



# The Trestle Board



**MWSA**

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

**Volume 2, Number 8**

**August, 2018**

## MWSA OFFICERS



President	Rhett McCullough	767-2488
Vice President	Bill Guy	572-5104
Secretary-Treasurer	Rex McGee	577-3233
Chaplain	Jerry Rook	575-7577
Webmaster	Joe Reynolds	575-8791

## **FROM THE PRESIDENT.....**

The month of July has been hot and dry for the most part. Everyone is dragging, partly from the heat and partly from the flurry of activities going on in local Lodges and Chapters. All of the Local Lodges and Eastern Star Chapters have had their installations and have their new Officers ready to go to work. The District Deputy Grand Master will begin his second round of official visits at the end of this month. The Eastern Star is getting ready for their Annual Grand Chapter event in Mid August and their year of work will get started in earnest with a new set of officers, a new Grand Matron and Patron, and new Deputy Grand Matrons. They will immediately start planning for their yearly schools and other activities.

This past year has been one of the most prolific growth periods in my memory as a Mason or member of the Eastern Star. I've seen more double degrees on the same night than any year I remember in the past fifteen to twenty years. It appears that, at least in our District, we are on an upward swing and bringing in some of the new blood that it will take to keep the Lodge and Eastern Star viable organizations in the future.

The Masters, Wardens, and Secretary's Association held its first election since the start up election eighteen months ago. The first year and a half saw many accomplishments and

taught us that there are many more things we need to do to assist in moving the District forward. Many goals came to fruition, but just as many were recognized as something more needed to be implemented to get us where we want to go as an organization. We managed to have a training session at nearly every meeting that brought some level of knowledge to everyone that attended. We scheduled Place officers training and a training plan was developed that assisted the new Place officers who attended. The meetings acted as vehicle for networking that was badly needed. We see a higher degree of visiting between Lodges and sharing skills in the conferring of degrees. The MWSA facilitated the procuring of training as well as speakers who shared their knowledge and goals in Masonry with the District. We now have speakers who contact us wanting to present programs or speak on particular subjects that are of special interest to most Masons. The MWSA was able to facilitate several Grand Lodge educational programs within the District. In addition, we will be facilitating future Grand Lodge training & Educational events locally.

Not only were we able to serve a good meal for all those attending MWSA meetings we also provided excellent meals when we had speakers to come to the District and for District training sessions.

We developed a web site for the MWSA use and produce a monthly newsletter that communicates the happenings that have occurred in the District and offers a schedule for upcoming events at both the Lodges and local Order of the Eastern Star Chapters. We often hear that visitors have learned of an event or found out about degrees or just the meeting night schedules through the newsletter. This type of communication offers the opportunity and appears to have already shown some results in the area of attendance at local meetings, degrees and other activities. Every six months the Newsletter attaches a Lodge Leadership and meeting schedule for all Lodges in District 6 and Chapters in District 1, Section 9, Order of the Eastern Star as two separate pages at the back of the newsletter.

Perhaps the biggest success has been getting members from all our Lodges together to network and communicate about our mutual concerns giving us an opportunity to move

forward in the District. My one regret is that we have not been able to firm up a list of Masons that can be passed out to Lodges that identify the skills everyone is willing to share with the other Lodges, in the conferring of degrees and presenting programs and training. I believe this next year will see this coming to fruition and will prove to be an asset for the entire District.

I leave the post as President of the MWSA with mixed feelings, but a sense of accomplishment in knowing that the tenets of Masonry have been advanced, and communication, the key ingredient of education is alive and well within the District. I truly appreciate the opportunity given me to serve the organization in this capacity. Last, but not least, I know that I leave the leadership of the organization in extremely capable hands.

The Officers for the ensuing year will be:

- President—Rhett McCullough
- Vice President---Bill Guy
- Secretary/Treasurer---Rex McGee
- Chaplin---Jerry Rook
- Web Master & Newsletter Editor---Joe Reynolds

Right Worshipful Kerry Wootten, District Deputy Grand Master, served as Installing Officer and Ken Kennedy, District Instructor, served as Installing Marshal.

I would like to give special thanks to Right Worshipful Kerry Wootten who has been a source of support by faithfully attending our meetings and keeping us up dated on Grand Lodge activities and our District Instructor, Ken Kennedy, who has shared his knowledge and given of his time to present training at nearly every meeting.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **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. 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. ALL EA, FC and Master Masons are invited to attend.
- **September 27, 2018**---Right Worshipful Jim Rumsey of the Grand Lodge Committee on Work re-scheduled his program to 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.

**MASTER MASONS ONLY due to subject matter.**

I bid farewell to the President's Office with this well-known Benediction to the Brethren.

**May the Blessings of Heaven rest upon us and all regular Masons. May Brotherly Love prevail and every moral and Social Virtue Cement us. Amen**

*Rex McGee*

*Past President*

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

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## History

### Topic 8 – Grand Master's Decision

On occasion, the Grand Master is called upon to clarify or “decide” how to deal with a particular event, situation, or circumstance, that is not clearly defined in the Grand Lodge Law Book or by a previous Grand Master's Decision. The Grand Master, after having consulted with whomever he deems appropriate, will decide how to deal with the situation and or interpret the law. Once decided, his “Decision,” unlike a Grand Master's Edict, which expires at the end of his term, effectively becomes law unless overturned or amended at a subsequent Grand Lodge Session.

The “Grand Masters Decisions and Annotations to the Laws of The Grand Lodge of Texas is not intended as a substitution for the reading of the Laws of The Grand Lodge of Texas and their annual revisions and amendments. It is foreseeable that the Grand Master Decisions will not be supplemented as often as the Laws of The Grand Lodge of Texas and care must be taken to assure that there have been no changes or revisions in the various articles of the Laws since the Grand Master Decisions were printed. Members are cautioned that portions of our Masonic Law, including our Constitution, may have changed dramatically since the individual Grand Master's Decision was issued. Accordingly, certain decisions may be currently wrong, inaccurate, without application, or mute.

When researching a question relating to our laws and the Decisions and Annotations, it is recommended that the question/problem be written. After doing this, it should be apparent that there are certain key words that will point to either the Index or the Table of Contents in the Grand Lodge Law Book, which should assist in finding the applicable Law and/or Grand Master Decision relating to the researched question. Thereafter, it should be easier to ascertain whether or not there are any Grand Master Decisions applicable to said Law.

Researchers should not neglect to reference the current Corporate Charter, the Constitution Ancient Charges of Freemasonry, or the current and past Monitors as a

source of information. Members are further cautioned and reminded that Title V, in its entirety was revised and replaced with new article language, table of contents, and index in December 2015; accordingly, decisions pertaining to Title V which were given on or before December 2015 may be currently wrong, inaccurate, without application, or mute.

The “Grand Master Decisions and Annotations to the Laws of The Grand Lodge of Texas” are available in both hardcopy and DVD from the Grand Secretary’s office. The current Decisions and Annotations only cover the period from approximately 1949 through the present date. Previous Grand Master’s Decisions were incorporated into the appropriate Articles in the Grand Lodge Law Book in the revision of 1945. To see a specific Grand Master Decision, it will be necessary to refer to the “Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Texas” for the appropriate year.

Should there be any need for an expanded search of the laws, inquiries should be made in the Library of The Grand Lodge of Texas at Waco. Decisions will be found there dating from 1837 through the present date. The present publication contains only Grand Masters’ Decisions and Annotations to the Laws of The Grand Lodge of Texas and other materials relating to our Masonic Law as they appear in our current Grand Lodge Law Book.

Discussion Questions:

1. Does a Grand Master’s Decision remain in effect once he has left office?
2. Discuss a recent Grand Master’s decision.
3. What is the difference between a Grand Master’s Decision and an Edict?

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## District Education Officers Perspective....

by Rex McGee

# FREEMASON LODGE OFFICERS

*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 varies from jurisdiction to jurisdiction and sometimes from lodge to lodge. These articles do not*

*recommend or condemn any practice established by lodges or jurisdictions. I am simply presenting 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.*

Officers are elected by the members of the lodge, although a few are appointed by the Worshipful Master. In most lodges, the officers serve in their positions for one year. The names and duties of the officers are mostly taken from very old customs practiced by the medieval stonemasons’ guilds, where Freemasonry originated.

In England in the 1400s, under the reign of King Edward III, local (or what we now call *municipal* governments grew out of the merchant and craft industries of the towns. The guilds had lots of money and property, as well as organizational and administrative experience. Heads of the guilds became heads of town councils, mayors, sheriffs, and more.

One of the ways a local official proclaimed his rank was by wearing a badge of office, or jewel, on a chain around his neck. This practice survives today. Masonic lodges do the same thing to identify their officers, carrying over this old guild tradition. Masonic jewels of office are symbolic (naturally).

Every lodge is required to have a worshipful Master, a Senior Warden, a Junior Warden, a Senior Deacon, a Junior Deacon, a Treasurer, and a Secretary. However, Freemasons do not march in lockstep with one another. There are subtle and not-so-subtle differences in the names of officers and their duties, from country to country, as well as from state to state. And yet, a Mason from Iowa on vacation in Belgium will recognize the same basic

framework of the Masonic officer’s line that he had at home in Dubuque, Governing the Lodge he is visiting in Brussels.

Masonic officers are generally part of what is called a progressive line, also known as “going through the chairs.” It is a line of succession that moves up one position at a time from one year to the next. When a man is appointed to the Junior Steward’s position, in a perfect set of circumstances, seven years later he will be Worshipful Master. Although this curious plan for leadership has its drawbacks, it was designed based on the philosophy of equality among Masons. The

progressive line is most common in the United States, but it exists in many other jurisdictions, as well.

There is supposed to be no politicking or campaigning for an officer's position. In the ideal lodge situation, each man simply advances each year, learning each position's duties and a portion of the Masonic ceremonies. By the time he becomes Worshipful Master of the lodge, he has sat in every chair except, perhaps, the Secretary and Treasurer. He has learned public speaking, management of a volunteer organization, decorum, and responsibility. By eliminating the annual popularity contest for election that many groups suffer results in a smoother, friendlier line of succession. Any man, regardless of his social, business, or economic position outside the lodge room, may aspire to be Master of his lodge.

There are lots of differences from one jurisdiction to another, and many local lodges observe different customs that may slightly alter these duties. In the following sections, you'll find an outline of the most common officers' positions in the United States.

This month we are starting out articles about the Worshipful Master.

## **WORSHIPFUL MASTER**

The senior officer of a Masonic Lodge is the Master, normally addressed and referred to as the "Worshipful Master" (in Scotland, and in Lodges under the Scottish Constitution, the "Right Worshipful Master"). The Worshipful Master sits in the East of the lodge room, chairs all of the business of his lodge, and is vested with considerable powers without further reference to the members. He also presides over ritual and ceremonies.

The office of Worshipful Master is the highest honor to which a lodge may appoint any of its members. The office is filled annually by election, often by secret ballot. The requirements as to who is eligible for election as Master vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction, but the majority of jurisdictions specify that a brother must have served as an installed Warden to qualify. In practice, most lodges will nominate and elect the previous year's Senior Warden in an uncontested election.

The honorific "Worshipful" does not suggest that the Master is worshiped, but is used in its original meaning, "worthy of respect". (Mayors and magistrates in parts of England and the Commonwealth are also traditionally called "Worshipful" or "Your Worship", as are certain bodies such as livery

companies). Analogues are used in other languages (for example, in France the Master of a lodge is referred to as "Vénérable").



At the conclusion of his limited term of office, a Worshipful Master is termed a **Past Master**. The duties and privileges of Past Masters vary from lodge to lodge and jurisdiction to jurisdiction. For example, in some jurisdictions Past Masters become life members of the Grand Lodge, while in others they are not. In most jurisdictions, a Past Master retains the honorific "Worshipful" (as in "Worshipful Brother Smith"), however there are a few where this honorific is used exclusively for sitting Masters.

Next Month we will look at the offices of the Wardens.

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I would say there are three steps in Masonry. The first step is the ritual; the second step would be the fellowship to be taken and enjoyed; and the third step would be Masonic information for enlightenment or education.

*William K. Bailey*

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## **THIS MONTH'S RIDDLE**

### **The Grip**

**Q.** Why do Masons have a secret handshake?

**A.** So they don't mistake each other for penguins.

### **The Illuminator**

**Q.** Who is the most enlightening person in the Lodge?

**A.** The Director of Ceremonies, because DC power is electrifying.

### **The King is Dead**

**Q.** What did the Israelites say when their first King (before David and Solomon) died?

**A.** That's Saul folks.

## **The King's Limo**

**Q.** What kind of car did King Solomon's father drive?

**A.** According to Scripture, the roar of David's Triumph was heard throughout the land.

## **The Staircase**

**Q.** Why did the Worshipful Master fall down the stairs?

**A.** Because the Entered Apprentice had taken the first step.

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## **Grand Secretary's Reminder** **Suspense Dates for Mandatory Transactions**

*by Rex McGee*

The following suspense dates are growing near. The new Worshipful Masters and Secretaries need to insure that their Lodge is in compliance with the dates listed.

**August 15** – Annual Returns Report due Grand Lodge NLT August 15 (Art. 493).

**September 1**–Lodge By-Laws that must be reviewed by the GL Committee on By-Laws due to the GS Office NLT September 1 (Art. 219).

**September 15**– Lodge Minimum Audit Report 71 are due to the GS Office NLT September 15 (Art. 284).

**December.28**– Proxy Certificates are due to the GS Office NLT December 28 (Art. 4). You should always appoint a Proxy (in case of an emergency) but he would not vote if any of the top three officers were available.

**November 15**\*\* (If Applicable) – Form 990-N, Electronic Notice (e-Postcard), must be filed with the IRS by Lodges that have gross receipts of \$50,000 or less, or do not meet the requirements for filing the IRS 990 or IRS 990EZ. Lodges must file the appropriate Form 990 no later than the 15th day of the fifth month following the close of the organization's fiscal year.

**August 6<sup>th</sup>** – Oasis Lodge #79, Training and Practice Session

**August 7<sup>th</sup>** – David Elliott Lodge #364, Monthly Stated Meeting

**August 7<sup>th</sup>** – Border Chapter #211, OES, Monthly Stated Meeting

**August 9<sup>th</sup>** – Daingerfield Chapter #906, OES, Monthly Stated Meeting

**August 13<sup>th</sup>** – Avery Chapter #252, OES, Monthly Stated Meeting

**August 13<sup>th</sup>** – Oasis Lodge #79, Training and Practice Session

**August 14<sup>th</sup>** – Iron Bluff Lodge #1376, Monthly Stated Meeting

**August 14<sup>th</sup>** – Pittsburg Chapter #381, OES, Monthly Stated Meeting

**August 16<sup>th</sup>** – Mt. Vernon Lodge #691, Monthly Stated Meeting

**August 20<sup>th</sup>** – Linden Chapter #576, OES, Monthly Stated Meeting

**August 20<sup>th</sup>** – Oasis Lodge #79, Training and Practice Session

**August 21<sup>st</sup>** – Oasis Lodge #79, Monthly Stated Meeting

**August 21<sup>st</sup>** – Omaha Chapter #997, OES, Monthly Stated Meeting

**August 21<sup>st</sup>** – Northeast Texas Shrine Clubs, Monthly Meeting

**August 23<sup>rd</sup>** – 6th District MWSA, Monthly Stated Meeting

**August 27<sup>th</sup>** – New Boston Chapter #700, OES, Monthly Stated Meeting

**August 27<sup>th</sup>** – Oasis Lodge #79, Training and Practice Session

**August 28<sup>th</sup>** – Temple Lodge #70, Monthly Stated Meeting

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## **Temple Lodge establishes Study** **nights for skills enhancement**

*by Rex McGee*

Temple Lodge # 70 in Mt. Pleasant has established two study per month for the purpose of:

- enhancing skills in the Open and Closing ritual of all four Lodges
- Task details for specific officers
- Specific skills related to performing often performed processes such as avouchment, balloting, receiving of Grand Lodge Officers, and
- Conferring Degrees

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## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**



**August 2<sup>nd</sup>** – Frank Sexton Lodge #206, Monthly Stated Meeting

In addition, the Lodge hopes to be able to furnish someone to assist EA's & FC's with their memory work at these meetings.

The schedule is as follows:

Second Monday of each Month;

- Task details for specific officers
- Specific skills related to performing often performed processes such as avouchment, balloting, receiving of Grand Lodge Officers, and
- Conferring Degrees ---Once the above two tasks have been completed for that particular half year segment.

Third Thursday Night of each month;

- Open and Closing ritual of all four Lodges
- And any process training that might be needed for the next meeting.

Bill Guy and Rex McGee will be working with local Lodge members in each of these areas. All members are encouraged to attend, and the Line Officers want everyone to know that if they are late, that is OK, just come on in and join in. If you can't make every meeting, make those that you can.

The Lodge's primary goal is to insure an Officer going into any station will be proficient in that office prior to being elected or appointed to an office. Secondly, the Lodge would like for every individual going into an office to be proficient in a couple of parts in each Degree. Thirdly, the Lodge wants everyone to have the opportunity to be able to participate in some part of the Degrees.

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## GRAND SECRETARY ANNOUNCEMENT

### LODGE SECRETARY TRAINING

There will be a school for Lodge Secretaries at **Grand Lodge in Waco on August 04, 2018.** This training was scheduled after the installation of the new lodge secretaries, so they could attend.

**Registration will be at 9:00 a.m. and the class will start at 10:00 a.m.**

We did not get any training, but we have learned a lot on our own. The training will primarily be

by a short training period and then questions and answers

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## THIS MONTH'S HUMOR

A new initiate returns home to his wife who is naturally curious to know what went on. The conversation goes something like this.

She) Well how'd it go?

He) Very well - most interesting

She) What did go on?

He) I'm not really sure if I can tell you about it.

She) Well is there anything you "can" tell me?

He) well it seems there are 3 classes of men in the Lodge - walkers, talkers and Holy men.

She) What do they do - if you can tell me?

He) The walkers walked me around the lodge. The Talkers talked to me and to the walkers as I was led around ....

She) and the Holy men? What of them?

He) They seem to be a special class of men - all older gentlemen in dark blue and gold aprons and gauntlets. They just sit on the benches around the lodge with their heads in their hands chanting repeatedly - "Oh My God Oh My God!"

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## District 6 MWSA has two programs

### Scheduled to end the summer months

The Masters, Wardens and Secretary's Association has arranged for two distinguished Texas Masons to present programs of interest to all Masons.

- **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. This meeting will discuss sponsored charities, Scholarship funding, Grants, etc. Every Lodge Officer needs to hear this information for sure. It is also very good information for every member to know and understand. **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. ALL EA, FC and Master Masons are invited to attend.**

- **September 27, 2018**---Right Worshipful Jim Rumsey of the Grand Lodge Committee on Work re-scheduled his program to this date. In this meeting he will present a program of interest to all Masons and have a question and answer period that will follow. **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.**

**MASTER MASONS ONLY due to subject matter.**

Both of these programs are designed to help every Mason be proficient as members and officers. The Texas Masonic Charities information will assist Masons and officers know about specific referrals that may help the Lodge finances, Lodge itself or specific Lodge members. Lodge finances are the responsibilities of each and every Mason. RW Rumsey will give pertinent information about performing successfully in each position or as a Mason simply walking into the Lodge room.

If you have any question contact **Rex McGee at 903/577-3233 or 903/387-4143 or email at:**

[alvinrexcgee@hotmail.com](mailto:alvinrexcgee@hotmail.com).

If you have anything really valuable to contribute to the world, it will come through the expression of your own personality, that single spark of divinity that sets you off and makes you different from every other living creature.

*Bruce Barton*

What is brotherhood? It is the wisdom of Lincoln and the warmth of Gandhi. It is the humility of Jesus, the humbleness of Mohammed, and the humanitarianism of Confucius. It is Catholic and Protestant and Jew living together in peacefulness and harmony. It is Italian and Dane and Bulgarian and Pole working side by side on the job and sitting shoulder to shoulder in the union hall searching for ways to advance the common good. It is the Ten Commandments and the Sermon on the Mount. It is the Bible, the Talmud, and the Koran. It is the essence of all wisdom of all the ages distilled into a single word. But equally is it the understanding of neighbors and friends who sorrow at your misfortunes and rejoice at your triumph. You can not see brotherhood; neither can you hear it nor taste it. But you can feel it a hundred times a day. It is the pat

on the back when things look gloomy. It is the smile of encouragement when the way seems hard. It is the helping hand when the burden becomes unbearable. -

*Peter E. Trezick*

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## 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.

We had a good crowd and enjoyed a good meal and a chance to socialize prior to the meeting. Our scheduled program guest called in at the last minute with an emergency that prevented him from attending. Instead, we discussed several topics about Masonic & Shriner activities around the State and Country. It turned out to be a rather interesting hodge podge of information about different subjects.

Jerry Rook and Jim Alford are securing speakers for the months of August and September. We are looking forward to the speakers.

The best things about the Shrine Club meeting is that we have the opportunity to attend with our spouse, visit with friends, socialize, eat a good meal and then are able to take care of business in a fun manner. Our spouses, guests and visitors contribute to the overall enjoyment of the meetings.

The Northeast Texas Shrine Club will have its next stated **meeting at 6:30 p.m. on August 21, 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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### **NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

Brother Larry "Joe" Reynolds  
1007 Stone Shore Street  
Mount Pleasant, TX 75455-7487  
(903) 717-8608

[Joe.Reynolds@franksextton206.org](mailto:Joe.Reynolds@franksextton206.org)