



# The Trestle Board



**MWSA**

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

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

## 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.....

Greetings, Brethren,

I was able to attend the Grand Lodge of Texas Grand Communication again this year. I always enjoy being around Brothers who want to help shape the future of Masonry in Texas. This is the venue where we as members of the Grand Lodge can have a voice by voting on the proposed resolutions and incoming Grand Lodge officers. Speaking of voice, if I had to choose my favorite part of Grand Lodge it would be the “so mote it be” at the end of a prayer and the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of our great country. Several thousand voices, together, as one body. It always gives me chills. It makes me wonder what powerful things we could accomplish if we were to act as one body to further Masonry for the betterment of mankind with our Creator and country as a binding force.

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

As a side note, I was also impressed with our newly elected Grand Junior Warden, Brad Billings. In his acceptance speech he began with a prayer for guidance from above for the future of Masonry. I think he is off to a good start.

## Grand Lodge & Constituent Lodges Topic 2 – The Three Great Principles of Freemasonry

As fundamental principles, these are the source from which all others flow; they are unquestionable and unalterable Truths that you believe without doubt; they are eternal and shall continue when time shall be no more.

Let us then, my Brethren, apply ourselves with becoming zeal to the practice of the excellent principles inculcated by our order...

### **The Fatherhood of God**

The first and foremost fundamental principle, upon which the Fraternity of Freemasonry rests, is the concept of The Fatherhood of God. Simply stated, we are all the offspring of the one and only True Creator of everything that is in the heavens and upon the earth. As such, God is not only our maker but also our provider, our guide, our inspiration, and the source of our happiness.

Religious tolerance is essential to the practice of Freemasonry. Freemasons do not attempt to convince, convert, or coerce others to worship God in a specific way but rather believe that it is up to the individual to determine what their personal relationship with God should be. The Book of Faith relative to every religion has a place upon the altar of Freemasonry.

A belief in The Fatherhood of God is the cornerstone of the common ground upon which a spiritual people can meet. The Fatherhood of God is also the principle upon which The Brotherhood of Man is predicated and affirms our belief in a single omnipotent creator.

## The Brotherhood of Man

The Brotherhood of Man is the second fundamental principle upon which the structure of Freemasonry is erected. It is not a hollow, patronizing phrase of hope or rhetoric, but instead, like The Fatherhood of God, an absolute Truth that exists and will continue to exist, regardless of whether or not Freemasonry survives in its present form. Freemasons believe that being born of The One and same parent, Humanity is joined together by an inseparable tie of genuine devotion.

The ideal of The Brotherhood of Man should also be inseparably associated with Freemasonry as the one institution destined to exemplify its Truth, demonstrate its validity, and perpetuate its influence. It is up to all Freemasons to embody this ideal and by their actions to inspire the rest of Mankind to do the same.

## The Immortality of the Soul

The last fundamental principle essential to the foundation of Freemasonry is a belief in The Immortality of the Soul. This principle is the inspiration for a Freemason's conduct and the hope of his labors. The comfort and peace of mind that this Truth instills is the ultimate reward for any pain and suffering one might endure while on this plane of existence.

### Discussion Questions:

1. What does a belief in the Fatherhood of God tell us about the kind of relationship we should have with God?
2. What does a belief in the Brotherhood of Man dictate to us about the kind of relationship we should have with others?
3. What does a belief in the Immortality of the Soul tell us about the kind of relationship we should have with ourselves?

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## THE TREASURER & SECRETARY

*by Rex McGee*

(The following statements do not apply to every jurisdiction or even within specific jurisdictions)



The Treasurer's Jewel is a Pair of Crossed Keys, signifying he is the Collector and Distributor of all Lodge Monies as he holds the keys to the cashbox. The Treasurer of a Masonic Lodge is the Chief Financial Officer of the Lodge. He receives all money, pays all debts by order of the Worshipful Master with the consent of the lodge and renders a report when requested. In most jurisdictions the Treasurer sits to the right and slightly forward of the Master and between the Master and the Senior Deacon. The role of the Treasurer is to keep the accounts, collect annual dues from the members, and pay bills and forward annual dues to the Grand Lodge.

The annual presentation of accounts is an important measure of the lodge's continuing viability, whilst the efficient collection of annual subscriptions is vitally important, as any lapse in payment can lead to a member losing voting rights, being denied the opportunity to visit other lodges, and finally even being debarred or excluded from his own lodge. In some jurisdictions, the position is an elected office, while in others it is appointed by the Master.

It is common for the Treasurer to be an experienced Past Master, but this is not mandatory. The treasurer does not need to be in possession of an accounting degree, however experience with bookkeeping and accounting is essential. Financial bookkeeping transactions may be performed either by hand or by the use of accounting software.



The Secretary's Jewel is the Crossed Quill Pens. The Secretary is the Lodge's Recorder. The Secretary's Lodge Officer Duties require a high degree of lodge experience, Masonic knowledge, diplomacy and, above all, detailed paperwork skills. The Lodge Secretary is

the backbone of any Masonic Lodge and he holds a position of great responsibility. He sits to the left of the Master. His duties require him to handle all correspondence to the members, minutes of Lodge meetings, petitions of new candidates, continuous lodge member count, and many other administrative duties. He compiles an ongoing list of each new candidate and which degrees that candidate has undertaken. From his member list, he sends out the annual dues notices and receives dues payments. He communicates with other Lodges and the Grand Lodge, types letters, retrieves the mail as well as handles many other details. The Secretary's Lodge Officer duties are many, not the least of which is that he must be well versed in Grand Lodge By-Laws for his jurisdiction and his Lodge By-Laws. He keeps the list of Lodge members and helps the Master organize his meetings. A very experienced member usually resides in this chair--many times he is a Past Master of the Lodge. While it is not a prerequisite, due to the number of hours that this position requires, most (not all) Lodge Secretaries are retired and therefore able to devote the many hours required which are necessary to this position. The Secretary's position is similar to a corporate C.O.O., (Chief Operation Officer).

The above listed officers do not usually move in the progressive line. Many times they have already progressed through all the chairs and choose to serve their lodge in different positions. Treasurers and Secretaries often serve their lodge in their respective positions for many years. Continuity in these positions is vital to a well-run and efficient lodge. Training takes time and if these officer positions changed each year, financial and accounting chaos would occur. Some jurisdictions allow lodges to combine the duties of the Secretary and Treasurer into a single office known as the 'Secretary/Treasurer'. The Secretary/Treasurer must perform the duties listed above for both offices. When combined, the Secretary/Treasurer typically wears the jewel for the Secretary.

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## **THE MAD EMPEROR**

Joshua Norton was born in England on February, 1819. He engaged in a number of business enterprises in Africa and migrated to San Francisco in 1849. He

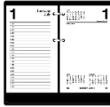
immediately entered the real estate business and accumulated considerable wealth. When he tried to corner the rice market, he lost the entire fortune. In order to cheer him up, his friends stated to call him "Emperor."

On September 15, 1859, he proclaimed himself Emperor of the United States. He donned a blue uniform with brass buttons, epaulets, and a military cap. Instead of having his head examined, everyone humored him because of his pleasant and cheerful disposition. He rode the street cars free, attended theaters without charge, and was supplied with the necessities of life by those around him. When he ran short of cash, he issued drafts on the Imperial Treasury. He issued Royal Proclamations designed to better the human race. On Sunday he always attended a church; he had no favorites and visited them all. Merchants and financiers consulted him on business matters and he apparently gave sound advice on these matters.

He was a member of Occidental Lodge of San Francisco and for a time lived in the Masonic Temple and issued some of his proclamations from there. He was given a Masonic funeral when he passed away on January 8, 1889. Fifty-four years later his grave was moved and a monument was erected over his new grave.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS



**February 4<sup>th</sup>** – Oasis Lodge #79, Training and Practice Session

**February 5<sup>th</sup>** – David Elliott Lodge #364, Monthly Stated Meeting

**February 5<sup>th</sup>** – Border Chapter #211, OES, Monthly Stated Meeting

**February 7<sup>th</sup>** – Frank Sexton Lodge #206, Monthly Stated Meeting

**February 11<sup>th</sup>** – Oasis Lodge #79, Training and Practice Session

**February 11<sup>th</sup>** – Avery Chapter #252, OES, Monthly Stated Meeting

**February 12<sup>th</sup>** – Iron Bluff Lodge #1376, Monthly Stated Meeting

**February 12<sup>th</sup>** – Pittsburg Chapter #381, OES, Monthly Stated Meeting

**February 14<sup>th</sup>** – Daingerfield Chapter #906, OES, Monthly Stated Meeting

**February 18<sup>th</sup>** – Linden Chapter #576, OES, Monthly Stated Meeting

**February 18<sup>th</sup>** – Oasis Lodge #79, Training and Practice Session

**February 19<sup>th</sup>** – Oasis Lodge #79, Monthly Stated Meeting

**February 19<sup>th</sup>** – Omaha Chapter #997, OES, Monthly Stated Meeting

**February 19<sup>th</sup>** – Northeast Texas Shrine Clubs, Monthly Meeting

**February 21<sup>st</sup>** – Mt. Vernon Lodge #691, Monthly Stated Meeting

**February 25<sup>th</sup>** – New Boston Chapter #700, OES, Monthly Stated Meeting

**February 25<sup>th</sup>** – Oasis Lodge #79, Training and Practice Session

**February 26<sup>th</sup>** – Temple Lodge #70, Monthly Stated Meeting

**February 28<sup>th</sup>** – 6th District MWSA, Monthly Stated Meeting

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## THIS MONTH'S HUMOR

Bob and Bill were brother masons and great friends for most of their lives.

Each had agreed that when one of them passed on to that Grand Lodge above, he would attempt to make contact

with the other and tell him all about what heaven was like.

As so happened, Bill went to heaven, first.

One-night Bob was just drifting off to sleep when he heard Bill's voice calling to him.

"Is that you, Bill?"

"Yes, Bob. I am honoring our agreement."

"Oh, MY,.... what's it like?" Bob asked with some anticipation.

"It's like nothing you could ever imagine. The lodge here is fantastic,... better than any lodge we ever saw on Earth.

The meetings are always well attended, the ritual is letter perfect, the friendship nights always have tons of new people just itching to join, and the spirit of fellowship blankets the entire place."

Bob's eyes teared up.

"Oh, my, it's just like we'd hoped. I'm so happy for you. But I have to ask,... that sounds really great, but you didn't really seem all that excited. What's wrong?"

"Well, I have some good news and some bad. The good news is that we're raising a fellow to the third degree next Wednesday."

"That's fantastic. What's the bad news?"

"Your name is on the list to be the Senior Deacon."

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## WHY MEN LOVE FREE MASONRY

*William C. Bell PM, Youngstown Lodge No. 615  
Youngstown, Ohio*

The New Brother sat near the Old Tiler in the anteroom, crossed his legs and took out his cigar case. "Have a smoke and unpuzzle me."

The Old Tiler accepted the proffered cigar with a smile. "I am often puzzled, too," he sympathized.

"Tell me." "I am crazy about Masonry. I love it. So do a lot of other men. And I don't know why. I can't find anyone who will tell me why. Old Tiler, why do men love Masonry?"

The Old Tiler got up and crossed the room to a book case, extracted a volume and returned. "I read that question in this little book, 'The Magic of Freemasonry,' by Arthur E. Powell. Let me read to you--"

The Old Tiler fluttered the pages. Finding his place he sat and began: "Why do men love Masonry? What lure leads them to it? What spell holds them through the long years? What strand is it that tugs at our hearts, taut when so many threads are broken by the rough ways of the world? And what is it in the wild that calls to the little wild things? What sacred secret things do the mountains whisper to the hill man, so silently yet so surely that they can be heard above the din and clatter of the world? What mystery does the sea tell the sailor; the desert to the Arab; the arctic ice to the explorer; the stars to the astronomer? When we have answered these questions mayhap we may divine the magic of Masonry. Who knows what it is, or how or why, unless it be the long cabletow of God, running from heart to heart..."

The Old Tiler closed the book and waited. "The cabletow of God," repeated the New Mason. "That's a beautiful phrase."

"It's more than a phrase, I think," the Old Tiler answered. "As I see it, the heart of Freemasonry by which all manner of men are attracted and held, is just that- the longing for communion with the Most High."

"Oh, you must be mistaken. Men who want God go to church."

"Do you go to church?"

"Er, oh, well, sometimes."

"Yet you never miss coming to lodge?"

"No, I don't, but--"

"Never mind the 'but.'" The Old Tiler smiled. "A lot of men come to the Lodge who do not find heart's ease in the church. The Lodge is not a substitute for church. Masonry is not a religion, although it has religion. If the church fails, occasionally, it is because all human institutions must fail at times. No minister or church can satisfy all men. Some men find communion with the Most High in Masonry a greater satisfaction than in a church. I think that is the real reason some men love Freemasonry so much."

"You give me credit with being a lot more religious than I do," retorted the New Mason.

"Men are incurably religious," asserted the Old Tiler. "Many don't know it and refuse to call it by that name, like you, for instance! In a church men are told various things about God. In a Lodge they are allowed to tell themselves what they will. In a church you are taught a creed, a dogma. In a Lodge there is neither. In a church you are quiet and respectful and whisper if you speak at all. It is kept high, unspotted from the world. A Lodge is more intimate, personal. You can be jolly in a lodge, except during a degree. Here are just other men, brothers. They think as we do; they believe in the one God, as we do. They repeat the same words, think the same Masonic thoughts, do the same Masonic acts, as we do. We feel at home with them in consequence. "Through years of simple, profound degrees, we weave the Mystic Tie. We cannot say of what it is composed. We cannot put a name to it. St. Augustine, asked of God, answered, 'I know until you ask me- when you ask me, I do not know.' In your heart you know, and I know, what the Mystic tie is- what Freemasonry is. But you cannot say it, nor can I. It is too deep for words. It is the reason we use symbols, for words cannot express it. "Deep in us is something which understands what our brains cannot think; something which knows what our minds cannot comprehend. Masonry speaks to that something in its own language. If we must put it into words, God is the only syllable which seems to fit. But when we say God we mean no special deity, but all that is beautiful in life, in friendship, in charity, in brotherhood. "So, my brother, there is no reason for you to be puzzled; no man can answer your puzzle. Freemasonry is loved by men because it strikes deep into the human heart, and supplies the answer to the question, the food for the hunger, which the tongue cannot express."

"Unless it is the tongue of a wise, wise Old Tiler," finished the New Brother thoughtfully. "And thank you, I am not puzzled now."

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A man had been convicted of murder and was about to be executed. Just before the sentence was carried out, the executioner asked the man if he had any last words.

"Yes," came his reply, "I hate Masons!"

"Why do you hate Masons?" asked the executioner.

"The man I killed was a Mason," explained the murderer, "the policeman who hunted me down was a Mason, the Prosecuting Council who tried my case was

a Mason, the Judge who presided at the trial was a Mason and all the men on the Jury who found me guilty, and said I should be executed, were Masons!"

"Is that all?" Asked the executioner.

"Yes." replied the man.

"Then you will advance, one step with your left foot, placing....."

## Results of the Grand Communication of the Grand Lodge of Texas for 2019.

*by Rex McGee*

The Grand Lodge moved along as smooth as I have seen in many years. The Grand Master kept control of the agenda and moved all issues forward. There was little discussion of most issues as they were brought up at the podium. The new electronic voting system continues to improve the voting experience at the Grand Lodge. All matters of contention appeared to be handled amicably and in my estimation, there were not any major disagreements about the final votes on any Resolution. The elections went smoothly with some very qualified individuals running to fill the positions. I believe we have a slate of officers that will move us forward over the next four years.

Below is a list of resolutions and their final disposition as well as the results of the elections.

RESOLUTION # & SUBJECT DESCRIPTION	RESULTS----- For/ Against:
Resolution #1: Change name of Scyene Lodge	Passed as amended— 1559/93
Resolution #2: Requiring Masters/Wardens to Hold Esoteric Instruction Certificates	Failed---196/2786
Resolution #3: Raising the Minimum Endowment Price	Failed---578/2351
Resolution #4: Allowing Lodges to Wear Aprons at More Public Events without dispensations	Passed --as amended--- 2724/209
Resolution #5: Allowing the Order of the Sword of Bunker Hill to Meet in Masonic Lodge Rooms	Passed---2416/441

Resolution #6: Allowing Lodges to Assess Late Fees for Dues	Withdrew
Resolution #7: Creating the Title of "Past District Deputy Grand Master"	Withdrew
Resolution #8: Change of name of Ft. Stockton Lodge	Passed---2416/441
Resolution #9: Requiring Votes When Redistricting	Withdrew
Resolution #10: Allowing Lodges to Create Digital Archives of Lodge Records and requirements for their storage.	Withdrew
Resolution #11: Adding MWSA Officer's Service to Permanent Masonic Records	Failed---934/1833
Resolution #12: Amending the Monitor/Manual of the Lodge	Failed---268/2493
Resolution #13: Creating Stronger Requirement for LIFE Program Instructors	Failed---177/2561
Resolution #14: Requiring the Committee on Work to Review EVERY Presentation Made in Lodge	Failed---49/2687
Resolution #15: Creating Alternate Opening and Closings for Lodges with minimum of 3/5/7 Members in Attendance	Failed---346/1212
Resolution #16: Permitting the Use of Traditional Walking Lectures in FC Degree	Passed--- as amended--- 1703/1016
Resolution #17: Updating Legal Language "Mains and Defects"	Passed--- as amended--- 2650/111
Resolution #18: Changing wording of "Moral Turpitude" to "a Crime Other than a Minor Traffic Citation" in Articles 507, 614, & 650."	Withdrew
Resolution #19: Changing the wording at the end of the Master's Lecture in Regards to the Apron Presentation.	Passed---2855/25
GRAND MASTER'S Recommendation #1 —update GL Law	Passed---2863/67

Results of Grand Lodge elections

RW Terry W. Stogner was elected MW Grand Master  
RW Paul Underwood was elected RW Deputy Grand Master

RW Ken Curry was elected RW Grand Senior Warden  
Brad Billings was elected RW Grand Junior Warden  
The RW Grand Treasurer & RW Grand Secretary retained their positions

W. Keith Reynolds was elected to fill a position on the Committee on Work

William Scott Leopold Sr. was elected to the 7 year term on the Grand Lodge Library and Museum Board of Directors

PGM Jerry Kirby was elected to fill the unexpired term on the Grand Lodge Library and Museum Board of Directors

Incoming President Dempsey had selected Rhett McCullough to install the 2019 slate of Officers. This was done in short order and past president McGee thanked everyone for the privilege of serving as president this past year and turned the gavel over to the new president. President Dempsey seated everyone and mad a few opening statements. Bill Guy was installed as vice president and Rex McGee was installed as Secretary/Treasurer.

President Dempsey stated that he would like to change to meeting night for the Shrine Club to compliment other Shrine activities during the month. A change of date and location will not occur until the March Meeting.

The Northeast Texas Shrine Club will have its next stated meeting at 6:30 p.m. on February 19, 2019 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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## MASONIC COIN AS LEGAL TENDER

In 1794 a Masonic token was minted in honor of the Prince of Wales in England. A son of George III, he later became George the IV. From 1790 to 1813 he served the Grand Lodge of England (Moderns) as Grand Master. The ordinator of the coin was Brother James Sketchley of Birmingham who created the coin to commemorate the election of the Prince as Grand Master. These coins were so superior in their copper content that they readily became tender. In 1817 they were withdrawn from circulation by government order. Brother Judson L. Parker, editor of Masonic Temple Topics, Chicago, has been collecting these coins and presenting them to distinguished Brethren. More than 350 have been distributed.

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## I NEED YOUR HELP

I hope that you find this newsletter helpful and interesting. I enjoy putting it out each month, however, I am not a writer. My biggest job is finding information to forward on to you, I would love for each of you to take a few minutes to assist me in my joy. Write a short article about something going on in your lodge or Chapter, forward an interesting article that you read on line, send a picture or a joke, anything that can be passed on to others. Chances are, if you find it interesting, others will also.

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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 meeting was opened by President McGee and after the invocation and prayer were voiced the business turned to the activity of installing new officers.

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## **NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

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