

SQUARE & COMPASSES



Happy
Father's
Day!

EAST TRINITY MASONIC LODGE #157 ROCKWALL, TX JUNE 2026
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LODGE BYLAW AND ENDOWMENT CHANGES

There will be two votes that will be taken this Monday, (other than the election).

1. A proposal was made to increase the cost of an endowment to \$4000. The argument being that as the cost of living rises, we will need to increase revenue across the board. Currently, our endowment cost \$1500, which is 7.5 X dues. An increase to \$4000 will change it to 20 X dues, a figure that is more in line with other lodges. The proposal was amended to change the amount to 20 X dues, which will automatically increase the cost of an endowment when the dues increase.
2. A proposal was made to increase the degree fees to the following: EA-\$250, FC-\$200, MM-\$200. Prior to initiation, the candidate may elect to pay it all up-front for a discounted amount.

These proposals will be voted on during the June Stated, without further discussion

MAY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The May meeting went off without a hitch. The highlights:

- A memoriam was read for Brother Bill Abbott
- 8 Brothers were still listed as delinquent.
- The Treasurer reported that we ended the month with an increase in our bank balance.
- A Service Award Ceremony was held on May 11th.
- An open house and cookout to honor the 7 scholarship recipients was held on May 18th.
- The Social Cmte announced a social get together at the JW house on May 23rd
- The SW nominated Ms Angel Nelson, owner of Yellow Jacket Barber Shop, for the Community Builder Award for her continued support of East Trinity, Rockwall HS, and the surrounding community.
- The SW proposed increasing the cost of an endowment to \$4000.
- The Chaplain proposed the Lodge Bylaws be changed to reflect an increase in degree fees.
- The Secretary was directed to order new challenge coins for EAs. 100 were ordered for a cost of \$465.
- Reminder, the election for next year's officers will be conducted during the June Stated Meeting

Fraternal Eats . The meal will be Another secret recipe from our award winning Steward. Must be present to enjoy!



DUES

As of this writing, 6 brothers are delinquent.

Remember that a brother who is in arrears will be suspended as of June 23rd per the Grand Master. If you have an extenuating circumstance, please reach out to the WM ASAP. Many brothers are paying thru Grand Lodge, which makes things go a lot easier. If you would like to pay the traditional way, then please send your payment to:

East Trinity Lodge 157
104 South Goliad
Rockwall, Tx 75087

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- June 1st- Stated Meeting
- June 8th- practice
- June 15th-practice
- June 22nd-practice
- June 29th-practice

SERVICE AWARD CEREMONY



LR: WM Corley, Bros Ohman, Seeley, Atterberry, Turner, RW Whalin



Brother Charley Seely receiving his 70 pin from his nephew, Bro David Henderson of Arlington Heights



Brother Glenn Atterberry receiving his 65 year pin



Brother Tom Turner receiving his 50 year pin from RW Matthew Whalin



Brother Victor Ohman receiving his 40 year pin from RW

East Trinity honored some of its longest serving members in a ceremony on May 11th. 10 brothers were eligible to receive service awards this year. Brothers Charley Seely, Glenn Atterberry, Tom Turner, and Victor Ohman were present for the ceremony. The evening began with a dinner of BBQ brisket and sides, followed by the presentation of the awards by the DDGM, RW Matthew Whalin.

Brother Bill Abbott was to be awarded his 65 year pin. However he sadly laid down his working tools a few weeks before the ceremony.

The following brothers were unable to attend, and their certificates were mailed to them:

Brother Clyde Crawford 70 years

Brother Jeffrey Bostic 40 years

Brother Wayne Sauer 25 years

Brother Steven Davies 25 years

Brother Douglas Davies 25 years

We thank these brothers for there service to the fraternity.

7 LUCKY SENIORS AWARDED SCHOLARSHIPS

An open lodge was held on May 18th for the purpose of presenting scholarships to 7 well deserving high school seniors. The recipients feasted on hamburgers and hot dogs, and were able to meet some of the brothers of ET. Each recipient received a check for \$3000 and a certificate.

The recipients were:

Camille Barkley	Jersey Iriart
Blythe Barkley	Ava Lafere
Addison Bryan	Addison Young
Jonathan Harris	

To all the recipients, we here at East Trinity wish you all the best of luck in all your endeavors.



2026
Class of

EAST TRINITY LODGE HISTORY CORNER

This month we are featuring the lodge's 29th Worshipful Master J.L. Austin.

James Launia Austin

Biography

Worshipful Master for the East Trinity Lodge (1910, 1912 & 1927)



James L. Austin

James L. Austin was born in Dallas County, Texas on 4 September 1872. He was the eighth of ten children. His parents were Milton Stanhope Austin and Margarette (Maggie) Elizabeth Dumas.

Milton Stanhope Austin History

Milton Austin and wife Maggie were both born in North Carolina. Milton was a soldier in the Civil War for the Confederate States of America serving in the Richmond Regulators, 52nd Regiment, Company E, NC Infantry rising to the rank of Captain. He was wounded in the leg at Gettysburg, PA and again wounded during the battle of Burgess Mill, VA which caused the loss of his right arm. He retired after this incident. After the war, Milton moved his family to Mississippi and then to Texas. He lived in Rockwall, Kaufman County and was a supporter of the effort that created the new Rockwall County. He became the Rockwall County Sheriff and Tax Collector. He served as Rockwall's first state representative in Austin (18th Texas Legislature, 1883-1884). M.S. Austin is first listed as a Master Mason in the 1876 Lodge Returns for East Trinity Lodge No. 157 and he remained a member until his death in 1906. Milton died in Rockwall on 11 November 1906. His tombstone is engraved with the Square & Compasses. Milton was a farmer and his youngest son was James L. Austin.

James Launia Austin

James Austin grew up in the Rockwall County area and was married to Miss Lou Wade 5 October 1897 in Rockwall County. After 1880, James attended college and earned a four-year degree in medicine. The 1900 Census shows James Austin (38) as Head of Family living in the town of Rockwall with his wife Lula (25) and they have one son named Russell who was three months old. Also living in the household are James' parents Milton (72) and Maggie (66). James' occupation is listed as "Physician".

The East Trinity Lodge records show four men with the surname Austin who were members of lodge: Milton Stanhope Austin, Isham John Austin (Milton's eldest son) James Launie Austin (Milton's youngest son) and Russell Elliston Austin (James Austin's only son). Brother Isham served many years as the East Trinity Secretary.

In 1910, James and Lula were living in Rockwall, Texas and he was working as a Medical Doctor. He owned his home and his medical practice. In the 1910 census, he and Lula stated they have two children: son Russell Elliston (9) and daughter Mary Lillian (7).

James is first listed as a Master Mason in the East Trinity Lodge returns in 1904. In 1906, he is listed as the lodge's Junior Steward and then in 1908 he served as Junior Warden. In 1909, James was the Senior Warden, and then in 1910 he became the Worshipful Master for the first time. He was Worshipful Master three times.

THE OFFICER LINE-UP FOR 1910

J.L. Austin – Worshipful Master
 B.B. Lanham – Senior Warden
 W.G. Scott– Junior Warden
 H.B. Barnes – Treasurer
 I. J. Austin – Secretary
 W.C. Roberts – Senior Deacon
 J.N. Jackson – Junior Deacon
 Tom Parker – Senior Steward
 T.E. Keahey– Junior Steward
 L.A. Adamson – Tiler

Past Masters - W.C. Lanham, E. C. Heath, E. W. Hardin, H.A. Briscoe, J.A. Chisholm, R.M. Womack, H.H. Walker, H.B. Barnes.

Master Masons – D.J. Anderson, T.H. Adams, J.F. Allday, B.F. Burtner, N.A. Brown, W.W. Bishop, T.W. Baily, J.T. Benbrook, J.T. Bailey, J.F. Black, W.A. Bunch, H. Bagley, J.E. Baugh, F. Clark, G.M. Curtis, , J.F. Corry, Ebb Carnes, L.L. Crawford, J. D. Cox, W.A. Curfman, L.H. Crump, C.W. Darr, W.B. Dowd, L.L. Darr, Roscoe Darr,

J.T. Evans, M.W. Evans, D.C. Fondren, R. Floyd Jr, E.D. Foree, J.F. Good, J.W. Glover, T.M. Gillespie, W.W. Hartman, A.R. Harvey, W.W. Hartman, M.L. Halford, A.W. Harvey, W. R. Harvey, Gus Hartman, T. D. Isbell, J.L. Jones, T.L. Keys, B.F. Keahey, A.C. Lock, A.E. Love, C.R. Love, E.M. Love, T.B. Lanham, W.L. Lawhorn, T.L. Lawhorn, G.R. Lemley, H.B. Lofland, J.R. Lofland, Joseph Moore, L.W. Mason, Olin Mason, W.L. Monroe, J.F. McCarter, J.F. McCristie, Hubert McCurry, J.W. McKnight, S.M. McPhall, A. M. McPherson, W.W. Neal, C.C. Newman, R.M. Payne, J.D. Remassa, R.A. Snead, B.F. Stofford, Paul Snow, T.H. Sullivan, J.R. Trotter, J.W. Teasley, G. F. Vernon, J.T. Vance, T.U. Wade, H.M. Wade, R. White, J.A. Wilkerson, H.W. Walker, J.E. Walker, L.W. Wilkinson, R.W. Wynne, B.H. Wisdom, J. H. Williams, J.H. Webster, Jacob Zoospan.

Entered Apprentices – J.M. Head, Ross Smith, Brue Hartman, R.M. Fender.

Deaths – T.W. Bailey.

On 23 August 1918, James entered the U.S. Army during World War I and he served as a physician (1st Lieutenant) in the 12th American Infirmary at the U.S. Army Training base at Camp McClellan, Alabama. He was discharged on 14 December 1918 and returned to Rockwall.

In 1920, J.L. Austin (46) and wife Lula (44) were living in the town of Rockwall. He is listed on the 1920 census as a Physician in General Practice. Their children Russell E. (19) and Mary L. (17) were teenagers and still living at home.

On 21 June 1922, James' son Russell Elliston Austin submitted his Petition for the Mysteries of Freemasonry to the East Trinity Lodge No. 157 and his father J.L. Austin witnessed Russell's signature on the petition. Russell stated his birth date was 31 May 1900 making him 22 years old and five additional lodge brothers signed his petition. He was listed as a Master Mason in the East Trinity Lodge records from 1923-1941.

In the 1930 census, James (56) and Lou (54) are living at their home on Kernodle Street in Rockwall. He is still a practicing medical doctor and both children, Russell and Mary, are both married. Daughter Mary married L.O. Thompson on 6 April 1926 in Madison, Texas. Their daughter Suzanne Thompson (3) is also listed on James Austin's 1930 census record. Sadly, Mary Thompson died from complications giving birth to Suzanne on 24 August 1928 in Kaufman County and she is buried in Rockwall County. Russell Austin married Mary Welch on 27 July 1929 in Missouri.

In 1940, James (66) and wife Lou (64) are still living in Rockwall on Kernodle Street. Their son Russell (39) is living in their household with his wife Mary (27) and their son Russell L. Austin (7). James and Lou's granddaughter Suzanne A. Thompson (13) is also listed in the James Austin household.

Sadly, Russell died on 30 November 1942 in Clay County, Indiana. Brother Russell Austin is buried in St. Louis, Missouri.

In 1943, James and his wife Lula moved to Angleton, Brazoria, Texas. They left Rockwall when James took employment as the resident physician at the Central Prison Farm #2, Sugarland, Fort Bend County, Texas.

Dr. James Launia Austin died from a heart condition on 24 May 1951 in Sugarland, Fort Bend, Texas. He was

78 years old and he is buried at the Rockwall Memorial Cemetery. James received a Veteran's Tombstone for his service in World War I. His wife Lula lived until 28 May 1965, aged 89 years. She died in the Greenville Hospital in Hunt County. She passed away from complications of a broken hip and she is buried at the Rockwall Cemetery.



Rockwall Memorial Cemetery

Compiled by Brother David L. Powell, East Trintiy Lodge No. 157

(Special thanks to my editor Barbara A. Powell)



From Labor to Refreshment



Sunday evening when you start mentally prepping yourself for the week ahead:



My daughter woke me around 11:50 last night. "Daddy," she whispered, tugging my shirt sleeve.

"Guess how old I'm going to be next month."

"I don't know, beauty," I said as I slipped on my glasses. "How old?"

She smiled and held up four fingers.

It is 7:30 now. My wife and I have been up with her for almost 8 hours. She still refuses to tell us where she got them.



Today, I got a call from a polite young chap claiming to be from Microsoft. "Hello sir, my name is Gupta and I'm calling from Microsoft. We have found a serious problem with your computer. It could be catastrophic for your data and online banking, but I can fix it for you..." "Oh, that's worrying," I interrupted.

"The thing is... I don't actually have a computer."

Silence.

"Oh, then it must be your laptop, sir?"

"Don't have one either, Gupta."

"An iPad? A tablet?"

"Nope. None of those." A long pause.

"As a matter of fact, Gupta... I don't even have a telephone."

The silence grew tense. Then he blurted out, "Ah, sir... now you are lying to me!"

I replied, "Well... you started it!"

**I wouldn't say that I
never exercise.
Occasionally my nose
runs**

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Owned by East Trinity Brother Dewayne Irwin,
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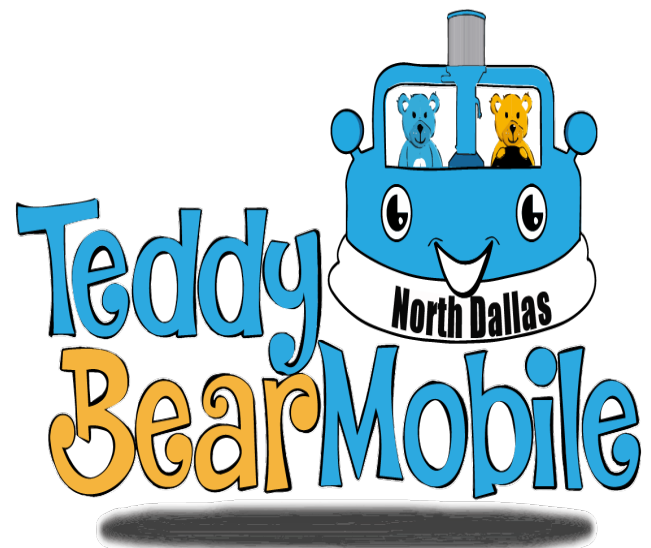
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Walk Ins Welcome!

Every time a brother gets a haircut at Yellow Jacket, just mention the Masons and they donate \$1 to East Trinity!!!!



Brother Jeff Bryan 214 232-9933



East Trinity Brother Geoffrey Lyons

