel pin honors \$50 Membership Level donation or more



TEXAS FREEMASON

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



CONSTITUTED
APRIL 1838



Hope Through Charity...Servant Leadership...Operational Transparency

Building upon the successful partnership with the Blue Lodges in 2025, the Texas Masonic Charities Foundation is pleased to offer matching grants for the 2026 Grant Cycle. In 2025 our Fraternity provided \$2,461,102 in High School Scholarships, Community Grants, and Teacher Honorariums. Let us unite and serve our society with even more zeal in 2026!

Hill Country Flood Disaster Relief Summary: As a result of the charitable giving of Texas Master Masons, the TXMCF raised \$22,000 in needed relief. Every penny of this money was provided to the various lodges who made a grant request to serve their respective community. Your Foundation contributed another \$28,000. Over the course of 6 weeks, \$50,000 was processed and given to the communities of our great state who were affected by the July 2025 disaster. The total impact amounted to \$107,245.

Visit us at <https://txmcf.org/>

2026 TXMCF Matching Grant Amounts

Scholarships	\$1,250
Community Grants	\$250
Teacher Honorariums	\$500

2026 TXMCF Application Schedule

Applications Open: **January 1, 2026**
Applications Close: **March 31, 2026**

2026 TXMCF Application Process

Apply online at <https://txmcf.org>
Matches will be processed through **Bill.com**
(no paper checks will be provided)