



# The Trestle Board



**MWSA**

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

Volume 3, Number 05

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## 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,

Here it is springtime in East Texas. The trees have leaves, the flowers are blooming, the bugs are splattering on the windshield and hopefully love is in the air. I went to the zoo last week and love was definitely in the air amongst the animals. The animals didn't care that their affection was on display, and I don't mean just the procreation kind. Some of them have little families that they care for, protect and nurture. Those traits are built in to them by nature. I think our Creator wants those same traits to be in us. New Masons want to know what is the length of a cabletow and to whom are we supposed to extend our assistance, brotherly love and affection. In our work there are phrases that tell us who (everyone) and where (everywhere). Our Creator gave us the Great Book of Law which tells us the same thing. Everyone and everywhere. I know, it is hard to do. Sometimes we don't even like ourselves, but we, as Masons, are called to offer assistance, brotherly love and affection to everyone, everywhere. It is in our nature, as Masons.

*Brother Rhett McCullough,  
President, MWSA District 6*

## HIS MONTH'S JOKE

Three Worshipful Masters met and were talking over conditions at their Lodges.

The first Master said, "You know, since summer started, I've been having trouble with mice in my Lodge. I've tried everything - noise, cat's spray - nothing seems to scare them away.

The second Master said, "Yeah, my Lodge too. There are hundreds of them living in the Lodge basement. I've set traps and even called in an expert exterminator. Nothing has worked so far."

The third Master said, "I've had the same problem. So I initiated all mine and made them members of the Lodge. Haven't seen one of them since."

## Topic 5 - Masonic Presidents



**How many Presidents of the United States were Masons?**

Fourteen of the men who have served as President have been members of the Craft:

- George Washington,
- James Monroe
- Andrew Jackson
- James K. Polk
- James Buchanan
- Andrew Johnson
- James A. Garfield
- William McKinley
- Theodore Roosevelt
- William Howard Taft
- Warren G. Harding
- Franklin D. Roosevelt
- Harry S. Truman
- Gerald R. Ford.
- In addition, Lyndon Johnson was initiated and Entered Apprentice but never advanced.

To the above list, the names of Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and Abraham Lincoln are often added, but the claims cannot be supported by documentary evidence. How many Presidents of the Republic of Texas were Masons?

All four men who served as President of the Republic of Texas were Masons, including David Burnett who, although not elected by the people, served as interim President during the Revolution, and then again in 1841 for the remainder of Mirabeau B. Lamar's term.

- President Took Office Left Office
- David G. Burnet 1836 1836 (Interim)
- Sam Houston 1836 1838
- Mirabeau B. Lamar 1838 1841
- Sam Houston 1841 1844
- Anson Jones 1844 1846

### Discussion Questions:

1. Do you think you will live to see another Masonic President in the Whitehouse and should it matter to us as Masons? Why or why not?
2. Do you believe that the experience of becoming a Mason may have played a role in preparing these men to become President?
3. What practical life skills learned in the Lodge could help prepare a man for public or political service?

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## Frank Sexton Lodge # 206 Coordinated the 2019 First Responders gathering on the Camp County Courthouse Lawn

*by Rex McGee*

Masons of the Frank Sexton Lodge in Pittsburg coordinated the local First Responder Appreciation Program involving numerous local clubs, Churches and other organizations in Camp County. This event was attended by well wishers and supporters of our local First Responders. Local Pastors came out and requested blessings upon the event by Almighty God.

Brothers Tim Hall and Rhett McCullough handled the biggest part of the foot work and coordination for the Lodge according to Worshipful Master Bruce Carpenter. More than a dozen local Lodge members were seen working the crowd and the Mason's booth at the event.

Many organizations served some type of refreshments such as drinks, Ice cream, cookies and other goodies. The weather was beautiful for this type of event and people were in no hurry to leave. Many stayed and enjoyed the fellowship on the lawn of the Historic Camp County Courthouse where the event took place. The Camp County Veterans Heroes Plaza on the South side of the Courthouse lawn was where the activities of the speakers and the Boy Scout presentation of the Flag were performed. The Plaza served as a back drop for the group pictures of the Camp County First Responders.

Frank Sexton Lodge has sponsored a First Responders banquet and program for several years, but decided to approach the program from a different view point the past two years. The Lodge decided to involve the entire community and it appears that this has been a successful concept the last two years.

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS



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

**May 6<sup>th</sup>** – Temple Lodge #70, Training and Practice Session

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

**May 7<sup>th</sup>** – David Elliott Lodge #364, Monthly Stated Meeting  
**May 7<sup>th</sup>** – Border Chapter #211, OES, Monthly Stated Meeting  
**May 9<sup>th</sup>** – Daingerfield Chapter #906, OES, Monthly Stated Meeting  
**May 9<sup>th</sup>** – Temple Lodge #70, Training and Practice Session  
**May 13<sup>th</sup>** – Avery Chapter #252, OES, Monthly Stated Meeting  
**May 13<sup>th</sup>** – Oasis Lodge #79, Training and Practice Session  
**May 13<sup>th</sup>** – Northeast Texas Shrine Clubs, Monthly Meeting  
**May 14<sup>th</sup>** – Iron Bluff Lodge #1376, Monthly Stated Meeting  
**May 14<sup>th</sup>** – Pittsburg Chapter #381, OES, Monthly Stated Meeting  
**May 16<sup>th</sup>** – Mt. Vernon Lodge #691, Monthly Stated Meeting  
**May 20<sup>th</sup>** – Linden Chapter #576, OES, Monthly Stated Meeting  
**May 20<sup>th</sup>** – Oasis Lodge #79, Training and Practice Session  
**May 21<sup>st</sup>** – Oasis Lodge #79, Monthly Stated Meeting  
**May 21<sup>st</sup>** – Omaha Chapter #997, OES, Monthly Stated Meeting  
**May 21<sup>st</sup>** – Northeast Texas Shrine Clubs, Monthly Meeting  
**May 23<sup>rd</sup>** – 6th District MWSA, Monthly Stated Meeting  
**May 27<sup>th</sup>** – Oasis Lodge #79, Training and Practice Session  
**May 28<sup>th</sup>** – New Boston Chapter #700, OES, Monthly Stated Meeting  
**May 28<sup>th</sup>** Temple Lodge #70, Monthly Stated Meeting

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## THIS MONTH'S HUMOR

Back at the turn of the last century, there used to be a small Lodge in a small town somewhere just north of Farmington, Maine. Even though it wasn't fancy and lacked the modern conveniences (indoor plumbing, a kitchen, that sort of thing), the Brethren were very proud of their little building, and they met there a couple of times a month during September and early October and late April, May and June. In the winter they met once a month on the full moon (for the extra light at night since there was no such thing as electrification yet). They didn't meet during July and August because it was too hot and there was too much farming or timbering to be

done. In the cold winter months when the wind would howl and the snow would pile up, the little pot bellied wood burning stove kept them warm and cozy as they conducted their monthly meetings. Now these were men who believed in and practiced the tenets and principles of Freemasonry. Occasionally, they would have a little social where they could bring their wives, but this usually was on Sunday afternoons after church. Beyond that, no women were allowed in the building!

Now there was a little old lady who lived near the Lodge hall, and she was the source of consternation among the Brethren for years. Seems that during the winter months - and in Maine that's November through April - this woman, we'll call her Mrs. Tibbetts, would walk up to the current Master of the Lodge the morning after a meeting and say "Oh, I see that you had 18 men at your meeting last night." Sometimes the number was higher, and sometimes the number was lower, but Mrs. Tibbetts was always right. This went on for years, and drove the Brethren crazy. Every morning after a meeting the Master would dread Mrs. Tibbetts' approach because he knew what was coming... "Oh, I see you had (the correct number) men at your meeting last night." And darn it, she was right, but how did she know? Did she have a way of sneaking in the Lodge and spying on us?

Finally, as Mrs. Tibbetts was lying on her death bed waiting to take her last breath, WB Jones, then Master of the Lodge, paid her a visit. Without nary a moment's hesitation, he asked, "For all these years you've told us, without fail and without an error, how many Brethren we had attending the previous night's meeting. How did you do it? Where was your spy hole? I've got to know." Well, Mrs. Tibbetts looked up at the perplexed and frustrated man and smiled. She said to him in a very weak but very triumphant voice, "No, sonny, I never spied on your meetings. But it was easy enough to tell how many of you men were there. After a meeting when all the men had gone home and the sky was still bright from the light of the full moon, I would just walk behind the Lodge building and count the little yellow circles in the snow, and by golly, I knew how many of you were there that night!" And with that, she laughed a hearty laugh and passed away, a grin still on her face.

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## Temple Lodge # 70 Award the Community Builder Award to Kellye Cooper

*by Rex McGee*

Temple Lodge # 70 opened its door for a called meeting on Saturday April 27, 2019 to award the prestigious Community Builder Award to one of Titus County's best known citizens for her work in establishing and administering community programs.

The Community Builder Award is given to recognize outstanding non-masons who have distinguished service to their community, local, state, or national governments or to their church or synagogue. The Lodge may select one recipient annually who has followed the same precepts, ideals and standards that have been established for Masonic behavior. Lodges are encouraged to select those citizens who, year in and year out, quietly and without fanfare, show their devotion to the community without the expectation of awards or honors. This year Temple Lodge selected Kellye Cooper as its deserving recipient.

Kellye Cooper heads the East Texas M.O.M. (Ministering Our Military) group and spearheads the Mount Pleasant Carry The Load rallies. These related organizations provide support for our military men & women as well as families back home.

Kellye, a military mom herself, knows firsthand the needs of troops deployed to foreign lands. She has worked tirelessly in this area and has grown the program since its inception many fold.

Worshipful Master Gary Oliver opened the meeting and after stating the purpose of the meeting and requesting a prayer from the Chaplain, Rex Amerson, turned the meeting over to Right Worshipful Paul W. Dempsey, District Deputy Grand Master of Masonic District #6 to welcome Ms. Cooper at the Altar, escorted by Senior Deacon Michael Hill. Brother Dempsey thanked Ms. Cooper for the work she does in the community and with our veterans and listed some of the accomplishments of her past efforts.

Right Worshipful Dempsey then turned the meeting over to Bill Guy, Lodge Secretary, to present the Community Builder Award to Ms. Cooper. After the presentation Ms. Cooper was asked to say a few words to the crowd. Visitors in attendance, along with Lodge members were given the opportunity to congratulate Ms. Cooper and thank her for past and current efforts in her community activities.

Guests were allowed to take pictures and the Lodge took one of all Lodge Officers present with Ms. Cooper.



Our Brothers congratulating Ms Cooper

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## WORLD OF MASONRY

From: The Templars, The Secret History Revealed by  
Barbara Frale, Vatican Secret Archives Historian  
Edited & shortened to fit the space available  
*by Rex McGee*

At dawn on Friday, October 13, 1307, throughout all of France, soldiers, bailiffs and officials simultaneously opened sealed orders from King Phillip IV of France ordering them to arrest all Knights Templar, take them into custody, charge them with heresy and obtain confessions using torture as needed. They were also to confiscate all Templar properties and treasuries before the actions could be reported to Pope Clement. Sham trials were conducted and all Templars were declared guilty of heresy. Sixty one Knights Templar, including the Grandmaster Jacque Demolay, were burned at the stake. The remaining Templars were imprisoned where many died and some were eventually pardoned by the Pope and released.

Now for more of the story....

King Phillip was obsessed with obtaining power and money. He used all means to obtain them no matter what the cost or who stood in his way. His ambitions knew no bounds. In other words, he was just a well dressed thug on a nice horse and like any other common criminal he possessed no ethics, conscious or any integrity.

The High Cost of War....

By 1306, pressed by the cost of the ten year war with England along with regional conflicts, the French finances were in trouble and King Phillip's credit line was stopped. King Phillip did not have a stable system of taxation to generate

new revenue so he attempted to raise funds in other ways. Several of the things he did were to expel 100,000 Jewish citizens from France, seizing all of their property and money, and he reduced the gold content of the currency by two thirds, which resulted in riots.

With the country being on the threshold of bankruptcy, King Phillip needed to devise another plan and his eyes turned to the Knights Templar. The Knights Templar rivaled all of the European kingdoms in political influence, military strength and wealth. The Templars reported not to any king, but only to the church. In fact, at that time, the Paris temple was the largest bank in Europe which included much of the treasury of the French government.

King Phillip IV attempted to tax the clergy which resulted in an argument between King Phillip and the Pope about who had the power for taxation. Pope Boniface VIII responded by preparing a bill of excommunication against King Phillip (Super Petri Solo). The Pope intended to publish the bill but he was assaulted and kidnapped by French troops prior to being able to publish the bill. The Pope was rescued but did not recover from his injuries and died shortly after being rescued.

King Phillip the Fair had great influence over the election of a new Pope (Clement V). Pope Clement was from Gascony France and moved his office from Rome to France.

King Phillip had no authority to arrest the Templars, so he devised a devious plan to eliminate the Templars and seize their wealth.

Rumors and gossip had been circulating within France of strange practices and rituals practiced by the Knights Templar. King Phillip, with sinister motivation, whispered these rumors into the ear of Pope Clement V at the papal coronation. King Phillip asked the Pope to investigate the Templars, meanwhile King Phillip secretly had his attorneys compiling evidence against the Templars. He argued masterfully for an investigation of the Templars for repudiation of the faith and for heresy.

In addition, the King began a smear campaign defaming the order to the various royal courts of Europe. He also had his lawyers establish a spy network to live among the Templars and collect information.

The arrest operation was a huge undertaking in many aspects. France, at that time, was a large country of about 44,000 square miles to be covered by hundreds of the King's men. The Knights Templar has approximately 9000 land holdings ranging from castles to vineyards. These holdings were occupied by approximately 15,000 Knight Templars.

On the first day of the operation it is believed that over 600 arrests were made with an emphasis on the orders command staff. This includes the Grandmaster, the Treasurer and

various Preceptors. These individuals were isolated and immediately questioned, and subjected to torture in order to obtain confessions. King Phillip wanted many confessions to present to the Pope in order to overwhelm the Pope and to gain his support for the operation.

Pope Clement, at King Phillip's request, issues arrest warrants for Knights Templar throughout Europe. These Papal warrants were served very slowly and no Templars, outside of France, were found guilty (if they were even located).

In France, during the trials, many Templars recanted their confessions because they were obtained under torture or the threat of death. In 1310, King Phillip ordered that 61 Templars be burned at the stake because they had recanted their confessions.

Pope Clement V saw the persecution doing irreparable harm to the church and granted immunity to the Templars leaders (plus other actions see bull Ad providam). The Pope's actions were never carried out as he became seriously ill.

Jacques Demolay and other Templars were sentenced to life imprisonment. When Grandmaster Demolay heard this he refused to accept the sentence. On March 18, 1314 King Phillip seized Jacques Demolay and Geoffrey de Charmey from legal custody and had them burned at the stake on an island on the river Seine. Jacques Demolay asked that his wrists be untied. As the fire started his eyes gazed at the Cathedral Notre Dame and he prayed. **The Grandmaster then gave the Templars curse.** Within a year following Demolay's death both Pope Clement and King Phillip IV were dead.

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## Election of Lodge Officers a priority

*by Rex McGee*

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

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

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

Last year Harry Clark, District Instructor, reminded us:

(1) I know all our Lodges are short of active members and many don't appoint Stewards but they are required by Grand Lodge Law Art. 264. even if just in name only.

(2) Form 101, "Installation Requirements for the Lodges of Texas, A.F. & A. M. also applies.

**Secretary: AS SOON AS YOUR OFFICERS ARE ELECTED**, you should notify Grand Lodge. Starting on May 24, this can be done by going on the Texas Lodge Secretary's Database to Add Newly Elected Officers under the Lodge Officers button. That capability will ONLY be available from May 24 until midnight, June 23rd, as annual returns are generated and new officers listed. Failure to notify the Grand Secretary's office of your new officers will result in your Lodge not being listed in the new 2019-2020 *Directory of Constituent Lodges in Texas*. **Do not wait until installation to notify us of your new officers.**

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

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## **Shrine Club News**

*by Rex McGee*



The Shrine Club held its monthly meeting on the second Monday of the month at Herschel's Restaurant in Mt. Pleasant.

The meeting was opened by President Paul Dempsey welcoming the visitors and thanking everyone for attending. Routine business was handled while we discussed the sick & bereaved in our community known by the members.

We still do not have a final accounting of the IHOP pancake benefit day held in March. We'll try to find out by next meeting and report to the group.

Rex McGee discussed the Power Saw ticket sales and passed out tickets to those who to try and sale some for the benefit.

Bill Guy announced that he would find a speaker for the program in May.

The Northeast Texas Shrine Club will have its next stated meeting on the second Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. on May 13, 2019 at Hershel's Restaurant in Mt. Pleasant, Texas. You are not required to be a member to attend. Bring your wife or a friend as we always enjoy having visitors.



## **NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

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