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GRAND SECRETARY'S MONTHLY COMMUNICATION

AUGUST 2026



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

- Product of the Month – Grand Lodge Grab Bags – \$40
- Grand Secretary's Office – Endowments, Electronic Form 71, Deadlines
- Monthly Law Reading – Resolutions – Jeremy Johnson, PM
- Statistics – 2026 NPD Analysis – Zachary Haston, PM
- Lodge Spotlight – Stogies & Studies: District 35-A
- Texas Masonic Retirement Community – Family Day 2026
- Grand Lodge Photographs – 2026 Photos Now on SmugMug
- Cornerstone Leveling Ceremonies – August 2026
- Committee on Work Schedule – August & September 2026
- 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 emailed to all Master Masons who are signed up to receive emails in the GrandView system. If you are not receiving these emails, each edition is also available on the Grand Secretary's Page at <https://grandlodgeoftexas.org/grand-secretary>.

For more content from the Grand Secretary's Office, please see our official website at: <https://grandlodgeoftexas.org/grand-secretary>. To stay connected with the Grand Secretary and other Secretaries across the state, see our facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1486287938821817>.

PRODUCT OF THE MONTH – GRAND LODGE GRAB BAGS

The Grab Bags were a huge hit last year! Out of the 1,000 prepared, there are only 110 left. For the first time, we are offering these online and expect them to move quickly. Each bag is only \$40 but contains Past Grand Master merchandise originally valued at \$120–\$150. These Grab Bags were designed with two goals in mind; to raise \$40,000 for the Grand Lodge of Texas while putting quality merchandise into the hands of Brothers who will proudly wear and use it.



Each Grab Bag will include one of the following versions:

- 5 Coins, 5 Pins, a Knife Set, Buckle, Tie, Mouse Pad and Coozie
- 5 Coins, 5 Pins, 2 Buckles, a Tie, Mouse Pad and Coozie

PLEASE READ

GRAND SECRETARY'S OFFICE

Endowment Distribution and Form 71 Figures

Your Lodge's annual Endowment Distribution check is being prepared and will soon be mailed to the address currently listed in GrandView. Please keep an eye out for it in the coming days. The envelope will show the following return address, so please do not mistake it for unsolicited mail:

Payment Operations
P.O. Box 61076
Palo Alto, CA 94306-1076

This year's distribution is **\$5.53 per mature unit**. Mature units are those held by your Lodge before June 24, 2025. As of June 30, 2026, each endowment unit is valued at **\$123.66**. Your Lodge's total units include all units purchased before June 23, 2026. These figures can be reviewed by generating an Endowment Report in GrandView. If you have any trouble accessing the report, please contact the Grand Secretary's Office for assistance.

When completing Form 71, use the following calculation to determine the total value of your Lodge's endowment: **total units owned as of June 23, 2026 × \$123.66**. Your Lodge's

distribution check is calculated as: **mature units × \$5.53**. Once completed, Form 71 Audits should be read in Lodge and submitted to us by September 15th.

– Glen W. Garber, Chairman, Trust Committee

Annual Returns – Due August 15

Annual Returns are due in just under two weeks. If you have not already done so, please complete the return in Grand View as soon as possible to comply with the deadline of August 15th.

Grand Lodge Submission Drop Boxes

To simplify the submission process, dedicated online Drop Boxes have been created for the following:

1. Resolutions of the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas (due August 15) – [2027 Resolutions](#)
2. Vanguard Applications (due August 30) – [Vanguard Submissions](#)

Important: To ensure proper tracking and processing, all submissions must be made through the appropriate Drop Box. Submissions sent by mail, email, social media, or any other method will not be accepted or considered.

Electronic Form 71 Submittal

The Grand Secretary's office is proud to partner with the Information Technology Committee to introduce the new **ELECTRONIC FORM 71!**

The system can be accessed at <https://forms.grandlodgeoftexas.org>. Authentication is handled by matching your email with the GrandView database. Secretaries will be responsible for assigning the Audit committee within the tool. Treasurers (with the Secretary's help) will complete and submit Form 71 for review, then the Audit Committee members will each receive an email with a link so they can review and digitally sign the form. Once complete and digitally signed by the audit committee, the form is transmitted to the GS Office, and the Lodge Treasurer and Secretary are notified of completion.

The e-Form 71 is now live. This satisfies Art. 284: "A properly completed and signed copy of the Minimum Audit Form No. 71 shall be delivered to the Grand Secretary no later than September 15th each year." Please note that Art. 284 also requires the Minimum Audit to be read at a Stated Meeting and entered into the Minutes.

PLEASE ALSO NOTE: This is not required but is highly recommended by the Grand Secretary and his staff. It is expected to become mandatory in the coming years. Finally, completing this electronic version will earn your Lodge an additional 5 points for the Vanguard.

Secretary Schools – Save the Date

Save the date for the Secretary School nearest you:

- September 26th – Waco, TX (Central)
- October 24th – Irving, TX (North)
- November 7th – Houston, TX (South)

2026 Law Book Update

Brethren, the 2026 update to the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas arrived in our office at the end of last week, and we have wasted no time putting it to work: printing begins this week. We do not yet have a firm delivery date, as that depends on the printer's schedule, but we will announce availability just as soon as the updates are in hand. No action is needed from your Lodge at this time, and there is no need to check with the office; watch the newsletter for word the moment they are ready.

New Masonic Year: Important Deadlines

To our new Secretaries, congratulations, and thank you for your willingness to serve! Now that everyone is installed, we will begin our schools starting in September. Until then, please join us on Facebook at [Texas Lodge Secretaries](#) and remember that there are 3 hard deadlines at the beginning of every Masonic year:

- Annual Returns – due August 15
- Form 71 Audits – due September 15
- IRS Form 990 (for most Lodges) – due November 15

READ PORTIONS APPROPRIATE FOR YOUR LODGE

MONTHLY LAW READING – RESOLUTIONS

If you have something you would like to change about the law of this Grand Lodge, there is a process for that, and the clock is running. Article 172 governs Resolutions, and its centerpiece is a hard deadline:

Art. 172. Resolutions: Law Changes; Charter Petitions. – All Resolutions proposing any change in the Laws of this Grand Lodge, shall be filed with the Grand Secretary not later than August 15 each year. (*Revised 2021*)

Who may propose a change? A Resolution may be submitted by a Lodge or by a member of this Grand Lodge. If submitted by a Lodge, the Secretary must attest that it was read and

approved by a majority of the members present at a stated meeting held before August 15. If submitted by one or more members, each must sign it, with his name printed below his signature and the name and number of the Lodge of which he is a Past Master and a member in good standing. The proposer must also furnish the Grand Secretary his mailing address, telephone number, and email address.

What happens after filing? The Grand Secretary delivers every timely Resolution, along with any Grand Master's Recommendations, to the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence. The Committee examines each one to determine whether it is in proper and legal form, specific as to substance, and consistent with the Constitution and Laws of the Grand Lodge and with the laws of the State of Texas and the United States. If a proposal falls short, the Committee contacts the proposer and labors with him to put it in proper form. The Committee must have all Resolutions back in the hands of the Grand Secretary by November 15, and the Grand Secretary publishes the proposed Resolutions electronically for the Lodges.

At the Grand Annual Communication, Article 172a fixes the order of consideration: first the Jurisprudence report on form and legality, second the proposer's motion to adopt and any explanation he believes necessary, and third the report of any committee to which the matter was referred. Every Resolution is subject to amendment by the Grand Lodge on the floor.

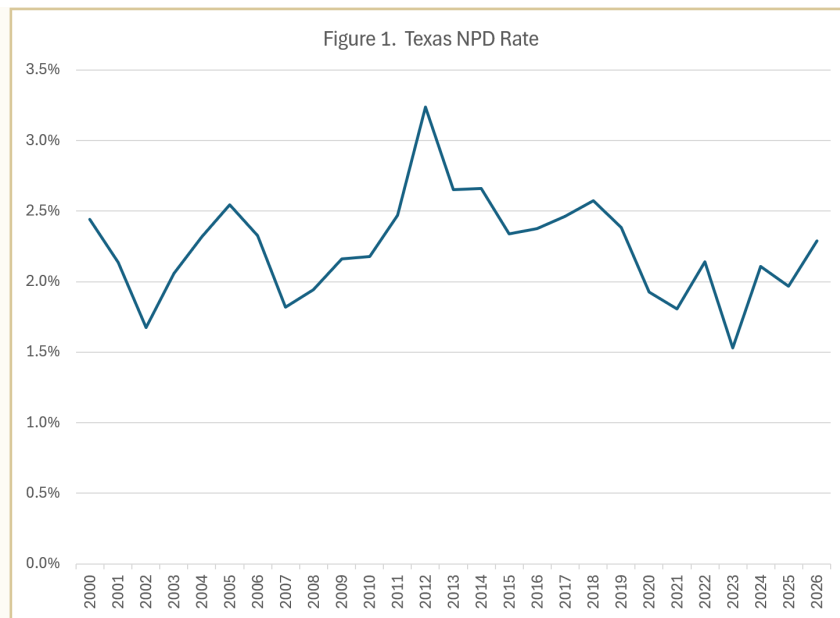
Two cautions are worth noting. First, the deadline has teeth: failure to observe Article 172 forfeits the right of a Resolution to be referred to committee or considered at the forthcoming Annual Communication. Second, a proposal that is rejected by the Grand Lodge may not be considered again for three years following the Communication at which it was voted down, unless approved for reconsideration by a two-thirds majority.

So if your Lodge has been discussing an improvement to our law, now is the time to reduce it to writing, read it in a stated meeting, and file it with the Grand Secretary's Office. Resolutions are due no later than August 15.

– Jeremy R. Johnson, PM

STATISTICS – 2026 NPD ANALYSIS

Of the big four loss categories (lost inquirers, Failures to Advance (FTA), Suspensions for Non-Payment of Dues (NPDs), and deaths), NPDs are important because, ultimately, membership problems are retention problems. Deaths are natural, and initiations and raisings don't help if you don't keep them. Over the last 20yrs, we have lost over 16k men to FTA, and we have lost and never regained nearly 28k to NPD. Compare those numbers to our current 60k memberships, and you can see how important these losses are. We could be over 100k if we'd kept them.



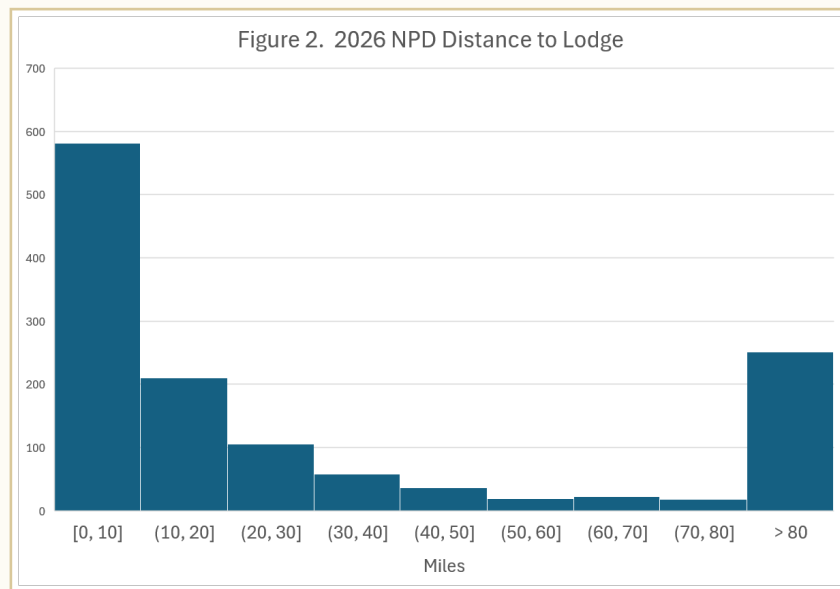
This year, we lost 1174 Master Masons, holding 1409 memberships, to non-payment of dues. Figure 1 shows how that compares to the results since 2000, put on a percentage basis. From 2012-2022, we were on an improving line from over 3% to less than half that being lost, but zooming out a little, it now appears that may have been from a post-National Treasure NPD peak to a post-2022 low, and we have now reverted to the mean.

Since last year's suspensions, we've regained 14% of those we lost. They paid late, some right after they got their final suspension letters. This year, following the same pattern, we've already received payments from 6% of those lost last month. If we look at longer-term results, we've regained 28% of those lost between 2016 and 2019. Unfortunately, if history is a guide, we'll probably not get back 70+% of those we just lost as they aren't just late. They're gone.

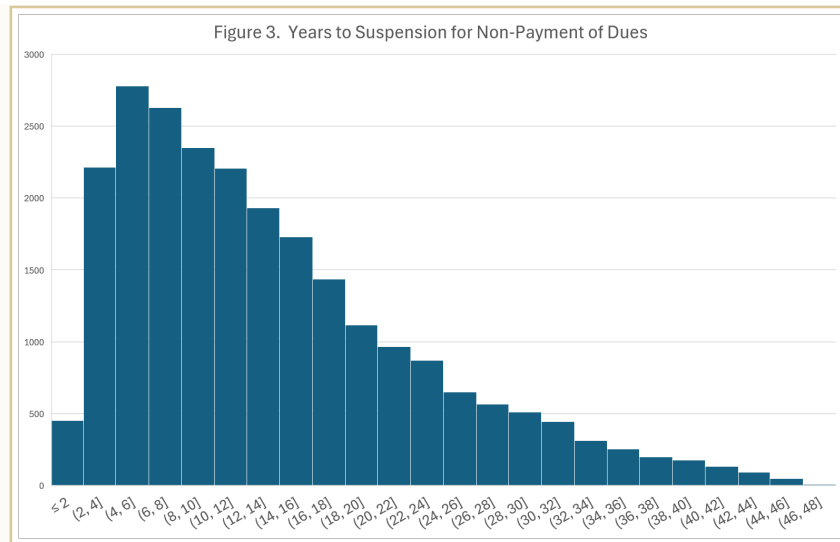
A note about plural memberships is in order here: if you are suspended, not in good standing, you are a Mason not in good standing everywhere. That means not only that you can't attend the lodge you failed to pay, but you also can't attend any other lodges, even if you have an endowment with that other lodge. You also cannot attend any Appendant Bodies predicated membership on being a Mason. The Shrine, the Scottish Rite, the York Rite all just got a list of our suspensions for the year.

Looking at this year's NPDs, there are some important things to look at. In no particular order, we'll start with moves. People move for a variety of reasons, usually work-related, and while the percentage of Texas Masons who move each year isn't very high, when you look at just the couple percent that have gone suspended, you find this is an important factor. Figure 2 shows their distance to the suspending lodge, with 20% having moved over 80 miles away and 7% having moved over 600 miles away (but occasionally still in Texas!), and 31% more than 30 miles away. Now moving away from your home lodge doesn't mean you can't

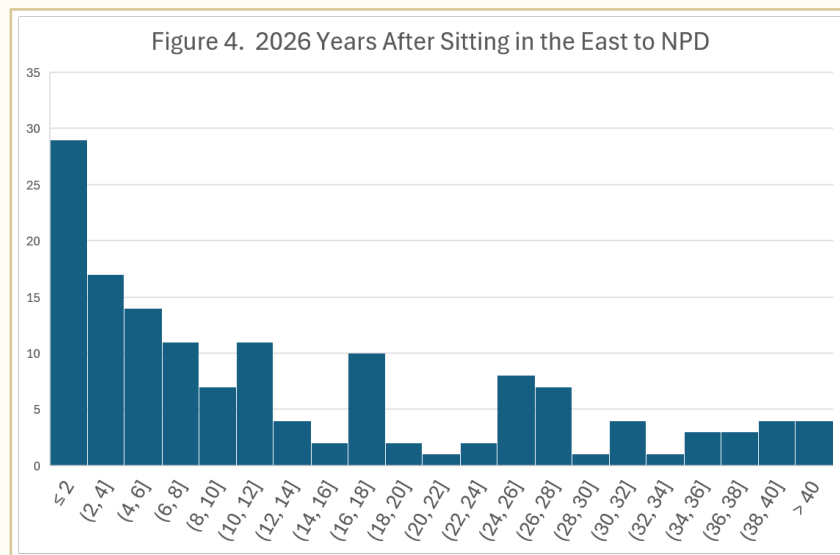
transfer another closer, but so far these haven't. One thing we might want to consider is sharing moves with new nearby lodge Secretaries, both here and with other States. Maybe they don't want to start up again in a new city, but maybe they do and just no one has reached out. Sharing our moves with other States might get them to share their moves to our State, and as Texas imports Masons far more than we export, this could be a boost to us, enabling us to reach out to that Mason that has moved here from another State. Right now, moves are a decent percentage of our losses, but maybe we could balance or even overcome those numbers with imports.



Moving on from moved-and-done, another category is the degreed-and-done. Well, they're not exactly degreed-and-done when it comes to dues. Even if they quit coming to lodge, as seen in Figure 3, most have good opinions of the Fraternity and keep paying dues for some years. Note that Figure 3 is just for those who quit, but for those, the peak is 4 to 6 years until NPD, but with a long tail, and the average person who would go suspended pays 13.6 years of dues until NPD. Of course, if you include those who don't go suspended and keep paying dues, the average years of dues paid by a new member is higher.

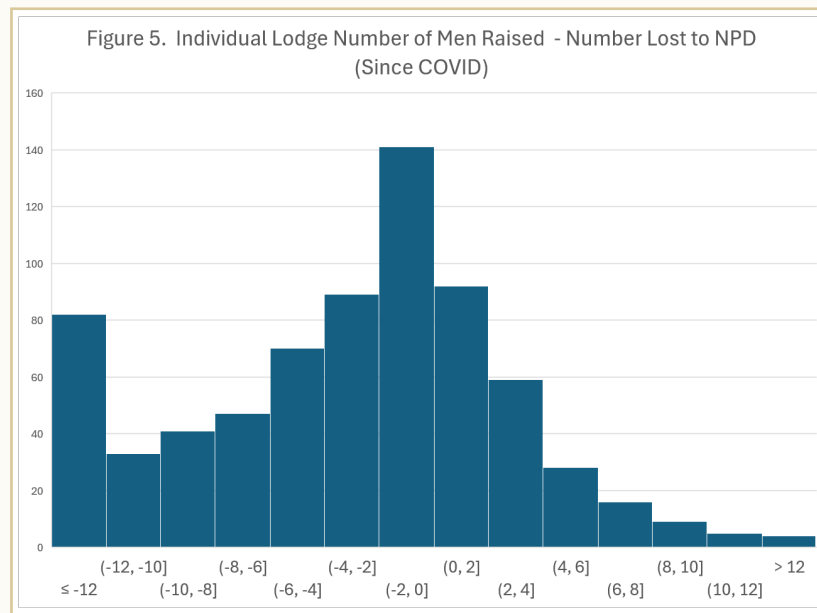


Regarding the through-the-line and done, 13% of the 2026 NPDs are Past Masters, which is consistent with last year. It's obviously not a majority, but it's hard to understand how any PMs go NPD. Still, we do see some who disappear after going through the chairs. Figure 4 shows how long it has been since our 2026 PM NPDs last sat in the East. There were a bunch that went NPD within 2 years after giving up the hat. Maybe a goal was reached. Maybe we wore them out. Maybe they quit so they didn't have to go through the line again. Maybe they couldn't find anything to do as a Past Master. None of those answers are very satisfying, but I did want to note that we consistently have 7-14% of our NPDs being PMs.



On a lodge basis, 30% of our lodges have raised more men since COVID than they've lost to NPD. Interestingly, endowment costs do not correlate with net losses even though cheap \$500 endowments can mask member losses. The average endowment cost of our top 10% of lodges is \$1200, and half of that top bin have \$2000+ endowments. Good lodges retain

members regardless of their costs, and underperforming lodges lose members regardless of their costs.



One thing that suspensions do correlate with to some degree is with raisings. 48%, basically half, of our NPDs come from lodges raising 1 or fewer Masons per year. There are exceptions, but generally speaking, it's not as much the lodges with high throughput accounting for our Statewide NPD totals, but those with little to no throughput.

Overall, 20-30% of our suspensions are from people who have moved too far from lodge to regularly attend, 33% are from people who have been in Masonry less than 8 years, 13% are, gulp, Past Masters, and half of the Statewide NPDs come from lodges not doing very many degrees and possibly not much else either. A common thread throughout is an individual's level of activity in the lodge. We must engage them and feed their hunger, whatever their taste may be, and however it may change.

– Zachary Haston

LODGE SPOTLIGHT

Making Masonic Study Something to Look Forward To

Every now and then, a Brother takes a simple idea and turns it into something that strengthens the Craft in a unique way. Brother Mark Strauss, District Instructor for District 35-A, did exactly that.

Wanting to create a more relaxed and enjoyable environment for studying Masonic work, Brother Strauss launched “Stogies & Studies,” an independent weekly gathering designed exclusively for Master Masons. Rather than another formal practice session, the goal was to create an atmosphere where Brethren could gather, enjoy one another's company, discuss ritual, ask questions, and learn naturally through fellowship.

Held every Sunday from 6:00–8:00 PM at El Leon Cigar Company in Lockhart, the gathering is made possible by a Master Mason who owns the lounge and closes it to the public during the event, allowing the evening to be reserved exclusively for Master Masons. Attendance typically ranges from 5 to 12 Brothers, creating a comfortable setting where everyone is encouraged to participate.

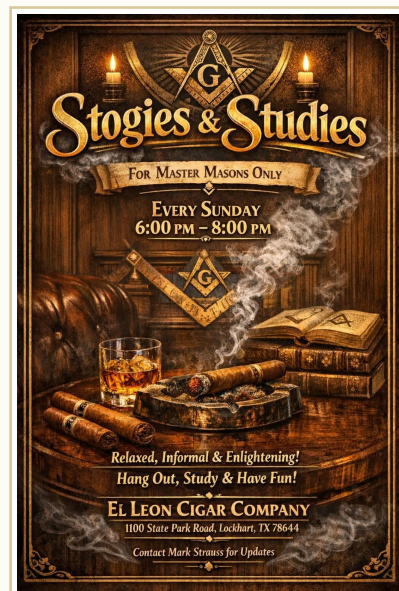
As Brother Strauss explains:

“I just wanted a fun way to study. I wanted to make learning the work relaxing and enjoyable. There's plenty of non-smoking training sessions at every lodge; we wanted something a little different, less formal, and fun. The anticipated result is to enjoy each other's company, engage in fellowship, and if we learn anything, then that's a bonus.”

That philosophy captures something important about Freemasonry. While ritual proficiency is essential, some of the greatest lessons are learned through conversations shared among Brothers in an atmosphere of genuine fellowship.

Stogies & Studies is a reminder that there is no single formula for building Masonic education. Whether it's around a lodge room, a dining hall table, a coffee shop, or another welcoming setting, creative ideas like this encourage participation, strengthen friendships, and keep our ritual alive.

The Grand Lodge of Texas applauds Brethren like Brother Mark Strauss who continue finding innovative ways to inspire Masons to gather, learn, and enjoy the fellowship that makes our Fraternity so special.



Submitted by – Mike Mistry, P.M.

TEXAS MASONIC RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

Save the Date! Saturday, Oct. 10 – Family Day 2026!

Mark your calendar for the biggest Texas Mason gathering in the state! On Saturday, Oct. 10, from 10 am to 4 pm, at Texas Masonic Retirement Community in Arlington!

- Enjoy free admission to this day of fun and festivities in the shady pecan grove at Texas Masonic Retirement Community in Arlington!
- Shop at hundreds of vendor booths! Feast on hot dogs, BBQ, ice cream, snow cones, kettle corn, and more! Enjoy live music
- Delight your children and grandchildren with pony rides, bounce houses, video games, and a petting zoo.
- Enter or visit the Classic Car & Motorcycle Show or the Masonic BBQ Cookoff! Check out YourTMRC.org for entry details.

GRAND LODGE PHOTOGRAPHS – NOW ON SMUGMUG

Photographs from 2026 Grand Lodge events are now available on SmugMug. The Grand Lodge of Texas Photo Committee is migrating to this new photo platform, which we hope will better serve the needs of our members. You will be able to view folders and galleries and download images for FREE! Please be patient as the 2026 pictures are uploaded and organized, and be on the lookout for older albums in the future.

To find them from the Grand Lodge website: on the left side of the Home Page, scroll down to the MEDIA page, click the image above Grand Lodge Photo Albums, then click **CHECK US OUT ON SMUGMUG!** Or go there directly at <https://grandlodgeoftexas.smugmug.com>.

Grand Lodge of Texas Photographs Have Moved!

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Please be patient as we upload and organize the 2026 pictures and be on the lookout for older albums in the future!

CHECK US OUT ON SMUGMUG!

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 MASTER'S CALENDAR OF EVENTS

In order to provide the most up to date information and prevent duplication, the Grand Master's Calendar can now be found in the Grand Lodge Gazette, emailed weekly by the Grand Lodge Committee on Communications. For full details, please visit the Grand Master's calendar page here:

[GRAND MASTER'S PAGE](#)

COMMITTEE ON WORK SCHEDULE

August & September 2026

COMMITTEEMAN	DATE	LODGE	CITY	DISTRICT	FORUM	EXAM
Cody Stewart	Sat, Aug 15, 2026	Cooke-Peavy No. 1162	Fort Worth	64-B	Apr 25, 8:00 AM	After
	Sat, Aug 22, 2026	Metropolitan No. 1182	Dallas	14-E	Jun 25, 8:00 AM	After
	Sat, Aug 29, 2026	James A. Smith No. 395	Farmers Branch	14-F	Jun 25, 8:00 AM	After
	Sat, Sep 5, 2026	Danville No. 101	Kilgore	10-B	Jul 24, 8:00 AM	After
	Sat, Sep 12, 2026	Castillian No. 141	Canton	12	Sep 12, 8:00 AM	To Follow
	Sat, Sep 26, 2026	Arlington No. 438	Arlington	64-D	Super Forum, 8:00 AM to ~4:00 PM	N/A
John Peters	Sat, Aug 8, 2026	Onion Creek No. 220	Austin	50	Apr 25, 9:00 AM	Apr 25, 1:00 PM
	Sat, Aug 15, 2026	Llano Grande No. 1173	Weslaco	40-B	Jun 25, 9:00 AM	Jun 25, 1:00 PM
	Sat, Aug 29, 2026	San Saba No. 612	San Saba	70	Jun 25, 9:00 AM	Jun 25, 1:00 PM
	Sat, Sep 12, 2026	Hondo City No. 756	Hondo	53	Jul 24, 9:00 AM	Jul 24, 1:00 PM
	Sat, Sep 19, 2026	Floresville No. 515	Floresville	38	Jul 24, 9:00 AM	Jul 24, 1:00 PM
Cody Cockroft	Sat, Aug 15, 2026	Nathan Corley No. 294	Kirbyville	25-B	Apr 25, 8:00 AM	After Lunch
	Sat, Aug 22, 2026	Wells No. 915	Wells	21-A	Jun 25, 8:00 AM	After Lunch
	Sat, Aug 29, 2026	Conroe No. 748	Conroe	28	Jun 25, 8:00 AM	After Lunch
	Sat, Sep 5, 2026	Lufkin No. 669	Lufkin	20	Jul 24, 8:00 AM	After Lunch
	Sat, Sep 12, 2026	Cosmopolitan No. 872	Port Arthur	26-B	Jul 24, 9:00 AM	N/A
	Sat, Sep 26, 2026	B.W. Tinsley No. 1458	Houston	30-C	Jul 24, 8:00 AM	After Lunch
Steve Pepper	Sat, Aug 15, 2026	Quanah No. 689	Quanah	90	Apr 25, 9:00 AM	1:00 PM
	Sat, Sep 19, 2026	Ochiltree No. 910	Perryton	102	Jul 24, 9:00 AM	1:00 PM
Kevin Moss	Sat, Aug 8, 2026	El Paso No. 130	El Paso	60	Jun 25, 9:00 AM	To Follow
	Sat, Aug 22, 2026	San Angelo No. 570	San Angelo	77	Jun 25, 9:00 AM	To Follow
	Sat, Aug 29, 2026	Frontier No. 766	Alpine	81	Jun 25, 9:00 AM	To Follow
	Sat, Sep 5, 2026	Cross Plains No. 627	Cross Plains	74	Jul 24, 9:00 AM	To Follow
	Sat, Sep 12, 2026	Webb No. 1454	Arlington	64-D	Jul 24, 10:00 AM	N/A

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

CORNERSTONE LEVELING CEREMONIES 2026

Effective 8/1/2026

For Information Contact:

Kevin T. Binder, State Cornerstone Coordinator

832-489-7778 | kevinbinder30@gmail.com

[Join our Cornerstone Facebook Group](#)

DATE	TIME	LODGE	LOCATION	GRAND LODGE REPRESENTATIVE
Thursday 8/6/2026	Refreshments at 4:00pm Open Azle Lodge at 5:00pm Open Grand Lodge at 5:15pm Cornerstone Ceremony at 6:00pm	Azle #601 257 W Main St. Azle, TX 76020	New Jr. High School	H.N. "Chip" Green, Jr. Grand Sr. Warden
Thursday 8/13/2026	Lunch or refreshments at Noon Open Morton Lodge at 1:00pm Open Grand Lodge at 1:15pm Cornerstone Ceremony at 2:00pm	Morton #72 211 Morton St. Richmond, TX 77469	New City Hall	John M. Wilkerson Grand Jr. Warden
Saturday 8/15/2026	Coffee & Donuts at 9:00am Open Brookshire Lodge at 10:00am Open Grand Lodge at 10:15am Cornerstone Ceremony at 11:00am	Brookshire #1066 819 Purdy St. Brookshire, TX 77423	Jordan Ranch Fire Station 3102 Jordan Ranch Blvd.	H.N. "Chip" Green, Jr. Grand Sr. Warden
Wednesday 9/2/2026	Lunch or refreshments at Noon Open Evadale Lodge at 1:00pm Open Grand Lodge at 1:15pm Cornerstone Ceremony at 2:00pm	Evadale #1366 Hwy. 96 South Evadale, TX 75951	New Elementary & High School	H.N. "Chip" Green, Jr. Grand Sr. Warden

GRAND SECRETARY OFFICE STAFF DIRECTORY

Hours of Operation: 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday

Phone: 254-753-7395 | Fax: 254-753-2944

Physical Address: 715 Columbus Ave, Waco, TX 76701 • Mailing Address: PO Box 446, Waco, TX 76703

Brad S. Billings – Grand Secretary gs@grandsecretaryoftx.org

Office Staff – the list below is intended to help you reach the person in the office responsible for what you are requesting. It is, however, recommended that you copy the GS@GrandSecretaryofTX.org email on ALL correspondence.

NAME	EMAIL	RESPONSIBILITIES
Dave McHam	dave@grandsecretaryoftx.org	In-State Affiliations; Specialized Reporting; GL & Lodge Procedures; Vanguard Application Collection
Cindy Huerta	cindy@grandsecretaryoftx.org	Annual Returns; Lodge By-Law Revisions; Relief Assistance Request; Endowed Memberships
Jimmie Shannon	jshannon@grandsecretaryoftx.org	Honesty & Integrity Awards; Lamar Medals; Forms and Lodge Supply Orders; Grand Lodge Service Awards; Golden Trowel Awards; Community Builder Awards; Masonic Disciplinary Violations
Jeff Frayser	fraternal@grandsecretaryoftx.org	Out-of-State Correspondence; Dispensations
Zachary Haston	zhaston@grandsecretaryoftx.org	Membership; Lodge Officer Maintenance; Esoteric Record Maintenance; Form 71 Collection; IRS Form 990s Collection
Jeremy Johnson	jjohnson@grandsecretaryoftx.org	Lodge Secretary Training; GS Newsletter

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. **August 30 – Vanguard Applications are due to the DDGM electronically no later than August 30 and to the Committee on Masonic Education electronically via cme@grandlodgeoftx.org (refer to Vanguard Application Instructions).**
- k. September 15 – Lodge Minimum Audit Report 71 is due to the GS Office NLT September 15 (Art. 284).
- 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 or Warden cannot be a proxy for another Lodge.