



# The Trestle Board



MWSA

6<sup>th</sup> Masonic District in Texas

Volume 1, Number 5

May, 2017

## FROM THE PRESIDENT.....

The month of May has proven to be a very busy month for the District. Our District Deputy Grand Master, Right Worshipful Spencer Mark Miche has concluded his "official visits". Worshipful Masters are extremely busy planning for the end of their year and trying to get their programs completed within their program year as well as trying to adhere to specific goals of the Grand Master

The Statewide Open House was held May 27, 2017 between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. We have not received a complete report of the success of this endeavor and consequently are not able to bring the data to your attention. Most Worshipful Masters and members I discussed this with are of the opinion that two Open Houses within a year is simply one Open House too many. Two Open Houses compete with local objectives and diminishes the Local Lodge's ability to meet objectives in local planning and execution of their local programs.

District Masons continue to attend the area Grand Masters Conference and Committee on Work Forums. The Grand Masters Conferences appear to be very lightly attended except for the Grand Masters entourage. In the Grand Masters Conference I attended the Grand Master conducted a short but interesting program. The Committee on Work Forums are interesting and educational for all those in attendance.

Current Masters are asked to encourage their members who are advancing, especially to the top three offices, to 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 and 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 unless they are exempt by virtue of being a Past Master. The number of advancing members has continued to increase at the Daingerfield practice on Monday nights with significant improvement seen by participating members.

Brother Kennedy has been delivering related training needed for those members who will ascending into line positions on a regular basis. In addition, in May we started Place and Task training in our MWSA meetings to insure that all officers have a chance to be trained prior to or early into their year of service in their place positions. All brothers in attendance are being trained on such issues as balloting and the reception of Grand Officers. Other specific issues of interest are currently on the list to be presented in upcoming meetings. Brother Bill Guy brought an interesting lesson on Grand Lodge Law as it relates to protests, voting and similar subjects. Some of our older and more knowledgeable Masons were scratching their heads during the question period. Brother Ken brought a training session on the Junior Deacon position. He pointed out that the Junior Deacon's position is not a minor position as many may mistakenly believe. Brother Bill and Brother Ken thank you for the excellent jobs you do in the service of Masonry.

The MWSA has been working on the concept of establishing a training program for line officers. This concept, which is commonly called a "*Line Officers Academy*" has been utilized in several jurisdictions around the country and has proven beneficial in meeting the needs of those individuals promoted into positions on the Line. As our Fraternity ages and it becomes common place for members to jump into the line with less & less tenure and experience this is an excellent way of delivering needed training and insuring the Line Officers have the skills required to perform their jobs. It is a proven fact that proficiency creates confidence

and confidence creates a consistent delivery in performing required tasks in an appropriate manner.

The following explanation will communicate some of the plans, activities and goals of this program.

**Plans:** What we want to do.

- The MWSA desires to utilize Certificate people, past District Deputy's, other experienced & knowledgeable brothers to present training modules and develop upcoming leaders of the Lodges. At the MWSA meeting on May 25, 2017 we had at least eight past District Deputies, past District Instructors, and Certificate people to volunteer as instructors for the Line Officers Academy. This will be a great start and should help the quality of Line staff coming in the next few years.
- The MWSA plans on having an established monthly date for said training that will allow members to plan their overall work loads.
- The MWSA plans on putting out a yearly calendar so that the training will be known in advance and will cover those tasks needed by a member to open & close Lodges as well as conduct its business.

**Activities:** How do we accomplish the plans? By training and hands on experience through comprehensive lesson planning and exercises. The lesson plans shall contain the following items:

- Training on & experience in opening & closing all four Lodges.
- Handling business during business meetings along with establishing or utilizing the Order of Business methodology.
- How to handle petitions, applications for transfer, etc.
- How to receive the DDGM & other GL Officers
- How to handle activities and decisions related to balloting
- How to develop budgets & how to utilize budgets.
- How to identify the appropriate administrative matters of the Lodge and insure they are appropriately handled.

*Some of the training may be delivered at MWSA meetings, practice sessions or local workshops.*

**What are some of the obvious goals?:**

- Developing members who can step into a position and perform adequately due to training & experience in the academy. They will have the training needed and the hands on experience to allow them to step into the position with adequate skills and knowledge to confidently perform their tasks.
- Hopes that their success will inspire the members to want to pass on their knowledge and experience.
- Having all attendees able to be certified by the District Instructor as to their ability to open & close the Lodge in an acceptable manner.
- Have MWSA provide a Successful Completion certificate for each graduate.

To this end, the District 6 MWSA will be conducting a work shop on the process of opening and closing all four Lodges on June 03, 2017 at the Frank Sexton Lodge in Pittsburg beginning at 8:00 a.m. and lasting until the training is complete. The MWSA will provide donuts and drinks.

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 June 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

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 [alvinrexmcee@hotmail.com](mailto:alvinrexmcee@hotmail.com) or Joe Reynolds, Newsletter Editor, at the "**contact us**" button that appears on the MWSA#6 website to report the news. 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.

Our web site is [mwsa6.org](http://mwsa6.org).

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## MASONS DURING THE CIVIL WAR

Perhaps the best example of the ties of brotherhood which occurred on the battlefield at Gettysburg. This battle, the turning point of the War, saw 93,000 Federal troops doing battle with 71,000 Confederates. Of those numbers, more than 35,000 were killed or wounded in the three days of fighting from July 1 to July 3, 1863. Of the men who fought, 17,930 were Freemasons, including the roughly 5,600 who became casualties.

One of the most famous events and one that I have mentioned earlier that occurred at Gettysburg was the huge Confederate infantry push known as Pickett's Charge. On July 3, Pickett (a member of Dove Lodge #51, Richmond, Va) led nearly 12,000 men on a long rush across open fields towards the center of the Union line on Cemetery Ridge. It has been called the last and greatest infantry charge in military history.

One of the men leading that charge was Brigadier General Lewis Addison Armistead, CSA. He was a member of Alexandria-Washington Masonic Lodge #22 in Alexandria. Originally from North Carolina, he had attended West Point, and fought with the US Army for a number of years before resigning his commission to fight for the Confederacy. During that time, he had occasion to serve with now Major General Winfield Scott Hancock, USA (Charity Lodge #190, Norristown, Pa.) while both men were in the west. The two had become good friends. However, with Armistead's resignation, it had been nearly two and a half years since the two men had had any contact. Until Gettysburg, that is.

It was Hancock who had taken command of the fragmented Union troops on Cemetery Ridge on July 1, and organized them into a strong front that had withstood three days of pounding from the Confederate guns. And it was his position, in the center of the Union line, that was the focus of Pickett's Charge. General Armistead led his men and vaulted the stone wall, yelled "give them cold steel" and headed for the cannons that had until recently been firing on his men.

As he laid his hand on one of the guns of the 4th US Artillery, the 69th Pennsylvania Infantry fired upon the gray coated General and the men who had followed him. Many went down including Armistead. He was heard to cry for help "as the son of a widow." Colonel Rawley

W. Martin of the 53rd Virginia lay nearby and witnessed as some of the men of the 69th Penna. Rose up and came to Armistead's aid. Captain Henry H. Bingham (Chartiers Lodge #297, Canonsburg, Pa.) physician and Mason, was brought to assist Armistead. Armistead inquired of his friend and Masonic Brother General Winfield Scott. Learning that Hancock had also been wounded, he entrusted to Bingham his Masonic watch and personal papers to give to his friend and Brother General Hancock. Two days later Armistead died in a Union hospital on the Spangler farm of his wounds.

Bingham survived the war and in fact won a Congressional Medal of Honor in 1867. He retired in 1867 and went on to become a member of the United States Congress where he served for 33 years. He died in 1812 at the age of 70.

General Hancock survived his wounds though it was a long time until he returned to the Army. He later commanded the Department of the East of the United States Army and died in 1886 still in command. In 1880, he had lost an attempt for the United States Presidency to James Garfield.

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## 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

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## THIS MONTH'S RIDDLE

### **Freemason or Not?**

Q. When is a Freemason not a Freemason?

A. When advancing to the East in the Second Degree, he turns into a winding staircase.

### **Freeway**

Q. How are freeways and Freemasonry alike?

A. They both provide a pathway to where you want to go.

**Grand Lodge Above No.1**

Q. Why can't Brethren working in Antarctica pass to the Grand Lodge Above?

A. Because they're not dead.

### **Grand Lodge Above No.2**

Q. Why couldn't the absent-minded Brother enter the Grand Lodge Above?

A. Because he forgot to bring his regalia.

### **Hiram and the Sheriff**

Q. What do Hiram Abiff and Gary Cooper have in common?

A. They both faced murderous ruffians at high noon.

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## **MASONIC ETIQUETTE**

*by R. W. Alfonso Serrano*

*Aurora Grata-Day Star Lodge No. 647, New York*

The following article was written by a Brother from the jurisdiction of New York. As always when publishing articles and research we caution one to read the information found within as a method of expanding the mind, introducing new ideas, learning of differences within the jurisdictions as well as giving one some fertile ground for thought growth and evaluation. Remember that the thoughts and actions expressed within the Article may or may not be the same as that of your jurisdiction. There are several good "Masonic Etiquette articles". They all vary in some of the actions, courtesies & traditions. However, they are all similar that they teach that respect, courtesy, & tradition are the hallmarks to good Lodge Decorum. Remember that these articles are meant to bring new ideas to your mind and not to be confused with or subrogating our jurisdiction's Laws, policies, regulations, courtesies & traditions.

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The Masonic Fraternity exists in today world as the oldest existing fraternity in the world. It shares the fraternal stage with many other different and similar organizations such as the Loyal Order of The Moose, The Elks, The Knights of Columbus, The International Order of Odd Fellows, The Fraternal Order of The Eagles, The Mechanics, and the Fraternal Order of Foresters to name a few. The one thing that sets us apart from most if not all of these organizations is our Ritual and our tradition both written and spoken. One of the most important aspects of our traditional history is our Masonic Etiquette.

Masonic Etiquette belongs to the empire of good manners, together with certain concepts peculiar to Freemasonry. We all should practice etiquette because of its power to help maintain harmony. It is a form of

courtesy to the individual members and a manifestation of respect to the Craft. Harmony is the first law of the Lodge and the Worshipful Master of his Brethren demands it when he declares the Lodge open. " I now declare the Lodge duly opened and in order for business, at the same time forbidding any idle, immoral or other un-Masonic conduct where by the Harmony of the same may be disturbed".

The dictionary defines Etiquette as follows: "The forms and practices prescribed by social convention or by authority, or, the established rule of procedure and ceremony in a court or in any official or other body". I am a believer in our standard works and lectures, our constitution and our etiquette. This sets us apart from other organizations. Though there are Masons today who would look to doing away with certain parts of the ritual, such as the Middle Chamber Lecture, or how we enter a Lodge room. "I recently read a suggestion by a Mason who is an AGL that we should do away with approaching the altar when coming into or leaving a Lodge after it has been opened and saluting the Sr. Warden when one need to leave the Lodge room during degree work". This is the kind of thinking that cheapens the Fraternity and I expect that the Brothers of this Lodge would strive to execute the proper Masonic Etiquette due not only to the Lodge itself but also to his Lodge Brothers. I know that many of us have seen members act un-Masonically toward another Brother. That is because we are human and as humans we will constantly make mistakes. Still we must strive to build our temples and seek perfection. One avenue that can be used to achieve this goal is through respect or etiquette. Remember to subdue your passions and improve yourself in Masonry is probably the most difficult tasks as Masons we are obligated to perform. I particularly direct this essay to my newly raised Brethren, the most un-nerving thing for me to see is a Past Master or Past Grand Lodge Officer address the Worshipful Master while he remains seated and not on the sign of fidelity. How can we fault our newly raised Masons who see this un-courteous behavior and repeat the same thinking that it is the norm. To the newly raised Brother should you make this mistake and are corrected by another Brother do not be distracted by his zeal for this Brother practices Masonic Etiquette. Brother Ralph Waldo Emerson once said, " if good manners were lost, it would be necessary for the next gentleman to rediscover them". This applies in full force to Masonic Etiquette; without it our Fraternity would be impossible.

Where a group of Masons act as a unit, as in a Lodge Communication, etiquette takes the form of proper decorum. Loud talk, restless moving about, laughter,

smoking, flippancy, irreverence toward the Worshipful Master and other constituted officers of the Lodge, passing between the Altar and the East, omission of the sign of fidelity, giving no heed to the business at hand, improper entering and leaving. No man needs to consult a book of etiquette in order to accept the fact that such indecorous behavior is dangerous to the harmony of the Lodge. It is in such an atmosphere that ill will and hard feelings, not to mention the more serious menace of splits and feuds, are most likely to take root to the great danger of the Craft. A worshipful Master who permits the intrusion of such indecorum is not faithful to the duties of his office.

The following are what I consider some of the important rule of etiquette, which you should commit to memory Addressing the Chair or Worshipful Master: The rules of order in Freemasonry do not permit discussion, during a communication, among the Brethren. The Brother who has anything to say to the Lodge, whether it be to enter discussion or to make or second a motion, must rise to his feet, give the sign, wait to be recognized by the Master, speak directly to the Master. He must also remain on the sign of Fidelity until seated.

Altar: No Brother shall pass between the Altar and the East while the Lodge is at Labor, except when required to do so by ritualistic performance. The Great Lights are the particular responsibility of the Worshipful Master; no Brother should ever obscure his view of them.

Anteroom: As soon as a Brother enters a Masonic hall to attend a Communication he comes under the sway of Masonic Etiquette. If he is late, he should not indulge in loud talking that may be heard in the Lodge. His demeanor toward other Brethren, whom he may meet there, should be courteous and respectful—there as well as elsewhere, Masonry does not give any man, license to take personal liberties with another! This is especially true if any candidates are present are present waiting their call to the preparation room; to give the impression that vulgar conduct, levity, practical joking, or other forms of disrespect are countenanced by the Craft as a misrepresentation of the Lodge.

Apron: When wearing clothing that would conceal the apron, always wear the apron on the outside of the garment, except when wearing a formal cut-away (tails). A Grand Lodge Officer should always wear the apron of his office. Not only to pay proper respect to the Lodge or Grand Lodge, but also as a means to identify the office he holds or the highest office held, except when filling an office in the advancing line of Lodge Officers. At Masonic Memorial Services, all Lodge Officers and

Brethren, regardless of station shall be clothed in white aprons.

Ballot: The Grand Lodge Constitutions make discussion of the ballot a Masonic Offense. Except for the Holy Bible, the ballot is the most sacred thing in the Lodge. Every Mason owes to his Lodge the duty of protecting it against poor material, and every Mason owes to every petitioner a fair ballot, which is the only protection a petitioner has against unfair discrimination and unreasonable prejudice.

"Brother" is a title: In the usages of Freemasonry, "Brother" is neither a sentimental nor familiar form of address but is a title—as much so as Worshipful, Very Worshipful, Right Worshipful and Most Worshipful, and must always be used as such. A man does not attend a Lodge Communication in his capacity as a private individual; he is not Joe, or Bill, or John. He is there in his capacity as Master Mason, and for this reason, one should refer to "John Doe" as "Brother Doe" in the same literal sense as any other officer in Lodge or Grand Lodge.

Discussion in Lodge: Many Lodge proposals are decided by ballot because the business of Masonry is so democratically managed. The discussion of such proposals and business in Lodge has a large importance and must be safeguarded lest it be corrupted into argument or degenerate into a conflict of personalities; in other word, discussion also has its etiquette. Etiquette for the Fraternity is set forth with great weight and feeling in the old charges found in our constitutions. Regulations governing discussion in Grand Lodge are prescribed in the Rules of Order, printed with the Constitutions; regulations for discussion in Lodge are imbedded here and there in the Constitutions, are stated in Lodge By-laws, and elsewhere. They all belong to a prescribed mode of conduct defined as Masonic Etiquette, especially in our discussions. There are three great prohibitions in all Masonic discussions: All sectarian discussion, all argument or statement pro or con as to the merits of politics, of any given religion or theological creed, of racial questions, of private business, or of any other non-Masonic subject by which men are divided into classes, feuds, schisms, or are opposed on sectarian issues, is at all times forbidden. It is strictly forbidden to discuss a petitioner (other than to read his petition and indicate whether the report of the investigating Committee is favorable or un-favorable), and for a Mason to reveal how he has voted, or in any way to seek to persuade members to vote one way or another. All offensive personal remarks, all expressions of bitterness or ill will and all or any slurs upon the

Lodge or its Officers, Grand Lodge or its Officers, and the Fraternity itself, and all flippant, unseemly, or discourteous remarks addressed to the Lodge or to its officers, are condemned alike by the principals of common courtesy and etiquette and by the disciplinary laws of the Craft.

Dress (Attire): The matter of attire depends entirely upon circumstances and is a point Grand Lodge leaves to each constituent Lodge to decide, though much may be said in favor of formal attire, since it is a mark of respect to the Fraternity. One thing is certain: if any of the officers are required to wear formal attire, all of the officers should wear it without exception; and if he and his colleagues wear it, the Worshipful master should use a hat to correspond—not a soft hat, a straw hat, or cap. The members will dress according to private taste—normally a jacket with tie—and it is proper that they enter the Lodge room with apron properly arranged beforehand, and any other regalia, jewels etc., in due order. There is a philosophy in dress, as in so many other things, and the dress proper to Masonic occasion is no exception. Its principle is good taste; its practice is to wear such attire as a show of respect to the Brotherhood and expresses the dignity of Masonry.

In closing I want to pass on a story I heard while attending one of the Deputy Grand Master's Task Force Committee meetings, on the subject of pride one of the members recalled an incident that happened one Sunday while attending Mass. The priest announced that right after the Mass the local Knights of Columbus were going to have their public installation of officers. His curiosity was flamed and he stayed behind to observe the installation and compare it to a Masonic Installation of Officers. To his surprise he was the only one who stayed behind to observe the installation. To his greater shock he witnessed Council officers turning out for a public installation in tee shirts, shorts and sneakers. They had no idea of what the floor work was supposed to be and the actual installation itself seemed to be ad-lib. After the presentation, the parish priest who knew him to be a Freemason asked him "I hope you Masons have it more together than the K. of C." of which he assured him that we most certainly did. This is a serious example of pride. Would you turn out as an officer for a public installation in a tee shirt, shorts and sneakers? Could the reason that no one stayed behind to see the installation be that they have previously seen it and saw no pride in this organization? Masonic Etiquette instills pride, yet pride is something that you have to have within, because if you have pride in this Fraternity it shows without.

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## THIS MONTH'S HUMOR

Jed Murphy, who had been working hard all day on his farm, suddenly remembered that he was scheduled to be initiated at a small rural lodge. Being already quite late in the day, he had no time to go home and change clothes. Rushing as fast as he could, he arrived at the lodge where another candidate was sitting on a bench outside the building waiting to receive his EA degree (the lodge building was very small requiring candidates to wait seated on the bench until the brethren were ready for them.) Jed knew the other fellow as a used car salesman.

After a few minutes, two men came out and Jed was chosen to go first, leaving the car salesman to wait his turn.

When Jed was alone in the preparation room (which incidentally was on the second floor directly over the bench outside), after being instructed how to prepare himself, he suddenly remembered that earlier in the day he had been castrating hogs on his farm and had forgotten about the testicles in his pocket that he had planned to feed his dogs.

Frantically, he raised the small window of the preparation room, tossing the hog balls out.

Later, when they came out to get the next candidate, he was gone! Nobody ever saw him again!

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS



**June 1<sup>st</sup>** – Frank Sexton Lodge #206 , Monthly Stated Meeting

**June 2<sup>nd</sup>** – Oasis Lodge #79 , Training and Practice Session

**June 3<sup>rd</sup>** – Border Chapter #211, OES , Open Installation of New Officers, 2:00

**June 3<sup>rd</sup>** – New Boston Chapter #700, OES , Open Installation of New Officers, 10:00/11:00

**June 5<sup>th</sup>** – Temple Lodge #70, Two (2) Fellow Craft Degrees, starts at 6:00 p.m.

**June 6<sup>th</sup>** – David Elliott Lodge #364 , Monthly Stated Meeting

**June 6<sup>th</sup>** – Border Chapter #211, OES , Monthly Stated Meeting

**June 8<sup>th</sup>** – Daingerfield Chapter #906, OES , Closed Installation of New Officers, 6:30/7:30

**June 12<sup>th</sup>** – Avery Chapter #252, OES , Closed Installation of New Officers, 6:30/7:30

**June 12<sup>th</sup>** – Oasis Lodge #79 , Training and Practice Session

**June 13<sup>th</sup>** – Iron Bluff Lodge #1376 , Monthly Stated Meeting

**June 13<sup>th</sup>** – Pittsburg Chapter #381, OES , Monthly Stated Meeting

**June 16<sup>th</sup>** – Omaha Chapter #997, OES , Open Installation of New Officers, 6:00/7:00

**June 17<sup>th</sup>** – Linden Chapter #576, OES , Open Installation of New Officers, 6:30/7:30

**June 17<sup>th</sup>** – Temple Lodge #70, Open Awards Presentation starting at 6:00 p.m.

**June 19<sup>th</sup>** – Oasis Lodge #79 , Training and Practice Session

**June 20<sup>th</sup>** – Mt. Vernon Lodge #691 , Monthly Stated Meeting

**June 20<sup>th</sup>** – Oasis Lodge #79 , Monthly Stated Meeting

**June 20<sup>th</sup>** – Linden Chapter #576, OES , Monthly Stated Meeting

**June 20<sup>th</sup>** – Omaha Chapter #997, OES , Monthly Stated Meeting

**June 22<sup>nd</sup>** – 6th District MWSA , Monthly Stated Meeting

**June 23<sup>rd</sup>** – Pittsburg Chapter #381, OES , Open Installation of New Officers, 6:00/7:00

**June 24<sup>th</sup>** – Temple Lodge #70, Open Installation of New Officers for 2017-2018, 6:00 p.m.

**June 26<sup>th</sup>** – New Boston Chapter #700, OES , Monthly Stated Meeting

**June 26<sup>th</sup>** – Oasis Lodge #79 , Training and Practice Session

**June 27<sup>th</sup>** – Temple Lodge #70 , Monthly Stated Meeting

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### **Temple Lodge # 70 Announces Installation of 2017-2018 Officers.**

Temple Lodge # 70 of Mt. Pleasant will hold its installation of Officers at the Lodge at 2800 North Jefferson Street on June 24, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.

The following members will be installed as Officers for the ensuing year.

Worshipful Master---Jacob Blue  
Senior Warden---Gary Oliver  
Junior Warden---David Davey

Treasurer---Kevin Summerlin

Secretary---Bill Guy

Chaplain---Kerry Wooten

Senior Deacon---Jeff Parchman

Junior Deacon---Jeff Turner

Senior Steward---Rex McGee

Junior Steward---Larry “Joe” Reynolds

Marshall---Buddy Blue

Master of Ceremonies---Johnny Thomas

Tiler---Dwain Fortenberry

The Installing Officer will be Brother Bill Guy and the Installing Marshall will be Brother Buddy Blue, father of the incoming Worshipful Master. Both of these Installing Officers have served as Worshipful Master of Temple Lodge # 70.

After the installation ceremony the new Officers, masons and guests will retire to the dining room for Cake, Coffee, and Punch.

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### **Mount Vernon Lodge # 691 has luncheon and award program for Saltillo and Mt. Vernon Seniors**

*by Rex McGee*

Kenneth Cupp, Worshipful Master of Mount Vernon Lodge # 691 announced the yearly program honoring all graduating seniors from Saltillo High School & Mt. Vernon High School. The graduating Seniors came to the Lodge for a luncheon in their honor on May 18, 2017. Brother Cupp stated that the Lodge fed a total of 119 students, six parents, two teachers and ten Masons.

In addition to the meals two students from Saltillo High School and two students from Mt. Vernon High School were awarded the prestigious Mirabeau B. Lamar Award. 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. Each of these students displayed leadership in their schools whether it was in academics, sports, community service or other acts of leadership.

The students had a good meal and had a chance to talk to the Masons about their future plans and gather for a few pictures of the activities taking place on this day. Brother Cupp states that the Lodge always looks forward to meeting the new group of graduating Seniors and seeing them at the point where they will be started a new journey into the future.

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## **THE BOTTOM LINE**

*Author Unknown*

FACE IT, nobody owes you a living. What you achieve, or fail to achieve in your lifetime is directly related to what you do or fail to do. No one chooses his parent or childhood, but you can choose your own direction. Everyone has problems and obstacles to overcome, but that too is relative to each individual. **NOTHING IS CARVED IN STONE!**

You can change anything in your life if you want to badly enough. Excuses are for losers! Those who take responsibility for their actions are the real winners in life. Winners meet life challenges head on knowing there are no guarantees, and give it all they've got and never think it's too late or too early to begin.

Time plays no favorites and will pass whether you act or not take control of your LIFE dare to Dream and take risks..... Compete!

If you aren't willing to work for your goals Don't expect others to.

**BELIEVE IN YOURSELF!**

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Real joy comes not from ease or riches or from the praise of men, but from doing something worth while. - *Wilfred T. Grenfell*

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### **Order of the Eastern Star Chapters plan June Installations of Officers**

*by Rex McGee*

Everyone should be getting ready for the installation in each of the Order of the Eastern Star Chapters. Be prepared to attend as many of the installations as possible and support the incoming Worthy Matrons and Worthy Patrons. From the looks of it we only have one individual out of the whole bunch that is not yet a Past Matron or Patron. Joe Reynolds will be the new kid on the block for this year. Everyone needs to show up and support Joe in his first year as Worthy Patron and also his first year as Worshipful Master. He will be installed as Worshipful Master in Frank Sexton Lodge # 206 in Pittsburg on July 15, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. I don't think he realizes it yet, but he is going to need support & advice this year.

Chapter	Date	Open or Closed	Time	Worthy Matron	Worthy Patron
New Boston # 700	Saturday June 3	Open	10:00-meal 11:00 a.m.	Stephenia Myrick	David Myrick
Border #211	Saturday June 3	Open	2:00 p.m.	Cathy McEntire	Wayne McEntire
Daingerfield #906	Thursday June 8	Closed	6:30-meal 7:30 p.m.	Carole McGee	Rex McGee
Avery #252	Monday June 12	Closed	6:30-meal 7:30 p.m.	Molly Willey	Doyle Sykes
Omaha #997	Friday June 16	Open	6:00-meal 7:00 p.m.	Deborah Abernathy	Jerome Elder
Linden #576	Saturday June 17	Open	6:30-meal 7:30 p.m.	Peggy McNeely	Delton Washington
Pittsburg #381	Friday June 23	Open	6:00-meal 7:00 p.m.	Beverly Sinclair	Joe Reynolds

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## **THIS MONTH'S QUESTION**

Q – What is Masonic "ritual"?

A – The nature of Masonic ritual is both complex and beautiful. "Ritual" is a formal ceremony of initiation which recites certain tenets and truths that have been passed down for generations - mostly from mouth to ear. This "Ritual" takes the form of lectures and theater in the Lodge, and is used to teach new Masons the value of true friendship, the benefits of knowledge, and the necessity of helping those in need. It speaks to the power and impact our ritual has on men's hearts and minds because it has stood the test of time for more than 300 years. Although our world has changed dramatically during that time, our ritual is virtually the same.

Not everyone will want to learn the ancient ritual - as it takes great time and study - but those Masons who chose to learn it are rewarded with the satisfaction of upholding a powerful tradition and helping their fellow brothers further their Masonic understanding.

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Growing old is no more than a bad habit which a busy man has no time to form.

*Ande Maurois*

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# SHRINER NEWS

By Rex McGee



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

The Shrine Club voted to assist a Masonic Brother with a donation of Five Hundred Dollars to go toward putting in a handicapped bath room for his father who had recently become disabled and is now in need of such a facility. The brother was doing much of the work himself to save on expenses.

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. We currently think we have six candidates committed to the initiation.

The Northeast Texas Shrine Club will have its next stated meeting at 6:30 p.m. on June 20, 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.

written ballot where two or more Brethren are nominated.

Articles 276, 276a, 291, & 297a apply to the election of line Officers.

Per Harry Clark, District Instructor:

1. I know all our Lodges are short of active members and many don't appoint Stewards but they are required by Grand Lodge Law Art. 264. Even if just in name only.
2. Form 101, "Installation Requirements for the Lodges of Texas, A.F. & A. M. also applies.

**Secretary: AS SOON AS YOUR OFFICERS ARE ELECTED**, you should notify Grand Lodge. Starting on May 23, this can be done by going on the Texas Lodge Secretary's Database to Add Newly Elected Officers under the Lodge Officers button. That capability will ONLY be available from May 23 until midnight, June 23rd, as annual returns are generated and new officers listed. After June 23rd, the Officer's Form will be available under Forms Section and if you have not submitted them on the Texas Lodge Secretary Database, you will have to complete that form and mail to the Grand Lodge Office. You will also have to list them in your annual return. Failure to notify the Grand Secretary's office of your new officers will result in your Lodge not being listed in the new 2017-2018 **Directory of Constituent Lodges in Texas. Do not wait until installation to notify us of your new officers.**

All officers shall be installed on June 24, the day of the Feast of St. John the Baptist, or at any stated or called meeting thereafter prior to midnight on the last day of July; provided, however, that no officer shall be installed on Sunday. It is not necessary that all officers be installed at the same time.

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## ELECTION OF LODGE OFFICERS A

### PRIORITY

by Rex McGee

All elective officers of the Lodge which include the Worshipful Master, Wardens, Treasurer, Secretary, and such other officers as the by-laws may prescribe, shall be elected at the last stated meeting of the Lodge prior to midnight of June 23. Election must be concluded at this meeting, and may not be postponed, and must be concluded by midnight if stated meeting is on Saturday or June 23. All other officers shall be appointed as soon thereafter as convenient.

Officers must be elected in open Lodge. A separate vote must be taken for each elective office which shall be by

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Opinions expressed by individual writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect official positions of the MSWA Association of the 6<sup>th</sup> Masonic District.

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(Cutoff for articles is 15th of the month)