



The Trestle Board



MWSA

6th Masonic District in Texas

Volume 1, Number 7

July, 2017

FROM THE PRESIDENT.....

The Masters, Wardens, & Secretary's Association held its regular monthly meeting on July 27 at the Old Union Community Center. After a good meal, the meeting was called to order with a prayer and pledge to the American flag.

We had a short discussion about the Place Officer training now being offered by MWSA. A few days earlier we had our first class attended by several individuals who were interested in improving their knowledge of their offices. We had a good practice session except for the fact we needed more Masons there to take part in the training. Since that night I have enlisted the assistance of several experienced Masons to fill out the chairs and improve the training experience. The second training session was held July 31, 2017 at Temple Lodge # 70 in Mt. Pleasant at 6:30 p.m. Visitors are always welcome.

This month we are adding a Sickness & Distress section to our newsletter. Everyone is asked to keep Joe and I apprised about the sick & distressed in the Masonic & OES family. This month I have listed those that Joe & I personally know about, but we know this is not everybody who should be listed. This will take your participation by giving us the needed information. I will try to list those we know about under three categories:

- **Nursing Homes, Assisted Living, and Retirement Homes**
Under this category we will try in the future to list the facility and city in case you may want to visit or send cards.
- **Illness, Injury, Surgery & Rehabilitation**
Under this category we will try to list people who fall into those categories and try to give a little information as to status or location
- **Deaths**
This category will be after the fact as we only publish once a month. We will attempt to give dates of death, where services were held and addresses for sending cards.

If there are better or other categories, please let us know. If someone would like to take on this responsibility, get the information and write the article monthly we certainly have no disagreement with that. If one of our Eastern Star Sisters would like to step up to the plate and prove the old adage "If you want the job done right, give it to a woman", ----- step on up.

Brother Kennedy brought another insightful training program that walked the members in attendance through the duties of the Senior Deacon in the Entered Apprentice Degree. His primary emphasis related to the floor work of the Senior Deacon during the Degree. Brother Kennedy wanted to impress upon us that the floor work was every bit as important as the wording, but both needed to be accurate for the best results. This was an excellent training session. Brother Kennedy held a question and answer period after the training for those who had additional questions.

Next, Brother Rhett McCullough brought the members a program related to buying insurance for their Lodges. He discussed the particulars of the different types of insurances, the variables causing price differentials, and some things that could have a favorable or unfavorable result on the price a Lodge pays for its insurance. Brother Rhett suggested that someone within the Lodge should discuss the Lodge policy with an Agent every few years to insure that the Lodge has appropriate coverage and is getting the best price possible. This becomes more and more important as the price rises and the Lodges struggle to keep expenses within their limited income. This is also great advice when purchasing your home insurance. You did a great job, Brother Rhett.

We will also be sending out a separate edition of the newsletter this month that will contain a complete listing of the Worshipful Masters and Lodge Secretaries contact information that includes phone numbers, email addresses, and Lodge addresses for all Lodges in Masonic District 6. The same information will be available, in the same issue, about each Eastern Star Chapter in District 01, Section 09.

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

"I have sworn upon the altar of God, eternal hostility against every form of tyranny over the mind of man."

Thomas Jefferson

THIS MONTH'S RIDDLE

Masonic Colours No.1

Q. What's black, white, blue and green?

A. A seasick Freemason.

Masonic Colours No.2

Q. What's black, white, blue, green and red?

A. A sunburnt, seasick Freemason.

Masonic Colours No.3

Q. What's black, white, blue, green, red and yellow?

A. A sunburnt, seasick Freemason in a bowl of custard.

Masonic Dad

Q. What did the Freemason say when his kids covered him with sand at the beach?

A. Don't put a sprig of acacia on top!

Masonic Elephant

Q. What do you get if you cross a Freemason with an elephant?

A. An overweight Brother who never forgets his ritual charges.

Masonic Knock-Knock

Knock, knock.

Who's there?

Candy.

Candy who?

Candy date for Freemasonry.

FREEMASONRY: THEN, NOW AND IN THE FUTURE

by Chad Simpson, PM,

York Lodge No. 563

Every active Mason has within himself the ability to improve his Lodge--to move it forward.

Our Fraternity is a society of Friends and Brothers. Our ritual and ceremonies are intended to provide a shared, common experience that is the beginning of a lifetime of Friendship.

Too often, Freemasons focus on the "problems" of Freemasonry rather than on the true glory of it--the making and keeping of friends among those who otherwise would have remained at a perpetual distance.

Our rules, like our ritual, are fairly straightforward. However, like our ritual, our rules often become an unfortunate stumbling block for those who are not willing to familiarize themselves with them.

Yet within the basic framework established by our ritual and rules, there is much work left to be done to make a Lodge complete. Its adornments, be they successful or failures, are left to the Brethren of a Lodge to create.

Like our operative forefathers who actively sought the skills and new techniques developed at other successful building sites, so should the Masons of today look to successful Lodges to learn how to do things a little differently or a little better.

The desire to get back to the basics of the good old days is a classic desire of mankind. Whenever the road becomes difficult, mankind looks back to what it believes was the Utopia of a bygone day.

Freemasonry has been able to pass on its gift of friendship from one generation to the next, not because it has held onto a ridged orthodoxy, but because the symbiology of Freemasonry is such that each generation is able to adapt it to its own needs.

Freemasonry of the post Second World War era was not the Freemasonry of the Civil War. Freemasonry of the Westward Migration was not the Freemasonry of the American Revolution. No, every generation has found in Freemasonry and made of it that which it needed to continue on the rough road of life.

It is important that today's generation do the same.

David Elliott Lodge # 364 Installs 2017-2018 Officers.

by Rex McGee

David Elliott Lodge # 364 of Omaha held its installation of Officers at the Lodge in Omaha on July 15, 2017 at 6:00 P.M.

The following members were installed as Officers for the ensuing year.

Worshipful Master---Rex McGee
Senior Warden---Scott Brock
Junior Warden---Michael Goforth
Treasurer---Bill Swafford
Secretary---James Clark
Chaplain---Billy Williams
Senior Deacon---Mike Garcia
Junior Deacon---Rick Holland
Senior Steward---Jerry Harvey
Junior Steward---A.D. Banks
Tiler---Jerry Rook

The Installing Officer was Brother Mark Munkres, Worshipful Master of David Elliott Lodge and now Past Master of David Elliott Lodge; Installing Marshall was Brother Howard Barron, Past DDGM, and Past Master of Iron Bluff Lodge # 1376.

Prior to the installation ceremony the new Officers, Masons and guests were invited to the dining room for Refreshments. Members of the Eastern Star assisted with refreshments. The installation was attended by family, friends, Masonic Brothers and Eastern Star Sisters from surrounding Lodges and Chapters.



THIS MONTH'S HUMOR

A postman, on his route, picked up a letter from a mailbox that was addressed to GOD. The postman, seeing that the letter was not sealed, and there being no postage on it, opened and read it. It was from a man who was down on his luck, and was asking God for help. The letter asked for \$50 to get his family through the next week. The postman, being a Mason, took the letter to Lodge that evening, read it, and asked for donations for the unfortunate fellow. The Masons, wanting to help, took up a collection, and received twenty-five dollars from the brethren. The Secretary placed the cash in a Lodge envelope, and gave it to the postman to deliver the following day, which he did. Another day passed, and the postman again found an unsealed letter in the mailbox addressed to GOD. Again, he opened and read the letter, which thanked God for the money, but instructed him to send any future funds through the Knights of Columbus, as the Masons had kept half.

THE TWO ST JOHN'S

From the 2nd Westchester-Putnam Masonic District

Among American Freemasons there are two festivals in the Masonic calendar. The Feast of St. John, the Baptist, is celebrated on June 24th and the Feast of St. John, the Evangelist, on December 27th.

The two dates fall at the time of the summer and winter when the sun attains its greatest north or south declination when it apparently stands still for a short time before turning in its course. These are known as the summer and winter solstices.

Why is it that Masonry has chosen these two men as patrons? Why are Masonic lodges dedicated to them? Why do Masons hold celebrations in their honor each year? Were the Saints John Freemasons?

Before answering these questions, let us review a bit of ancient history. Before the days of Christianity, the early Greeks and Romans dedicated their temples and sacred things to some god. To the ancients the sun was the source of power. They observed the course of the sun through the year and knew that at one period the sun brought them warmth, new vegetation, bountiful crops and with it all, a new source of energy and hope. Then

the sun, after a fruitful season, left them and they felt the cold, the grains in the field failed to flourish, and all nature seemed to sleep. The ancients knew that, after due time, the friendly sun in its cycle would come back to them bringing again light, warmth, food and hope.

Is it any wonder that these people worshipped the sun as a god? Even today people the world over, revere the sun and welcome its warmth, and even travel to follow it during the cold and dark winter months.

It is significant to note that the two festival days of the Saints John fall at these two seasons - first when the sun is nearest, and second, when the sun has reached its northern-most summit and again turns toward the south.

People in the early ancient days had their organizations and guilds even as we do today and dedicated them to a pagan god for protection.

The worshipping of the sun or other deities had so permeated mankind that when Christianity was introduced to the world the church found it was impossible to stop the people from such pagan celebrations. It was natural to feel the need for adopting some patron for protection. The church therefore consecrated its churches to God and wisely substituted the names of its saints as patrons. Other societies and organizations followed the same practice.

ST. JOHN, THE BAPTIST

Why did the Freemasons choose St. John, the Baptist, as patron? One would suppose that they would name some outstanding person. But, St. John, the Baptist, was a humble man, a plain man who held, above all, his obligations to God and, with almost unbelievable steadfastness, met martyrdom. He continually preached repentance - and virtue - and humiliation.

Yes, the early freemasons chose well in selecting such a man as St. John, the Baptist, as a patron of Freemasonry!

ST. JOHN, THE EVANGELIST

For a long period only St. John, the Baptist, was patron saint of Freemasonry. It was not until after the 16th century that St John, the Evangelist, was also adopted as a patron. The "Old Charges" of Freemasonry speak of St. John, the Evangelist, as a "Saint of the Craft." He was constantly admonishing the cultivation of brotherly love. Of all the gospels, The Gospel of St. John is the most Masonic for the central theme is LIGHT. It portrays God as "the Light of the World."

LODGES DEDICATED TO THE HOLY SAINTS JOHN

Lodges then came to be dedicated to the Holy Saints John and it is interesting to note that the early Masons were called "St. John's Masons" or "St. John's Men."

It matters not whether the two Saints John were actually members of the Masonic fraternity. But they have been called the patrons of the fraternity down through the ages because they have exemplified the principles of Freemasonry in their daily lives by their deeds and their words. These two humble men did not engage in any of the pomp and glory of the world.

It is because Masonry regards the character and internal qualifications of a man - not the exterior appearances - that these two men are fittingly called the patrons of this great fraternity. They possessed those internal qualifications that made the TRUE MAN. Masonry honors them above all others for they were the living examples of the Golden Rule, the practice of virtue, love for their fellow-men and love for their God.

Frank Sexton Lodge # 206 **Installs 2017-2018 Officers.**

by Rex McGee

Frank Sexton Lodge # 206 of Pittsburg held its installation of Officers at the Lodge in Pittsburg on July 15, 2017 at 2:00 P.M.

The following members were installed as Officers for the ensuing year.

Worshipful Master---Joe Reynolds
Senior Warden---Bruce Carpenter
Junior Warden---Rhett McCullough
Treasurer---Joe Godsey
Secretary---Paul Davis
Chaplain---Tim Hall
Senior Deacon---Paul Dempsey
Junior Deacon---J.C. Friedl
Senior Steward---Bob Fischer
Junior Steward---Burnis Covington
Marshall---Ronnie Stegman
Master of Ceremonies---A.J. Mason
Tiler---Jim Jordan

The Installing Officer was Brother Ken Kennedy, Past DDGM, Past District Instructor, Past Master of Oasis Lodge; Installing Marshall was Brother Ronnie Moore

Past DDGM, and Past Master of Mount Vernon Lodge #691; and Brother Billy Williams, Past DDGM and Past Master of David Elliott Lodge served as the Installing Chaplin. These three Installing Officers served in Brother Reynolds's Master Degree when he was raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason. This served as a moment of homecoming for his trip to the East.

Prior to the installation ceremony the new Officers, masons and guests were invited to the dining room for Refreshments. Members of the Eastern Star assisted with refreshment. The installation was attended by family, friends, and Brothers and Sisters from surrounding Lodges and Chapters. This year Brother Reynolds is the only Worshipful Master to serve as Worthy Patron in the Chapter in the same town. It is a great honor for Brother Reynolds to follow me as Worshipful Master of Frank Sexton Lodge since I had the pleasure of teaching the new Worshipful Master his Masonic work.



SICKNESS & DISTRESS

By Rex McGee

This is our first try at this column and we know we will miss some that need to be on our list and hope that in the future you will notify us of these individuals.

Nursing Homes, Assisted living, and Retirement Homes

Jim Clifton -----Nursing Home in Hughes Springs
 Bennie Stevens-----Nursing Home in Hughes Springs
 Burnis Covington----- ---Nursing Home in Mt. Pleasant
 Sybil Walton-----Nursing Home in Daingerfield

Ray Burgin-----Nursing Home in Mt. Pleasant
 Jerry Green -----Nursing Home in Paris

Illness, Injuries, Surgery, & Rehabilitation

O.M. Adams---Convalescing & Rehabilitation at home after by pass surgery
 Cathy Moore---Tests
 Henry Moles---Tests
 Randy Brock ---Treatment
 Beverly Sikes---tests & treatment
 Bobby Goswick & Wife---Illness
 J.N. Duck---ongoing illness
 J.D Baumgardner---Illness
 Randy Blackmon---Surgery & Rehab
 Tommy G. Heard---Tests, surgery, & convalescing
 Pam, Debbie Abernathy's sister---Paris Hospital
 Worthy Grand Patron-Order of the Eastern Star---Illness
 Carolyn Butrum, Linden Chapter OES #576, - Outpatient

Deaths

Bo Pilgrim---Member of Frank Sexton Lodge # 206 Pittsburg.
 Jim Yeago---Member of David Elliott Lodge # 364 in Mt. Pleasant
 Charles "Chick" Talley---Member. Temple #70 in Mt. Pleasant
 Joann Truitt---Member Daingerfield OES # 906
 Wife of Joel Bumpass---Member of Oasis #79

Contact information for reporting Sickness & Distress:

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS



August 1st – David Elliott Lodge #364, Monthly Stated Meeting
August 1st – Border Chapter #211, OES, Monthly Stated Meeting
August 3rd – Frank Sexton Lodge #206, Monthly Stated Meeting
August 7th – Oasis Lodge #79 , Training and Practice Session

August 8th – Iron Bluff Lodge #1376, Monthly Stated Meeting

August 8th – Pittsburg Chapter #381, OES, Monthly Stated Meeting

August 10th – Daingerfield Chapter #906, OES , Monthly Stated Meeting

August 14th – Avery Chapter #252, OES, Monthly Stated Meeting

August 14th – Oasis Lodge #79 , Training and Practice Session

August 15th – Oasis Lodge #79, Monthly Stated Meeting

August 15th – Linden Chapter #576, OES, Monthly Stated Meeting

August 15th – Omaha Chapter #997, OES, Monthly Stated Meeting

August 15th – Shrine Club, Monthly Meeting

August 17th – Mt. Vernon Lodge #691, Monthly Stated Meeting

August 21st – Oasis Lodge #79 , Training and Practice Session

August 22nd – Temple Lodge #70, Monthly Stated Meeting

August 24th – 6th District MWSA, Monthly Stated Meeting

August 28th – New Boston Chapter #700, OES, Monthly Stated Meeting

August 28th – Oasis Lodge #79 , Training and Practice Session

Temple Lodge plans three Degrees in month of August

Temple Lodge # 70 in Mt. Pleasant will be raising a Fellowcraft Mason to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason on August 05, 2017. The Degree will begin with a breakfast being served at 8:00 a.m. with the Degree immediately following. Brother Ken Kennedy will be conferring the degree. Members of Temple Lodge and surrounding Lodges will be lending a hand in the conferral of the Degree.

Come and eat breakfast with the Brothers of Temple Lodge and watch a good Degree.

Temple Lodge will also be conferring two Entered Apprentice Degrees as soon in August as plans can be finalized. Temple Lodge plans on conferring both Degrees on the same night, if possible. All Lodges in the District as well as everyone on the MWSA e-mail list will be notified of the Degree dates and times. Everyone welcome.

Throw away all ambition beyond that of doing the days work well. The traveler on the road to success live in the present, heedless of taking thought for the morrow. Live neither in the past nor the future, but let each day's work absorb your entire energies, and satisfy your widest ambition.

William Osler

THIS MONTH'S QUESTION

Q – Masonic teaching is symbolic. The most important symbol?

A – The most important symbol of Freemasonry is the Legend of the Third Degree. In the legend, Hiram Abiff is unjustly murdered, buried and raised from the grave. Each man being initiated portrays Hiram in ritual.

The Worshipful Master closes the ritual with these words:

Then, finally my brethren, let us imitate our Grand Master, Hiram Abiff, in his virtuous conduct, his unfeigned piety to God, and his inflexible fidelity to his trust; that, like him, we may welcome the grim tyrant, Death, and receive him as a kind messenger sent by our Supreme Grand Master, to translate us from this imperfect to that all-perfect, glorious, and celestial Lodge above, where the Supreme Architect of the Universe presides.

The meaning of the ritual is obvious to those who are not blinded by Satan. Freemasons are encouraged to imitate Hiram Abiff so that they may get into heaven. Some Masons attempt to view this as representing the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. However, even if the name Jesus Christ were substituted for Hiram Abiff, this teaching would still be a false of salvation. No where in Scripture does it state that we should imitate Jesus to get into heaven. What is required for salvation is faith in Jesus Christ. Notice that Masonic ritual substitutes imitation for faith and Hiram Abiff for Jesus Christ.

A Masonic Brutum Fulmen

The Craftsman – 1867

The Provincial Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia, under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, have done a very foolish thing, which they will regret before many months elapse, in issuing the following proclamation: -

"Whereas at a special convocation of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia, under the jurisdiction of the M.W. the Grand Lodge of Scotland, holden at Freemason's Hall, in this city, on Thursday evening, the 13th inst., the following resolution was unanimously adopted, viz: - "Whereas, it has come to the knowledge of this Provincial Grand Lodge, that a number of the brethren belonging to the Scottish Lodges in the Province have illegally and unconstitutionally attempted to throw off their allegiance to the parent Grand Lodge of Scotland, and hold meetings for Masonic purposes, under no authority except that of the so-called Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia, in defiance of the directions of the said Grand Lodge of Scotland.

"Resolved, that the R.W. Provincial Grand Master do proclaim such brethren suspended from all Masonic privileges, so long as they belong to lodges held under the said Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia, such lodges being clandestine, and that he forbid all brethren belonging to the lodges within this jurisdiction, under pain of suspension, from visiting such clandestine lodges, or holding any Masonic intercourse whatever with the members thereof.

"Resolved, that such proclamation be published in the newspapers, and copies thereof sent to the several lodges, under English and Scottish authority in this Province."

"In compliance with the foregoing resolution, and in accordance with instructions received from the M.W. the Grand Lodge of Scotland, the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master doth hereby suspend from the privileges of Masonry all members of Scottish lodges within this jurisdiction, who belong to the lodges held, or purporting to be held, under the so-called Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia, so long as they continue to attend the same, such lodges being clandestine, and held without proper authority; and in terms of the foregoing resolution, all good and true Scottish Masons are hereby forbidden from visiting such lodges, or holding any Masonic intercourse with the members thereof.

"Dated at Halifax, N.S., 14th December, 1866, by command of the Honorable Alex. Keith, R.W. Provincial Grand Master.

SHRINER NEWS

By Rex McGee



The Shrine Club held its monthly meeting on the third Tuesday of the month at Herschel's Restaurant in Mt. Pleasant, Texas.

Bill Guy presented an excellent program about the history of the Shrine, its growth and association with the Shrine Hospital System for Children.

The Shrine Club received a letter from the Shrine Hospital in Shreveport thanking us for the generous check donated by the Club to support its programs.

President Dempsey has contacted Hella Temple and was told that they were having a full day program at Hella Temple on August 19th. After several contacts, we were able to confirm four applicants from our area that will attend the initiation and possibly two more.

The Northeast Texas Shrine Club will have its next stated meeting at 6:30 p.m. on August 15, 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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Opinions expressed by individual writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect official positions of the MSWA 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)