



# The Trestle Board



**MWSA**

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

Volume 2, Number 4

April, 2018

## 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

## FROM THE PRESIDENT.....

The month of March finds this year's Worshipful Masters hustling to get all their programs completed by the end of their Masonic year while insuring new officers are ready for office and actually elected for next year. Those who will be "going up" are busy planning their year. This includes finding an acceptable date, planning for refreshments, getting installation officers and finishing out his team with appointed officers.

The District Deputy is concluding his first Official Visit to Lodges in District 6. This year he is on the forefront of reinstating the District Team process with two new members. These members were once a part of the Team and for various reasons dropped from the Team several years ago. The new Team members are Rex McGee, District Education Officer and Joe Reynolds, District Communications Officer. Ken Kennedy is returning as the District Instructor after a one year absence. The two new members are attending the Official Visits and explaining their roles as members of the District Team. They will also be contacting Worshipful Masters to offer assistance on several issues throughout the year.

President McGee scheduled the District Deputy and his team to present the March MWSA program at its regular meeting. The team explained their duties after hearing

some encouraging words from the DDGM and hearing of programs being supported by the new Grand Master.

Upcoming events for April and May, 2018.

- Thursday, April 26, 2018—Right Worshipful Kenneth Curry, Grand Junior Warden will be bringing a program to the Masters, Wardens and Secretary's Association. We will meet at Temple Lodge # 70 for meal at 6:00 and meeting thereafter.

- Friday, April 27, 2018--- Frank Sexton Lodge in Pittsburg will sponsor a First Responders program in conjunction with other organizations in Pittsburg to honor members of the First Responders entities in the community. The program will start at 6:00 p.m. and will be held on the Camp County Court House grounds in the vicinity of the Veterans Memorial.

- Saturday April 28, 2018—David Elliott Lodge # 364 in Omaha will have a Pancake Fundraiser for their Scholarship Program from 8:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. at the Lodge. Menu will be Pancakes, Syrup. Butter, Bacon & Sausage as well as juice, milk and coffee for drinks. Tickets may be bought at the door or from any David Elliott Mason.

- May 05, 2018---The spring Grand Lodge program entitled Masonic Protocol, Etiquette & Decorum will be presented at Temple Lodge # 70 in Mt. Pleasant, Texas on May 05, 2018. Breakfast will be served between 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. with the training scheduled to start shortly thereafter and lasting approximately one hour. Jim Cornett, DEO of District 5 will present the program. There will be a question and answer program and fellowship period after the program. Rex McGee, DEO, Region 6 will facilitate the programs. Any questions concerning the program can be addressed with him at 903/577-3233 or [alvinrexmgee@hotmail.com](mailto:alvinrexmgee@hotmail.com).

- May 24, 2018—Right Worshipful Jim Rumsey, Committee on Work representative will present the Program to the MWSA which will be meeting at the Old Union Community Center three miles east of Mt. Pleasant, Texas on HWY 67 E. Meal at 6:00 p.m. and the program starting thereafter.

This month the Trestle Board will begin publishing a monthly short story or article which is part of the Grand Masters new “Masonic Light Program”. Some Lodges may be having someone present the same or a different program in each Lodge meeting. These articles are very informative.

The MWSA encourages each lodge and OES Chapter to appoint a liaison for the purpose of reporting upcoming events for publication in the Trestle Board newsletter and on the MWSA web page. .

The MWSA Newsletter wants to print news from your Lodge or OES Chapter, but we need it reported to us so we can give the activities coverage. This would apply to happenings in the future that your Lodge would like to announce or reporting completed activities you would just like everybody to know about. You may contact me at 903/577-3233 or [alvinrexmccgee@hotmail.com](mailto:alvinrexmccgee@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.

*Rex McGee  
President*

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

## THIS MONTH'S RIDDLE

### **King Solomon's Temple**

Q. Where was King Solomon's Temple located?

A. On the side of his head.

### **Lodges and Pubs**

Q. What do Masonic Lodges and pubs have in common?

A. The longer you stay the more enlightened you become.

### **Masonic Apron**

Q. Why do Freemasons wear aprons?

A. Just in case they have to do the washing up.

### **Masonic Beavers**

Q. What's the first thing a colony of Masonic beavers would do?

A. Build a grand lodge.

### **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.

## **GRAND LODGE**

### **District Education Officer (DEO) Spring Workshop Program - 2018**

As continuing Masonic education is one of the key components to the success of our fraternity, your Committee on Masonic Education and Service is pleased to offer the 2018 District Education Officer (DEO) Spring Workshop Program. This program is designed for the District Education Officer (DEO) to help further the Masonic Education of the members of the Lodges in his District.

The program selected by your District Education Officer (DEO) to be presented at a district-wide session, sometime between the beginning of March and the end of May is titled *Masonic Protocol, Etiquette & Decorum*.

The Fall Briscoe Workshop Program is to be presented in the same manner during the months of September, October, and November.

The above listed workshop will be held on **May 05, 2018**--DEO Jim Cornett, DEO of District 5 will present the spring program entitled *Masonic Protocol, Etiquette & Decorum*. The program will be presented at Temple Lodge # 70 in Mt. Pleasant, Texas on May 05, 2018. Breakfast will be served between 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. with the training scheduled to start shortly thereafter and lasting approximately forty-five minutes to one hour. There will be a question and answer program and fellowship period after the program.

## A.D. Banks receives Golden Trowel Award from David Elliott Lodge

A.D. Banks was presented the prestigious Golden Trowel Award by members of David Elliott Lodge at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 24, 2018 at the Lodge in Omaha.

Brother Banks joined Temple Lodge # 70 in Mt. Pleasant and received his Entered Apprentice Degree on April 30, 1945; received the Fellowcraft Degree on February 05, 1963; and was raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason on March 14, 1963. Brother Banks received his 50 year service award on November 28, 2012 in Mt. Vernon Lodge # 691. On July 08, 2013 he transferred his membership from Mt. Vernon # 691 to David Elliott # 206 in Omaha. Brother Banks served through the progressive line to become Worshipful Master in Mt. Vernon Lodge # 691 in Masonic Year 1974-1975. Each year since his transfer to David Elliott Lodge he has served the Lodge in an Officer position. Brother Banks is very active in the Lodge and in the community at the young age of 95 years.

Recipients of the award are chosen by a Golden Trowel Committee appointed by the Worshipful Master at the beginning of the Masonic year. The Committee is comprised of three of the five most immediate, and available, living Past Masters of the Lodge. Their responsibility is to review the activities of all members to determine if any qualify for this high honor.

The Golden Trowel is a Lodge's formal recognition of a Brother for his devoted service to Masonic principles in general or to his Lodge. It is intended to recognize the Brother who, year after year, quietly, but actively demonstrates his devotion to the teachings of Masonry.

Every Lodge has such members. They spread the living cement that builds our Fraternity into a true brotherhood. You will find them at labor in the kitchens, on the work committees, in public office, on community projects, in service clubs, heavily involved in their church activities and in schools – anywhere that a true and steady hand of assistance is needed.

It is those Master Craftsmen that the Golden Trowel Award is designated as the highest Award a Lodge can bestow on an individual member. Only one Golden Trowel Award can be bestowed each year if there is a deserving Mason.



*Worshipful Master Rex McGee presents the Golden Trowel Award to Brother A. D. Banks*

# MWSA MAY MEETING

**Visit of Committee on Work Representative  
Right Worshipful Jim Rumsey**

All Master Masons of District 6 are invited to attend a program to be presented by Right Worshipful Jim Rumsey, Committee on Work. The program will prove to be timely and informative.

The MWSA will serve a meal beginning at 6:00 p.m. on the regularly stated meeting night of the fourth Thursday of May----May 24, 2018. The program will start shortly after the meal is finished.

RW Rumsey will present his program and have a short question & answer period immediately afterward.

I am asking Worshipful Masters to let me know **by May 20, 2018** how many Masons from their Lodge will be attending so we can prepare the meal accordingly.

This is part of an ongoing effort to provide speakers who are knowledgeable about Masonic issues and share that knowledge with us at the Lodge level from time to time. Please come out and support this effort as we try to build our membership and educate the Masons of the District by presenting pertinent Masonic information.

## David Elliot Lodge Scholarship Fundraiser

David Elliott Lodge # 364 will hold a Pancake Breakfast of Saturday April 28, 2018 beginning at 8:00 a.m. and ending at 11:00 a.m. Tickets may be purchased from any David Elliott Lodge Mason or purchased at the door.

The proceeds from the fundraiser will go toward scholarships for local graduating students to assist them in defraying their educational costs and meeting their educational goals.

This is an annual fundraiser that assists the Lodge in providing two one thousand dollar scholarships to deserving students. David Elliott Lodge has provided these scholarships for many years as a way to encourage students to seek higher education. Masonry has always supported public education in Texas and this is simply one more way of supporting local education and fulfilling our commitment to be good citizens of the community.

Come join us at the Lodge and enjoy a good breakfast, good fellowship and help our students to meet their educational desires.

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### **.THIS MONTH'S HUMOR**

Some few years back, just after the introduction of Random Breath Testing, the Police officers of a small country township had to show the community that the RBT was working. They decided to stake out the local Masonic Hall, then as the night wore on, eventually a mason slowly came down the stairs and got into his car. The moment he started the engine the two officers approached him and asked him to "blow into the bag". He did of course but to the amazement of the officers proved negative. Fearing a faulty bag tried again, with the same results. Sure of a possible conviction they then escorted him to the Police station to do a blood test, with it also proving negative. Being upset with this they then asked him what had gone on and what he had done that evening, to which he answered, "The Grand Master was there, the Grand Secretary was there, the Grand Stewards were there and we all had a great time, as to my job I was the Grand Decoy".

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### **Tim Hall receives Golden Trowel Award From Frank Sexton Lodge**

Tim Hall was presented the prestigious Golden Trowel Award by members of Frank Sexton Lodge at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, March 02, 2018 at the Lodge.

Recipients of the award are chosen by a Golden Trowel Committee appointed by the Worshipful Master at the

beginning of the Masonic year. The Committee is comprised of three of the five most immediate, and available, living Past Masters of the Lodge. Their responsibility is to review the activities of all members to determine if any qualify for this high honor.

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*Worshipful Master Joe Reynolds presents the Golden Trowel award to Brother Tim Hall, while his wife Stacy look on.*

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### **MASONIC LIGHT PROGRAM**

This Article is part of the Grand Lodge Masonic Light Program. We will be publishing one article monthly for the next twelve months until the program is completed:

## RELIGION

Though religious in character, Freemasonry is not a religion, nor is it a substitute for one.

A religion is any system of belief, worship, or conduct—often involving a code of ethics and a philosophy. It connotes some particular religion. Freemasonry is non-sectarian. Before its altar Christian, Jew, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, and Confucian, may kneel together as Brothers.

Masonry accepts good men who are found to be worthy, regardless of their religious convictions, and strives to make better men of them by emphasizing a firm belief in the Fatherhood of God, the Brotherhood of Man, and the Immortality of the Soul.

Our own Declaration of Principles proclaims that fact: “It is religious in that it teaches Monotheism, that the Volume of the Sacred Law is open upon its altars whenever a Lodge is in session, reverence for God is ever present in its ceremonial, and to its Brethren are constantly addressed lessons of morality; yet it is not sectarian or theological.”

Religious men go to their individual places of worship, not to their Lodge, to worship their Creator. They go to their Masonic Lodge to learn moral truths and how to apply them to their everyday home and business lives.

The Reverend Thomas Sherrard Roy, D.D., a distinguished Baptist clergyman, phrased it this way:

“Freemasonry unites men of every country, sect, and opinion.

“It does not unite races, it unites men.

“It does not unite opinions, it unites men.

“It does not unite sects, it unites men.

“It says that men of different religions, maintaining those differences, can form a union that transcends the differences of country, sect, and opinion.”

Discussion Questions:

1. In what three principles must a man believe in order to be eligible for admission into Freemasonry?
2. Do the teachings of Freemasonry claim to provide for salvation of the soul?
3. What prevents an Atheist from being qualified to be made a Mason?

# MWSA

## District 6

### Visit of Grand Junior Warden

MWSA District 6 invites all Master Masons of District 6 to attend a meeting at Temple Lodge # 70 in Mt. Pleasant, Texas on **Thursday, April 26, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.** for a meal and to listen to a program presented by Right Worshipful Kenneth Curry, Grand Junior Warden. We are honored to have our new Grand Junior Warden to visit our District and bring us a program of information sure to enlighten all of us.

I am asking Worshipful Masters to let me know **by April 21, 2018** how many Masons from their Lodge will be attending so we can prepare the meal accordingly.

It is not often we are honored with the presence of a Grand Lodge official. Please come and support the efforts of the MWSA to provide quality and pertinent speakers for our District.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS



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

**April 3<sup>rd</sup>** – David Elliott Lodge #364, Monthly Stated Meeting – DDGM's Official Visit  
**April 3<sup>rd</sup>** – Border Chapter #211, OES, Monthly Stated Meeting  
**April 5<sup>th</sup>** – Frank Sexton Lodge #206, Monthly Stated Meeting  
**April 9<sup>th</sup>** – Avery Chapter #252, OES, Monthly Stated Meeting  
**April 9<sup>th</sup>** – Oasis Lodge #79, Training and Practice Session  
**April 10<sup>th</sup>** – Iron Bluff Lodge #1376, Monthly Stated Meeting  
**April 10<sup>th</sup>** – Pittsburg Chapter #381, OES, Monthly Stated Meeting  
**April 12<sup>th</sup>** – Daingerfield Chapter #906, OES, Monthly Stated Meeting  
**April 16<sup>th</sup>** – Oasis Lodge #79, Training and Practice Session  
**April 17<sup>th</sup>** – Oasis Lodge #79, Monthly Stated Meeting  
**April 17<sup>th</sup>** – Linden Chapter #576, OES, Monthly Stated Meeting  
**April 17<sup>th</sup>** – Omaha Chapter #997, OES, Monthly Stated Meeting  
**April 17<sup>th</sup>** – Northeast Texas Shrine Clubs, Monthly Meeting  
**April 19<sup>th</sup>** – Mt. Vernon Lodge #691, Monthly Stated Meeting  
**April 23<sup>rd</sup>** – New Boston Chapter #700, OES, Monthly Stated Meeting  
**April 23<sup>rd</sup>** – Oasis Lodge #79, Training and Practice Session  
**April 24<sup>th</sup>** – Temple Lodge #70, Monthly Stated Meeting  
**April 26<sup>th</sup>** – 6th District MWSA, Monthly Stated Meeting  
**April 30<sup>th</sup>** – Oasis Lodge #79, Training and Practice Session



*WM Jacob, Brother Buddy Blue, RW Kerry Wootten & Secretary Bill Guy*



*Brother Dwaine Fortenberry receives his 50 year service pin from RW Kerry Wootten while Brother Rex McGee looks on.*

## Temple Lodge #70 Presents Awards

Just prior to their stated meeting on March 27<sup>th</sup>, Temple Lodge #70 had an open meeting in order to confer the Golden Trowel Award on Brother Buddy Blue and to present the 50 Year Service Pen to Brother Dwaine Fortenberry.

RW Kerry Wootten, DDGM, Presented the Golden Trowel to Brother Buddy Blue for his past and current support to Temple Lodge #70, The Grand Lodge of Texas and to his fellow Brothers.

He also presented the 50 year service pin to Brother Fortenberry.

## Shrine Club News

*by Rex McGee*



The Northeast Texas Shrine Club held its regular meeting at Herschel's Restaurant in Mt. Pleasant on March 20, 2018.

The meeting started after a good meal and a lengthy period of fellowship. This month we had several members returning after missing several meetings due to prior obligations and activities. It was good to see Noble Jim Alford, Past Potentate and his Lady Barbara; Noble Mike Ramsey: And Noble Jack Reed and Lady Marian made their second meeting in a row after having

a short term obligation with another organization. It is nice to have these dedicated members back from prior commitments.

President McGee made an announcement about the Peanut Festival parade in Whitesboro, Texas on October 21, 2018. All units are invited to attend and participate. He also announced that a Hella Temple Pavilion Fish Fry would be held on April 21, 2018 from 12 Noon until 2:00 p.m. Tickets will be sold at all Hella Shrine events. If you would like to pay with a credit card please call the Temple office at 972/240-6624 and let them know if you want a catfish dinner or hamburger dinner. The cost of the meal is \$10.00 each and all Nobles & families are invited to attend.

Proceeds benefit Hella Shrine Temple and are not tax deductible as a charitable gift.

President McGee announced that he has been trying to locate speakers and if anyone knows of a speaker with a good message that would be of interest to the Shrine Club, please let him know.

The Northeast Texas Shrine Club will have its next stated meeting at 6:30 p.m. on April 17, 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

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## **MWSA announces Meeting Programs by Grand Lodge Representatives for next three months**

*by Rex McGee*

The MWSA proudly announces that it has been able to secure programs from three Grand Lodge Representatives for our stated meetings.

In the month of March 2018 we were able to secure Right Worshipful Kerry Wootten and his District Team to bring a program related to the services offered by the Grand Lodge of Texas to the Constituent Lodges and by the District Team under the direction of the District Deputy Grand Master. The members to this team are the District Deputy Grand Master, Right Worshipful Kerry Wootten, the District Instructor, Ken Kennedy and two new members of the Team, Rex McGee, District Education Officer and Joe Reynolds, District Communications Officer. The two new members will be

travelling with the District Deputy & District Instructor to explain their roles under the District Team concept.

In April we will have the Right Worshipful Kenneth C. Curry bringing a program at the stated meeting of the MWSA. This meeting will be hosted in Temple Lodge # 70 on HWY 271 North about one mile north of I-30 under the big City of Mt. Pleasant water tower. The subject of the program, full directions to the Lodge & contact numbers will be coming later. The MWSA Officers felt that the change of location would be beneficial to those who do not attend regular MWSA meetings and the accommodations are better suited for this type of affair. Worshipful Master Jacob Blue has approved the use of the building on this date and we appreciate his courtesy.

In May 2018 we will be having a program presented by Right Worshipful Jim Rumsey, the newest member of the Committee on Work, and the representative for our area. This meeting will also be held on the MWSA stated meeting night with a location to be determined to allow for maximum attendance and ease of finding the location. I will be sending further information on the location and the topic of the program after further contact with Brother Rumsey.

We are finally in a position of securing programs and speakers and need your input as to what subject matter you would like for your programs. Brother Kennedy, District Instructor, has served us greatly by bringing many excellent programs in the past and we will be calling on him in the future to make presentations in his area of expertise.

If anyone knows speakers with knowledge in Masonry or other similar subjects of interest to the Brethren, please do not hesitate to contact me or Brother Rhett McCullough and giving us the information for consideration for future programs.

### **NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

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