



The Trestle Board



MWSA

6th Masonic District in Texas

Volume 2, Number 6

June, 2018

MWSA OFFICERS



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FROM THE PRESIDENT.....

The month of May came in like a thunderous spring storm. Members are attempting to complete activities for this year and plan for the ensuing year at the same time. Every year, at this time, we hear from members who believe two-year terms for the three line officers would work much better as a one year term never gives the Master adequate time to complete everything he wants to do. Then, those who have previously been Masters remember the amount of work performed during a year as Master and the talk quickly fades to “this is going to be a loooooooooooooooooooooooooooooong year”.

We cannot discuss this past year without speaking about the loss of the Worshipful Master of Oasis Lodge # 79 in Daingerfield. The death of a brother fellow Mason is always a great loss. When the loss of the leader of the Lodge occurs it becomes a period of deep reflection for the Lodge. How do you replace this brother who has stepped up to the task of leading the Lodge? You honor him by moving forward, choosing the next leader and carrying on with the task of moving Masonry forward just as he would have desired for us to do. We will all miss Worshipful Master Bob King and his leadership. One can never list all the assets of a Man of Bob’s

character so I will just say he was a good man, a man who loved his family, a man who served his Country, a man who spent his life career protecting the citizens of this Great State, and a Good Mason---A legacy any man should be proud of to follow his name. Let us all pray for his family during these days of darkness and look forward to the day when we have completed our journey through this transitory life so we may become partakers of the resurrection of the righteous, and on that bright day meet again with our departed families & friends.

The summer months will prove to be full of activities and here is a partial lists of things that everyone needs to have on their calendar.

- June, 2018—Installations for the Order of the Eastern Star Chapters in our area.
- June, 2018--- MWSA Dark this month
- After June 24 and July 2018---Installations for the Masonic Lodges must be completed by July 31, 2018.
- July 26, 2018---Election of new MWSA 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.

Let us all remember to be safe this summer. Use common sense in the heat, be reasonable and take cautions in our activities and have fun.

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 alvinrexmcgee@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.

History

Topic 6 – F. & A.M. & A.F. & A.M.

You will recall that Masonry in the United States did not come from one source but from several. The mother Grand Lodge was constituted at London in 1717, but other Grand Lodges were formed over the next several decades, and in 1751, a strong rival group was organized in England. The younger Grand Lodge called itself the “Antients,” and dubbed the older Grand Lodge the “Moderns.” No wonder Masons in the 20th century are confused!

Both the “Moderns” and the “Antients” issued charters to Lodges in the American colonies. Hence, those American Grand Lodges that trace their origin to the “Moderns” use the abbreviation “F. & A.M.” (Free and Accepted Masons), whereas those derived from the “Antients” use the abbreviation “A.F. & A.M.” (Ancient Free and Accepted Masons). As far as principle and ritual are concerned, there is practically no difference between the two, except as the Grand Lodges themselves might legislate.

In the United States, there are almost an equal number of Grand Lodges that use “A.F. & A.M.” as those that use “F. & A.M.” The exceptions are South Carolina, which uses “A.F.M.” (Ancient Free Masons), and the District of Columbia, which uses “F.A.A.M.” (Free And Accepted Masons).

In 1809 the Premier Grand Lodge of England (Moderns) appointed a "Lodge of Promulgation" in an attempt to standardize their ritual with that of Scotland, Ireland and

in particular the Ancients. In 1811 both Grand Lodges appointed Commissioners and over the next two years, articles of Union were negotiated and agreed upon. In January 1813, Augustus Frederick, the Duke of Sussex became Grand Master of the Moderns, and in December of that year his brother, Edward Augustus, Duke of Kent became Grand Master of the Antients. On 27 December 1813 the United Grand Lodge of England ("UGLE") was constituted at Freemason's Hall with HRH Prince Augustus Frederick, the Duke of Sussex (the younger son of King George III) as Grand Master. A Lodge of Reconciliation was formed to reconcile the rituals being worked under the two former Grand Lodges.

Discussion Questions:

1. Has Texas always been an A. F. & A. M. Grand Lodge?
2. Where did the Grand Lodge of Texas receive its Charter from?
3. What designations do the Grand Lodges of Louisiana, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Mexico use?

ELECTION OF LODGE OFFICERS

A PRIORITY

by Rex McGee

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

Officers must be elected in open Lodge. A separate vote must be taken for each elective office which shall be by written ballot where two or more Brethren are nominated.

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

Last year Harry Clark, District Instructor, reminded us:

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

Secretary: AS SOON AS YOUR OFFICERS ARE ELECTED, you should notify Grand Lodge. Starting on May 23, this can be done by going on the Texas Lodge Secretary's Database to Add Newly Elected Officers under the Lodge Officers button. That capability will ONLY be available from May 23 until midnight, June 23rd, as annual returns are generated, and new officers listed. After June 23rd, the Officer's Form will be available under Forms Section and if you have not submitted them on the Texas Lodge Secretary Database, you will have to complete that form and mail to the Grand Lodge Office. You will also have to list them in your annual return. Failure to notify the Grand Secretary's office of your new officers will result in your Lodge not being listed in the new 2018-2019 *Directory of Constituent Lodges in Texas*. **Do not wait until installation to notify us of your new officers.**

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

THIS MONTH'S RIDDLE

Masonic Policeman

Q. What did the police officer say to the Brother caught speeding home from Lodge?

A. I shall now direct your attention to a charge.

Masonic Terrorists

Q. Why is Freemasonry a suspected terrorist organization?

A. Because the Square and Compasses are weapons of maths instruction.

Masonic Thermometer

Q. Why did the Cowan break open the thermometer?

A. To discover the secrets of the degrees.

Non-Masonic Light Bulb

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

A. None. They are in eternal darkness.

Password

Q. Why do you need a password to enter a Masonic Lodge?

A. Because they don't sell tickets.

THREE LODGES IN ONE NIGHT

by Joe Reynolds

Frank Sexton Lodge #206, opened in all three Lodges on Thursday, May 17th. We opened an Entered Apprentice Lodge at 6:00 p. m. in order for a new EA to turn in the 2nd and 3rd section of his work. Afterward we opened a Master Mason's Lodge in order for a new Master Mason to turn in his work. We then called the Lodge down in order to put a Fellowcraft Degree on the new Entered Apprentice that had just turned in his work. It's not often that we get the opportunity to open all three Lodges in one night.

I want to thank everyone who took time out of their busy schedule to show up and to assist in the degree.

Brother Russell Brown, Past Master, Honors MWSA with Program

Brother Russell Clay Brown, who has made himself available for the Office of Grand Junior Warden at the Grand Annual Communication in January of 2019 was the speaker at last night's Masters, Wardens & Secretary's Meeting held at Temple Lodge # 70 in Mt. Pleasant, Texas.

Brother Brown, an attorney from Henderson came to us with an impressive list of Masonic accomplishments to his name. He is the Past Master of Four Lodges, has served on the Jurisprudence Committee since 1997, Past Chair of the Civil Law Committee, served as DDGM, served as District Instructor and District Education Officer, & Grand Representative; served on three Grand Master's Planning teams and a recipient of the Golden Trowel Award. In addition, he served as Grand Orator of the Grand Lodge in 2004.

Brother Brown also has an impressive record in the York Rite Bodies, Scottish Rite and Shrine. He holds many Honors, Titles and Offices in these bodies.

Even though his approach is somewhat homespun in nature it doesn't take long to figure out he is a polished and accomplished speaker. He appears to speak from the heart while presenting thoroughly researched issues that are timely and of interest to the participants.

He discussed issues tonight regarding membership, maintaining interest of members, and what changes we

need to consider as we deal with the ever changing culture that impacts Masonry. His primary focus was on Masonry making men "Better" and he felt that is the best selling point in securing and maintaining members.

After the meeting had concluded he took some time to talk and enjoy fellowship with those who attended the meeting. Brother Brown said he appreciated the opportunity to come and bring our program and would like to come back at some time in the future.

Brother Brown exhibited many of the qualities, as do many Masons, that we need seeking leadership roles in the Masonic Fraternity. Masonry has always played an important part in the development of this Nation and we must insure that the Fraternity survives to play an important part in the future of our Country.

God hides some ideal in every human soul. At some time in our life we feel a trembling, fearful longing to do some good thing. Life finds its noblest spring of excellence in this hidden impulse to do our best.

Robert Collyer

THIS MONTH'S HUMOR

How many Masons does it take to change a lightbulb?

After much research this tricky question can now be answered. It takes 20, as follows:

2 to complain that the light doesn't work.

1 to pass the problem to either another committee, Temple Board or Master of the Lodge.

3 to do a study on light in this Lodge.

2 to check out the types of lights the Knights of Columbus use.

3 to argue about it.

5 to plan a fund-raising dinner to raise money for the bulb.

2 to complain that "that's not the way we did it before."

1 to borrow a ladder, donate the bulb and install it.

1 to order the brass memorial plate and have it inscribed.

Masonic District 6 Holds Spring Workshop & Forum

Masons of District 6 met at Temple Lodge # 70 on Saturday, May 5, 2018 for a great breakfast of Biscuits, sausage, eggs & gravy along with orange juice, milk and coffee.

Brothers Buddy Blue & David Davey prepared a meal that would embarrass most of the local restaurants.

After the meal and a period of good fellowship everyone adjourned to the Lodge room where Rex McGee, District Education Officer called the meeting to order and introduced our speakers and other guests. Those were Right Worshipful Kerry Wooten District Deputy Grand Master of Masonic District 6, Right Worshipful Louis Pitts District Deputy Grand Master of Masonic District 5, District Instructor Ken Kennedy of Masonic District # 6, Marty Thomas, District Instructor of Masonic District 10-B and Jodie Harris, "A" Certificate holder. The speaker for the DEO Spring Workshop was Brother Jim Cornett, District Education Officer of Masonic District 5.

Brother Cornett brought an interesting program titled "Masonic Protocol, Etiquette, & Decorum. Brother Cornett skillfully gave definitions of each term from a Masonic perspective. He followed these definitions up with descriptions of how they fit into everyday Masonic business all the way from official introductions to communicating within the Lodge, from brother to brother and brother to the public. He then described some relevant actions within the Lodge that take place in nearly ever meeting and explained how holding with the Masonic Law, traditions, and etiquette makes our meetings more efficient, effective and pleasant.

We completed the first segment of training and adjourned to the dining are for refreshment for a few minutes.

In a few minutes we started the second segment of the training presented by Brother Ken Kennedy, assisted by Jim Cornett, Jodie Harris, Right Worshipful Potts, and Howard Barron. Brother Kennedy explained that his training today would focusing on opening and closing all four Lodges in order to assist the three primary

officers going into their new offices to learn the proper way to handle their new position. Proposed new officers took times rotating through the chairs in the different Lodges. Brother Kennedy also had some brothers working the Senior Deacon, Junior Deacon & Tiler positions to give them practice and some advice at this jobs. Brother Kennedy gave advice as we progressed through the training and allowed time for questions or observations by the members.

Everyone went away from both trainings feeling that they had learned things that made the training worthwhile to them and make them more knowledgeable and productive Masons.

Proud Mason awards scholarships To local students

Paul Pewitt High School held its annual award ceremony on Tuesday, May 22, 2018.

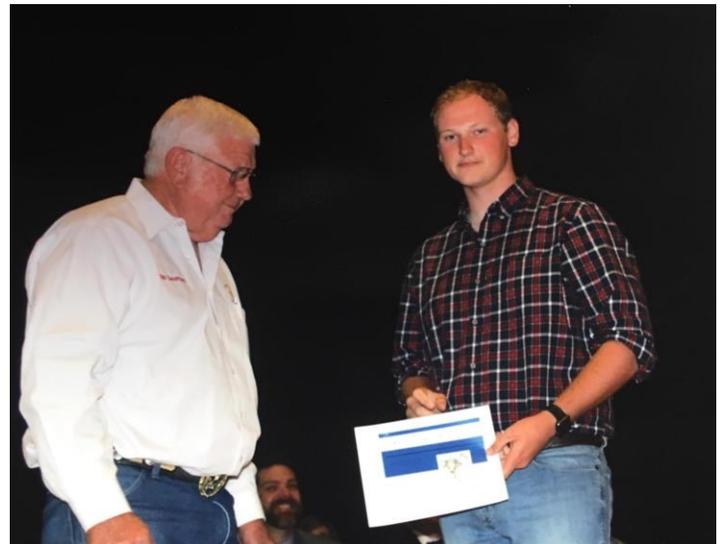
William Swafford, Past Master of David Elliott Lodge # 364 in Omaha represented the Lodge and presented two scholarships to deserving students. The Lodge, carrying on the legacy of Masons supporting Education in Texas, presented Haley Batchelor and Will Swafford a one thousand dollar scholarship each to assist with educational needs.

In the great state of Texas, education was given extreme importance from the beginning, thanks to the initiative of some very hardworking individuals. Texas was founded by men who were Masons. From the Father of Texas, Stephen F. Austin, to every single president of the Republic of Texas, and often over half of the elected and appointed officials of the Republic, Masons held offices in Texas government. It is only natural, then, that these men would work to establish a system of education that reflected their Masonic values. Stephen F. Austin lobbied to put educational requirements and guidelines into the Mexican Constitution of 1824. After the Constitution was put aside, Texas declared her independence. The new Texas Constitution stated that "unless a people are educated and enlightened, it is idle to expect the continuance of civil liberty, or the capacity of self-government."

Mirabeau Buonaparte Lamar was elected as the President of Texas in 1838. He was known as the "Father of Texas Education," because during his

presidency, a bill was passed which set aside lands for public schools and two universities. Some believe that Lamar had the most influence on Texas education, as under him, the founding of the Texas State Library, and the public school and university land set-asides laid the foundation for a Texas-wide public school system. Because of the bill passed under him, new schools and universities were built, giving children a place to learn and grow mentally and physically. Masons as a whole helped establish a lot. In the late pioneer days, the most common place to find a school in Texas was on the ground floor of a Masonic lodge.

By making schoolhouses a part of Texan communities early on, Masons assured that schools and education would continue to be a part of Texas as it continued to grow. Early on, Masonry played a huge part in flourishing education in Texas. Noted Texas historian, Frederick Eby, said it best when he wrote: "Education in Texas is indebted to the courageous assistance of the Masonic Brotherhood... The evidence leaves little doubt that Masons were using every means in their power...to bring about the creation of educational institutions." Masons everywhere continue this legacy through charities to benefit education; it's easy to see that the journey is not yet over. With generous support, donations, and effort, Masons today continue, and will continue, to better the education system and help build America's future for our next generation.



Bill Swafford presenting \$1,000 Scholarship to Will Swafford.

There are parts of a ship which taken by themselves would sink. The engine would sink. The propeller would sink. But when the parts of a ship are built together, they float. So with the events of my life. Some

have been tragic. Some have been happy. But when they are built together, they form a craft that floats and is going places. And I am comforted.

Ralph W. Sockman

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



- June 4th** – Oasis Lodge #79, Training and Practice Session
- June 5th** – David Elliott Lodge #364, Monthly Stated Meeting
- June 5th** – Border Chapter #211, OES, Monthly Stated Meeting
- June 7th** – Frank Sexton Lodge #206, Monthly Stated Meeting
- June 11th** – Avery Chapter #252, OES, Monthly Stated Meeting
- June 11th** – Oasis Lodge #79, Training and Practice Session
- June 12th** – Iron Bluff Lodge #1376, Monthly Stated Meeting
- June 12th** – Pittsburg Chapter #381, OES, Monthly Stated Meeting
- June 14th** – Daingerfield Chapter #906, OES, Monthly Stated Meeting
- June 18th** – Oasis Lodge #79, Training and Practice Session
- June 19th** – Oasis Lodge #79, Monthly Stated Meeting
- June 19th** – Linden Chapter #576, OES, Monthly Stated Meeting
- June 19th** – Omaha Chapter #997, OES, Monthly Stated Meeting
- June 19th** – Northeast Texas Shrine Clubs, Monthly Meeting
- June 21st** – Mt. Vernon Lodge #691, Monthly Stated Meeting
- June 25th** – New Boston Chapter #700, OES, Monthly Stated Meeting
- June 25^h** – Oasis Lodge #79, Training and Practice Session
- June 26th** – Temple Lodge #70, Monthly Stated Meeting
- June 28th** – 6th District MWSA is Dark during the month of June.

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.

Miss Alice Dempsey, who missed the last meeting due to a trip to the Holy Land, was back for this meeting and we are attempting to get her to bring us a program about her trip.

We had several visitors this month which were introduced by Noble Harold Conner. One of his guests was recently crowned as a National Champion while competing with a local Cheerleading team.

Noble Bill Guy presented a program on the history of the Shrine since its inception in the late 1800's. He discussed the founders and developers and then carried us through the development of the Shrine Hospital system completely up to the 23rd Hospital now open in Hawaii.

The Northeast Texas Shrine Club will have its next stated meeting at 6:30 p.m. on June 19, 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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Opinions expressed by individual writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect official positions of the Texas 6th Masonic District MWSA. Letters and articles may be submitted to: Joe.Reynolds@franksextton206.org (Cutoff for articles is 15th of the month)