



# The Trestle Board



**MWSA**

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

Volume 2, Number 9

September, 2018

## MWSA OFFICERS



President	Rhett McCullough	767-2488
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Secretary-Treasurer	Rex McGee	577-3233
Chaplain	Jerry Rook	575-7577
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## FROM THE PRESIDENT.....

Hello, Brothers. I remember, when I was a new Mason, I was told that Masonry takes a good man and makes him a better man. As a better man you will be a better husband, father, brother, neighbor and citizen. Now, this is not to compare you to any other man because each man has his own unique set of circumstances. This is to compare you to your previous self. I know for myself that Masonry has been a great gift to me. The lessons that I have learned, some of them more than once, the friendships I have made and the opportunity and means to be a better contributor to the world around me drive me to continue to do better, to be better. The several grips you were taught at the altar were given in friendship and brotherly love. We were taught in the northeast corner about charity toward anyone, more especially a Brother Mason. Charity doesn't have to be monetary, although that is what most people think. It can be a friendly smile, a pat on the back, a helping hand or someone to lean on. Let us share our friendship and brotherly love with each other and with the world around us. This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine..... You know the rest. Shine on, Brothers.

*Rhett McCullough,  
President, MWSA District 6*

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

## Ritual

### Topic 9 – The Volume of the Sacred Law

In any Lodge, the holy book of the prevailing faith is the Great Light in Masonry. In American and English Lodges, where Christianity is more common, the Great Light is the Holy Bible. Whatever the Great Light is used, Masons refer to it as the Volume of Sacred Law.

A Masonic Lodge cannot exist without the Volume of the Sacred Law. In Texas, it is specified that that volume shall be the Holy Bible, but in other lands where there are other religions, the sacred book of those religions may become their Great Light. What is important is that some volume containing divine revelation be a part of the furniture of the Lodge.

In as much as Freemasonry is not, or should not be, concerned with doctrine or dogma or sect or denomination, but only with that religion in which all men agree, it is only necessary that the Volume of the Sacred Law be sacred to the members of that Lodge.

The Holy Bible on American altars is not to be considered only as a Christian or a Jewish sacred book. It is a symbol of the revealed will and teachings of the Great Architect of the Universe—a name under which any Freemason can worship that Deity in Whom he puts his faith and trust.

However, during the conferral of the various degrees, the candidate should be obligated upon the book of his faith as outlined in Article 397, and at no time shall the Holy Bible be removed or covered. Also, note that it will be necessary to obtain two sets of the “Square and Compasses” as it is required that they be rested upon each.

Art. 397. (434). Religious Belief. A firm belief in the existence of God, the immortality of the soul, and the divine authenticity of the Holy Scriptures is

indispensably necessary before a candidate can be initiated, but this Grand Lodge does not presume to prescribe any canonical books or what part thereof are inspired. It is the policy of this Grand Lodge to permit a candidate whose religious persuasion is based upon other than the Holy Bible to be obligated upon the book of his chosen faith, and same may be situated upon the Altar in front of the Holy Bible during the conferral of the three degrees of Masonry. In which event, all esoteric references to "The Holy Bible" during the conferral of the degree(s) and the lessons appropriate thereto shall be substituted with "The Book of your (my) Faith." (Revised 1995)

#### Discussion Questions:

1. What other symbolism can be seen in the act of placing one's hand on the Volume of Sacred Law other than the affirmation of the obligation?
2. Why do you think it is important to have the "Square & Compasses" on both books when obligating a candidate who is not a Christian?
3. List the various Volumes of Sacred Law a Lodge might want to have in its possession.

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## THIS MONTH'S RIDDLE

### **Tongue in Cheek**

**Q.** What did the recalcitrant EA say before he was slain?

**A.** Se sells seasells by the seasure.

### **To Order**

**Q.** Why do Freemasons Stand to Order?

**A.** Because if they sat down the waiter might not notice them.

### **Tyler Tiler**

**Q.** What is the difference between a tyler and a tiler?

**A.** One tyles lodges and the other lodges tiles.

### **VSL**

**Q.** What is the Volume of the Sacred Law?

**A.** Ten thousand cubic centimetres.

### **Who am I?**

**Q.** Five hundred begins it, five hundred ends it,  
Five in the middle is seen;  
First of all letters, first of all figures,

Take up their stations between.

Join all together, and then you will bring

Before you the name of an eminent king.

Who am I?

(Clue: Roman numerals)

**A.** DAVID

### **Whodunit?**

**Q.** What's the worst thing about being a Fellowcraft?

**A.** You're always one of the usual suspects.

### **Women Freemasons**

**Q.** Why aren't women allowed into Freemasonry?

**A.** Imagine telling your wife that you had a Worshipful Mistress in the Lodge!

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## Lodge Officer Duties

### (Article # 2)

### Senior Warden

*By Rex McGee*

*"Please read disclaimer in August issue for these articles"*

His Jewel is the Level...symbolizing that all Masons meet on the level, without regard to social, political or religious beliefs or status. The Senior Warden of a Masonic Lodge is the second in command within the Lodge Officers. In the absence of the Worshipful Master, the Senior Warden assumes the Worshipful Master's duties. The Senior Warden of a Masonic Lodge sits in the West (symbolic of the setting sun) and assists the Worshipful Master in opening and closing the Lodge. The Senior Warden is in charge of the Lodge when it is at labor. His position is similar to a Vice-President of any organization. His ancient duties were to pay the Craft (the members of the guild) their wages and to handle disputes among the workers. It is his duty to support the Master and to prepare himself for that office during the following year. The Senior Warden, in many jurisdictions, is the first officer the Worshipful Master asks to make a determination of the fitness of all present to participate in activities of the Lodge being opened.

In most jurisdictions the Senior Warden is the Officer in charge of the Lodge Mentoring plan, secures coaches for candidates, insures all sitting Officers are proficient and insures training is available for members occupying Offices and for those wishing to occupy Offices. The Senior Warden is also responsible for insuring all appointive positions are appointed and proficient in their duties prior to their installation in the coming year.

The Senior Warden should have served the Lodge in a progressive line of officers including the Junior & Senior Stewards, Junior & Senior Deacons, and immediately prior to his current office served as the Junior Warden.

The Junior Deacon sits to the right of the Senior Warden, guarding the door to the lodge. He is the messenger of the Senior Warden, as well as the lodge “doorman.” It is his job to be certain the Tyler is guarding the door on the outside, and he allows visitors to enter, after they’ve been properly vouched for. He and the Tyler communicate with each other by knocking back and forth on either side of the closed door. Some jurisdictions split up this position into the Junior Deacon and an Inner Guard. In which case the Junior Deacon sits closest to the Senior Warden and the Inner Guard sits closest to the door.

### **The Charge of the Senior Warden**

The Level being an emblem of equality, points out to you the equal measures you are bound to pursue, in conjunction with the Master, in the well ruling and governing of the Lodge. Your regular and punctual attendance at our stated meetings is essential and the brethren rely upon your knowledge of Masonry, and your attachment to the Lodge, for the faithful discharge of the duties of your office. You will not fail to attend the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge, in order that the Lodge may be properly represented. Given into your hands is a gavel, as an emblem of power, which will enable you to preserve due order in the West. This Column is the emblem of your office, and you will keep it in an erect position whilst the Brethren are at labor, as they are then under your superintendence; but place it in a horizontal position whilst at refreshment. Also entrusted to your care is the pillar of the Doric Order; it is an emblem of strength and directs that you are to use all your strength of mind and powers of intellect to preserve peace, order and harmony among the Brethren of the Lodge, facilitate the designs of the Master, and see that his commands are carried into full and permanent effect.

### **Junior Warden**

His Jewel of Office is the Plumb, which is a stonemason's instrument used for ascertaining the alignment of a vertical surface. It symbolizes upright behavior among Masons. The Junior Warden of a Masonic Lodge is the third in command of the Lodge. The Junior Warden sits in the South (symbolic of the position of the sun at midday) and is responsible for the

Brethren while the Lodge is at ease or refreshment. His position is similar to a Second Vice-President. The Junior Warden, too, may open the lodge if the Master is unable to attend the meeting. In many jurisdictions it is the Junior Warden's duty to arrange meals for the lodge, and, typically, the two Stewards act as his assistants in this responsibility.

This is generally acknowledged by the fact that the Two Stewards are seated in front of and to the sides of the Junior Warden. Symbolically, it is also his duty to make certain that the members do not convert their refreshment into intemperance or excess. This is a holdover from earlier days, which still remains as part of the Junior Warden's job description, even though in most U.S. jurisdictions, alcohol is barred from the lodge, but the ceremonial reference to earlier days remains part of the Junior Warden's job description. The Junior Warden should have served the Lodge in a progressive line of officers including the Junior & Senior Stewards, Junior & Senior Deacons, and immediately prior to his current office he should have served as the Senior Deacon

### **The Charge of the Junior Warden**

The Plumb Rule, being an emblem of uprightness, points out the integrity of the measures you are bound to pursue in conjunction with the Master and your Brother Senior Warden, in the well ruling and governing of the Lodge; but more particularly to that part of your duty which relates to the admission of visitors, lest through your neglect any unqualified person should gain admission to our assemblies, and the Brethren be thereby innocently led to violate their Obligation. You are to be regular in your attendance at our stated meetings, to assist in transacting the business of the evening; this is necessary, as unless due attention be paid by the officers, you cannot expect the Brethren to be punctual at the appointed time. In many jurisdictions the Junior Warden acts as the Lawyer of the Lodge. Placed in your hand is the Gavel, as an emblem of power, to enable you to preserve due order in the South. The Column is the emblem of your office, and you will keep it in an erect position whilst at refreshment, as the Brethren are then under your superintendence; but place it horizontally whilst at labor. Likewise, entrusted to your care is the pillar of the Corinthian Order, which is an emblem of beauty, and points out that you are to adorn the work with all your powers of genius and active industry, and promote regularity amongst the Brethren by your good example, the persuasive eloquence of precept, and the administrative encouragement of merit.

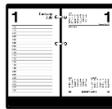
## The Wardens Columns

The Senior Warden and the Junior Warden have small wooden columns on the pedestals in front of their positions. When the lodge is at work (during a meeting), the Senior Warden's column stands upright, and the Junior Warden's column is laid on its side, showing that the Senior Warden is now in charge of the Craftsmen. When the work is concluded, and the lodge retires to refreshment, the Junior Warden's column is raised, and the Senior Warden's is laid down, showing that the Craftsmen are now under the supervision of the Junior Warden.

The Master, the Senior Warden, the Junior Warden or a Past Master are the only individuals authorized to open a Lodge unless otherwise authorized by the appropriate Grand Lodge Official.

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS



- September 3<sup>rd</sup>** – Oasis Lodge #79, Training and Practice Session
- September 4<sup>th</sup>** – David Elliott Lodge #364, Monthly Stated Meeting
- September 4<sup>th</sup>** – Border Chapter #211, OES, Monthly Stated Meeting
- September 6<sup>th</sup>** – Frank Sexton Lodge #206, Monthly Stated Meeting
- September 10<sup>th</sup>** – Avery Chapter #252, OES, Monthly Stated Meeting
- September 10<sup>th</sup>** – Oasis Lodge #79, Training and Practice Session
- September 11<sup>th</sup>** – Iron Bluff Lodge #1376, Monthly Stated Meeting
- September 11<sup>th</sup>** – Pittsburg Chapter #381, OES, Monthly Stated Meeting
- September 13<sup>th</sup>** – Daingerfield Chapter #906, OES, Monthly Stated Meeting
- September 17<sup>th</sup>** – Linden Chapter #576, OES, Monthly Stated Meeting
- September 17<sup>th</sup>** – Oasis Lodge #79, Training and Practice Session
- September 18<sup>th</sup>** – Oasis Lodge #79, Monthly Stated Meeting
- September 18<sup>th</sup>** – Omaha Chapter #997, OES, Monthly Stated Meeting
- September 18<sup>th</sup>** – Northeast Texas Shrine Clubs, Monthly Meeting

**September 20<sup>th</sup>** – Mt. Vernon Lodge #691, Monthly Stated Meeting

**September 24<sup>th</sup>** – New Boston Chapter #700, OES, Monthly Stated Meeting

**September 24<sup>th</sup>** – Oasis Lodge #79, Training and Practice Session

**September 25<sup>th</sup>** – Temple Lodge #70, Monthly Stated Meeting

**September 27<sup>th</sup>** – 6th District MWSA, Monthly Stated Meeting

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## Masters, Wardens and Secretary's Association of District 6 hosts Texas Masonic Charities

### Foundation presentation

*by Rex McGee*

The Masters, Wardens, and Secretary's Association held its regular meeting at Temple Lodge # 70 in Mt. Pleasant Texas on Thursday August 23, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. Brother Don Comedy, Executive Director of the Texas Masonic Charities Foundation, presented a program to District 6 MWSA members. Brother Comedy explained the history, goals and associated programs of the Foundation and how the Foundation could be an asset and partner to local Lodges and the community. The Foundation works primarily with and through Lodges to support local Scholarship Programs and to assist Lodges help communities through the Lodge Matching Funds Grants.

The Texas Masonic Charities Foundation, a 501(c) (3) non-profit corporation, is the primary charitable organization affiliated with the Grand Lodge of Texas. While the Foundation feels a special responsibility for the care of our members and their families, it also provides support to people with no connection with the Masonic Fraternity. The Texas Masonic Charities Foundation works with local Masonic Lodges to help distribute funds.

### **Matching Scholarship Funds**

The Texas Masonic Charities Foundation supports education in the State of Texas through its Scholarship Matching Funds Program in conjunction with Texas Lodges. A lodge may give scholarships to deserving students and have the Scholarships matched up to a current maximum of \$1000 total for the Lodge in a year. The Scholarship match works in this manner. Lodge members may pass the hat, vote funds from the lodge treasury, or hold a fundraiser of some sort and raise funds for the Scholarship(s). The Lodge completes an

application with TCMF and submits during the application period of January 01 through March 31 of each year. TCMF evaluates the application and approves the amount of match which is currently a maximum of \$1000 per year total per Lodge. When the Lodge receives the check, the Lodge deposits the money and writes one check for the entire amount.

### **Lodge Matching Funds Grants**

Every community is different, and every lodge sees different needs in their community. The TCMF is committed to helping your lodge meet the needs in your community. Beginning in the fall of 2010, TCMF began accepting applications for matching grants to fund local needs.

The program works like this. A lodge commits to some qualifying cause. Lodge members may pass the hat, vote funds from the lodge treasury, or hold a fundraiser of some sort. The lodge then reports the event, tells how much they have raised, and requests a matching grant. When the Lodge receives the check, the Lodge deposits the money and writes one check for the entire amount. An example might be a volunteer fire department trying to raise money to purchase a special piece of equipment. The local lodge votes to participate in the project and holds a fund raiser to raise funds. The lodge submits a grant application to TCMF. Upon approval the lodge receives a check from TCMF, deposits the check and writes one check for the combined amount to the organization. There are currently maximum amounts that the Foundation can match for each grant due to current utilization of the program.

### **The Lesson of Charity**

Masonry and Masonic charities daily touch the lives of many Texans, and this contact often occurs without the slightest knowledge of the recipient. Unverified estimates put the dollar value of Masonic Charity in the US at \$2 million per day

The Texas Masonic Charities Foundation is the vehicle that local lodges can use today to compound their efforts at the local level to continue the tradition of charity to the new society of the 21st Century.

Brother Comedy presented an impressive program related to the Texas Masonic Charities Foundation as an asset and partner to local Lodges. In addition, he approached the utilization of the Charity as a way to get positive publicity for the Fraternity and establish a lot of good will in the community toward the Lodge and its

members and contribute to the Lodge meeting its goals and objectives.

Every member should have left the meeting armed with a new weapon in their arsenal to help their Lodge build positive community relationships and assist the Lodge in helping the community meet the educational needs of the young men and women that will be stepping up to be the next generation of leaders in the Community.

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## **The Order of the Eastern Star begins a new year with the election of Grand Chapter Officers.**

*by Rex McGee*

The 2018-2019 Order of the Eastern Star, Grand Chapter of Texas year started out with the election of Mrs. Carolyn Martin, Worthy Grand Matron and Mr. Burley Jones, Worthy Grand Patron. The new addition to the line is Ms. Phyllis Makin who was elected as Associate Grand Conductress. She most recently served as District 1 Grand Examiner. Mrs. Kathy Paschal was elected Grand Examiner of District 1.

Ms. Beverly Sikes was appointed Deputy Grand Matron of District 1, Section 9, Grand Chapter of Texas, Order of the Eastern Star.

As we learn more about the activities of the Grand Chapter this year we will furnish that information in another article.



**Worthy Grand Matron  
Mrs. Carolyn Martin**

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**Worthy Grand Patron  
Mr. Burley Jones**

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## **THIS MONTH'S HUMOR**

A Brother was driving home after a Lodge meeting, and a festive board which had consisted on many takings of wine. Sure enough a blue light followed the car, and he

pulled over to the side of the road. Thinking that the policeman might be a Freemason, he placed his driving license and insurance documents in his ritual book.

When the police officer asked for his driving license he made a great play of taking it from his ritual book, but the policeman made no reaction whatsoever. The same with his insurance documents.

He was then asked to blow into the breathalyzer which proved positive. He gave the sign of distress, which was ignored. The policeman started to write notes in his pocket book. At this point, the Brother was needing to go to the toilet, so asked the Police Officer if he could retire to the bushes in order to restore himself to his personal comforts.

The officer replied "Certainly sir, and on your return, I shall read to you a charge....."

Sent by: Colin R Goss, PM & JW Lodge St. Helier No 4449 - Province of Jersey

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We often think of ourselves as living in a world which no longer has any unexplored frontiers. We speak of pioneering as a thing of the past. But in doing so we forget that the greatest adventure of all still challenges us-what Mr. Justice Holmes called "the adventure of the human mind" Men may be hemmed in geographically, but every generation stands on the frontiers of the mind. In the world of ideas, there is always pioneering to be done, and it can be done by anyone who will use the equipment with which he is endowed. The great ideas belong to everyone.

*Mortimer J. Adler*

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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.

The dog days of summer are the hot, sultry days of summer. They were historically the period following the heliacal rising of the star system Sirius, which Greek and Roman astrology connected with heat, drought, sudden thunderstorms, lethargy, fever, mad dogs, and bad luck. They

are now taken to be the hottest, most uncomfortable part of summer in the Northern Hemisphere.

Various computations of the dog days have placed their start anywhere from July 3rd to the 15th of August and lasting for anywhere from 30 to 61 days. In Anglo-Saxon England, the dog days ran from various dates in mid-July to early or mid-September. Canonical "dog days" were observed from July 7 to September 5 in the 16th-century English liturgies. They were removed from the prayer books at the restoration of the monarchy in 1660 and their term shortened to the time between July 19 and August 20. During the British adoption of the Gregorian calendar in 1752, they were shifted to July 30 to September 7.

In Northeast Texas we may not have an exact definition and calculation of what the "Dog Days" actually compose, but we know in most years, as this one, we have plenty of them.

After making introductions and handling a short business session the meeting was turned over to Christian Berg, Public Relations Person for the Shrine Hospital in Shreveport. He made an excellent presentation on the Shrine Hospital system, its history and goals and more specifically on the Shreveport Shrine Hospital.

Brother Rook is attempting to organize a day trip to the Shreveport Shrine Hospital for members and spouses. He will report on progress at the next meeting.

We will also be discussing a Christmas Party for this year at the next couple of meetings. We need ideas on when, where, what to eat, and what entertainment, if any, we want to have for the occasion.

The Northeast Texas Shrine Club will have its next stated meeting at 6:30 p.m. on September 18, 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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Send your articles to Joe Reynolds at:  
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