



The Trestle Board



MWSA

6th Masonic District in Texas

Volume 1, Number 4

April, 2017

FROM THE PRESIDENT.....

The month of April continues to be a very busy month for the District. Our new District Deputy Grand Master, Right Worshipful Spencer Mark Miche has been busy with his “official visits” and bringing greetings from the Most Worshipful Jerry Kirby, Masonic Grand Master of Texas. Right Worshipful Miche has only one official visit remaining and that Lodge is Iron Bluff. He will be making that visit at the stated meeting in May.

We would be remiss in our responsibilities if we did not mention that Right Worshipful Miche is the grandson of Right Worshipful Fred E. Allen, Past Grand Master of Texas in 1991. He is also the son of Lee Miche who is a Past District Deputy himself. This is at least three District Deputy Grand Masters in direct family lineage who have served the Grand Lodge of Texas. This is certainly an accomplishment that very few can claim.

The Statewide Open House will be held May 27, 2017 between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. The charitable programs are being planned so that an update on their successes can be documented for the Grand Master by the date of the Open House.

The District 6 MWSA had its fourth meeting in April. Brother Ken Kennedy delivered an excellent training program again this month. The training was an exemplification of the proper closing of the Master Mason Lodge. This training was especially good for those Masons going into the top three offices in the Lodge. It gave them an opportunity to see the Lodge closed in the Masters Degree according to the proper protocol according to the committee on work. A short lecture was also presented on the Lodge election process, qualifications, and time frames.

The District Instructor is grading openings, closings, and reception of DDGM’s during the official DDGM

visit and this will most likely provide some basis for development of training needs.

Current Masters are asked to encourage their members who are advancing, especially to the top three offices, to attend these type trainings as well as attend the Forums and to attend the Monday night training sessions in Daingerfield held by Brother Kennedy. It is important to remember that the Brothers who will be going into the Masters & Wardens positions must be determined proficient in the opening & closing of all four lodges and have completed the L.I.F.E. Program before they can be installed in these offices. The A.L.L. Program is highly recommended for completion at the same time as the L.I.F.E. program.

Several brothers from the area have attended Committee on Work Forums in Sulphur Springs & Greenville. These Forums are great for Certificate Examinations and give one an opportunity to see work done to specific standards. We have several of the brethren who have updated or received their certificates at these Forums this year. Those attending have an opportunity to ask questions that are on their minds. The one forum left in the area will be held on May 20, 2017 in New Boston.

We also have several Grand Master Conferences that have been attended by area Masons. These have proven informative and have given local masons an opportunity to discuss issues of mutual concern and has give the Most Worshipful Grand Master the opportunity to explain his program and goals for this year. The last Grand Masters Conferences in this area are in Paris on April 29, 2017; and Tyler on May 06, 2017.

There are numerous other activities taking place in the District and are covered in separate stories spread across the pages of this newsletter.

Our next MWSA meeting will be held on the **fourth Thursday, of May 2017** at the Old Union Community

Center. Refreshments will begin at 6:00 p.m. and the meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. We are looking forward to seeing everyone there. Bring a brother Mason who hasn't yet attended the meetings. At the next meeting, we will be discussing locating resources to bring the meeting some Masonic history lessons or programs of mutual concern to all our Lodges.

The MWSA Newsletter wants to print news from your Lodge or OES Chapter, but we need it reported to us so we can give the activities coverage. This would apply to happenings in the future that your Lodge would like to announce or reporting completed activities you would just like everybody to know about. You may contact me at 903/577-3233 or alvinrexmccgee@hotmail.com or Joe Reynolds, Newsletter Editor, at the "contact us" button that appears on the MWSA#6 website to report the news. We will gladly make announcements about degrees, fund raisers, special events and similar activities. We will not report the names of candidates until after the individual has received his Masters Degree, if a Mason, or has been initiated into the Order of the Eastern Star. If you choose to communicate by email make sure you also leave a good phone number so we can reach you in case we need to clear anything prior to publishing.

Let us remember our Brothers and Sisters who need our prayers, support and encouragement. We have many in our midst who have health related issues, suffered losses recently or simply need some companionship or a friendly smile. Each month we hear of several of our acquaintances who have fallen ill to one malady or another, lost a loved one, are no longer able to care of themselves and need home based services or nursing home services. Your friendship, support and encouragement is even more important during these trying times.

Rex McGee
President, MWSA 6th District

troops who were standing in formation waiting for the Southerners to stack arms and fold their flags. Suddenly a shifting of arms is heard. Gordon looked up with alarm. There was nothing to fear. General Joshua Chamberlain had ordered his troops to assume the position of "honor answering honor." Immediately, the Confederate troops snapped to attention and returned the honor. It was the first act to heal the wounds of a nation that had spent four years and 618,000 lives in civil war. That command of "honor answering honor" was ordered by a Mason.

Major General Joshua Chamberlain was a member of United Lodge #8, Brunswick, Maine. After the war, he became Governor of Maine from 1866-1871 and President of Bowdoin College from 1871-83

MWSA OFFICERS



President	Rex McGee	577-3233
Vice President	Rhett McCullough	767-2488
Secretary-Treasurer	Mark Munkres	235-9001
Chaplain	Jerry Rook	575-7577
Webmaster	Joe Reynolds	575-8791

Pittsburg Chapter # 381, Order of the Eastern Star, awards scholarships



Left to Right - Bill Guy, Worthy Patron; Camille Reynolds, Recipients; Diann Norton, Worthy Matron; Bailey Smith, Recipients; Beverly Sinclair, Associate Matron; Joe Reynolds Associate Patron; and Cathy Zachry, Secretary

MASONS DURING THE CIVIL WAR

The final act by a Mason in the Civil War

It was an April morning three days after General Robert E. Lee had surrendered to General U.S. Grant. The Southern troops, led by General John B. Gordon, a Mason, were marching in columns towards the Northern

Diann Norton, Worthy Matron, of Chapter # 381, Order of the Eastern Star in Pittsburg stated that the Chapter awarded two scholarships to local students on April 11, 2017 at a luncheon in their honor. The recipients, Camille Reynolds and Bailey Smith, will each receive a one-thousand-dollar scholarship. Scholarships are awarded by the Order of the Eastern Star Chapter yearly to deserving local students who plan on continuing their education.

The students were given an opportunity to discuss their future plans regarding their educational pursuits and aspirations. Both approached their future endeavors with youthful enthusiasm and a positive outlook on life. The families of both recipients attended the meeting and participated in the awarding of the Scholarships.

Ms. Norton stated the Scholarship program is one of several programs that the Order of the Eastern Star is involved in within the community, State & Nationally that benefits youth in our communities.

THIS MONTH'S RIDDLE

Crocodile

Q. Why did the crocodile refuse to eat Freemasons?

A. Because they would lodge in its throat.

Cross the Road

Q. Why did the Freemason cross the road?

A. He was following the landmarks of the Order.

Drawbridge

Q. What did the Freemason say when he tripped and fell off the drawbridge?

A. So moat it be.

Festive Board

Q. What did the Junior Warden say when the Steward was about to serve double helpings at the Festive Board.

A. Halve it and begin.

Finders Keepers

Q. Where do you find Freemasons?

A. It depends where you lost them.

THIS MONTH'S HUMOR

A lesson to be learned from typing the wrong email address!

A Welsh couple decided to go to Florida to thaw out during a particularly icy winter.

They planned to stay at the same hotel where they spent their honeymoon 20 years earlier.

Because of hectic schedules, it was difficult to coordinate their travel schedules.

So, the husband left Wales and flew to Florida on Thursday, with his wife flying down the following day.

The husband checked into the hotel. There was a computer in his room, so he decided to send an email to his wife. However, he accidentally left out one letter in her email address, and without realizing his error, sent the email.

Meanwhile, somewhere in England, a widow had just returned home from her husband's funeral. He was a Worshipful brother who was called to the Grand Lodge above following a heart attack.

The widow decided to check her email expecting messages from relatives and friends. After reading the first message, she screamed and fainted.

The widow's son rushed into the room, found his mother on the floor, and saw the computer screen which read:

To: My Loving Wife

Subject: I've Arrived

Date: October 16, 2016

I know you're surprised to hear from me. They have computers here now and you are allowed to send emails to your loved ones. I've just arrived and have been checked in. I see that everything has been prepared for your arrival tomorrow.

Looking forward to seeing you then! Hope your journey is as uneventful as mine was.

P.S. Sure is freaking hot down here!

THE MODERN COWAN

by Floren L. Quick

In Scotland, the operative Mason knew cowans to be ignorant builders who put stones together without mortar. They piled rough fieldstones into a wall without

hewing them true, or squaring them. They masqueraded as Masters, but they did not have the Word.

Now and again, today - fortunately not too often - we find a modern equivalent of the operative imposter. One such is the Mason who manages a place in an officer's line with little or no effect of his own to deserve it. With only that exertion that is necessary to maintain his place, he continues to advance in line until he receives the jewels and honours that he prizes so highly. But he does not know the Constitution, and he does not understand the traditions and dignity of the Craft. As a presiding officer, his vocal ability is more noteworthy than his executive ability; and when his term is ended, he is seldom seen until another honour or prize appears to be within his grasp.

He is a contemporary builder who works without the benefit of the mortar of real enthusiasm or accomplishments. His structure is liken unto the rough stone wall, having little beauty of value. He is the cowans of modern speculative Masonry.

He is to be pitied, for he is a Masonic failure. His honours are shallow. Bringing no interest to his position, he received little of the satisfaction and respect that belong to the real Master.

Masonry has failed to reach him with a clear understanding of those marks of true devotion which she has to offer. He never knows the opportunities that the Craft makes available to those who diligently seek them. He misses the opportunities that the Craft makes available to strive for a just and worthy cause. He misses the opportunity for continuing fellowship and friendship. He misses the opportunity for loyalty and devotion. He misses the opportunity for development of his executive, intellectual and oratorical abilities. And most of all, he misses the opportunity for service - to God - to his community - and to his fellow man.

These are the jewels that Masonry has to offer, but in his quest for position and honours, the modern cowan misses them. Like the operative cowan, he does not have the Word.

-reprinted from the Masonic Shimbun in the GLBC Bulletin, Nov. '79

Man's action are the picture book of his creeds. -Ralph Waldo Emerson

THE PROPER WAY TO WEAR A MASONIC RING

(Copied from *THE MONTANA MASON*, May 1936)

The following from Temple Topics (Illinois) is now being quoted with approval by other Masonic papers.

"What is the proper way to wear a Masonic ring? Should the points of the compass be toward or away from the body?"

"If you were hanging the American flag, would you put the stars down? The same holds true of the ring. Usually it is a gift, and has sentimental value for the wearer. It should look right side up to him. Rings are therefore worn with the points of the compass toward the wearer."

This subject is one on which Grand Lodges have made no regulation and popular opinion is divided. We must therefore reason from analogy. When the emblem of the square and compasses is displayed on a building, pennant, button, watch charm etc., universal custom requires the points of the compass point downward. When displayed on the Altar they point away from the Master. As the Master from his station views the compass from the Altar of his lodge, the points are from, not towards him. As the wearer of a compass watch charm views it, the points are down and away from his eyes. In a similar way as he views the emblem on his ring the points should be down or away from his eyes.

The square is the symbol of earthly, the compass of heavenly perfection. As a combined emblem, the ends of the square point up as a symbol of man's aspirations toward God; the points of the compass are down to represent heavenly qualities coming down from God to earth. Therefore it would seem that the proper way to wear a ring would be that in which its symbolism is best expressed; namely, that in which, when the hand is held in its usual position the points of the compass are towards the earth and away from the wearer's eyes.

Thus, it will be seen that our conclusion does not agree with the writer in Temple Topics. He truly says that in hanging an American flag we would not put the stars down, but in hanging a compass or a square and compass, he surely would put the points of the compass down. The same rule holds when worn as a ring or button or a watch charm; namely, they would be worn the same way with the points down. When so worn they

all serve the same purposes, and by no means the least of these purposes is to announce to the world the proud wearer is a Mason. -- reprinted by the Iowa Masonic Bulletin.

Mount Vernon Lodge holds Yearly Heroes Day Banquet

Mount Vernon Lodge # 691 held its annual Heroes Banquet on Friday, April 14, 2017 at the Mt. Vernon airport.

According to Kenneth Cupp, Worshipful Master of the local Lodge, the banquet was attended by two hundred plus guests, who enjoyed a BBQ type dinner and a short program honoring the Law Enforcement, Fire Departments, and EMT crews that support Franklin County. The Master of Ceremony for the program was Tom Shiels, Past Master of Mt. Vernon Lodge # 691.

The Community Builders Award, which is also awarded at the Heroes Day Banquet, was awarded to Kade Hohenberger who is the Manager of the local Brookshire's Store and is involved in numerous county organizations where he has proven to be a driving force in the community.

The Community Builder Award is given to recognize outstanding non-masons who have distinguished service to their community, local, state, or national governments or to their church or synagogue. The Lodge may select one recipient annually who has followed the same precepts, ideals and standards that have been established for Masonic behavior. Lodges are encouraged to select those citizens who, year in and year out, quietly and without fanfare, show their devotion to the community without the expectation of awards or honors.

The people honored at this banquet insure local residents a safe and secure place to live and raise their families as well as builds a progressive community providing services and jobs to residents.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



- May 1st** – Oasis Lodge #79 Training and Practice
- May 2nd** – David Elliott Lodge #364, Monthly Stated Meeting
- May 2nd** – Border Chapter #211, OES, Monthly Stated Meeting
- May 4th** – Frank Sexton Lodge #206, Monthly Stated Meeting
- May 6th** – Grand Master's Conferences in Tyler, Texas.
- May 8th** – Avery Chapter #252, OES, Monthly Stated Meeting
- May 8th** – Oasis Lodge #79 Training and Practice
- May 9th** – Iron Bluff Lodge #1376, Monthly Stated Meeting
- May 9th** – Pittsburg Chapter #381, OES, Monthly Stated Meeting
- May 11th** – Daingerfield Chapter #906, OES, Monthly Stated Meeting
- May 15th** – Oasis Lodge #79 Training and Practice
- May 16th** – Mt. Vernon Lodge #691, Monthly Stated Meeting
- May 16th** – Oasis Lodge #79, Monthly Stated Meeting
- May 16th** – Linden Chapter #576 OES, Monthly Stated Meeting
- May 16th** – Omaha Chapter #997 OES, Monthly Stated Meeting
- May 22nd** – New Boston Chapter #700 OES, Monthly Stated Meeting
- May 22nd** – Oasis Lodge #79 Training and Practice
- May 23rd** – Temple Lodge #70, Monthly Stated Meeting
- May 25th** – 6th District MWSA, Monthly Stated Meeting
- May 29th** – Oasis Lodge #79 Training and Practice

ANNUAL PANCAKE BREAKFAST

**David Elliott Lodge # 364
In Omaha, Texas**

Mark Munkres, Master of David Elliott Lodge # 364 in Omaha, Texas announced that its annual Pancake breakfast on Saturday, April 29th, 2017 was a great success and raised funds to support their Lodge Scholarship fund. The Lodge generally awards two scholarships to deserving students each year.

The Lodge wishes to thank everyone who came out to participate in the yearly Scholarship Fund drive and looks forward to seeing everyone at the next breakfast. The youth of our community is one of our greatest assets and we need to support them in reaching their educational goals. Remember---and investment in one of our students is an investment in the community.

Lodges and their Appendant Bodies support many activities in the local communities from Scholarship Programs, Medical Services for Children through the Shrine, Scottish Rite, & Knight Templar medical services programs, as well as supporting other local charities and organizations.

THIS MONTH'S QUESTION

Q – Is masonry a religion?

A – Basic Principles. Freemasonry is not a religion, nor is it a substitute for religion. It requires of its members a belief in God as part of the obligation of every responsible adult, but advocates no sectarian faith or practice. Masonic ceremonies include prayers, both traditional and extempore, to reaffirm each individual's dependence on God and to seek divine guidance. Freemasonry is open to men of any faith, but religion may not be discussed at Masonic meetings.

The Supreme Being. Masons believe that there is one God and that people employ many different ways to seek, and to express what they know of God. Masonry believes in religious freedom and that the relationship between the individual and God is personal, private, and sacred.

Volume of the Sacred Law. An open volume of the Sacred Law, "the rule and guide of life," is an essential part of every Masonic meeting. The Volume of the Sacred Law in the Judeo/Christian tradition is the Bible; to Freemasons of other faiths, it is the book held holy by them.

The Oath of Freemasonry. The obligations taken by Freemasons are sworn on the Volume of the Sacred Law. They are undertakings to follow the principles of Freemasonry and to keep confidential a Freemason's means of recognition. The much discussed "penalties," judicial remnants from an earlier era, are symbolic, not literal. They refer only to the pain any honest man should feel at the thought of violating his word.

Freemasonry Compared with Religion. Freemasonry lacks the basic elements of religion: (a) It has no dogma or theology, no wish or means to enforce religious orthodoxy. (b) It offers no sacraments. (c) It does not claim to lead to salvation by works, by secret knowledge, or by any other means. The secrets of

Freemasonry are concerned with modes of recognition, not with the means of salvation.

Freemasonry Supports Religion. Freemasonry is far from indifferent toward religion. Without interfering in religious practice, it expects each member to follow his own faith and to place his Duty to God above all other duties. Its moral teachings are acceptable to all religions.

*Prepared by the Masonic Information Center(12/93)
Revised (9/98)*

Mount Vernon Lodge # 691 confers Masters Degree *by Rex McGee*

Kenneth Cupp, Worshipful Master and Ronnie Moore, PM, Degree coordinator in Mt. Vernon Masonic Lodge # 691 announced a Masters Degree conferred for one of its members on Saturday, April 15, 2017 at the Mt. Vernon Masonic Lodge. Mt. Vernon Lodge's newest Master Mason is Mark E. Hymer, local businessman and active member in community affairs.

Those present were treated to BBQ and the trimmings and then we adjourned to the Lodge room where we observed an excellent degree on our newest master mason.

The degree was conferred by J.R. Duckworth, PM of Mt. Vernon Lodge # 691, currently living in Illinois, and the lecture was given by Jim Cornett, PM of Linden Lodge # 192. There were representatives from six area Lodges attending the degree with many of them participating in the degree.

Texas currently has about 70,000 Master Masons in 800 plus Lodges with Mt. Vernon Lodge # 691 claiming one hundred of that number.

I thoroughly believe in a universal education for both men and women; but I believe a knowledge of the Bible without a college course is more valuable than a college course without the Bible

William Lyon Phelps

OPEN HOUSE

All Masonic Lodges in the State of Texas will hold an Open House on Saturday, May 27th from 10:00 am until 4:00 P.M.

The purpose of this Open House is to introduce the community to our Lodges, its members and the many community activities the Lodge participates in as a community partner. We will have member's present from the Masonic Lodge, Scottish Rite, Knight Templars, the Shriners and the Order of the Eastern Star in many of the Lodges. The members of these Masonic sponsored organizations will be appearing in organizational regalia and have information about their organizations and many of the other organizations they support such as the Shriners Hospitals for Crippled Children & Burn Center, Knight Templar Eye Foundation, Scottish Rite Hospital, Masonic home for the Aged, Grand Lodge Texas School tooth program, Order of De Molay for Boys & the Order of the Rainbows for Girls.

You can visit one of our local lodges at the following:

Daingerfield

Oasis Lodge #79

South Cramer St., Daingerfield, Texas

Lone Star

Iron Bluff Lodge #1376

240 N. Main, Lone Star, Texas

Mount Pleasant

Temple Lodge #70

2800 N. Jefferson, Mt. Pleasant, Texas

Mount Vernon, Texas

Mt. Vernon Lodge #691

219 Service Road, I-30 Mt. Vernon

Omaha

David Elliott Lodge #364

202 Big League Bend, Omaha, Texas

Pittsburg

Frank Sexton Lodge #206

105 North Avenue, Pittsburg, Texas

Come and enjoy a tour of our Lodge building, talk to our members and enjoy time with your friends and neighbors. Light refreshments will be served for the Open House.

There are parts of a ship which taken by themselves would sink. The engine would sink. The propeller would sink. But when the parts of a ship are built

together, they float. So with the events of my life. Some have been tragic. Some have been happy. But when they are built together, they form a craft that floats and is going places. And I am comforted. -Ralph W. Sockman

FRANK SEXTON LODGE AWARDS
MIRABEAU B. LAMAR MEDAL



Ms. Maudie Watson, with Lamar Medal around neck, cutting cake for her friends.

Frank Sexton Lodge # 206 of Pittsburg Texas honored Ms. Maudie Watkins for her dedicated years of service to the schools and children of Camp County on Saturday April 01, 2017. Her years of dedicated service to the School system has seen her touch the lives of many of our children. She has dedicated her life to improving the lives of all citizens in the community. The number of lives she has touched in one manner or another cannot be quantified by a mere count.

The Mirabeau B. Lamar Award of Excellence is awarded to students and educators in recognition of outstanding personal achievements, citizenship, community service, overcoming adversities and community leadership.

Ms. Maudie Watkins is certainly one of the above described individuals. She is a very inspiring person and gave thanks to her family, the children and the community she has served for many years. Ms. Watson described her love for the community that assisted her and her family through her younger years after being burned very badly and the years afterward on her path to recovery from the devastating injuries. She talked

about the adversities she met and the community that was there to help her. She explained how this time in her life gave her the strength to reach out and become a person who wants to help other people. Ms. Watkins is truly an outstanding leader and a proud example of faith through actions in our community. Surrounded by friends she was honored as a beloved leader of the community who has dedicated her adult life to helping and loving others.

After the ceremony, Ms. Watson met with friends, family and Masons of Frank Sexton Lodge for refreshments and fellowship.

Election of Lodge Officers for 2017

The Yearly election of Officers for the ensuing year is quickly approaching. There are a few Articles of Masonic Law that pertain to the election process as a whole that should be reviewed by the Lodge prior to each election to insure that all candidates meet the qualifications, the voting process is handled appropriately and then the installation is carried out according to defined regulations. These Articles are as listed below.

- ARTICLE 292—Time of Election
- ARTICLE 290—Method of Voting
- ARTICLE 276—Qualifications
- ARTICLE 276a—Additional qualifications
- ARTICLE 291—Qualifications for Office
- ARTICLE 297a—Requirements for installation as Worshipful Master or Warden
- ARTICLE 295—Who may Install
- ARTICLE 296—All Officers installed in person
- ARTICLE 297--No installation while charges pending
- ARTICLE 298—Time of Installation
- ARTICLE 306—All Officers not required to be installed at same time.

Last month we reported that fourteen Shrine Club members participated in the International House of Pancakes Annual Pancake Day. The Northeast Texas Shrine Club provided members to handle the Shriner's booths at the IHOP's Restaurant in Mt. Pleasant and Sulphur Springs. We are waiting on the totaling of all donations to determine the amounts donated at these two locations.

Jerry Rook, Vice-president of the Northeast Texas Shrine Club has arranged for a program at the stated meeting in May by Christian Berg, Public Relations Officer for the Shriner's Hospital in Shreveport. This program will discuss the history & services of the Shrine Hospital in Shreveport and the Shrine Hospital System, as a whole.

Vice-president Rook is also putting together a field trip to the Shriner's Hospital in Shreveport for members of the Northeast Texas Shrine Club around the month of May, 2017. Anyone desiring information on this trip may call Noble Rook at 903/575-7577.

Members approved the Secretary sending a check in the amount of \$240.00 to Shrine International for Crippled Children's Hospitals.

The Shrine Club is trying to get a firm date to have a Shrine initiation for some individuals seeking Shrine membership. Hopefully we will get a firm date and have enough prospects to insure the initiation happens.

The Northeast Texas Shrine Club will have its next stated meeting at 6:30 p.m. on May 16, 2017 at Hershel's Restaurant in Mt. Pleasant, Texas. You need not be a member to attend. Bring your wife or a friend as we always enjoy having visitors.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

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SHRINER NEWS

By Rex McGee



Opinions expressed by individual writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect official positions of the MSA Association of the 6th Masonic District.

Letters and articles may be submitted to:
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(Cutoff for articles is 15th of the month)