



The Trestle Board



MWSA

6th Masonic District in Texas

Volume 3, Number 01

January 2019

MWSA OFFICERS



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FROM THE PRESIDENT.....

Greetings, Brethren,

As we finish one year and start another, let us look back on what we may have accomplished. Hopefully, we can look back and see some ways that we have lifted up someone else while lifting up ourselves. While it is inevitable that some mistakes were made, let us identify them and use them to do better, be better in the coming year. The new year always brings hope and plans for the future. Most of us have hope for prosperity and good health, or at least pay the bills and get to eat. For some folks just paying the bills and eating is the goal. We have all been blessed beyond anything we have earned and should do our part in making the new year better for others. Happy New Year! Let's see what good and wonderful things we can do.

*Brother. Rhett McCullough,
President, MWSA District 6*

Our web site is www.mwsa6.org.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"It does not unite races, it unites men.

"It does not unite opinions, it unites men.

"It does not unite sects, it unites men.

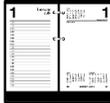
"It says that men of different religions, maintaining those differences, can form a union that transcends the differences of country, sect, and opinion."

Grand Lodge & Constituent Lodges Topic 1 - Religion

Discussion Questions:

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



- January 1st** – David Elliott Lodge #364 , Monthly Stated Meeting
January 1st – Border Chapter #211, OES , Monthly Stated Meeting
January 3rd – Frank Sexton Lodge #206 , Monthly Stated Meeting
January 7th – Oasis Lodge #79, Training and Practice Session
January 8th – Iron Bluff Lodge #1376 , Monthly Stated Meeting
January 8th – Pittsburg Chapter #381, OES , Monthly Stated Meeting
January 10th – Daingerfield Chapter #906, OES , Monthly Stated Meeting
January 14th – Avery Chapter #252, OES , Monthly Stated Meeting
January 14th – Oasis Lodge #79, Training and Practice Session
January 15th – Oasis Lodge #79 , Monthly Stated Meeting
January 15th – Omaha Chapter #997, OES , Monthly Stated Meeting
January 15th – Northeast Texas Shrine Clubs , Monthly Meeting
January 17th – Mt. Vernon Lodge #691 , Monthly Stated Meeting
January 21st – Linden Chapter #576, OES , Monthly Stated Meeting
January 21st – Oasis Lodge #79, Training and Practice Session
January 22nd – Temple Lodge #70 , Monthly Stated Meeting
January 24th – 6th District MWSA , Monthly Stated Meeting
January 28th – New Boston Chapter #700, OES , Monthly Stated Meeting

January 28th – Oasis Lodge #79, Training and Practice Session

THIS MONTH'S HUMOR

I was on my way to Lodge one evening when we drove into some very thick fog. We slowed right down, following the white lines that ran down the center of the road.

All of a sudden we felt a heavy bump.

I stopped the car and reversed back a couple of yards. There in the headlights lay a hare, spread-eagled and flat! I was terribly upset. My companion reached over into the back seat, grabbed a plastic carrier bag and leapt out of the car. He went up to the hare, pressed his head close and then took a can out of the bag, shook it three times, pointed it at the hare and got back into the car.

Within seconds the hare twitched, staggered to its feet and hobbled off four or five steps, turned its head, looked back and raised its right paw! It carried on doing this until it reached the edge of the beam from my headlights and disappeared. I was amazed I can tell you.

"Did you see that?" I asked my friend. "Whatever did you do to it?" "It's just unbelievable - I know it was dead by the weight of the bump!" "Maybe, but I knew I'd got just the thing", replied my friend, "I remembered that in the carrier bag there was a can of hair restorer with a permanent wave that I bought for the wife today. I forgot to give it to her!"

Sent by: Gerry Sargent MM. Bedford 282. UGLE..

TRUTH

(Adapted from several previous writings that were merged and edited together in one document---author of compilation unknown)

offered as food for thought by Rex McGee

Truth is eternal & unchanging;
Truth may make you unpopular,
Truth may make you an enemy,
Truth may make you a marked man,
Truth may cost you your friends,
Truth may cost you your resources,
Truth may cost you your life, But
Truth never changes.

Because the human soul is akin to God and is endowed with powers to which no one may set a limit, it is and of right ought to be free. Thus, by the logic of its philosophy, not less than the inspiration of its faith, Truth has been impelled to make its historic demand for liberty of conscience, for the freedom of the intellect, and for the right of all men to stand erect, unfettered, and unafraid, equal before God and the law, each respecting the rights of his fellows. What we have to remember is that before this truth was advocated by any order, or embodied in any political constitution, it was embedded in the will of God and the constitution of the human soul.

History is the heritage and patrimony of mankind in its lessons of the past that give priceless inspiration for the future.

Henry C. Clausen

GRAND LODGE OF TEXAS
ANNUAL COMMUNICATIONS
OF 2019 PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS

By Rex McGee

Time has come to make the annual trip to the Grand Lodge Annual Communication. One of the duties while at this communication will be to consider resolutions and recommendations put forward for members of the Grand Lodge to ponder and eventually vote on as far as approving or denying the particular issue.

Below is an abbreviated list of those Resolutions and Recommendation. I have highlighted those appearing to be of most interest to everyone as some of these Resolutions could have a huge impact upon your Lodge. Resolutions # 2, #13 & #14 have the potential to be detrimental especially to smaller Lodges.

EXAMPLE: Resolution # 2 in regards to Lodges not having a significant number of Brothers with certificates and subsequently not being able to seat a full set of officers. Resolution # 13 in regards to Lodges not having members that have attended Officer Leadership Schools and thereby not qualifying to be LIFE Counselors. Resolution # 14 could create numerous unintended consequences by way of significant delays to presentations made to Lodges or creating an

unmanageable work load for C.O.W. members. This would also move the C.O.W. into the area of restricting, changing or revising interpretations of history and suppressing free speech of members as well as the free flow of information that does not go along with their personal interpretations, beliefs or knowledge base. This Resolution goes beyond the determination of what goes into Esoteric Work and Lectures, normally considered Ritual, as well as the law as listed under Article 129 "Duties of the Committee".

The unintended consequences of Resolution # 2, # 13 & # 14 have the potential to be devastating to small Lodges. This process could lead to a complete breakdown of the delivery of services offered by both groups. Further, it could create a situation of enlarging both groups that potentially means huge additional expenses to Grand Lodge and subsequently to Constituent Lodges as nearly all increases in expenses come directly through assessing local Lodges. Also, it potentially leads to unacceptable delays in services.

Resolutions # 3 & # 6 could have a small positive cash flow impact for Lodges.

I encourage you to read each Resolution in full as the synopsis only gives a short subject and not a complete description of the Resolution.

Resolution #1: Change name of Scyene Lodge

Resolution #2: Requiring Masters/Wardens to Hold Esoteric Instruction Certificates

Resolution #3: Raising the Minimum Endowment Price

Resolution #4: Allowing Lodges to Wear Aprons at More Public Events without dispensations.

Resolution #5: Allowing the Order of the Sword of Bunker Hill to Meet in Masonic Lodge Rooms

Resolution #6: Allowing Lodges to Assess Late Fees for Dues

Resolution #7: Creating the Title of "Past District Deputy Grand Master"

Resolution #8: Change of name of Ft. Stockton Lodge

Resolution #9: Requiring Votes When Redistricting

Resolution #10: Allowing Lodges to Create Digital Archives of Lodge Records and requirements for their storage.

Resolution #11: Adding MWSA Officer's Service to Permanent Masonic Records

Resolution #12: Amending the Monitor/Manual of the Lodge

Resolution #13: Creating Stronger Requirement for LIFE Program Instructors

Resolution #14: Requiring the Committee on Work to Review EVERY Presentation Made in Lodge

Resolution #15: Creating Alternate Opening and Closings for Lodges with minimum of 3/5/7 Members in Attendance

Resolution #16: Permitting the Use of Traditional Walking Lectures in FC Degree

Resolution #17: Updating Legal Language Regarding "Mains and Defects"

Resolution #18: Changing wording of "Moral Turpitude" to "a Crime Other than a Minor Traffic Citation" in Articles 507, 614, & 650."

Resolution #19: Changing the wording at the end of the Master's Lecture in Regards to the Apron Presentation.

GRAND MASTERS RECOMMENDATION NO. 1 REVISING TITLE V

Referred to Committee on Jurisprudence*, Committee on Purposes & Policies and Committee on Civil Law concerning Title V of the Constitution and Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas

WHEREAS, in all times and in places throughout the world where Masons are found, our Brethren have been distinguished from the general population by their character and by the uprightness of their behavior; and

WHEREAS, the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas regulates the practice of Freemasonry within its territorial jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, the Grand Lodge of Texas has adopted laws and ordinances through which it carries out its regulatory function with regard to the behavior of Masons and has codified such laws and ordinances as Title V of the Constitution and Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas; and

WHEREAS, in my capacity as Grand Master I have observed that the current Title V is poorly understood

by the Brethren and is unduly difficult to administer in practice; and

WHEREAS, owing to the deficiencies in the current Title V, important matters have in some cases languished, and in others, American constitutional notions of due process to which all Texas Masons subscribe and for which the blood and treasure of generations have been sacrificed, have been imperiled;

IT IS THEREFORE, my recommendation to the members and lodges of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas that Title V of the Constitution and Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas be revised so as to provide for a modern and workable code of law and procedure which is capable of being well understood by the Brethren and operate efficiently so as to promptly and fairly adjudicate all claims and charges of misbehavior by the Masons of Texas. I recommend that a special committee composed of well informed and knowledgeable brethren well versed in The Laws of The Grand Lodge of Texas be appointed by the Grand Master to study the current Title V and that such special committee report to the members and lodges of this Grand Lodge at the next Grand Annual Communication on those changes and amendments to the current Title V which will address the deficiencies which have been identified consistent with American notions of constitutional due process.

Tommy F. Chapman
Grand Master

A smile costs nothing but gives much. It riches those who receive, without making poorer those who give. It takes but a moment, but the memory of it sometimes last forever. No man is so rich or mighty that he can get along without it, and no one can be so poor that he can be made rich by it. A smile creates happiness in the home, fosters good will in business, and is the countersign of friendship. It brings rest to the weary, cheer to the discouraged, sunshine to the sad, and is natures best antidote for trouble. Yet it cannot be bought, begged, borrowed, or stolen, for it is something that is of no value to anyone until it is given away. Some people are too tired to give a smile. Give them one of yours, as no one needs a smile so much as he who has none to give. -These Times

The Lodge Chaplain, Spiritual Leader and moral support to members and their families.

By Rex McGee



Jewel of the Chaplain

In most Masonic jurisdictions, each lodge will have a 'Chaplain'. The principal duty of the Chaplain is to lead prayer before and after the lodge meeting, and to say grace while the lodge is at dinner. In many lodges this position is filled by a clergyman (an ordained minister, priest, rabbi, imam, etc.) who is a brother of the lodge. However, it is not required that the Chaplain be a clergyman, as prayers are non-denominational. In some lodges the tradition is for the immediate Past Master to act as Chaplain.

His Jewel of office is an opened book, symbolizing the Volume of Sacred Law. The Chaplain of a Masonic Lodge is an appointed officer of the Lodge. In most Jurisdictions he sits to the right of the Master. The Chaplain is the spiritual leader of the Lodge. While he may or may not be a real-world Minister, Priest, Rabbi or Imam, in the lodge, the Chaplain is responsible for non-denominational prayers at both the opening and closing of meetings, during degree ritual ceremonies and before meals. Most Chaplains have no religious training and prayers are non-denominational.

The Lodge Chaplain brings the Masonic concept of spirituality to Lodge meetings, provides ministry to and for members, and brings a moral conscience to the Lodge, is an officer of the Lodge charged with a caring and supporting role between the fraternity, its members and their families, doing so with dignity, concern for others, with a caring heart, an attentive ear, and confidentiality in relationships, and reminds the Lodge that the basic tenets of Freemasonry are spiritual and are central to the life of Freemasonry.

The basic tenets of Freemasonry are spiritual, and need to be interpreted and understood by Masons because they underlie everything in Masonry. Since these concepts are central to Freemasonry, someone in each Lodge needs to be charged with reminding the Lodge of

this fact and with exemplifying it as well. Throughout the life of Freemasonry, the Lodge Chaplain has been given this task, and the importance of the Lodge Chaplain cannot be overstated. The Lodge Chaplain has a unique responsibility to provide a great service to the Lodge, and he should occupy an important position in the Lodge structure. The lines of communication between the Lodge members, officers and the Chaplain should be open and utilized for the purposes intended. The Lodge Chaplain is an officer charged with a caring and supportive role between the fraternity, its members, and their families. He also represents the Lodge and the Master both within and outside the Lodge building. It is important that the Worshipful Master, along with other Lodge officers, understand the role of the Chaplain. To relieve the distressed is an expression of offering our sincere affection for the less fortunate. To sooth the unhappy, to sympathize with their misfortune, to be compassionate with their miseries, and to restore peace to their troubled minds is the grand aim of Chaplains and all of Freemasonry.

Masters, Wardens and Secretary's Association January Meeting

By Rex McGee

The next MWSA meeting will be held on January 24, 2019 at the Old Union Community Center. The meal will be served at 6:00 p.m. and the meeting will start at approximately 6:30 p.m.

Traditionally, the January meeting is used to catch everyone up on the happenings of the past two months as we are usually dark in the months of November and December. Once the District updates are handled we will continue with further business.

The first order of business is generally a report on the occurrences at the Grand Lodge Annual Communication. We will have a report on the results of the election, the results of the voting on the Resolutions and recommendations and any other pertinent information from the Annual Communication.

We expect to have the new District Deputy Grand Master present to make a few remarks, discuss expectations, and introduce the rest of the District Service Team.

Make plans to come out and meet the new District Service Team and find out what happened at Grand

Lodge that might impact your members and Lodge. We need more members, especially from certain Lodges, to share information and take valuable information back to other members.

Shrine Club News

by Rex McGee



Shrine Club holds monthly meeting, Christmas Party & Election of new Officers.

The Shrine Club held its monthly meeting on the third Tuesday of the month at Herschel's Restaurant in Mt. Pleasant, Texas.

This meeting started out with everyone meeting prior to the stated meeting for a Holiday dinner at Herschel's Restaurant followed by desserts provided by the Ladies of Shrine Club members. As usual, this meeting was the largest attended of the year.

Following the dinner, desserts and fellowship the meeting was called to order by President McGee. The members were welcomed and the guests were recognized. The business meeting began with the usual reading of the minutes and financial report. The business this time of year includes naming of our Christmas family. This year we named an organization as well as two families to receive assistance at Christmas. The gift to the organization and to the first family came out of the Club treasury. This year President McGee nominated a third individual in Pittsburg that had been involved in a catastrophic car accident that left a nineteen year old with numerous broken bones, several surgeries and rehabilitation possibly lasting up to two years that will prevent him from working and earning a living. The Club voted unanimously to donate the individual member donations plus an amount to make a total of two hundred and fifty dollars total from the Shrine Club treasury to the young man to assist in his medical expenses.

The 1st Lt. David Richard Reynolds Camp #2270, Sons of Confederate Veterans joined the Shrine Club and matched the two hundred and fifty dollar amount from the Shrine Club to assist the family. The Sons of Confederate Veterans also provided a Christmas dinner

for the family. Outgoing President, Rex McGee and Incoming President, Paul Dempsey delivered the donations and the Christmas basket to the family.

President McGee advised the club of the death of Bobby Caldwell, Past Potentate, well known Shriner, and Mason from the Dallas area.

The next order of business was the election of a new slate of officers for the ensuing year. President McGee turned the election over to Jim Alford, Past Potentate, to open the nominations for President. President McGee was recognized and nominated Paul Dempsey, Vice-President for the position. Vice-President Dempsey was elected unanimously for the position. Past Potentate Alford then opened the nominations for Vice-President. President elect Dempsey was recognized and nominated Noble Bill Guy, Club Secretary/Treasurer for the position. Noble Guy was elected unanimously to the position of vice-President. Past Potentate Alford opened nominations for the position of Secretary/Treasurer. President elect Dempsey was recognized and nominated Noble Rex McGee for the position and he was elected unanimously to the position. The election was closed by Past Potentate Alford and the meeting was turned back to Rex McGee.

President McGee thanked everyone for allowing him to serve as President of the Shrine Club this past year. He thanked his officers and the members for their faithful attendance and contributions they made to making it a memorable year for him.

The Northeast Texas Shrine Club will have its next stated **meeting at 6:30 p.m. on January 15, 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.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Brother Larry "Joe" Reynolds
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2nd Annual Benefit Golf Tournament

Friday April 19th, 2019

Benefitting Iron Bluff & Oasis Lodges

4 Player scramble Lunch at 11:00 am Shotgun start at 12:00

At the newly opened Tempest Golf Club, Gladewater TX

Tournament Cost: \$150.00 per player, 4 man teams

Cost includes: Golf, Cart, Meal, Long drive contest, 4 closest to the pin prizes, Hole in one prize

You do not have to have 4 players to play. Groups will be formed for singles.

Reserve your team today!! Call 903-576-1951 or mail this completed form to Oasis Masonic Lodge, PO Box 411, Daingerfield TX, 75638

Player 1: _____

Player 2: _____

Player 3: _____

Player 4: _____

Sponsorships Available

For more information please call

Marty Thomas 903-576-1951



2nd Annual Benefit Golf Tournament

Friday April 19th, 2019

Benefitting Iron Bluff & Oasis Lodges

4 Player scramble Lunch at 11:00 am Shotgun start at 12:00 at the newly opened Tempest Golf Club, Gladewater TX

Sponsorships Available

Title Sponsor: \$1,500.00 Includes entry fee for one team, hole flag, hole sign and your logo on Rtic cup

Meal Sponsor: \$300.00 Includes special recognition during meal

Driving Range Sponsor: \$700.00 Includes entry fee for one team and sign on driving Range

Putting green Sponsor : \$700.00 Includes entry fee for one team and sign on putting green

Hole Flag Sponsor: \$200.00 Includes your information on a hole flag which will be used during event and presented to you after tournament

Long Drive Contest Sponsor: \$200.00 Includes hole sign and recognition when award is given

Closest to the pin Sponsor: \$200.00 Includes hole sign and recognition when award is given (4 available) all 4 for \$600.00

Hole Sign Sponsor: \$100.00 for each hole. Includes your information on hole sign

Thank you for supporting our good works and charities

Sponsorships can be mailed to: Oasis Masonic Lodge, PO Box 411, Daingerfield Tx 75638

Company _____ Contact person _____

Contact E-mail _____ Contact Phone _____

Sponsorship Chosen _____ Sponsorship paid by _____

Drawing prize Contributor _____ Item can be Picked up, Dropped off
or mailed (Please circle one)

For more information please call Marty Thomas 903-576-1951