



The Trestle Board



MWSA

6th Masonic District in Texas

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FROM THE PRESIDENT.....

Hello, Brothers,

I have had the opportunity to sit in Lodge with many excellent men, good Masons, Brothers. I don't ask about their preferences in life, be it religious, political or other, although some are eager to share. It is not that I don't care about these things for me, but I hope that I would not treat a Brother Mason as anything other than a Brother Mason regardless of some other differences we may have. Each of us, before receiving our Entered Apprentice degree were read from the monitor by the one who is preparing us. We were reminded of the several declarations we made on our petition regarding our reasons for asking to become a mason. We also, before stating our desire to proceed, were told that "Our ancient and honorable fraternity welcomes to its doors and admits to its privileges worthy men of all faiths and creeds who possess the indispensable qualifications." We are constantly being bombarded by the news, whatever source you choose to listen to, and by social media about; your side, my side and the other side. Some of the exchanges are hurtful and some are just hateful. Our ancient and honorable fraternity has a grand purpose to banish ignorance, to diffuse light; to promote peace and happiness among mankind. Unfortunately, I have overheard a Brother Mason say "I will never sit in lodge with a (fill in the blank). I won't either. I will sit

in lodge with a Brother. On the level. With friendship and brotherly love. Masonry, and my brothers, accepted me. Who am I to say any different to another.

Brother. *Rhett McCullough*,
President, MWSA District 6

Our web site is www.mwsa6.org.

Grand Lodge & Constituent Lodges Topic 11 - The Grand Lodge of Texas

A. What is Grand Lodge? What are its powers and from whence are they derived?

The powers of the Grand Lodge of Texas, like those of all other Grand Lodges, are inherent; i.e., inborn, or existing without question. Grand Lodge is the highest source of authority in Ancient Craft Freemasonry in Texas. Grand Lodge is:

- the only authority that may charter a Lodge of Freemasons,
- the holder of original and exclusive jurisdiction over all subjects of Masonic legislation. Its enactments and decisions upon all questions are the supreme Masonic Law of the State,
- responsible for adopting, altering, or repealing general laws and regulations for the government of the Lodges under its jurisdiction,
- responsible for assessing and collecting from the Lodges under its jurisdiction such sums of money annually as may be found necessary for its support and maintenance,
- responsible for the state and condition of its own finances and for the adoption of such measures in relation thereto as may be good for the Fraternity,

- responsible for doing whatever may be regarded as necessary, appertaining to the well-being and perpetuity of Ancient Craft Masonry within the State of Texas,
- responsible for specifying the duties and responsibilities of its officers,
- the true representative of all the Fraternity; an absolute and independent body with supreme legislative authority, provided always that the Ancient Landmarks of the Fraternity are held inviolate,
- a source of help and encouragement to Lodges and a unifying influence for Freemasonry in the State, and
- responsible, between annual communications, for the administration of Masonic affairs through its duly constituted officers.

B. Then does that mean that Grand Lodge does everything? Is there no limit to what it does, no local self-government?

“No” to the first part of the question; “yes” to the last part. There are many things that Grand Lodge does not and cannot do. For example:

- Despite popular beliefs to the contrary, Grand Lodge is not a state membership headquarters. Grand Lodge does not gain or lose members at the end of the year; Lodges do. The Grand Lodge office merely keeps the score, and its records reflect the sum-total of what the Lodges do.
- Despite popular belief, Grand Lodge is not a place to go to ask for permission to violate Masonic laws and regulations, or the bylaws of a Lodge. Grand Lodge officers, like the officers of every Lodge, are charged with the responsibility of maintaining and enforcing prescribed laws.
- Grand Lodge is not able to improve the image of the Fraternity in local communities. That is the sole responsibility of the Lodges in those communities.
- Grand Lodge is not able to investigate and elect or reject petitioners for the degrees, or to confer those degrees, or memorize the ritual.
- Grand Lodge is not able to improve the appearance of the Lodges, or see that every activity of a Lodge is carried out with impeccable taste, or carry out charitable activities on the local level.
- Grand Lodge does not, of itself, impress the great teachings of the Fraternity upon candidates, so that they will know and appreciate what Freemasonry is

and how it inspires and improves those men who receive its degrees.

Grand Lodges simply cannot do these things, and so Lodges must.

In addition, Article I, Section 2 of Grand Lodge Law clearly defines the purposes of Grand Lodge: “The purposes of this Grand Lodge are to control and regulate the practice of Freemasonry throughout its jurisdiction, in accordance with the immemorial usages of this ancient and honorable Craft; to advance the moral and social interest of its membership; to foster good citizenship, honest industry and upright living; to cultivate the exercise of charity in its best and broadest sense; to assist the widows and orphans of its deceased members; to stimulate friendship, harmony and brotherly love, and generally to promote, in its own way, the happiness of mankind – it is a Fraternity of good men, linked together by honorable and indissoluble bonds, to accomplish these noble purposes, eschewing all interest in factional politics and sectarian religion, and free from the dictation or discussion of both in this Grand Lodge and its Subordinate Lodges”. (Revised 2012)

Discussion Questions:

1. Who is allowed to vote at a Grand Lodge Annual Communication?
2. Who makes the laws by which Grand Lodge and its subordinate Lodges are governed?
3. How many Grand Lodge committees can you name and what is the responsibility of each?

BRISCOE WORKSHOP

November 03, 2018

by Rex McGee

The Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Education and Service is pleased to offer the Randall E. Briscoe Fall Workshop Program designed to assist Lodge Officers in the day today operation of their Lodges. 2018 marks the eighth consecutive year that our committee has brought the revived Briscoe Workshop Program to Lodge Officers and members. The program is an adaptation of the format used by the Committee during the era of the 1960s when its effect upon Lodge leadership was evinced by well informed and capable leadership in Texas Lodges. Based upon the results of

the program since 2011, we believe the Masons of Texas are supportive of the theory that well informed and prepared leadership of our Lodges has a definite impact upon the quality of Masonry in our Grand Jurisdiction.

The first half of the program focuses on Grand Lodge law, as well as how to deal with difficult and unexpected situations which may occur during the course of one's tenure as an officer of his Lodge. It is the difficult and unexpected situations that challenge leadership in any organization. Many leaders are "blindsided" by such occurrences. The likelihood is that most Wardens of our Lodges will eventually progress to the East, and that progression "through the chairs" will doubtless lead to several opportunities to deal with tough situations requiring their prompt attention and careful consideration.

The second half of the program is comprised of four separate topics designed to enhance our understanding and prompt discussion related to the symbolism and more esoteric aspects of Freemasonry. We will review the titles and content of each and plan to discuss at least two topics in the time available. Unlike many of the situations outlined in the first session where there is an obvious right or wrong answer, symbolism may have multiple levels of interpretation, and will undoubtedly require ongoing study and discussion to fully comprehend the true and intended meaning.

An additional purpose of the Briscoe Workshop series is to compliment the weekend Officer Leadership Training Programs, which have proven very popular among Lodges throughout Texas. While the Workshop series primarily concentrates on Grand

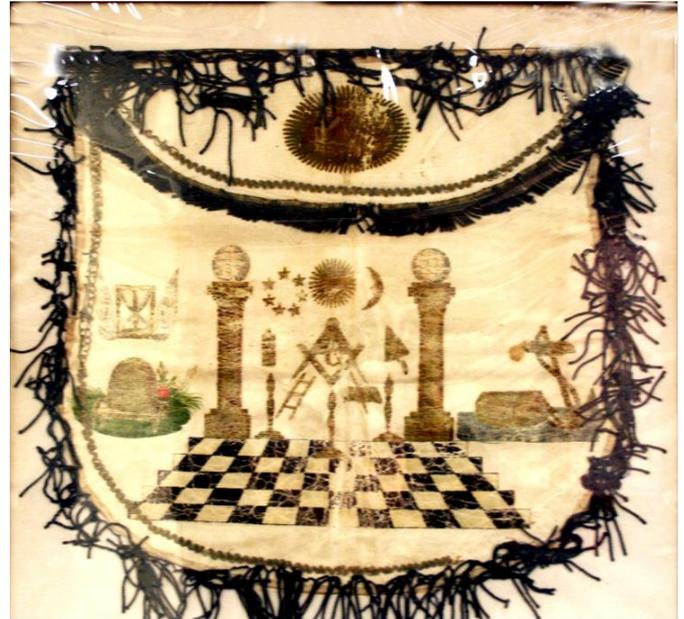
Lodge law, dealing with difficult situations while presiding in the East, and Masonic Symbolism, the Officer Leadership Training Program focuses on Lodge administration and leadership skills. Together these programs seek to prepare officers to effectively manage and guide their Lodges toward a bright and prosperous future.

The program is scheduled on November 03, 2018 at Temple Lodge in Mt. Pleasant, Texas. The Masters, Wardens, & Secretary's Association of District 6 is sponsoring the program and will be providing refreshments at 8:00 a.m. prior to the workshop beginning at 9:00 a.m. Come on out and enjoy a good workshop and good fellowship.

WILLIAM ALSOBROOK'S CIVIL WAR ERA APRON

Civil war era apron that belonged to William Millard Alsobrook from North Carolina. While he was serving in the confederacy, Alsobrook's family was attacked at their home by plundering union soldiers. The soldiers came across Alsobrook's Masonic apron and their leader, who was a Mason, then ordered his men to restore and replace everything as best they could to return the home to the way it was found. The apron was tacked to the door of the Alsobrook home and the Union soldier's leader promised that anyone who bothered anything more would pay with his life.

From the memory of Mrs. Lydia Milner, great granddaughter of William Millard Alsobrook.



David Elliott Lodge # 364 Hold annual Shrine bucket drive

by Rex McGee

Shriners and other members of David Elliott Lodge # 364 held its annual four way stop sign Shrine Bucket Drive on Saturday, October 27, 2018. The Lodge holds the bucket drive yearly at the intersection of Hwy 67 and Hwy 259 in Omaha, Texas to benefit the Shriner Hospital System for Crippled Children.

Shriners Hospitals for Children is a network of 22 non-profit medical facilities across North America. Children

with orthopedic conditions, burns, spinal cord injuries, and cleft lip and palate are eligible for care and receive all services in a family-centered environment, regardless of the patients' ability to pay.

Headquartered in Tampa, Florida, the hospitals are owned and operated by Shriners International, formerly known as the Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, a Freemasonry-related organization whose members are known as Shriners. Patients must be minors under the age of 18 and are not required to have any familial affiliation with the Shriners order nor Freemasonry.

In 1920, the Imperial Session of the Shriners was held in Portland, Oregon. During that session the membership unanimously passed a resolution to establish what at the time was called the Shriners Hospital for Crippled Children system. The first hospital in the system opened in 1922 in Shreveport, Louisiana. It provided pediatric orthopedic care.

Shriners Hospitals for Children worked closely with the United States Southern Command and other military commands, including the Army and Air Force, the Guatemalan combined military force and via the U.S. embassy, the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, and the U.S. State Department to arrange medical visas and transportation to the United States, "with a global commitment to children around the world".

In 1962, the Shriners of North America allocated \$10 million to establish three hospitals that specialized in the treatment and rehabilitation of burned children. After visiting 21 university-based medical institutions, the decision was made to build their first pediatric burn hospital on the campus of the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, Texas. Treatment areas cover a wide range of pediatric orthopedics, including scoliosis, limb discrepancies, clubfoot, hip dysplasia, and juvenile idiopathic arthritis, as well as cerebral palsy, spina bifida (myelomeningocele), and other neurological conditions that affect ambulation and movement.

While the main emphasis of the hospitals is to provide medical care to children regardless of the family's ability to pay, the mission of the hospitals also includes research on the conditions treated and the education of medical professionals, including medical residents and fellows, nurses, physical, recreation, and occupational

therapists, speech and language pathology, psychologists, social workers, and child life specialists.

Anyone knowing of a child needing services that the Shrine Hospitals offer please contact any Mason or Shriner who will be apply to assist the family with a referral for services.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



- November 1st** - Frank Sexton Lodge #206, Monthly Stated Meeting
 - November 5th** – Oasis Lodge #79, Training and Practice Session
 - November 6th** - David Elliott Lodge #364, Monthly Stated Meeting
 - November 6th** - Border Chapter #211, OES, Monthly Stated Meeting
 - November 8th** - Daingerfield Chapter #906, OES, Monthly Stated Meeting
 - November 12th** - Avery Chapter #252, OES, Monthly Stated Meeting
 - November 12th** – Oasis Lodge #79, Training and Practice Session
 - November 13th** - Iron Bluff Lodge #1376, Monthly Stated Meeting
 - November 13th** - Pittsburg Chapter #381, OES, Monthly Stated Meeting
 - November 15th** - Mt. Vernon Lodge #691, Monthly Stated Meeting
 - November 19th** - Linden Chapter #576, OES, Monthly Stated Meeting
 - November 19th** – Oasis Lodge #79, Training and Practice Session
 - November 20th** - Oasis Lodge #79, Monthly Stated Meeting
 - November 20th** - Omaha Chapter #997, OES, Monthly Stated Meeting
 - November 20th** - Northeast Texas Shrine Clubs, Monthly Meeting
 - November 22nd** - 6th District MWSA, **Dark**
 - November 26th** - New Boston Chapter #700, OES, Monthly Stated Meeting
 - November 26th** – Oasis Lodge #79, Training and Practice Session
 - November 27th** - Temple Lodge #70, Monthly Stated Meeting
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Briscoe Workshop scheduled for November 03, 2018

*by Rex McGee
District Education Officer*

The District Service Team has scheduled a Grand Lodge Briscoe Workshop for District 6. The workshop will be held at Temple Lodge in Mt. Pleasant on Saturday, November 03, 2018. Refreshments will be served at 8:00 a.m and the program will begin at 9:00 a.m.

It is recommended that Lodge line Officers, other Officers and members desiring Lodge offices attend this meeting. Discussions will be held on numerous Lodges management issues, recent changes to Grand Lodge Law, policies, and other significant issues.

Regular members are encouraged to attend as many of the items to be discussed impact every mason in their every day activities within the Lodge. Looking forward to seeing each of you.

Any question related to the Workshop can be directed to Rex McGee at 903/577-3233 or through email at alvinrexmccgee@hotmail.com.

THIS MONTH'S HUMOR

WHAT SHALL WE DO WITH THE BODY?

A story that made the rounds a few years ago as "gospel truth" involved a Brother on a hunting trip in the wild of Maine. Day after day of his vacation was eaten up without a deer. On the last day, as he was about to give up in desperation, he heard a crashing in the woods: saw a glimpse of brown and fired. Silence! Rushing over to where he fired, he found that he had killed a bull moose, which is protected from hunters to save it from extinction. as he stood there staring at the dead moose, a Game Warden stepped out into the clearing. Our brother found his hands involuntarily raised in a certain position, "What shall we do with the body?" "Dress it out, you damn fool," said the Warden, " and make your escape"

Frank Sexton Lodge Participates in City of Pittsburg Trunk or Treat Festival.

by Rex McGee

The City of Pittsburg sponsors a program aimed at keeping children safe on Halloween Night. Merchants and organizations pitch in handing out treats to kids. This year the festival was held on October 31, 2018 from 5:00 until 7:00 p.m. Parents bring their children down the streets of Pittsburg and they are given treats by those participating in the program. It is a safe environment as streets are blocked off and adult supervision is constantly on guard for any issues that might arise. There have been as many as 3000 children in attendance at these activities. Some children have come by bus from other towns to participate.

Frank Sexton Lodge has been participating for several years in this event and generally has a dozen or so Masons and some of their families participating at the Masonic table located outside the lodge on the corner touching the Main Street in town. The Masons thoroughly enjoy their participation in this project and look forward to it every year.

District Education Officers Perspective....

The Tiler

By Rex McGee

These articles are written for the purpose of stimulating the thought process and providing talking points as it relates to history and the development of Freemasonry, its offices, titles and customs. Titles, offices and customs vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction and sometimes from lodge to lodge. These articles do not recommend or condemn any practice established by lodges or jurisdictions. The articles represent research, history and practices as documented in a historical perspective. Even though you may or may not practice some of the ideas you may find some relevance in their thinking and results of said practices. One must realize that researchers disagree among themselves as to specific information or findings on a subject and you as readers of said material must be aware that some of these disagreements and prejudice toward specific information or ideas may be present in any compilation of research.

Tiler—or—(Tyler)

Both spellings are used in various sources ... but "Tiler" is the more common of the two (and thus should be listed as the primary spelling, with "Tyler" being the alternate).



Jewel of the Tiler

The Tiler is sometimes known as the 'Outer Guard' of the lodge. His duty is to guard the door (from the outside), with a drawn sword and whose duty it is to guard the door of the Lodge, and to permit no one to pass in who is not duly qualified, and who has not the permission of the Master. A necessary qualification in many Jurisdictions of a Tiler is, therefore, that he should be a Master Mason. Although the Lodge may be opened in an inferior Degree, no one who has not advanced to the Third Degree can legally discharge the functions of Tiler.

In some Jurisdictions the Tyler is a Past Master of the Lodge while in others he may be an employed brother from another lodge. The position has often been given to a deserving Mason who has fallen on hard times, as a form of Lodge assistance, or to a senior Lodge member who can help and advise those kept waiting outside. In some cases the Tyler may not be an unpaid member of the lodge, but a mason from another lodge employed for the purpose. The Tiler need not be a member of the Lodge which he tiles; and in fact, in large cities, one Brother very often performs the duties of Tiler of several Lodges.

His Jewel is the Sword, by which he symbolically refuses entrance to anyone who is uninitiated in the Craft. The sword has no scabbard, as it is his symbolic duty to always have his sword drawn, ready for the defense of his post. The Tiler's duties and principle role is to ensure that only those who are duly qualified are allowed to enter the Lodge Room. He guards against cowans and eavesdroppers. During the middle Ages, a cowan was a man who built stone walls of poor quality. He was an uninitiated or non-apprenticed stonemason...a "jackleg", if you will. While the Tiler is sometimes called upon to assist in the preparation of candidates, his chief duty is to (symbolically) keep unskilled workmen from overhearing the conversation within the Lodge Room. After the lodge members are inside the Lodge Room, the door closes, and it is the Tiler's duty to decide whether late arrivals may enter. It is also his duty to make sure that each visitor is "properly clothed", which means they must be wearing

their Masonic apron. To be fully and properly dressed before entrance into the Lodge Room, the visitor must be wearing their apron over the outside of their suit coat and the apron strings must be fully tied before the Tiler will allow the visitor entrance. Some jurisdictions call this position the Outer Guard.

Masonic lodges throughout history may have met in rooms in taverns and other public meeting places, and all Lodges appointed a Tiler to guard the door from the outside against ineligible masons or malicious or curious people, to check the eligibility of latecomers, and to ensure that candidates for ceremonies in the Lodge are properly prepared.: Other duties have traditionally involved preparing the room for meetings, supplying regalia and equipment, serving as bar steward or acting as permanent, and sometimes resident, caretaker of the furniture and premises.

In some Jurisdictions the Tyler is appointed by the Worshipful Master, while in others he is elected by the members of the Lodge. He is charged with examining the Masonic credentials of anyone wishing to enter the Lodge and keeping unqualified persons from infiltrating Masonic meetings and admitting only those qualified to attend the current business.

In some jurisdictions, the Worshipful Master has the authority to permit or direct the Tiler to "tile from within" during the non-ritualistic portions of a meeting. If tiling from within, the Tiler must first secure the outer doors of the Tiler's anteroom. He would then leave the inner door open between the lodge room and the Tyler's anteroom, and sit at the seat closest to the door, still holding his drawn sword. Tiling from within enables the Tiler to participate in the business portions of the meeting, voice his opinions, volunteer for committees, deliver reports, and receive instruction if any be given. In other jurisdictions, such as the United Grand Lodge of England, the Tyler is always expected to be outside the closed door of the lodge; on the rare occasions when the Tyler enters the lodge room, another lodge member (typically the Inner Guard or, in the U.S., the Junior Deacon) goes outside to take temporary responsibility for guarding the door.

The origins of the term are uncertain, and a number of hypotheses have been presented over time. Masonic lodges originally met in inns or taverns, and Tyler is an Old English word for the keeper of an inn door. Alternatively, the name may simply come from the occupation of Tiler—a person who lays roof and floor tiles. More fanciful suggestions have included:

- Possibly related to the name of Wat Tyler, or Walter the Tyler, the leader of the Peasants' Revolt of 1381.
- Possibly a revision of the word tether, used to tie the door closed¹
- Possibly owing to the tiles being those stones or bricks which seal the structural masonry, whether they are on floors, walls or roofs. Likewise, the Tiler seals the remainder of the activities of the lodge

Traditionally, if the Tiler is a member of the Lodge he tiles and is paid in many instances he is considered, in some sense, as the servant of the Lodge. It has, therefore, been his duty to prepare the Lodge for its meetings, to arrange the furniture in its proper place, and to make all other arrangements for the convenience of the Lodge. This is a very important office, and, like that of the Master and Wardens, owes its existence, not to any conventional regulations, but to the very landmarks of the order; for, from the peculiar nature of our Institution, it is evident that there never could have been a meeting of Freemasons for Masonic purposes, unless a Tiler had been present to guard the Lodge from intrusion. The title is derived from the Operative Art; for as in Operative Masonry the Tiler, when the edifice is erected, finishes and covers it with the roof of tiles, so in Speculative Masonry, when the Lodge is duly organized, the Tiler closes the door and covers the sacred precincts from all intrusion.

Fantastic Teeth Program presented by District 6 Masons

by Rex McGee

Masons from all Lodges in District 6 are making their yearly pilgrimages to area schools presenting first graders with their own toothbrush kits and a program presented by school personnel on caring for their teeth. This has been a yearly event for the past few years which has been enjoyed by the students, school personnel and the Masons. This year Masons in District 6 will present approximately fifteen hundred toothbrush kits to area students. Additional kits are left with school personnel for first graders that are not able to attend that day.

The Fantastic Teeth Fan Club, a program created by Masonic Home and School of Texas (MHS) to help children and parents learn to prevent painful dental problems and avoid expensive treatment. Thousands of children across Texas have received free prevent tooth decay kits. The tremendous success of this program

depends on Masonic Lodges launching this service in their community with free kits from MHS. Lodge members assemble the kits and deliver them to participating schools.

According to *Oral Health in America* tooth decay is the single most common chronic childhood disease – five times more common than asthma and seven times more common than hay fever. Poor children are affected by this epidemic more frequently than other children, with nearly 12 times more restricted activity days due to dental issues than children from higher-income families. With more than 1.5 million Texas children living in poverty, there is a great need for programs like the Fantastic Teeth Fan Club.

Kits contain a toothbrush, toothpaste, floss, a two minute timer (this is how long teeth should be brushed!), a toothbrush cover, and information about good dental care in both English and Spanish for parents. Our goal is to reduce suffering for children and cut the costs of expensive dental treatment.



The above students are from the Pittsburg Public Schools and were part of one hundred and fifty students receiving toothbrush kits from Masons who are standing behind them in the picture. Masons Pictured from left to right: Rhett McCullough, Rex McGee, Jim Jordan, and Bob Fischer of Frank Sexton Lodge # 206 in Pittsburg, Texas.

“To enlarge the sphere of social happiness is worthy of the benevolent design of a Masonic institution; and it is most fervently to be wished, that the conduct of every member of the fraternity, as well as those publications, that discover the principles which actuate them, may tend to convince mankind that the grand object of Masonry is to promote the happiness of the human race.

[Letter to the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, January 1793]” — *George Washington, Writings*

Committee on Work Forum

At Linden # 192
November 17, 2018

by Rex McGee

Right Worshipful Jim Rumsey will conduct a Forum hosted by Linden Lodge # 192 in Linden Texas on November 17, 2018.

Refreshments will be served beginning at 8:00 a.m. and the Forum will begin at 9:00 a.m.

The exam will begin at noon.

Anyone wishing to attend the forum and observe the work exemplified, but does not desire to be examined, is also welcome to attend. The exemplification of the work stresses the proper wording and floor work as the degree is presented. Right Worshipful Rumsey also provides a question and answer period at the end of each Forum.

MWSA Meeting **October 25, 2018**

by Rex McGee

The Masters, Wardens and Secretary’s Association of District 6 held its monthly stated meeting at the Old Union Community Center. After a good meal, the meeting was called to order by President Rhett McCullough who welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The major business this month was reminding everyone of the Grand Annual Communication in January and the fact that pre-registration and voting for proxies needs to be completed and sent to the Grand Secretary by December 28, 2018. In addition, everyone was reminded that the MWSA would be dark in the months of November and December and that we would not be publishing the MWSA Newsletter “The Trestle Board” in December. The MWSA votes to remain dark during these months due to our meeting dates being so close to the established Holidays of Thanksgiving, Christmas & New Year’s Day. This allows our members to devote more time to family and local activities.

Rex McGee, MWSA Secretary and District 6 District Education Officer brought this month’s program on the subject of “Volunteerism and Charitable Activities” and how they impact our goals as Masons.

The MWSA will be sponsoring the Briscoe Workshop on November 03, 2018 at Temple Lodge # 70 in Mt. Pleasant. The MWSA will be providing refreshments at 8:00 a.m. prior to the training session beginning at 9:00 a.m.

District 6 MWSA is working with Right Worshipful Ken Curry, current Grand Junior Warden, to bring a Grand Masters Conference to District 6 during RW Curry’s year as Grand Master.

Everyone is encouraged to attend Grand Lodge this year as we will have a huge amount of business to conduct that will impact the Fraternity for years in the future.

Our next meeting is scheduled for January 24, 2019 at the Old Union Community Center. We hope to have the results of the Grand Annual Communication resolutions and other pertinent activities so we can report them at the meeting. Mark your calendars and plan to attend.

Shrine Club 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.

This time of year, we all begin to have our thoughts focusing on family and the many great Holiday Seasons of years gone by. Many of us have aged friends who need cheering and company at this time of year as the ravages of time has crept into their lives and left them with smaller families and fewer friends to visit back and forth. Remember your old friends, especially those in Nursing Homes or not able to get out and send them a cheery card, make a phone call or even make a personal visit to see them. It will cheer them up and mean the world to them and you will receive a blessing for it.

After a short business session, we discussed the upcoming Holiday Season and what activities the Shrine Club would be involved in during the Holidays. The Shrine Club decided to have their Holiday party at Herschel’s Restaurant at the regular meeting in December. At that time, we would eat at the restaurant and we would bring some desserts to share.

The November meeting will be used to determine what family or families the Club will be helping this Christmas.

Here is wishing you all a Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and wonderful Holiday season.

The Northeast Texas Shrine Club will have its next stated meeting at 6:30 p.m. on November 20, 2018 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.

I AM PROUD TO BE A MASON

by Seymour Atlas

I shall never forget my first thought as I made my initial entrance into the Masonic Lodge that conferred the Entered Apprentice Degree on me, and followed with the Fellow Craft and Master Mason Degrees. I was immediately made to feel that I was surrounded by Brothers. I felt there were no strangers present. This was one big family that seemed to have adopted me, and I, in turn, was elated to adopt them as my family.

My horizon of Masonry expanded, and my pride and joy were bubbling and effervescent. I couldn't wait to be able to confer the Degrees on others as there was so much I wanted to explain and elaborate about each Degree.

I was offered this opportunity and immediately began to study and memorize many parts, and over the years I became very active, holding office, lecturing, and taking an active part in every phase of Masonry where my talents and abilities could be used. One aspect of Masonry that has made a great impression on me was the ability of all Brothers, regardless of religion, to ask me why did I need Masonry as a Rabbi, because my profession was one of integrity, kindness, honesty, and all the attributes expounded in Masonry. It was difficult for many to grasp my need for this addition and supplement to religion. I worked with men of different religions, as well as of the Hebrew faith, and they were all impressed when I would say that Masonry is not a religion, but to be a Mason we had to believe in God, and if this was the only aspect of our religion and we had no other formal religion, yet we adhered to all the moral teachings of Masonry; this too would have put us in the category of men of integrity. However, Masonry is not a substitute for religion, nor is it a religion.

My experience has shown that Masons are, for the most part, deeply religious men. I am proud to be a Mason and a part of an organization that is devoted to helping, without question or embarrassment, widows, orphans, and those in need.

I am proud to be a Mason and to be a part of a Fraternity dedicated to the upholding of the Constitution of the United States of America and the Bill of Rights.

I am proud to be a Mason who believes in the freedom of mankind and the sanctity of human life.

I am proud to be a Mason who believes in the dignity of God's children and opposes hatred and bigotry, and stands for truth, justice, kindness, integrity, and righteousness for all.

I am proud to be a Mason and shall always be happy to number myself among those who uphold those cardinal principles and moral standards of life that are so needed if our organization is to continue on the high level that has been its character from its inception. May God grant it continued strength to go, to grow, and to glow so that I and all Masons can exclaim: "I am proud to be a Mason!"

This Newsletter is YOUR Newsletter, it is only published to provide you with information and hopefully, entertainment, but I need your help! I need articles to publish, if you have something going on in your lodge why not share it with others, if you hear of something interesting, I'm sure others would find it interesting also.

Send your articles to Joe Reynolds at:
Joe.Reynolds@franksexton206.org

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