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GRAND SECRETARY'S MONTHLY COMMUNICATION DECEMBER 2024

SECRETARIES and my Brothers All – Welcome to the December edition of the Grand Secretary's Newsletter. This edition includes the following:

- Featured Item: Get Ready for Grand Lodge Bundle \$50
- Secretary Updates: Grand Lodge Building 75th, GM Footstone, Proxys and Grand Communication.
- MASONIC MINUTE – PGM Jewel P. Lightfoot (part 3) – The Mystic
- Statistics on GL Voters - Zach Haston
- Monthly Law – ARTICLE IX, Section 3. – Charter Suspended for Failure to Make Returns or Pay Dues
- Lodge Spotlight – Holland Lodge No. 1 Breakfast with Brothers and more.....

PLEASE COMMUNICATE THIS INFORMATION TO YOUR MEMBERS, AS APPROPRIATE. I recommend you print this communication and bring it to your stated meeting for discussion. This communication is automatically provided electronically to all lodges with the capability to use the Grandview system. Individual Master Masons of The Grand Lodge of Texas can sign up by contacting the Grand Secretary's Office at (254) 753-7395 or gs@grandsecretaryoftx.org, or by registering your membership through [the Member Portal](#).



FEATURED ITEM

Just in time for the holidays, the store is offering a 'Get Ready for Grand Lodge Bundle' including: 2024 tie, lapel pin, belt buckle and enameled coin for just \$50 (a 52.6% savings). This is just in time for Christmas and will have you ready for the Annual Communication in January! Visit the GL Store at: [Grand Lodge of Texas Online Store – The Grand Lodge of Texas](#)
While supplies last

TEXAS FREEMASON MAGAZINE

The most recent edition of the magazine: <https://grandlodgeoftexas.org/texas-freemason-magazine>.

The Texas Freemason Magazine is published four times a year and is available in PDF format on the Grand Lodge website under the "MEDIA/MAGAZINE" tab. In addition to the digital format, The Winter and Spring issues are printed and mailed before and following the Grand Annual Communication. If you are not receiving the magazine in the mail, it is likely your address is not correct in the Grand Lodge database. You can correct this by visiting the Grand Lodge website and logging into the member portal where you can edit your profile as needed.

GRAND SECRETARY OFFICE UPDATES

GRAND LODGE BUILDING 75TH

Observance of the Grand Lodge Memorial Building 75th anniversary
December 7th, 2024 at 11am, Waco, Texas
715 Columbus Ave.,

A representation of the Grand Lodge of Texas will be opened at 11am by Grand Master Tommy F. Chapman. An oration will then follow by Grand Orator Chance Chapman with other presentations to follow.

GRAND MASTER FOOTSTONE

A footstone ceremony for PGM George "Bob" Scott will take place Saturday, December 7th. A Representation of Grand Lodge will be opened at J. H. Gurley Lodge at 3 PM, with the footstone ceremony to follow at Oakwood Cemetery.
J. H. Gurley Lodge is located at [2801 W. Waco Dr., Waco](#).
Oakwood Cemetery is located at [2124 S. 5th St., Waco](#).
PGM Scott's grave is located in Block 21, Lot A63.

His grandchildren plan to be in attendance and are thankful for the tribute the Grand Lodge is paying towards their grandfather.

189TH GRAND ANNUAL COMMUNICATION

Registration is now open and we hope you will join us in Waco, Texas - January 16th – 18th 2025. Please assist us by parking at one of the prescribed hotels where there will be a shuttle service to the Grand Lodge and back. We are hoping this will alleviate some of the parking around the building.

Parking: If you are able, we HIGHLY encourage you stay at the sponsored hotels to help with parking along the side streets of Grand Lodge. Parking in the back lot of the Grand Lodge will be reserved for the following:

1. Grand Lodge Officers and Past Grand Masters
2. Staff of the Grand Lodge and the Library and Museum
3. Vanguard Recipients
4. Handicap with the following specifications:
 - a. WITH MOBILITY ISSUES – if you have a handicap sticker but can still get around, please save these spaces for our Brothers who can't.
 - b. Brothers who are attending both Friday and Saturday – last year several Brothers with passes just came on Saturday which made the parking lot look empty on Friday. In an attempt to better use the few spaces we have, we are limiting spaces to those attending both days. If you sign up for a pass and don't show by 2pm Friday, your pass will be reassigned.
5. If you fit any of the above criteria, please EMAIL Cindy in the Grand Lodge office (AFTER YOU REGISTER) to reserve your parking pass.

Please register at:

[Grand Lodge Masonic Membership Manager 2.0](#)

PROXY

Dec. 28 – Proxy Certificates are due the GS Office NLT December 28 (Art. 4). You should always appoint a Proxy (in case of an emergency) but he would not vote if any of the top three officers were available. Remember, each brother can have no more than four votes. Therefore, a sitting Worshipful Master cannot be a proxy for another Lodge.

MASONIC MINUTE –

Jewel P. Lightfoot (part 3): The Mystic

We have explored Lightfoot's life and Masonic honors in the last two articles. Let us now discuss his esoteric ideas. In the introduction to his monitor, Lightfoot explains that our rituals "constitute a veritable system of science, philosophy, and moral enlightenment, taught by a system of symbols and allegories...inculcated and practiced from remote ages, in the ancient temples of many nations.

"Every candidate for the Mysteries of Masonry, at the proper time and in an appropriate manner, should be taught the truth that the rite of initiation means much more than a formal ceremonial progress through the Degrees. In fact, one may receive the entire work, conferred under the most favorable circumstances, and by competent officers, and yet not perceive the true Masonic light, which the symbols and allegories are designed to conceal, as well as to reveal. Initiation is to be attained only after real labor, deep study, profound meditation, extensive research and a constant practice of those virtues which will open a true path to moral, intellectual, and spiritual illumination."

Lightfoot's Commentaries are a wealth of information, full of explanations of the symbols of our Craft. However, his original hand-written and typed notes for a series of lectures he gave to the Fort Worth Scottish Rite Club in the 1930s explain his idea of where the symbols came from and how they were passed on to us. In these talks, he argues that many of our symbols can be traced in an unbroken sequence, beginning in ancient India with the migration of Indo-Aryans from Europe and Central Asia into the Indian subcontinent. The mixture of this culture with the remnants of the Indus Valley Civilization produced the Hindu religion and Brahman priesthood.

Lightfoot tells us, "The MYSTERIES OF BRAHMA consisted of FOUR DEGREES – OR STAGES, similar to the MASONIC RITES before the ROYAL ARCH became separated from the BLUE DEGREES." The Brahmans divided their secrets into Lesser Mysteries and Greater Mysteries. The true meaning of their symbolism and traditions were veiled from the profane and only partially revealed to the initiates of the Lesser Mysteries. Only those initiates who proved themselves worthy were admitted into the higher mysteries.

Lightfoot believed the Brahmins then influenced the Chaldean Magi, introducing the concept of Light as a representation of esoteric knowledge. He wrote, "The Magi adopted Light as their greatest symbol of the Deity. It was in such a manner that the Vulgar and Profane thought the initiates of the Magian Temples to be fire-worshippers."

In Lightfoot's theory, the Chaldeans in turn influenced the Egyptian Mysteries. Indeed, we can find parallels to our symbolism of the slain Master and weeping virgin in the story of Isis and Osiris, described by Lightfoot in the following passage:

Osiris was the God of Light. His brother, Typhon (or Set), was the God of Darkness. During the annual tour of his celestial Kingdom, Osiris passed the East and West Gates and at the South Gate was met by Typhon, who slew him. His body was enclosed in a casket and cast into the river Nile. The casket floated down the river and was washed ashore at Byblos. A tamarisk tree grew up around it, completely enclosing the chest in its trunk.

Being missed, Isis, his wife, accompanied by twelve of the LESSER CELESTIAL DEITIES, went in search of him. Having failed in her search through the celestial regions, Isis, disguised as a nurse, descended to earth, accompanied by Anubis, son of Osiris and his sister, Nephthys. She finally arrived at Byblos and seated herself near a fountain, where she learned that the sacred chest had stopped which contained the body of Osiris. There she sat sad and silent, shedding a torrent of tears.

In the palace, one of the columns of which was made of the...tamarisk, that had grown up over the chest containing Osiris, cut down by the King, and unknown to him, still enclosing the chest, which column Isis afterward demanded... She extracted the body from the column and chest, wrapped it in thin drapery and perfumed it and carried it away with her.

Lightfoot believed that the knowledge of the Egyptian Mystery schools was then carried into ancient Israel through Moses. He wrote, "Moses, an Initiate of the inner sanctuaries of the temples of Egypt, brought forth from that land, all the wealth of their secret wisdom, science and knowledge; reveiled them under new symbols and concealed them in new allegories for the benefit of all succeeding ages and races, and for the benefit of the Hebrew nation in particular."

Israel practiced these mysteries, holding on to them until their conquest by Rome and the resulting diaspora. As the Jewish refugees settled throughout Europe, their ideas would influence esoteric writers and philosophers for the last two millennia. Unsurprisingly, some of these concepts would influence and become encapsulated in Masonic rituals, which spread throughout England, France, and Germany.

In his research, Lightfoot worked to understand these mystical concepts and created his theory of transmission through generations and cultures. The Grand Secretary's office has copies of Lightfoot's Commentaries available for sale, which gives an excellent foundation of the esoteric symbols found throughout our rituals. You can also read Lightfoot's private writings and speeches in my book Ancient Mysteries and Modern Masonry: The Collected Writings of Jewel P. Lightfoot.

Billy Hamilton, Past Master – Texas Lodge of Research,
Editor of Ancient Mysteries & Modern Masonry – the collected writings of Jewel P. Lightfoot

MONTHLY LAW READING

ARTICLE IX, SECTION 3. – CHARTER SUSPENDED FOR FAILURE TO MAKE RETURNS OR PAY DUES. IF ANY LODGE SHALL FAIL TO MAKE ITS ANNUAL RETURNS OR TO PAY ITS ANNUAL DUES WITHIN SUCH TIME AS MAY BE PRESCRIBED BY LAW, IT SHALL NOT BE REPRESENTED IN THE NEXT ANNUAL COMMUNICATION OF THE GRAND LODGE; AND IF IT CONTINUES IN NEGLECT OF EITHER OF THESE DUTIES FOR SIX MONTHS AFTER SUCH ANNUAL COMMUNICATION, IT SHALL STAND SUSPENDED, UNLESS THE GRAND MASTER, FOR GOOD CAUSE SHOWN, SHALL GRANT IT FURTHER TIME.

BE A GRAND LODGE PHOTOGRAPHER

Now, anyone can upload photos taken at an official Grand Lodge Function (see the GL Calendar).

From a mobile device go to the Grand Lodge of Texas web site, on the top right-hand side of the page click on the three bars, then scroll down to Media. From there, scroll down to "Grand lodge photo albums" and look for the QR Code for the month in which the photos were taken. Finally, click on "Add Photos..." and "Choose Photos...", select your 10 best pictures and click the "add" button.

Note: photos will not appear in the gallery until approved by an admin.

- Russell Roberson, Photography Committee



GRAND LODGE VOTING: A BASIC BREAKDOWN

Brethren, the question was posed to me about how many people are rotating through the chairs in multiple small lodges, essentially always being a WM at one of them, SW at another, and maybe JW at another, and their impact on Grand Lodge votes. These guys always, or at least frequently, carry 4 votes with them at the Grand Annual Communication.

Figure 1 shows the number of votes each person in the auditorium had at the last Grand Annual Communication, and Figure 2 shows the impact on the total vote count.

Figure 1. Number of Votes Each Person Held During Jan 2024 Grand Annual Communication

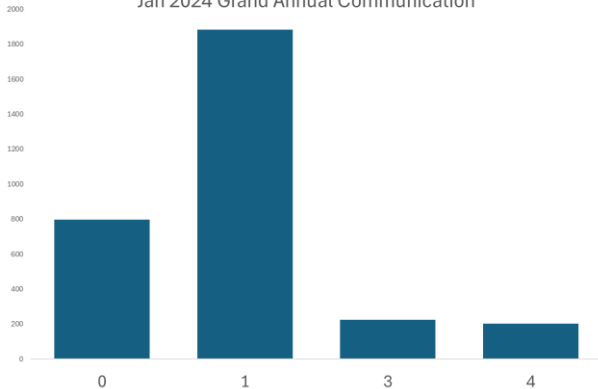
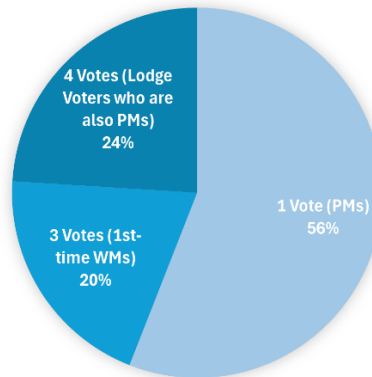


Figure 2. Percentage of the Total Vote by Number of Votes an Individual Holds



The voting at Grand Lodge is by “Lodges and Members,” and a roughly-even divide between those two is reasonable. The “members” of the Grand Lodge of Texas are not all the members of the subordinate lodges in Texas. It’s those who represent, and the Past Masters who have represented, Texas lodges who make the decisions for this Grand Jurisdiction. We elect our local line officers to, in part, represent us before Grand Lodge, and last January those officers, or their proxies, represented 86% of Texas membership in that way. The “Lodges” vote is working well in that regard: representing Texas Master Masons.

Regarding the individuals carrying 4 votes (one for being a PM and three for the lodge they are currently WM of or a Warden or proxy for), shows the number of times they have votes. Fifty Worshipful Masters present in have been WM and carried lodge votes at times before, and two have carried lodge times before.

Fifty people out of an auditorium of that much. They account for 6% of the total cast while representing 4.5% of our total membership.

Lodge representation is important at Lodge level. While I understand the issue person always having 1 vote while another repeatedly has 4, it is important to remember that they are representing their lodge, including those Master Masons in it who are not Past Masters.

Could those lodges consolidate and limit the number of guys rotating the chairs of multiple lodges? Well, lodge consolidation is another topic with all its issues, but at least remember that we’re just talking about 6% of the total vote here which someday may be trimmed down to half that. It’s not a majority or anything like that, and no lodge will look kindly upon Grand Lodge suggesting they consolidate so that they carry less votes at the Grand Annual Communication. Until they decide it’s in their best interest to consolidate, they all need to be represented in Waco by whomever they elect in their lodges. Also, we do need to thank those 50 guys for all their service to the Craft. They repeatedly have 4 votes because they are repeatedly serving. - Zachary Haston

Figure 3. Number of Times Individuals at the 2024 Grand Annual Communication Have Had 4 Votes

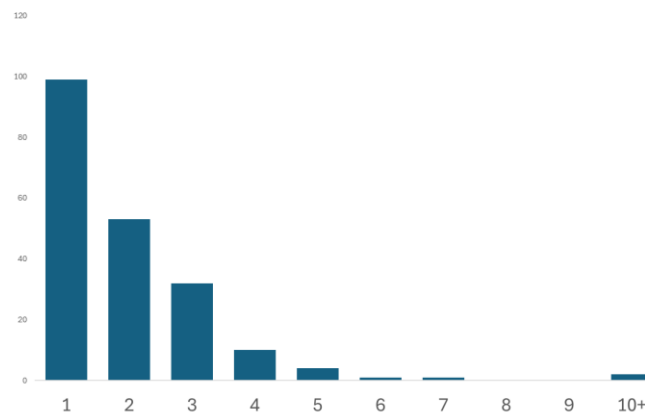
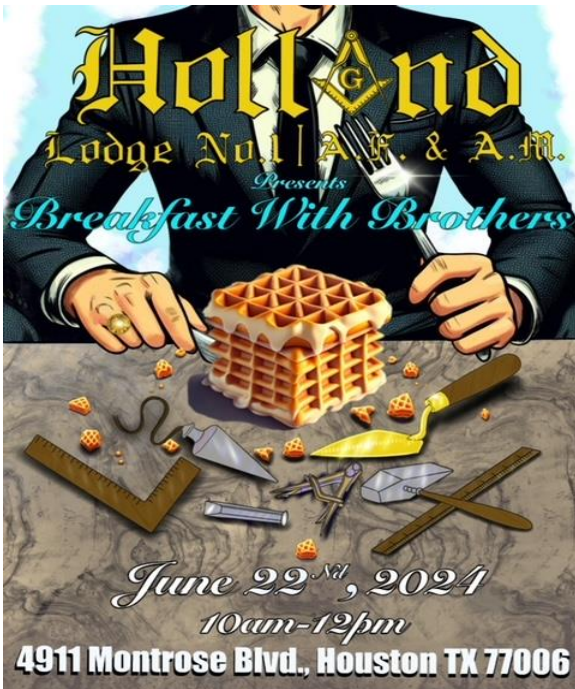


Figure 3
carried 4
January
least 3
votes 10+

3000 isn't
vote being

the Grand
with one

LODGE SPOTLIGHT: HOLLAND LODGE NO. 1



"Breakfast with Brothers" is a monthly event born from the kitchen of Holland Lodge No. 1, where Stewards, while preparing meals, brainstormed ways to enhance the lodge experience. The new events would be designed to focus on three core interests that attract members to Freemasonry: esoteric studies, charity, and fellowship. "Breakfast with Brothers" was created to fulfill the "Fellowship" category by creating a casual, family-friendly social that would allow members to involve their families and the public outside of the formal weekly meetings. It has established a more relaxed and welcoming environment for applicants to mingle with brothers, making the petitioning process less intimidating and more personal. From the very first event, "Breakfast with Brothers" exceeded expectations, with high turnout and enthusiastic support not only from Holland Lodge 1 members but also from brothers of surrounding lodges. Attendees regularly include Masons, their families, friends, and neighbors from the community.

The event has become a vital part of the lodge's calendar, fostering a sense of unity and allowing members to connect on a deeper level. It also offers lodge tours and Q&A sessions for curious visitors, helping to demystify Freemasonry. Through these breakfasts, the lodge has also strengthened its charitable efforts, organizing community park cleanups.

Ultimately, "Breakfast with Brothers" has transitioned from an idea to strengthen Brotherhood and foster unity to an anticipated monthly event, promoting fellowship, community engagement, and a stronger bond among the brothers and their families.

Kristopher Hatfield

VANGUARD AWARD APPLICATION

The 2023 – 2024 Vanguard Application is available on the Member Portal for all Master Masons to view. You can find it by [clicking here](#). Please remember to follow the instructions before submitting. Lodges that are applying for the Vanguard Award must have their application submitted to their District Deputy Grand Master no later than 8/31/2024. District Deputy Grand Masters must have the application submitted to the Grand Secretary's Office no later than 9/15/2024.

TX MASON APP

The TX Mason app is nearing **5,000** users! Please join the 4,940 Brothers using the TX Mason APP! This is separate from the GrandView App & has a searchable (updated) law book and monitor at your fingertips. <https://grandlodgeoftexas.app/launch.html>

VANGUARD AWARDEES

The Committee on Masonic Education is delighted to present the highlights from the Vanguard Awards for the 2023-2024 year. This year's Vanguard demonstrated significant growth in participation and engagement across the state.

Award Program Growth: The enthusiasm within our community has visibly grown, as evidenced by the record participation this year:

- **44 lodges** applied for the award, up from 32 last year.
- **24 districts** had at least one lodge applied.
- **9 districts** had multiple lodges participate.
- **3 districts** had more than three lodges apply, a noticeable increase from one last year.

Vanguard Lodges – 2023/2024 Overview:

This year's Vanguard Lodges in alphabetical order:

Lodge Name	Lodge Name	Lodge Name
Allen Lodge No. 1435	Huffman Lodge No. 1428	Parsons Lodge No. 222
Anahuac Lodge No. 995	James F Brumit-Sunshine Lodge No. 341	Randolph Lodge No. 1268
Arlington Lodge No. 438	Katy Lodge No. 1439	Richardson Lodge No. 1214
Austin Lodge No. 12	Kendall Lodge No. 897	Richland Hills Lodge No. 1348
Blanco Lodge No. 216	Knox-Corinthian Lodge No. 851	Rosenberg Lodge No. 881
Brookshire Lodge No. 1066	League City Lodge No. 1053	Royce City Lodge No. 663
Carrollton Lodge No. 1400	Lebanon Lodge No. 837	Salado Lodge No. 296
Castillian Lodge No. 141	Lee Lodge No. 435	Sam P Cochran Lodge No. 1335
Clear Lake Lodge No. 1417	Liberty Lodge No. 48	Spring Lodge No. 1174
Conroe Lodge No. 748	Melissa Lodge No. 569	St Johns Lodge No. 5
Dayton Lodge No. 825	Metropolitan Lodge No. 1182	St Johns Lodge No. 51
East Fork Lodge No. 650	Milam Lodge No. 2	Sugarland Lodge No. 1141
Ennis Lodge No. 369	Morton Lodge No. 72	Tomball Lodge No. 1096
Gray Lodge No. 329	New Braunfels Lodge No. 1109	Waller Lodge No. 808
Hill City Lodge No. 456	Onion Creek Lodge No. 220	

Top 5 Small and Large Lodges based on the Grand Master's Emphasis Section:

Top 5 Small Lodges:

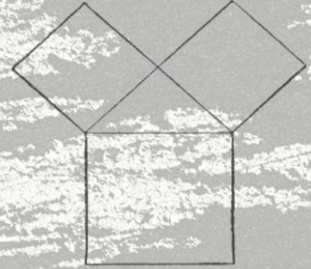
- Morton Lodge No. 72
- Katy Lodge No. 1439
- Rosenberg Lodge No. 881
- St Johns Lodge No. 5
- Carrollton Lodge No. 1400

Top 5 Large Lodges:

- Austin Lodge No. 12
- Tomball Lodge No. 1096
- Spring Lodge No. 1174
- Arlington Lodge No. 438
- Onion Creek Lodge No. 220



Committee on Work Schedule



FORUM & EXAM – TYLER

Saturday, December 14 8:00 – 9:00am

Forum & Exam on 12/14/2024 at 8:00 AM held at Tyler Lodge No. 1233 at 1329 E. Fifth St. Tyler, TX 75701 in District No. 16

For more information go to: <https://grandlodgeoftexas.org/committee-on-work>



Save the date for the 100th East/West Shrine Bowl at AT&T stadium in Arlington, TX, January 30th, 2025. The East-West Shrine Bowl is a lifetime opportunity for the best college football players to showcase their talent as top NFL draft prospects. Legends like Tom Brady, Walter Payton & John Elway played in the East-West Shrine Bowl. Make plans now to come and be a part of this milestone event for one of Masonry's greatest charities!

No Mason Left Behind Project Helps Texas Masons & Loved Ones

Your donation to [The No Mason Left Behind Project](#) helps older Texas Masons in need and their eligible loved ones move to a cozy private apartment at Texas Masonic Retirement Community. All meals, activities, medical care, and more are provided at no charge.

Here's a little background on some of those we help every day:

- At 80-years-old, Curtis endured heart problems, diabetes, and a lifelong hearing challenge. He struggled to pay rent, buy groceries, and find the money for electricity. He was a dedicated Texas Mason.
- Judy, age 82, lived alone, even though her doctors advised against it. Senior living prices were far beyond anything she could afford. She was the mother of a Texas Mason.
- Larry, an amputee, spent most of his days in his blue Hyundai seeking food and a safe place to park for the night. At 71, his job driving for Uber evaporated with the pandemic. He had been a Texas Mason for years—long before the hard times.
- Richard and Alice, both nearly 80-years-old, struggled daily, “Every time our apartment lease was up, the rent went up. But, our money didn’t go up,” said Alice. In addition, Richard, a lifelong Texas Mason, suffered from diabetes, kidney failure, and heart problems.

[Read more stories of hope and courage](#) for Texas Masonic families or [donate today at https://yourtmrc.org/donate/](#).

The Grand Lodge of Texas Cornerstone Leveling Ceremonies 2024



For Information Contact:

Kevin T. Binder - State Cornerstone Coordinator
832-489-7778 - kevinbinder30@gmail.com

Effective 12/1/2024

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Lodge</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Grand Lodge Representative</i>
Friday 12/6/2024	Lunch or refreshments @ Noon Open Humble Lodge @ 1:00 Open GL Representation @ 1:15 Cornerstone Ceremony @ 2:00	Humble 979 210 Main St. Humble, TX 77338	New Fire Station	Tommy F. Chapman Grand Master
Saturday 12/7/2024	Coffee & Donuts @ 9:00 AM Open Littlefield Lodge @ 10:00 Open GL Representation @ 10:15 Cornerstone Ceremony @ 11:00	Littlefield 1161 723 Phelps Ave. Littlefield, TX 79339	Littlefield High School 1230 W. Waylon Jennings Blvd. Littlefield, TX 79339	Steven Pepper Committee on Work
Saturday 12/7/2024	3:00pm: Opening of a representation of The Grand Lodge of Texas 4:00pm: Footstone Ceremony at Oakwood Cemetery grave is located in Block 21, Lot A63	J. H. Gurley 337 2801 W. Waco Dr. Waco, TX 76707	Foot Stone Ceremony for PGM George "Bob" Scott at Oakwood Cemetery 2124 S 5th St. Waco, TX 76706	Tommy F. Chapman Grand Master

Join the Texas Cornerstone State coordinator Kevin Binder's Facebook Group
<https://www.facebook.com/share/CiHNBv12zSaqwVhh/?mibextid=K35XfP>

Checkout the new Grand Lodge Cornerstone page in the TX Mason APP - <https://grandlodgeoftexas.app/launch.html>

GRAND SECRETARY OFFICE STAFF DIRECTORY

Hours of Operation:

8:30 AM to 4:00 PM, Monday – Friday

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Physical Address:

715 Columbus Ave
Waco, TX 76701

Mailing Address:

PO Box 446
Waco, TX 76703

Brad S. Billings - Grand Secretary

gs@grandsecretaryoftx.org

Legal Advice – Please DO NOT call our office asking questions on Masonic Jurisprudence.

The Internet Committee is partnering with the Grand Secretary's office to offer technical support on:

- Access to the Grandview Member Portal or password reset
- DDGM, DCO, & DEO access to District-wide tools
- TX Mason APP - including registering or downloading

To seek help with the preceding, send an email to internet@grandlodgeoftexas.org and please leave a mobile number and your ID so they can reach you.

Dave McHam

dave@grandsecretaryoftx.org

In-State Affiliations
Specialized Reporting
GL & Lodge Procedures
Vanguard Application Collection
Sell of Property

Cindy Huerta

cindy@grandsecretaryoftx.org

Annual Returns
Lodge By-law Revisions
Relief Assistance Request
Endowed Memberships

Jeremy Johnson

irjohnson0821@gmail.com

Lodge Secretary Training

Bruce Mercer

bruce@grandsecretaryoftx.org

Out-of-State Correspondence

Jeff Frayser

fraternal@grandsecretaryoftx.org

Out-of-State Correspondence
Dispensations
Mergers

Justin Hancock

justinh@grandsecretaryoftx.org

Honesty & Integrity Awards
Lamar Medals
Forms and Lodge Supply Orders
Grand Lodge Service Awards

Denise Gilmore

denise@grandsecretaryoftx.org

Lodge Officer Maintenance
Esoteric Record Maintenance
Form 71 Collection
IRS Form 990's Collection
Golden Trowel Awards
Community Builder Awards
Proxies for Grand Lodge

SECRETARY INSTRUCTIONS

The following information is intended primarily for the Secretary but may be meaningful to many of your members.

Lodge Suspense System:

Suspense Dates – Lodge Secretaries should create a suspense system (a reminder system) to alert the Lodge that certain documents are due. This list is offered as a “starter kit” for your consideration:

- a. January – The Worshipful Master should appoint a Committee on Members in Arrears (Article 319a).
- b. May 31 – W. B. and Brandon Carrell Award nominations may be submitted to the Grand Lodge Committee on Public Education for evaluation and recommendation to the Grand Lodge Trustees (Article 14b).
- c. Mid-June – Look for the Annual Returns Format from GL. (Downloaded from the Grand View System after June 24th. Notify the GS staff if you need the returns mailed as a printout).
- d. June 23 – Lodge elections must be completed at the last stated meeting prior to midnight of June 23 (Art. 292). Notify us of the new Lodge Officers immediately so they can be printed in the Directory of Constituent Lodges (do not wait for installation). Submission will be available on the Grand View System from May 24 through midnight June 23.
- e. June 23 – Endowed Membership checks must be in the Office of the Grand Secretary by June 23 to start earning interest in order to receive returns by the next year (Art. 318a). Changes to the amount of endowments must be voted on at the same meeting as the Lodge elections, and notification to the Grand Lodge must be before June 24th. Endowed Membership applications received at the Grand Lodge on or after June 24 must be for the amount that the Lodge reported.
- f. July 15 – Statements of Availability due GS Office. (6a).
- g. July 31 – Lodge installations must be performed from June 24 to prior to midnight July 31 (Art. 298).
- h. August 15 – Annual Returns Report due to Grand Lodge (Art. 493).
- i. August 15 – Resolutions due in GS Office (Art. 172).
- j. September 15 – Lodge Minimum Audit Report 71 is due to the GS Office NLT September 15 (Art. 284).
- k. September 15 – Vanguard Applications are due to the DDGM NLT September 15 and to the Grand Secretary NLT September 30 (refer to Vanguard Application Instructions).
- l. October 1 – Lodge By-Laws that must be reviewed by the GL Committee on By-Laws due the GS Office NLT October 1 (Art. 219).
- m. Nov 15 – Form 990-N, Electronic Notice (e-Postcard), must be filed with the IRS by Lodges that have gross receipts of \$50,000 or less or do not meet the requirements for filing the IRS 990 or IRS 990EZ. (Lodges must file the appropriate Form 990 no later than the 15th day of the fifth month following the close of the organization’s fiscal year.)
- n. Dec. 28 – Proxy Certificates are due the GS Office NLT December 28 (Art. 4). You should always appoint a Proxy (in case of an emergency) but he would not vote if any of the top three officers were available. Remember, each brother can have no more than four votes. Therefore, a sitting Worshipful Master cannot be a proxy for another Lodge.