



# The Trestle Board



**MWSA**

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

Volume 2, Number 5

May, 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.....

April has been busy as spring always seems to bring in a flurry of new activities by Masons and The Order of the Eastern Star. The Eastern Star has held elections and elected a new set of Officers to lead them into the ensuing year.

Scholarships have been a subject of many Lodges and Eastern Star Chapters in our common Districts. A minimum of 20 Scholarships have been or will be awarded by the six Lodges and three Eastern Star Chapters in our area. These scholarships help young graduates pursue their education and attain their dreams.

Spring brings in activities for Masons that point to new beginnings of growth for the organization as we start planning and conducting new programs and activities. Here are just a few of the upcoming events in our District that will keep Masons active in the next few months.

- 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 period after the program.

Rex McGee, DEO, Region 6 will facilitate the program. Any questions concerning the program can be addressed with him at 903/577-3233 or [alvinrexmccgee@hotmail.com](mailto:alvinrexmccgee@hotmail.com)

District Instructor Kenneth Kennedy will present a Forum starting at the conclusion of the District Education Program at 10:00 a.m. First, drinks and pastries will be served and the forum will begin in a few minutes. The purpose of this forum is to assist those people going into office the ensuing Masonic year. A question and Answer period will be held prior to dismissing. The Forum should conclude by 1:00 p.m.

We are looking forward to seeing all of you at the Program & Forum.

- May 24, 2018—The Right Worshipful Jim Rumsey program has been re-scheduled for September 27 due to a conflict in his schedule. Instead, we will be honored with a program by Brother Russell Brown, candidate for the Grand South at the next Grand Annual Communication. The meeting will be held at Temple Lodge on May 24, 2018 with a meal starting at 6:00 p.m. and the program commencing thereafter.
- Late May and June 2018---Elections for the Masonic Lodges in our area.
- June, 2018—Installations for the Order of the Eastern Star Chapters in our area.
- July 2018---Installations for the Masonic Lodges must be completed by July 31, 2018.

- July 26, 2018--Election of new Officers and installation of said Officers at same stated meeting.
- August 23, 2018---Brother Don Comedy of the Texas Masonic Charities Foundation will present a program related to the services and purposes of the Foundation at our August stated meeting.
- September 27, 2018---Right Worshipful Jim Rumsey's re-scheduled program will be presented on this date. The meeting will be held at Temple Lodge # 70 in Mt. Pleasant beginning at 6:00 p.m. with a meal and the meeting starting thereafter.

As one can easily see the next few months will be busy with activities as well as congratulating this year's Officers for a job well done and wishing well to the new officers for the ensuing year. There are numerous stories of interest in this issue, please take time to read them. Gear up for an active and safe summer.

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).

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## History Topic 5 - Origin

Although the Bible provides for the classification of workers involved in the erection of the Temple of Solomon, and documents exist suggesting that some form of organization of builders and/or guilds of stonemasons existed as early as A.D. 926, there is no direct evidence to prove that the Speculative

Freemasonry we practice today is the progeny of either.

As distinguished from any other organization of practical builders, Freemasonry probably had its beginnings among those who constructed the castles and Gothic cathedrals of Europe and the British Isles in the Middle Ages; that is, in the 11th, 12th, and 13th centuries.

Organized Speculative Freemasonry under the Grand Lodge system as we know it today dates from A.D. 1717. Freemasonry in the United States was in operation as early as 1730, and possibly before that.

No one man discovered, founded, or invented Freemasonry. It is the result of growth. Many individuals had a part in it, for it has taken to itself a multitude of symbols and teachings from many systems of knowledge

The most generally accepted belief as to those who "began" Speculative Freemasonry is that the craft is a descendent of operative stonemasons. Those operatives had learned practices and rituals inherited from unknown beginnings, from several—probably many—times and places. Speculative Freemasonry, reaching back through Operative Freemasonry, touches hands with those who subscribed to a variety of religions and sacred rites. However, many of its speculative principles must have been taught using symbols as old as mankind, and therefore, universal and not the product of any one person or time. Operative Freemasonry, transformed, became the convenient vehicle from which to exhibit the deeper philosophies of Speculative Freemasonry.

Many writers in the last two centuries have engaged in fanciful speculations on the origins of the Craft, offering theories that have no basis in fact. Much of that fancy has found its way into print, to the general embarrassment of the Fraternity, and the lining of the pockets of self-claimed Masonic scholars. Take all such stories that attempt to place a definite date or place of Freemasonry's beginnings, or to link it directly with the so-called ancient mysteries, with several grains of salt. The real focus should not be on where it came from, but rather where it can lead us.

Discussion Questions:

1. What evidence exists to support the claim that the Speculative Freemasonry we practice today was born of the Operative Freemasonry of the Middle Ages?
2. Do you believe that it is a coincidence that the creation of the Grand Lodge of England and Speculative Freemasonry occurs just as “The Enlightenment” period is gaining momentum in Europe?
3. What does the creation of Speculative Freemasonry three hundred years ago and the fact that it still exists today say about its significance and potential benefits?

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## **THIS MONTH’S RIDDLE**

### **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.

### **Masonic Light Bulb No.1**

Q. How many Masons does it take to change a light bulb?

A. No one knows. It’s a secret.

### **Masonic Light Bulb No.2**

Q. How many Masons does it take to change a light bulb?

A. CHANGE?

The proceeds from the fundraiser are dedicated to the scholarship fund 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.

Thanks to everyone that came out for the Pancake Breakfast or made donations through the purchase of tickets. We want to especially thank the Eastern Star members of surrounding Chapters for presence and support of our fund raiser. The children of our community deserve our support in their educational pursuits.

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## **Grand Junior Warden, Right Worshipful Kenneth C. Curry, brings program to members of MWSA-6 at monthly meeting.**

*by Rex McGee*

MWSA members were given an opportunity to meet our newly installed Grand Junior Warden and listen to his thoughts related to mission, active membership and the future of the Fraternity. The new Grand Junior warden has as an easy to approach demeanor and a method of involving those present in the program. He has an ability to marshal up facts and figures to support his issues and presents them in a manner that is easily understood.

The new Grand Warden spoke about membership and the issues we have been encountering as an organization for the latter part of the 20th and first part of the 21st century. He approached this issue from the standpoint of working with Masons to keep them active in the Fraternity. This would include those newer Masons as well as the more seasoned of the Fraternity. He got everybody’s attention when he began talking about newer Masons, getting them in the Fraternity, and keeping them interested and active. He stated that we need to look at our business model and come up with solutions that will enlist new quality Masons and keep

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## **David Elliot Lodge Scholarship Fundraiser**

David Elliott Lodge # 364 held its annual Pancake Breakfast on Saturday April 28, 2018 beginning at 8:00 a.m. and ending at 11:00 a.m.

the more tenured brothers coming and participating in activities. He put everyone in the meeting on the spot by asking questions and pointing to different members to answer the question. The meeting came alive with ideas and questions back to the Grand Junior Warden.

Right Worshipful Curry encouraged everyone to communicate with those who are not active and see if we can bring them back into the fold. With newer Masons we need to encourage them to learn what being a Mason actually means, teach them the things they need to know and include them in activities, so they will feel that they are part of the group.

Right Worshipful Curry took time to greet and speak with each member present and encourage them to think about active Masons more than just numbers to ensure that Masonry remains viable into the future.

We look further to future visits and communication with Right Worshipful Curry.

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### **PITTSBURG 381, OES AWARDS SCHOLARSHIP**

Pittsburg Chapter 381, Order of the Eastern Star awarded a \$1,000.00 Scholarship to Claire Burson, the Granddaughter of Sister Martha McGuire.

Claire is 18 years old. She was homeschooled and graduated high school a year early. She is a Sophomore in college at LeTourneau University in Longview where she is majoring in Chemical Engineering. She was a member of the LETU volleyball team and a charter member of the LETU Women's track and field program. She has been selected for two internships this summer - one through LETU's chemistry department where she will test formaldehyde sensors for schools in Africa, and the second internship is at the University of North Texas in the chemistry department conducting field research.

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### **FIRST RESPONDERS EVENT**

Masons of the Frank Sexton Lodge in Pittsburg sponsored and coordinated a program involving approximately twenty local clubs, Churches and other organizations in Camp County. This event was attended, by several counts, around two hundred well-wishers and supporters of our local First Responders.

Local Pastors came out and requested blessings upon the event by Almighty God. The two County elected Judges made presentations and thanked all involved in the event.

Brothers Tim Hall and Rhett McCullough handled the biggest part of the foot work and coordination for the Lodge according to Worshipful Master Joe Reynolds. More than twenty local members were seen working the crowd and the Mason's booth at the event.

Many organizations served some type of refreshments such as drinks, Ice cream, hot dogs, cookies and other goodies. The weather was beautiful for this type of event and people were in no hurry to leave. Many stayed and enjoyed the fellowship on the lawn of the Historic Camp County Courthouse where the event took place. The Camp County Veterans Heroes Plaza on the South side of the Courthouse lawn was where the activities of the speakers took place and the Boy Scout presentation of the Flag was performed. The Plaza served as a back drop for the group pictures of the Camp County First Responders.

Frank Sexton Lodge has sponsored a First Responders banquet and program for several years, but decided to approach the program from a different view point this year. The Lodge decided to involve the entire community and it appears that this has been a successful concept.



*WM Beverly Sinclair, Sister Martha McGuire, Clair Burson, Melinda Burson, TJ Burson Catherine and Corrie Burson*

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Life without a friend is death without a witness.

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## Masonic District 6 & District 1 Section 9 OES, continues to bring in New Masons and Stars

*by Rex McGee*

At least four Lodges in the District conferred degrees on candidates this past month.

In the month of May Temple Lodge # 70 will be conferring an Entered Apprentice Degree on a candidate on May 14, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. Refreshments will be served prior to the Degree.

The Order of the Eastern Star, Pittsburg Chapter # 381, will be conferring a degree on a candidate on April 30, 2018 at Frank Sexton Lodge at 6:00 p.m. Refreshments will be served prior to the Initiation.

If you will contact the Newsletter staff, we will be happy to advertise your degrees so that you may increase your attendance as such events.

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### THIS MONTH'S HUMOR

#### **The case with the silk stockings**

Bro John and Bro Mike are getting dressed and ready for a lodge meeting. When John takes his apron out of the case, Mike notices a pair of silk stockings unrolling and hanging out of the case. Mike asks: \*I say, John, what's this with the ladies stuff ?\* John gives a quick look and whispers: \*You remember the installation meeting last year ?\* Mike acknowledges and John goes on: \*Keep it a secret, but on the way home I stopped at the pub on where I met this lovely female. Apparently she lost her stockings in my car, and my wife found them. I told her I was passed to a higher degree, and ever since she takes 'm out of the case washes them and puts them back in with my gloves !\*

been attending Frank Sexton Lodge for several years while currently living in Pittsburg but remained a member of Tannehill Lodge.

Brother Scott, G. Hill, Secretary of Tannehill Lodge # 52 travelled to Pittsburg to represent the recipients home Lodge. Worshipful Master Joe Reynolds welcomed everyone and began the ceremony and then turned it over to Right Worshipful Kerry Wootten, District Deputy Grand Master of Masonic District #6 for the presentation of the lapel pin and certificate.

Brother Johnson was then escorted to the East where he was given an opportunity to speak to the crowd of well wishers. When he finished the Worshipful Master gave those in the audience, who wished to do so, an opportunity to congratulate or speak concerning Brother Johnson's fifty years as a Mason.

The meeting was completed and the Worshipful Master declared the meeting closed and invited everyone to partake of refreshment in the dining room.



*Pictured left to right: Brother Scott, G. Hill, Brother Richard Johnson, and Right Worshipful Kerry Wootten, District Deputy Grand Master of Masonic District 6.*

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### Frank Sexton Lodge # 206 performs courtesy presentation of 50 year award

*By Rex McGee*

Richard Johnson of Tannehill Lodge # 52 in Dallas was presented a fifty Year Masonic Award as a courtesy to Tannehill Lodge # 52 on April 14, 2018 in Frank Sexton Lodge # 206 in Pittsburg, Texas. Brother Johnson has

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### CALENDAR OF EVENTS



**May 1<sup>st</sup>** – David Elliott Lodge #364, Monthly Stated Meeting

**May 1<sup>st</sup>** – Border Chapter #211, OES, Monthly Stated Meeting

**May 3<sup>rd</sup>** – Frank Sexton Lodge #206, Monthly Stated Meeting  
**May 7<sup>th</sup>** – Oasis Lodge #79, Training and Practice Session  
**May 8<sup>th</sup>** – Iron Bluff Lodge #1376, Monthly Stated Meeting  
**May 8<sup>th</sup>** – Pittsburg Chapter #381, OES, Monthly Stated Meeting  
**May 10<sup>th</sup>** – Daingerfield Chapter #906, OES, Monthly Stated Meeting  
**May 14<sup>th</sup>** – Oasis Lodge #79, Training and Practice Session  
**May 14<sup>th</sup>** – Avery Chapter #252, OES, Monthly Stated Meeting  
**May 17<sup>th</sup>** – Mt. Vernon Lodge #691, Monthly Stated Meeting  
**May 15<sup>th</sup>** – Oasis Lodge #79, Monthly Stated Meeting  
**May 21<sup>st</sup>** – Linden Chapter #576, OES, Monthly Stated Meeting  
**May 15<sup>th</sup>** – Omaha Chapter #997, OES, Monthly Stated Meeting  
**May 15<sup>th</sup>** – Northeast Texas Shrine Clubs Monthly Stated Meeting  
**May 20<sup>th</sup>** – Oasis Lodge #79, Training and Practice Session  
**May 24<sup>th</sup>** – 6th District MWSA, Monthly Stated Meeting  
**May 28<sup>th</sup>** – New Boston Chapter #700, OES, Monthly Stated Meeting  
**May 28<sup>th</sup>** – Oasis Lodge #79, Training and Practice Session  
**May 22<sup>h</sup>** – Temple Lodge #70, Monthly Stated Meeting

Masonic affiliation and Master Masons. Our members share a belief in the existence of a Supreme Being and promotion of the principles of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth.

The month of April finds Chapters holding their elections and the Worthy Matrons Elect trying to put together a team of Officers for her year in the East. The following schedule has been established for the Chapters in District 1, Section 9

Avery # 252 June 16th @ 9 A.M. Tiffany and Billy Norton
Border # 211 June 5th @ 6 P.M. Stephenia and David Myrick – CLOSED
Daingerfield # 906 June 14th @ 6:30 P.M. Betty Crain and Ron Davis – CLOSED
Linden # 576 June 23rd @ 1:00 P.M. Peggy McNeely and Delton Washington
New Boston #700 June 2nd @ 10 A.M. Beverly and Doyle Sikes
Omaha #997 June 16th @ 2 P.M. Judy Harris and Jerome Elder
Pittsburg #381 June 9th @ 10 A.M. Gina and Charles King

Here's wishing the new Officers a very successful and productive year. Everyone needs to come out and show their support for these Officers who have agreed to lead our Chapters through the next year.

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Blessed is the servant who loves his brother as much when he is sick and useless as when he is well and can be of service to him. And blessed is he who loves his brother as well when he is afar off as when he is by his side, and who would say nothing behind his back he might not, in love, say before his face.

*-St. Francis of Assisi*

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### Order of the Eastern Star prepares for yearly installations

*by Rex McGee*

The Grand Chapter of Texas Order of The Eastern Star is a fraternal organization composed of women with

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### Shrine Club News

*by Rex McGee*



The Northeast Texas Shrine Club held its regular meeting at Herschel's Restaurant in Mt. Pleasant on April 17, 2018.

The meeting started after a good meal and a lengthy period of fellowship. This year the drive had total local donations of \$1865.00. The Club has a plaque to present to the Manager and staff of the local IHOP. We will present the plaque when a mutually agreeable time can be determined.

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.

President McGee announced that Right Worshipful Kenneth Curry will be presenting the program to the local MWSA members at Temple Lodge # 70 on Thursday, April 26 starting at 6:00 p.m. with a meal.

In addition an announcement was made about the Spring DEO Educational Program being held at Temple Lodge # 70 on May 05 starting at 8:00 a.m. with breakfast being served by the MWSA. The training will be concluded by 10:00 a.m. Immediately after the DEO program concludes the MWSA will serve drinks and Pastries and then the District Instructor will present a Forum to assist all officers contemplating taking offices in the upcoming Masonic year. The program is expected to conclude by 1:00 p.m.

President McGee announced that the MWSA will be sponsoring further programs on May 24, 2018 by Right Worshipful Jim Rumsey, Representative for the Committee on Work and on August 23, 2018 a program will be presented by Don Comedy representative of the Texas Masonic Charities Foundation.

The Northeast Texas Shrine Club will have its next stated meeting at 6:30 p.m. on May 15, 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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## WHY PRESIDENT McKINLEY BECAME A MASON

When General Horatio King asked William McKinley how he happen to become a Mason he explained: "After the Battle of Opequam, I went with our surgeon of our Ohio regiment to the field where there were about 5,000 Confederate prisoners under guard. Almost as soon as we passed the guard, I noticed the doctor shook the hands with a number of Confederate prisoners. He also took from his pocket a roll of bills and distributed all he had among them. Boy-like, I looked on in wonderment; I didn't know what it all meant. On the way back from camp I asked him:

"Did you know these men or ever see them before?"

"No," replied the doctor, "I never saw them before."

"But," I persisted, "You gave them a lot of money, all you had about you. Do you ever expect to get it back?"

"Well"" said the doctor, "If they are able to pay me back, they will. But it makes no difference to me; they are

brother Masons in trouble and I am only doing my duty."

"I said to myself, If that is Freemasonry I will take some of it for myself."



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