



*The 170th
Grand Annual Communication
of the
Grand Lodge of Texas, A.F. & A.M.
December 1-3, 2005
Waco, TX*



Fall 2005



Vol. XIV, Issue 4

The official publication of the Grand Lodge of Texas, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons
The Oldest Continuous Institution Chartered by the Republic of Texas

*The 170th
Grand Annual Communication
of the
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A.F. & A.M.*

**December 1-3, 2005
Waco, TX**

See page 6 for a complete schedule.
Pre-registration of all members,
representatives, and visitors is
recommended. A registration form is
available on the Grand Lodge website at
[http://grandlodgeoftexas.org/
2005RegistrationForm.pdf](http://grandlodgeoftexas.org/2005RegistrationForm.pdf)

On The Cover: The stone columns at the entrance of the Grand Lodge Memorial Building in Waco. Each has a circumference of 20 feet, a diameter of 6.5 feet, and an overall height of 39.5 feet. The Chapters and Globes are 8.5 feet in height.

CONTENTS:

- 3 Grand Master's Message
- 4 Masonic Burial Service
Grand Master's Calendar
- 5 Grand Lodge Gala Entertainment
Take Time To Read Program
Grand Lodge Proxy Voters
Submit Charitable Work Records On-Line
- 6 Grand Annual Communication Schedule
Donation Request at Grand Lodge
- 7 2005 Proposed Resolutions and Grand
Master's Recommendations
- 8-9 2005 Statements of Availability
- 10 Amaranth Request to Texas Masons
Guadalupe No. 109 Chair Donation
New Sam Houston Hall of Fame Members
- 11 Grand Lodge Lawsuits Update
Warden's Retreats 2006
Texas OES Grand Chapter News
Did You Know?
- 12 Roundup of Local Activities
Photo Talents of Texas Masons
- 13 Roundup of Local Activities
- 14 Message from the Grand Secretary
- 15 Jewelry Sales
- 16 Ladies Tours Reservation Form

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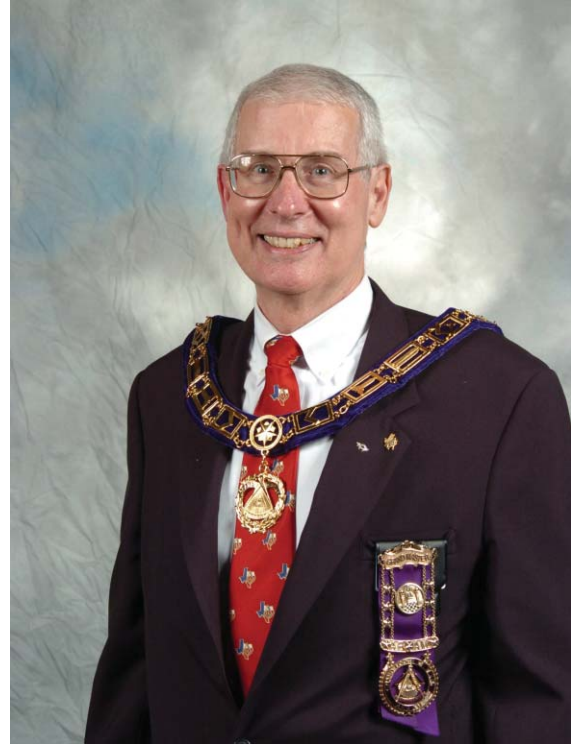
Grand Master's Message -

Message to the Masons of Texas

To my Brothers All:

Brethren, I have been a Texas Mason since August, 1966, and this is my last message to you as Grand Master of Masons in Texas. There is so much that I would like to discuss with you, but space just does not allow for it. I guess that I truly have a few things that I really want you to ponder:

- (1) Masonry in Texas is in a rebirth and our gentle Craft is very strong and vibrant.
- (2) Masonry in Texas can only permit GOOD men to join our fraternity; quality and not quantity must be our standard forever.
- (3) Texas Masons must be committed in our hearts to the moral principles that we claim and teach.
- (4) Texas Masons must defend our universality to anyone who questions it.
- (5) Texas Masons must wear a Masonic emblem every day and live a life that every person can respect.
- (6) Texas Masons have every reason to be proud of being a Mason.
- (7) Texas Masons must truly treat their Brother Mason with love and respect.
- (8) Texas Masons must hold the Supreme Architect, their family, their country and the Fraternity in the highest regard at all times.



Brethren, being a Mason is simple: belief in the Supreme Architect, being a Good Man of HIGH CHARACTER and meeting our Brethren on the LEVEL.

I thank you so much for the opportunity to serve Texas Masonry in 2005 as Grand Master of Masons in Texas. It has truly been my honor and Judy and I are humbled by your trust. Thank you.

Your friend and Brother,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Elmer Murphey, III". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Elmer Murphey, III
Grand Master



Masonic Burial Service

Under overcast skies and an intermittent drizzle, a fifer and muted drummer slowly played a funeral dirge as they led the procession to the grave. The Wardens, carrying the Great Light in Masonry draped in black cloth, were followed by the Worshipful Master and then the coffin. The mourners were the last to arrive. After the pall bearers laid the coffin on split rails placed across the grave, the service was given, the blessings of Deity were invoked and the service closed.

Such was the description of Masonic funerals throughout Texas in the late 1700's, but these events took place at Washington on the Brazos State Park on Independence Day weekend 2005. As a result of the efforts of brother **Sam Whitley**,

the time honored tradition of Masonic funeral services, as performed during the latter part of the 18th century, has been restored and can now be used for Masonic and Texas History education. It is also hoped that it will publicize some of the fraternity's traditions and beliefs to non-Masons.



Brother Whitley began researching the topic after non-Masons in attendance at the funeral of his father, also a Mason, commented on the impressive ceremony but knew little of Freemasonry. Being an historical reenactor for over 25 years, he decided to put on a burial service reenactment for educational purposes to “cast Masonry in a positive light, so that generations of young men would develop the feeling that Masonry is something they would aspire to.”

His research was assisted by Grand Lodge librarian **Bruce Mercer**, and brother **Dennis Heckathorne**, the fifer musician. The burial services available to Masons of the early 19th Century were contained in William Preston's *Illustrations of Masonry*, first published around 1775 and reprinted for well over half a century.



Additional research discovered that the Masonic aprons of the period were primarily designed by individual Masons themselves. So brother Whitley designed his own apron, and then made 10 more aprons that were more or less faithful copies of antique originals of the period.

A plain pine coffin, representative of what was available at the time, was made after a visit to the National Funeral Museum in Houston.



It is brother Whitley's hope that after the ceremony is refined, it can be professionally filmed and made available to Texas History teachers throughout the state, with an appropriate introduction about Freemasonry.



The next ceremony is scheduled for presentation at the Texian Market Days at the George Ranch Historical Park in Richmond on October 22 & 23, 2005. Brother Whitley can be reached at sam_whitley@hotmail.com for further information.

Grand Master's Calendar

(For updates or an annual calendar of events, visit the website)

NOVEMBER

1	Tue	Knox-Corinthian No. 851 MM degree	Dallas
2	Wed	Dallas S.R. KCCH Investiture Practice	Dallas
3	Thu	Dallas S.R. 33rd Degree Conferral Practice	Dallas
5	Sat	Official Visit to 8th Masonic District*	Caddo Mills
9	Wed	Dallas S.R. KCCH Investiture Practice	Dallas
10	Thu	Mas. Home & School Board of Directors	Ft Worth
10	Thu	Dallas S.R. 33rd Degree Conferral Practice	Dallas
12	Sat	Chambers Creek No. 499	Ennis
13	Sun	Grand Lodge Trustees meeting	Waco
16	Wed	Dallas S.R. KCCH Investiture Practice	Dallas
17	Thu	Dallas S.R. 33rd Degree Conferral Practice	Dallas
18	Fri	Dallas S.R. 33rd Degree Conferral Practice	Dallas
19	Sat	Job's Daughters Rally	Houston
19	Sat	Dallas Scottish Rite Honors Day	Dallas
30	Wed	Grand Master's Banquet	Waco

DECEMBER

1 thru 3 Grand Lodge Annual Communication * Waco

(* - These events will have Grand Lodge jewelry available for purchase from the Merchandise Sales Committee.)

Grand Lodge of Texas Gala Entertainment

On Friday, December 2nd, Grand Master Elmer Murphey and his Lady Judy invite you to be their guests for an evening of special awards and special music.

The evening will begin with the presentations of the **W. B. and Brandon Carrell Humanitarian Award**, the **Sam Houston Medal**, and the **William M. Beck Award**. The traditional presentation of these awards is an anticipated part of each Grand Annual Communication.

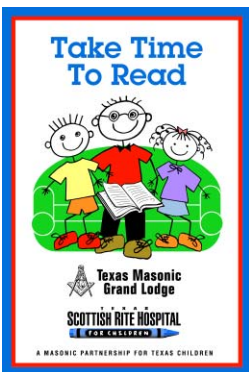
Additionally, **Ron Lawrence**, trumpeter, and his seven piece band will perform a wide variety of vocal and musical selections, including Big Band sounds, upbeat New Orleans Dixieland Jazz, Country, Mainstream Jazz, and selections having special Masonic significance.

Ron has performed at events for leading corporations and at society events across the USA and Canada, but as a Mason (Plano

Lodge No. 768), Ron especially enjoys focusing his musical talent on performing for Masonic functions. You may also have heard Ron and his Sazerac Jazz group at the State Fair of Texas, where they have been featured since 1979.



Please plan to attend this evening celebrating the achievements of our honorees and the musical talents of Ron Lawrence and his band. The event will begin at 7:30 P.M. in the Grand Auditorium of the Grand Lodge of Texas Memorial Building.



Take Time To Read Program

Experts agree that reading aloud to a child is one of the most important activities to prepare for success as a reader. Reading aloud helps children develop language skills that they will use in school and throughout their lives.

In 1999, under the leadership of then Grand Master Mike Gower, the Grand Lodge of Texas and the Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children established a partnership called **Take Time To Read**. The partnership's goal is to promote the awareness and importance of reading aloud to children. Since that time, more than 500 lodges have participated at some level in the program. The program is flexible and offers a variety of ways for lodges to participate. All of the support materials are available to lodges at no cost.

The Take Time To Read committee is planning new ways to expand the program in 2006. Our efforts next year will focus on the home and the critical role a parent plays in a child's literacy development.

Parents are a child's first and most important teachers. When a parent reads aloud for just ten minutes a day, a child receives tremendous, lifelong benefits. Materials will be available to give to children and families for educating and encouraging read aloud activities at home.

Attention: Proxy Voters for Grand Lodge

All Lodges should send a completed Proxy Form No. 67 to the Grand Secretary's office for their elected Proxy for the upcoming Grand Lodge session, and also provide your elected Proxy a copy of the form to carry with him.

Please keep in mind that it is a good idea for every Lodge to elect a Proxy, even if you think he may not be needed. He should review Article 3 of the Grand Lodge Law and be aware that he cannot exercise any right as a proxy if the Worshipful Master or either of the Wardens are present.

On-Line Charitable Donation Form

LODGE SECRETARIES - now you can process your Lodge's Charitable Donation and Work forms on-line, and submit the data to Grand Lodge electronically. This new application is now available in the Lodge Secretary's area of the Grand Lodge of Texas web site! Please use the Secretaries login procedure.

If you are a Lodge Secretary and do not have access to this web location, contact the Grand Secretary's office.



Schedule of the 170th Grand Annual Communication of the M:W: Grand Lodge of Texas

(Open Sessions are listed in red)

Thursday, December 1, 2005 FIRST DAY – FIRST SESSION

9:30 a.m. Ladies Tour of Historic Homes.
Ladies Tour of Historic Churches.
1:30 p.m. Pre-formal Opening Ceremonies
Entrance of the Grand Master, Past
Grand Masters and Grand Lodge
Officers. Reception of Distinguished
Guests Greetings from Masonic
affiliated youth organizations.
Presentations of Vanguard Lodges and
Masonic Service Awards.
Memorial Service.

Friday, December 2, 2005 SECOND DAY – SECOND SESSION

9:00 a.m. Coffee honoring Mrs. Judy
Murphey and the 2005 DDGM wives.
9:30 a.m. Ladies Tour of Historic Homes.
Ladies Tour of Historic Churches.
9:00 a.m. Opening of the One Hundred
Seventieth Grand Annual
Communication.
Reports of the Grand Master, Grand
Treasurer, Grand Secretary, Grand
Lodge Trustees.
Report of the Masonic Grand Lodge Library
and Museum of Texas.
Powerpoint Presentations:

- Governance presentation by M: W:
Elmer Murphey, III, Grand Master.
- Masonic Home & School update by
R: W: Donny W. Broughton, Grand
Senior Warden.
- Finance presentation by R: W: David
B. Dibrell, PGM, Chairman, Committee
on Finance.
- Investment presentation by Craig A.
Sutton, Chairman, Committee on
Investments.
- Texas Masonic Charities Foundation
presentation by R: W: W. David Counts,
Chair, Comm. on Special Assignments.
- Communications & Technology
presentation by R: W: Tommy D. Guest,
Grand Secretary.

Reports of Committees.
12:00 Noon (approx.) Grand Lodge Called
From Labor.

SECOND DAY – THIRD SESSION

1:30 p.m. Grand Lodge Called to Labor.
Recognition of Brother James Biggs and his
103rd birthday.
Recognition of Masons who have served in
the Texas House of Representatives and
Texas Senate (Past & Present).
Grand Oration by R: W: W. David Counts,
Jr., Grand Orator.
Reports of Committees (Continued).
Masonic Home and School Board of
Directors Report by President R: W:
W.M. "Mike" Gower, PGM.
5:15 p.m. (approximately) Grand Lodge
Called From Labor.

7:00 p.m. Entertainment by Brother Ron
Lawrence (Trumpet) and his Band.
Presentation of the W. B. and Brandon
Carrell Humanitarian Award.
Presentation of the Sam Houston Medal.
Presentation of William Beck Award.

Saturday, December 3, 2005 THIRD DAY – FOURTH SESSION

7:00 a.m. Free Coffee & Doughnuts will be
served in the Grand Lodge Main Foyer
on the first floor until 8:00 a.m. All
Masons Invited.
8:00 a.m. Grand Lodge Called to Labor.
Reports of Committees (Continued).
9:00 a.m. Coffee honoring the Ladies of the
2006 DDGMs and Visiting Masons. All
Ladies invited.
9:30 a.m. Ladies Tour to Crawford, Texas.
(10:00 a.m.) The election of Grand Officers
shall be held at such hour as the Grand
Lodge may fix by resolution adopted the
previous day and shall have priority over
all other business.
Unfinished business.

New business.
Grand Lodge Called From Labor.

THIRD DAY, FIFTH SESSION

2:00 p.m. Open installation of officers.
Presentations to Past Grand Master and
Most Worshipful Grand Master.
Remarks by the Most Worshipful Grand
Master.
4:00 p.m. Grand Lodge called to Labor.
Completion of Grand Lodge business, as
may be necessary.
Closing of the One Hundred Seventieth
Grand Annual Communication of the M:
W: Grand Lodge of Texas at the
completion of all Grand Lodge business.

Donations Requested at Grand Lodge

All Masons know that Charity is the
greatest of our virtues. You now have a
chance to perform that in a simple way.

Every Mason who attends Grand Lodge
is asked to bring **travel size shampoos,
lotions, and other items**, and drop them
into collection boxes that will be located on
the lower level of the Grand Lodge
Memorial Building on Wednesday, Nov. 30,
or Thursday, Dec 1.

During the ladies' coffees on Friday and
Saturday, our ladies will assemble gift packs
of the donated items to be distributed to the
Texas Masonic Retirement Center and
Mission Outreach organizations in the
Waco, TX area.

Please bring a few items to donate and
help show that Texas Masons care.

2005 Proposed Resolutions and Grand Master's Recommendations

Abbreviations:

MHS - Masonic Home and School
GAC - Grand Annual Communication

Note: These summaries are for informational use only. A detailed study of the full language of the Resolution is essential for complete understanding.

Proposed Resolutions

Resolution 1

Amend Art. X, Section 4 (a) to increase the size of the Board of Directors of the MHS from 5 to 7, and remove the Grand Master and Deputy Grand Master as automatic board members.

Resolution 2

Amend Form No. 79, Youth Advisor Certification Form, to remove the inclusion of the Social Security Number.

Resolution 3

Proposes the formation of a temporary Committee to study the ritualistic proficiency of candidates of the three degrees of Masonry and submit recommended methods for their standardization at the 2006 GAC.

Resolution 4

Amend Art. 167 to provide a means to allow for the suspension the Procedural Rules in the Grand Lodge, which are specified in Chapter 20, Title I. Such allowance of suspension does not currently exist.

Resolution 5

Amend Art. 105 and Art. 126h to allow members of Civil Law, Communications, Finance, Investments, and Masonic Jurisprudence Committees to be eligible for reappointment to succeed themselves on Committee, and only be a Master Mason in good standing, except for the Chairman, who must be a member of Grand Lodge.

Resolution 6

Amend Art. 225 and Art. 505, Section 22, to permit Texas Masons to be members of organizations predicated membership on Masonic membership which are not listed in Art. 225. It also provides means to recognize and authorize such organizations.

Resolution 7

Amend Art. 318a, Section 6, to allow the transfer of an Endowed Membership purchased by an individual in his name, to another Lodge.

Resolution 8

Amend Art. 158, requiring that the MHS Superintendent be a Master Mason.

Resolution 9

Amend Art. 224 to allow Lodges that vote to participate in community disaster relief efforts to make any and all of their Lodge facilities, as the Lodge approves, to be eligible for such use.

Resolution 10

Amend Form 23, By-Laws, by reorganizing and renumbering existing sections and making grammatical revisions.

Resolution 11

Amend Art. 12, Regalia, to officially recognize and include the currently used Committee on Work Apron, and add a new official title of "Worshipful" and the continued wearing of the Committee on Work apron for a past member of the Committee who served his full 5 year term.

Resolution 12

Amend the Cornerstone ceremony by specifying the exact wording of the Grand Orator's oration, which is currently a non-specific "oration suitable to the occasion."

Resolution 13

Amend Art. 177 to specify that the effective date of Resolutions adopted at GAC's shall be 90 days following that GAC.

Resolution 14

Amend Art. 446, requiring Lodges to issue a Certificate of Dismissal to a candidate when E.A., F.C. or M.M. Degree work has not been set by the Lodge within time set by Grand Lodge Law.

Resolution 15

Allow for optional procedures during degrees and Lodge closing: a.) The closing declaration may be made from either the East or the floor in a Master's Lodge; b.) During the conferral of any of the three degrees, the candidate's full legal name as it appears in his birth certificate or his

driver's license may be given; c.) The lambskin may be presented and explained from either the East or at the altar.

Resolution 16

Amend Art. 285 to allow, in the absence of Worshipful Master, Wardens and the last Past Master, that a Master Mason's Lodge may be opened by any Past Master of a Texas Lodge who is a member of the Lodge that is to be opened, with the permission of any of the aforementioned officers.

Resolution 17

Amend Art. 225 to allow qualifying Chapters of Fraternities belonging to the North American Interfraternity Conference to be included in the list of organizations authorized to use Lodgerooms and Anterooms, with guidance and supervision requirements as put forth in new Art. 225a.

Resolution 18

Amend Art. 643 to include any officer of a Lodge with Masonic disciplinary violations filed against him from the functions of his office, pending a Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing, as being subject to suspension by the Grand Master.

Grand Master's Recommendations

GM Recommendation 1

Amend Art. 105, to increase the size of the Masonic Jurisprudence Committee from 7 to 14.

GM Recommendation 2

Amend Art. 105, to increase the size of the Masonic Civil Law Committee from 7 to 14.

GM Recommendation 3

Authorize the Board of Directors of the MHS to expend \$10,627,194 of the Endowment Fund of the MHS for the payment of the future expenses of the MHS including any loan repayment, and payments to the Texas Masonic Retirement Center for the care of the Texas Masonic widows in residence at the TMRC.

GM Recommendation 4

Amend Art. 153 to authorize the Grand Lodge Trustees to sell, lease, develop, transfer or convey the MHS land site (or any portion) including possible long-term use by a tenant and possible transfer of the mineral rights.





2005 Statements of Availability



W. David Counts, Jr.

Orient No. 905

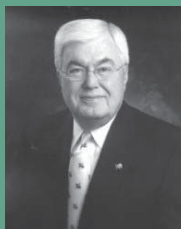
Raised – April 24, 1961
Worshipful Master – 1970; 2003; 2004
Endowed Member
Golden Trowel Award – 1996

PLURAL AND ENDOWED MEMBERSHIPS

Milam No. 11 – Endowed Member
Tranquility No. 2000 – Endowed Member; Master of Ceremonies
– 2004; Junior Deacon – 2005
Texas Lodge of Research — Marshal - 2005

GRAND LODGE OF TEXAS

District Deputy Grand Master – District 91 – 1972
Legislative Tax Committee, Member — 2001
Special Assignments Committee, Chairman – 2004-2005
Governmental Affairs Committee, Co-Chairman – 2004-2005
Membership Maintenance Committee, Vice-Chairman – 2004-
2005
Insurance Advisory Committee, Vice-Chairman – 2004-2005
Sam Houston Hall of Fame, Member – 2003
Grand Orator – 2005
Briscoe Workshop Chairman, Area Q-2004, Area J- 2005
Grand Master's DDGM Training Team – 2004, 2005



David B. Dibrell

Richardson No. 1214

Raised – 1972
Worshipful Master – 1979-1980, Endowed Member – 1986, Golden Trowel
Award – 1992, Life Membership — 1995

PLURAL AND ENDOWED MEMBERSHIPS

Holland No. 1, James Ladd Burgess No. 1305, Tranquility No. 2000 – Endowed
Member
Knox-Corinthian No. 851 – Worshipful Master – 1997-1998, Endowed Member
Eagle No. 41 – Worshipful Master – 2003-2004
Seyene No. 295 and Texas Lodge of Research

GRAND LODGE OF TEXAS

Special Assignments Committee, 1989-1991, Chairman 1989-1990
District Deputy Grand Master – District 14-C, 1990
District Masonic Relations Officer – 1991-1992
Masonic Education and Service Committee – Chairman 1993-1997
State Coordinator – 1994; Assistant State Coordinator – 1993, 1995
Grand Pursuivant P.T. – 1993; Grand Orator – 1994; Grand Marshal – 1997
Grand Master – 2001
Finance Committee – 2003-Present
Masonic Renewal Committee – 2003-Present

Board of Directors of the Grand Lodge Library and Museum



Orville L. O'Neill

White Rock No. 234

Raised – June 13, 1978
Worshipful Master – 1984-1985, 2001-2002
Endowed Member – 1990
Golden Trowel Award – 1994

PLURAL MEMBERSHIP

Texas Lodge of Research

GRAND LODGE OF TEXAS

Credentials Committee No. 1 – 1992-1998, 2000-
Present; Chairman, 1993, 1996, 2004, 2005
District Deputy Grand Master – District 14-B, 1989
Assistant State Coordinator – 1993, 1994
State Coordinator – 1995
Grand Tiler – 2000
Grand Marshal – 2005
Grand Representative – Acre, Brazil, 1995 –
Present
Grand Master's Planning Team – 2005

and
Warden



Grand
Junior Warden



Richard Michael King

Jerry N. Kirby

Laredo No. 547

Raised – October 28, 1982
Tiler – 1983-1984

PLURAL AND ENDOWED MEMBERSHIPS

James A. Smith No. 395 - Worshipful Master – 1999-2000
Venus No. 804 – Junior Deacon – 2002-2003, Endowed Member
Eagle No. 41 – Senior Warden - 2005
Mercedes No. 1010
Zavala No. 1059
Tranquility No. 2000
Texas Lodge of Research

GRAND LODGE OF TEXAS

District Instructor - Distr. 14B-1999-2001, 14E-2001-02; 2004-Pres.
Mediation Committee No. #1 – 2002
Public Relations Committee, Member – 2003
District Deputy Grand Master – District 14F – 2003
Grand Master's Planning Team 2002- 2003
Grand Master's Regional Conference Team – 2003
Grand Representative of Morocco – 2003-2004
Communications Committee, Co-Chairman – 2004-2005
Texas Masonic Family Conven., Co-Chair-2004, Publ. Chair-2005
MWSA., District 14 - Sec/Trea-2004; Vice-President - 2005

Nash No. 638

Raised – April 13, 1968
Worshipful Master – 1970-1971, 1982-1983, 1986-1987,
1989-1992, 1994-1995
Secretary – 2003 - Present
Golden Trowel Award – 1998
L.I.F.E. Instructor
Esoteric Work, "A" Certificate

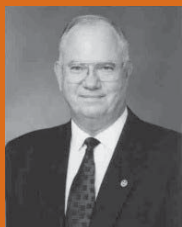
PLURAL AND ENDOWED MEMBERSHIPS

Midlothian No. 584 - Worshipful Master – 1999-2000,
Endowed Member – 1994
Blum No. 607
Tranquility No. 2000
Texas Lodge of Research

GRAND LODGE OF TEXAS

District Deputy Grand Master – District 18 – 1982
Committee on Public Education – 1994-1995, Chairman
1995 – 1999

Bd of Dir Masonic Home and School



W. M. "Mike" Gower

McAllen No. 1110

Raised – February 12, 1974
Worshipful Master – 1981
Endowed Member — 1985

PLURAL AND ENDOWED MEMBERSHIPS

Mercedes No. 1010 – Endowed Member
Tranquility No. 2000 – Endowed Member; Worshipful
Master – 2000-2001
Little Cypress No. 1459

GRAND LODGE OF TEXAS

District Deputy Grand Master – District 40A – 1982
Grand Junior Steward – 1986
Grand Orator – 1988
Grand Officers Reports Committee – 1989
Purposes & Policies Committee – 1992-1995
Grand Junior Warden – 1996
Grand Senior Warden – 1997
Deputy Grand Master – 1998
Grand Master --1999
Director, Masonic Home and School – 2000-2005

Committee on Work



Terry W. Stogner

Lamesa No. 909

Raised – February 27, 1990
Worshipful Master – 1995-1996
Endowed Member
Golden Trowel Award – 1992

PLURAL AND ENDOWED MEMBERSHIPS

Staked Plains No. 598 – Worshipful Master – 2001-2002; Endowed
Member
Coahoma No. 992 – Worshipful Master – 2002-2003; Endowed
Member
Milam No. 11 - Worshipful Master – 2003-2005; Treas. – 2005
Stanton No. 951 – Endowed Member
Texas Lodge of Research

GRAND LODGE OF TEXAS

District Deputy Grand Master – District 80 - 1997
District Masonic Relations Officer – 1998
District Instructor – 1999-2005
Esoteric Work – "A" Certificate
Sam Houston Hall of Fame, Member
Petitions & Returns of Lodges UD, Member — 2005





Attention Texas Masonic Family

The Order of the Amaranth in Texas is looking for people to help fight diabetes.

The **Order of the Amaranth** is an international organization composed of Masons and their female family members. The Royal Matron is the presiding officer, who is assisted by the Royal Patron who also supervises the officers. At one time this Order required membership in the Eastern Star, but in 1921 the Amaranth and Eastern Star became separate organizations.

Their main philanthropy is diabetes research. The Order of the Amaranth donates approximately one half million dollars each year to **The American Diabetes Association**, with every dollar going directly to grants and nothing to advertising or salaries. Texas is a huge state and with a little effort and cooperation by the entire Masonic Family, they soon hope to raise more money than any other jurisdiction in the effort to help conquer this disease.

At this time there are three Courts in Texas: #1 in Bay Town, #2 in Houston, & #3 in Arlington. We are forming a new Court in El Paso and are willing to help Masons in other cities who are interested in forming Courts. At least 35 people are required to sign the request for a charter for a new Court. If they grow to 4 Courts and 400 members, a Grand Court can be established in Texas.

For further information, please contact:

El Paso area

John Grady
915-227-9645
jgrady8827@sbcglobal.net

Houston area

Ronnie Sharp
281-471-0959
gizrose@swbell.net.

San Antonio area

James C. Rose
830-895-5633

Guadalupe Lodge No. 109 Chair Donation

Guadalupe Lodge #109 in Seguin recently made a donation of four historic chairs to the Grand Lodge Library and Museum. The chairs were ones used in the first meeting place of the Lodge when it was chartered in 1853.

In the picture below, the chair on the left was the Worshipful Master's chair, the next chair belongs to the Senior Warden, and the next one belongs to the Junior Warden. The three chairs belonging to the three principle officers all have rawhide seats and had "Guad. L. 109" lettered on them.



The last chair belongs to one of the lesser officers, i.e. Senior Deacon, Junior Deacon, Secretary or Treasurer, and had a cane seat.

Guadalupe #109 officers are shown making the presentation to **R:W: Archie Scott**, Grand Treasurer, who accepted the gifts on behalf of the Library and Museum.

If your Lodge has a significant historical Masonic item that it would like to donate, contact the Library and Museum at library@grandlodgeoftexas.org.



New Members of the Sam Houston Hall of Fame

Roy R. Wiegand, Jr.
Ft. Richardson Lodge No. 320
Jacksboro, TX

Michael L. Wiggins
Liberty Lodge No. 48
Liberty, TX

The dedicated members above have generously contributed to perpetuate the Grand Lodge Library and Museum. Membership in the Sam Houston Hall of Fame is made by a donation of \$1000. Patron membership is by a donation of cash or tangible goods of \$5000 or more. This can be through a direct gift, a bequest given through a will, or a memorial tribute to a brother or loved one.

To join, contact the Grand Secretary's office.

Grand Lodge of Texas Lawsuits Update

The Grand Lodge Trustees have previously informed the Masons of Texas that there were two lawsuits pending against the Masonic Home & School and The Grand Lodge of Texas. Additionally, there was another lawsuit filed against The Grand Lodge of Texas, Medina Lodge No. 1319, and Medina Building and Trust.

In one of the lawsuits against The Grand Lodge of Texas and the Masonic Home & School, the Plaintiff alleged that in December 2001, an eight year old male student at the Masonic Home & School reported to the child care staff that a thirteen year old male student attempted improper sexual and physical contact with him. This suit was settled with the Plaintiffs by the Masonic Home & School in December, 2004, and The Grand Lodge of Texas has now been fully and finally dismissed from this suit. The Grand Lodge of Texas contributed no money to this settlement.

In the other lawsuit against The Grand Lodge of Texas and the Masonic Home and School, the Plaintiffs allege that in 1989 a Masonic Home & School house parent sexually assaulted another male student, and that student then assaulted the Plaintiff (who is now 23 years old) when he was approximately 11 years of age. Formal mediation of this lawsuit occurred on September 28, 2005; although the mediation negotiations are confidential under Texas law, a tentative settlement was reached and the final agreement which would set out the terms of the settlement are now being drafted by the attorneys for the parties. As the terms of the settlement in this suit were reached during a mediation and contain a confidentiality agreement, all of the parties to this suit, including The Grand Lodge of Texas (and its Grand Lodge Trustees) and the Masonic Home & School (and its Board of Directors), are prohibited from discussing or revealing the terms of the settlement at this time. However the Grand Lodge of Texas was dismissed from this lawsuit, and the Grand Lodge of Texas contributed no money to this settlement.

In the suit against The Grand Lodge of Texas, Medina Lodge No. 1319, and Medina Building and Trust, the Plaintiff alleged that an elevator at Medina Lodge No. 1319 fell from the second floor to the first floor, injuring the Plaintiff who was at the Lodge attending a business meeting of an affiliated Masonic organization. The Grand Lodge of Texas was dismissed from this suit on September 6, 2005; and the liability insurance carrier for Medina Lodge No. 1319 and Medina Building and Trust resolved this suit during a mediation. The Grand Lodge of Texas was not a party to the settlement of this suit, and contributed no money to this settlement.

I am happy to announce that to this time in 2005, no other lawsuits have been filed against or are pending against The Grand Lodge of Texas or the Masonic Home and School of Texas.

Elmer Murphey, III
Grand Master

Texas OES Grand Chapter News



The Grand Chapter of Texas Order of The Eastern Star held their 124th Annual Grand Chapter session August 25-27, 2005, at Moody Gardens in Galveston, TX.

Pictured above are **Nancy Brown** of Castleberry Chapter No. 1028 in Fort Worth, who was elected Worthy Grand Matron, and **Nelson Campbell** of Silsbee Chapter No. 298 in Silsbee, who was elected Worthy Grand Patron for 2005-2006.

Did you know ...?

... that **Laura Ingalls Wilder**, whose life was featured in the "Little House on the Prairie" television series, was an active Eastern Star Member?

She, along with her parents and sister, were initially members in South Dakota. She later affiliated with a new Chapter in Manfield, MO, where she was its first Esther. She later served three terms as Worthy Matron.

Laura Ingalls Wilder was the author of a series of children's stories about her early pioneer life, which were the basis for the "Little House" program.

(source: Grand Lodge of Ohio "Beacon", Fall 2002)

2006
Warden's Retreat
Program

Nacogdoches	Dallas
August 4-6	August 18-20
Houston	West Texas
August 25-27	Sept. 8-10
Austin	Corpus Christi
Sept. 15-17	Sept. 22-24

The Warden's Retreats are the best training available for Lodge leadership and management. The deadline for submitting a reservation is 2 weeks before each retreat. Registration Forms will be available on the Grand Lodge website, your DDGM and on the back cover of the Spring 2006 issue of this magazine.



Roundups



Members of the staff of the **Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children** accept a donation from **Alvarado #314** in Alvarado. The Lodge held a successful Sporting Clay Shoot on June 11, 2005 benefitting the TSRHC.



Eagle #41 in Richardson made a donation for the purchase of school supplies to **Dobie Elementary School** in Richardson to Principal **Kay Reynolds** (center) and a staff member, by (L-R) **Frank Amadon**, **WM John Creel**, and **Dick Davies**.



On April 16, 2005, **Faith #1158** in Wichita Falls hosted the **Oklahoma Masonic Indian Degree Team** who conferred a Master Masons Degree. Shown is the degree team, Faith Lodge officers, candidate **William Elsass** (center), and **WM Kirby Pacheco** to the left of the candidate.

Attention All Shutterbugs!!

Featuring the Talents of Brother Masons

In an effort to be able to show visitors to our Grand Lodge an idea of the sheer size and diversity of Texas, pictures of various state features are being requested to compose a gallery of photographs created by Texas Masons.

Ideas for photos include, but are by no means limited to, the following:

1. Landscapes - featuring the different climates, areas (Davis Mountains, Hill Country, the Gulf Coast, the Big Thicket, high plains, beaches) and during different seasons in Texas.

2. Cityscapes - skylines, parks and statues, roadways, buildings and gatherings (ball games, graduations, etc.)

3. Historic sights - Battleship Texas, the Alamo, Chisholm Trail, Route 66, Old Fredricksburg, etc.

4. Masonry in Action - Parades, Take Time To Read, Christmas Parties. Not a stiff group photo, but an candid action shot with a Masonic emblem visible on a lapel, or a Shrine Fez, etc.

5. Images - Rows of gravestones with a Square and Compasses visible on stone after stone, a cloud formation shaped like a Masonic emblem, etc.

How to submit...

Submit photos in JPG format on a CD with a completed form giving The Masonic Grand Lodge Library & Museum permission to publish and/or display the photo.

The Next Steps...

Enlargements of individual photographs (up to 4' x 6') will be made on canvas or masonite board, framed and shown in the Past Grand Masters Room, and the Deputy Grand Masters Room as well as the lower Museum, the Concourse and meeting room corridors behind the Grand East of the Grand Lodge Auditorium. Photos may be combined into a poster-sized collage and printed or published in book form. All Masons who submit photographs will be acknowledged by name and Lodge affiliation in The Texas Mason Magazine. Each photo that is selected for display or publication will be accompanied by an acknowledgment of the photographer.

Name _____ GL ID No. _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Phone No. _____ Lodge Name and No. _____

I hereby grant permission to the Grand Lodge of Texas to display or publish my submitted photographs in any manner they so choose.

Signed _____ Date _____

Roundup



Hurst #1387 presented a Lamar Medal and scholarship to **Marsha Lockhart**, who took special classes and programs to earn the prestigious International Baccalaureate Diploma from high school and now attends Texas Tech University. (L-R) **JW Josh Whitmire**, **WM Garry Perry**, **Marsha**, parents **Becky** and **Randy Lockhart**.



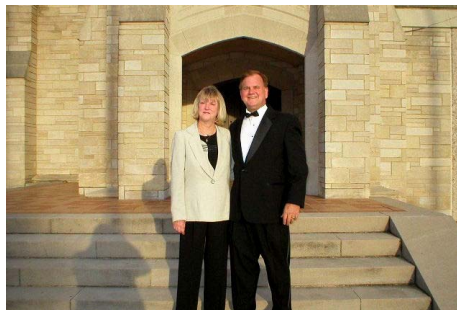
This happens to be the year of the Carpenters in McKinney. **William G. "Bill" Carpenter** (center), WM of **St. John's #51**, is shown with his father, **Lloyd Carpenter**, Cmdr of **McKinney Commandery #34** and his mother, **Alma Carpenter**, President of **McKinney S.O.O.B. Assembly #263**.



In brotherly spirit, **WM Harvey Aaron** (R) of **Zanderson #1120** in Jourdanton, presents a recently found 1923 award of **Tom Pugh**, a deceased member of **Reagan #1037** in Houston, to **John McLeod**, then WM of Reagan #1037. Brother Pugh's son, **Don**, was later presented with the family memento at a Reagan Lodge stated meeting.



On Sept. 16, 2005, **Tarkington Prairie #498** in Cleveland presented a Community Builder Award to **Mrs. Maxine Morris** of the Cleveland Sr. Citizens. Shown with the recipient are (L-R) Senior Warden **Billy Barrick** and Chaplain **Tommy Fox**.



On Sept. 23, 2005, in what was probably the last event to be held at the Masonic Home and School Chapel, brother **Mike King**, PM of **James A. Smith #395** in Farmers Branch and SW of **Eagle #41** in Richardson, married **Tesa Apponey**, a 1966 graduate of the MHS. Best wishes to the new couple.

If you are currently receiving The Texas Mason, but no longer wish to receive future issues, to please call the Grand Secretary's Office (254-753-7395) and ask for Debra.



On May 20, 2005, **Aubrey Earl Hope #1446** in Balch Springs held a golf tournament to benefit Masonic charities. Members of the Lodge are shown making a generous \$5000 donation to the staff of the **Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children**.

Editor's Note:
Many have expressed interest in the aerial photo of the MHS on the cover of the last issue. It was taken by brother Paul A. Roberts, Past Master of Arlington Heights Lodge No. 1184, and his partner, Steve Hall, of Alpha Aerial Photography. You can view their entire gallery of MHS aerial photos on their website at: www.alphaaerialphotography.com

GRAND LODGE OF TEXAS
(M-F, 8:30 AM to 4 PM)

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library@grandlodgeoftexas.org





Message from the Grand Secretary

GHOSTS OF THE GRAND LODGE

Brethren,

Texas is blessed with a unique Grand Lodge Building, and tales abound of the meetings and events that took place within its hallowed walls for more than half a century. As Halloween approaches, the hours of darkness expand, and if you walk the halls in the early morning hours or after the sun sets, it is easy to reach into the corners of your mind and imagine the conversations that might have occurred when Masons met here. Brethren always enjoyed meeting in the main foyer, heartily greeting each other and exchanging stories and points of view. If you are very quiet you can nearly hear the echoes of conversations of loved ones, long gone. Staff members, past and present, can recount stories of sounds or unexplained events they experienced while working in the building. Some of these workers nervously suggest that these occurrences are the doings of ghosts.

A former York Rite official talks of doors opening and closing by themselves when he worked late in the building by himself. The unsettling noises finally persuaded him to go home. Staff members, working by themselves in the bowels of the archives, have heard sounds or felt something brushing past them and were quick to return upstairs to the company of their co-workers. A teenager helping a parent, swears that material being prepared in the workshop behind the museum moved off of the table and fell on the floor all by itself. A contract employee applying insect chemicals in the early morning hours before the staff reports for duty, recounts that he repeatedly smells the faint odor of a lady's lilac perfume – always in front of Davy Crockett's picture in the Texas Room. (I wonder if Elizabeth, Davy's wife who is buried in Acton, Texas, favored lilac sachet)?

Two of our staff members have looked up from their computers and separately related that they saw emanations described as a "blob" or as "a man" floating through the air and disappearing into the wall. It is not uncommon to hear sounds emanating in the area behind the holocaust museum where Grand Master Hal Burnett and Rachel had established an apartment during his tenure. The jesting remark, "Don't worry, it's only Rachel moving furniture" eases the tension of the moment, but the staffs' eyes belie the unsettling nervousness of wondering what really caused the noise.

After the building's completion in 1950, the main auditorium was reputed to have acoustics that were rated in the top ten halls in the nation. Visitors marvel over the way sound travels within the room. Unfortunately, the building stands on the infamous blue shale subsoil located in the Waco area to the west of the Brazos River, and cracks in the sidewalks, mortar, and pieces of the facades of the building material flaking off reveal that the Temple is settling into the ground. The uneven cooling and heating capabilities within the building can also cause materials to expand or contract. These engineering phenomena can be used to explain the eerie sounds and movements. But could it be something else...

When you visit the Grand Lodge in December, emulate your predecessors in the main foyer, greeting each other warmly and creating your own memories of warm conversations. On Saturday, December 3, between 7:00 and 8:00 a.m., enjoy the free coffee and doughnuts that will be provided in the main foyer. During your visits, try to take time to visit the Library and Museum and learn more about your Grand Lodge building.

With the warmest personal regards, I remain,

Sincerely and fraternally,

Tom Guest
Grand Secretary

Qty	Code	Item	Item Cost ea.	Total
___	521EM-E	Lapel Pin - Enamel Finish	5.00	___
___	521EM-G	Lapel Pin - Gold Finish	5.00	___
___	522EM-P	Ladies Blue Slipper Pin	5.00	___
___	522EM-C	Ladies Blue Slipper Charm	5.00	___
___	521EMEC	Charm - Enamel Finish	5.00	___
___	521EMGC	Charm - Gold Finish	5.00	___
___	534EM	Money Clip	12.00	___
___	532EM-E	Tie Chain w/Charm - Enamel Finish	10.00	___
___	532EM-G	Tie Chain w/Charm - Gold Finish	10.00	___
___	532EMEXP	Expand. Tie Chain w/Charm - Enamel Finish	20.00	___
___	520EM	Bronze Coin	3.00	___
___	524EM	Enamel Coin	6.00	___
___	525EM	Silver Coin	30.00	___
___	526EM	Large Belt Buckle (Sold Out)		
___	522EM	Small Belt Buckle	30.00	___
___	527EM	Bolo Tie	15.00	___
___	530EM	3 rd Enamel Car Decal (Sold Out)		
___	528EM	Logo Decals (Sold Out)		
___	529EM*	Tail Lights Decals (pair) (Not Pictured)	5.00	___
___	528EMS	Blue Slipper Pin Decal	1.00	___
___	539EM*	Coffee Mug (Not Pictured) (Sold Out)		
___	536EMW	Cap White (Sold Out)		
___	536EMY	Cap Yellow	12.00	___
___	536EMB	Cap Blue (Sold Out)		
___	533EMW	Shirt, White (Sold Out)		
___	533EMY	Shirt, Yellow (Sold Out)		
___	533EMB	Shirt, Blue (Sold Out)		
___	540EM	Logo Tie Blue 100% silk (Sold Out)		
___		Sales Tax (Included)		incl. ___
___		S/H under \$20	3.00	___
___		S/H over \$20	5.00	___

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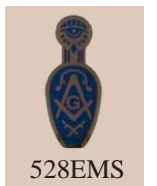
Make checks payable to: **Grand Lodge of Texas.**
Visa or MasterCard orders must include the card number, the name exactly as it appears on card, and the expiration date.

Mail this Entire Page to:

Tom Guest - Grand Secretary
P.O. Box 446
Waco, TX 76703-0446

Please allow four weeks for delivery.

2005 Grand Lodge Jewelry



2005 Grand Lodge Ladies Tours!

First Lady Judy Murphey has arranged for three special women's programs to be available to the wives attending Grand Lodge this year.

1.) Grand Churches of Waco

Come explore historically- and architecturally-significant buildings in Waco.

The tour begins at the **First Presbyterian Church** of Waco with its long history dating back to 1855.

The **Armstrong Browning Library** is a breathtaking building containing works of Robert & Elizabeth Barrett Browning.

The tour continues at **St. Paul's Episcopal Church**. First organized in 1868, the building was completed in June 1879.

The final stop is **St. Francis Church on the Brazos**. Established by Franciscan Missionaries, the building was completed in 1931. In later years the walls were decorated with almost life size paintings.

2.) Christmas on the Brazos Homes Preview Tour

The Historic Waco Foundation's "Christmas on the Brazos Homes Tour" draws thousands of people every year to help kick off the Christmas Season with many beautifully decorated historic homes.

This tour will be a special preview of the decorated homes on the tour. The tour includes the **Earle-Nappier-Kinnard home, the McCulloch Home, East Terrace, and the Fort House**.

The homes are filled with Christmas cheer and will inspire all to ring in the Christmas season.

3.) Crawford Presidential Tour

This Texas community dates back to the 1850's when it was established at the crossing of the road from Waco to Gatesville.

Known for its good schools and small town charm, Crawford has been put on the map as the home of the Western White House. This tour will take you through the small town of Crawford and offer up a taste of the "Presidential" life found in Central Texas.

***Tour 3 is \$5.00 per person and will only be offered on Saturday. Departure will be approximately 9:30 am from Heritage Square/Hilton and will return to Waco by 11:30 AM.*

***Tours 1 and 2 are \$20.00 each and will each have pick up and drop off points at the Grand Lodge and Heritage Square/Hilton. Both tours are offered Thursday and Friday morning and depart at approximately 9:30 a.m. The tours will last approximately 2 hours.*

2005 Grand Lodge Ladies Tours Reservation Form

Name _____ Phone No. _____

Lodge Name and No. _____

Tours Thursday:

- Churches (\$20)
- Homes (\$20)

Friday:

- Churches (\$20)
- Homes (\$20)

Saturday:

- Crawford (\$5)

Total Amount Enclosed: _____

Make checks payable to Grand Lodge of Texas and send to:

The Grand Lodge of Texas, A.F.& A.M., P.O. Box 446, Waco, TX 76703

Tour reservations must be submitted by **November 15, 2005**. Additional information: www.wacocvb.com

The Grand Lodge of Texas, A.F.& A.M.
P.O. Box 446
Waco, TX 76703

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