

# Trestleboard

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- Junior Warden Joe Moses 469 450-2964
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Please remember our website location  
<http://planomasoniclodge.org>



## From the East



Brethren,

I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season spent with family and friends. Plano Lodge has plenty to be proud of this Christmas season. We collected almost \$700 worth of toys and cash to give to the Collin County Children's Advocacy Center. Between what the lodge donated and we collected by passing the hat, we sent over \$1,000 to the needy to help make this a memorable holiday season. My thanks to all who helped out. It makes me proud to be a Mason when I see what we can do when we set our minds and hearts to it.

January will be another busy month for us. We will have activities every Thursday except the 15<sup>th</sup> which will be dark so all who want may attend the Masters, Wardens and Secretaries Association meeting at Lebanon Lodge in Frisco. A meal will be served starting at 6:30 and the meeting will start at 7:30. Hope to see you there.

Our February stated meeting will be the official visit from our DDGM, RW: J.I. Page. He will pass on the new Grand Master's message. Please plan to attend and listen to what your Grand Lodge has planned for the coming year.

Also in February, we will have our annual George Washington Birthday barbecue. We have some really fun entertainment scheduled that you won't want to miss. It is tentatively planned for February 21<sup>st</sup>, so make plans now to attend. It will be held at Plano East Senior High School.

Hope to see all of you in lodge soon.

Fraternally,

Mike Heidenreich

# The Fellowcraft Pillars

The three degrees of Freemasonry symbolically represent the three stages of life: youth, manhood, and old age. The lodge symbolizes the world as a whole with the Entered Apprentice representing the youth entering the world and the Master Mason about to leave it. The Fellowcraft represents manhood, the period in which a man is in the prime of his life prepared to face the trials and tribulations of the world, and equipped to do its work.

The work of the world is indeed the greatest endeavor of human life. Human progress is not carried forward by the ignorant or the unskilled as life is complex. Human progress rests on the shoulders of those who have knowledge, skill, and experience. This is the principal idea behind the Fellowcraft Degree. It is a drama of education, the philosophy of enlightenment. The Degree is wise in its teachings and profound in its truths.

As now practiced in Freemasonry, the lessons of the three degrees are built upon the Biblical description of King Solomon's Temple constructed in Jerusalem as a monument to the God of the Israelites. The building of this edifice is described in I Kings Chapters 5 through 7, while Chapter 8 describes the dedica-

tion of the Temple. A careful reading of these passages provides insight into the three degrees.

The great pillars that figure so prominently in the ceremonies of the Fellowcraft Degree are reminiscent of the two pillars that stood in front of King Solomon's Temple, not to support its roof but as symbolic reminders of the truths and forces in government and religion. While there have been many contradictions regarding the introduction of the pillars into the Masonic system, they are now universally recognized as part of the Fellowcraft Degree.

The terminology is confusing in the way pillar and column are used almost interchangeable in Masonic writings while each term has a distinct meaning. A pillar is a firm upright support for a superstructure such as an upper wall, floor, roof or arch. A pillar can be of any proportions necessary to perform the needed mechanical function of support. A pillar can also be a freestanding shaft that serves as a monument. A column is an architectural feature that is composed of a base, shaft, and capital that has definite geometric proportions and is designed to support as well as to adorn the building. Thus, both pillars and columns are primarily structural

supports, the difference being that a column is an architectural feature designed to be functional while beautifying the building.

The Biblical account of the pillars of King Solomon's Temple is contained in I Kings 7: 13-22, where the writer describes the work of Hiram, a skilled metal worker, in creating the pillars. In addition to this account, Flavius Josephus, a first century Jewish historian, provides the following account.

Now Solomon sent for an artificer out of Tyre, whose name was Hiram. He was by birth of the tribe of Naphtali, on the mother's side (for she was of that tribe), but his father was Ur, of the stock of the Israelites. This man was skillful in all sorts of work; but his chief skill lay in working in gold, and silver, and brass, by whom were made all the mechanical works about the temple, according to the will of Solomon. Moreover this Hiram made two hollow pillars, whose outsides were of brass, and the thickness of the brass was four fingers breadth, and the height of the pillars was eighteen cubits, and their circumference twelve cubits; but there was cast, with each of their chapiters, lily-work that stood upon the pillar, and it was elevated five cubits, round about which there was network interwoven with small palms made of brass, and covered with lily-work. To this also were hung two hundred pomegranates in two rows. The one of these pillars he set at the entrance of the porch on the right hand, and called it Jachin, and the other at the left hand, and called it Boaz.

References to these two great pillars are found in pre-Grand Lodge of England rituals. Their symbolism is the same today as then. It is generally agreed that Boaz means "in him is strength" and Jachin, "he shall establish." Thus, Boaz signifies strength while Jachin denotes establishment. As Masons, we should reflect upon the significance of the pillars as we construct our personal values and morals. The critics of Freemasonry object to the use of the pillars Jachin and Boaz in Masonic ritual for various reasons; however, the names and descriptions are taken directly from the Bible (I Kings 7) and there is nothing sinister implied by the Masonic usage.

The characteristics of the pillars present important symbolic lessons. The pillars are described in ornate detail with particular geometric attributes. The details of beauty and geometry are to encourage us to fully

## Calendar of Events for January

### Plano Lodge Events

January 1 Stated Meeting  
 January 8 Called meeting - EA degree  
 January 15 Dark  
 January 22 Called meeting - Degree  
 January 29 Called meeting—degree  
 February 5 Stated Meeting, DDGM's official visit

### Special Events

- Scottish Rite—Valley of Dallas stated meeting January 12th
- Hella Shrine stated meeting January 15th
- Dist. 9 MWSA meeting in Frisco
- Plano Assembly Rainbow #320, January 13th & 27th
- Plano Chapter #702 Order Of Eastern Star January 19th

# Grand Lodge 2003 Minutes

## Attendance:

Total members in the Grand Lodge of Texas 2003; 119,456. (Lost 4,132) 2002; 123,588. Members deceased this year: 4,132. New Masons raised this year: 1,635, Active Lodges in Texas: 884, Number districts in the Texas: 121, Grand Lodge Officers present: 17, Past Grand Masters present: 20, D.D.G.M. present: 112, Past Masters present: 2,146, Worshipful Masters present: 673, Senior Warden present: 303, Junior Warden present: 302, Number of Lodges represented at the Grand Lodge 673, Total members and visitors present (Friday 12/5/03) 3,742., Total members and visitors present (Saturday 12/6/03) 3,818

**Election of Grand Junior Warden:**  
Donny W. Broughton;

**Election of Grand Treasurer:** A.W. "Archie" Scott

**Election of Grand Secretary:** Tommy D. Guest; 1<sup>st</sup> ballot 2,462

## 2003 Proposed Resolutions

**Holdover #1:** To authorize presentation of the Daniel Carter Beard Award for Masons active in Boy Scouting. **Adopted:**

**#1:** To refine Art. 338a governing use of Lodge minutes and other records for historical and genealogical. **Adopted:**

**#2:** To amend Art. 225A regarding ability of Texas Mason to belong to organizations which predicate membership on Masonic Membership. **Needed 2/3 vote to consider, not considered.**

**#3:** to rename the Grand Lodge Committee on Public Relations as the Committee on Communication. **Adopted**

**#4:** To formalize Grand Lodge sponsorship of the Take Time To Read program. **Adopted**

**#5:** To add the Tiler's Oath to the Master Mason's degree proficiency. **Not Adopted**

**#6:** To reinstate ritual proficiency and administration training for new Masters and Wardens as a requirement for their installation. **Not Adopted**

**#7:** To change the wording in the Entered Apprentice Charge. **Not Adopted**

**#8:** To create a written record of non-esoteric portions of the ritual. **Not Adopted**

**#9:** To amend Art. 319 changing the date of automatic suspension for non-payment of dues. **Not Adopted**

**#10:** To revise Form 28 (Investigation Report Form) **Adopted**

**#11:** To amend Art 412 specifying the duties of an investigation Committee. **Adopted**

**#12:** To amend Art 407 and require that new investigation reports be destroyed after the ballot is taken and that all existing reports be destroyed. **Withdrawn:**

**#13:** To allow lodges to conduct raffles. **Adopted**

**#14:** To create a Grand Lodge audit committee. **Adopted**

**#15:** To amend Art 45 specifying the duties of the Grand Treasurer and to require that he be bonded in an amount not less than \$50,000. **Adopted**

**#16:** To close the Masonic Home and School of Texas. Paper Ballot: For 2,169 Against 1,480 **Adopted**

**#17:** To close the Masonic Home and School of Texas. **Withdrawn**

**#18:** To Close the Masonic Home and School of Texas. **Withdrawn**

**#19:** To close the Masonic Home and School of Texas. **Withdrawn**

**#20:** To close the Masonic Home and School of Texas. **Withdrawn**

**#21:** To change admission to the Masonic home and School of Texas. **Moved to table**

**#22:** To create a committee to study the future of the Masonic Home and School of Texas. **Moved to table**

**#23:** To create a committee to develop a means to close the Masonic Home and School of Texas. **Withdrawn**

**#24:** To create a committee to develop a means to close the Masonic Home and School of Texas. **Withdrawn**

**#25:** To rewrite in its entirety Title V of Grand Lodge Law governing Masonic discipline. **Hold over (Tabled) bring before 2004 grand Lodge**

**#26:** To specify that any Mason convicted of child abuse be permanently expelled. **Adopted**

**#27:** To amend rules governing the annual audit of Grand Lodge finances. **Adopted**

**#28:** To amend Art 176 governing Reconsideration of Matters during the Annual Communication. **Withdrawn**

**#29:** To amend Art 176 governing Reconsideration of Matters during the Annual Communication. **Withdrawn**

**#30:** To change the rules governing Lodge proxies at the Annual Communication. **Adopted**

**#31:** To make it a Masonic offense to confer more than one degree at a time. **Not Adopted**

**#32:** To specify opening and closing times for Special Communication of Grand Lodge. **Not Adopted**

**#33:** To specify the time for election of the Grand Junior Warden. **Not Adopted**

**#34:** To fund the Texas Masonic Youth Foundation. **Adopted**

**#35:** To increase the bond required for the Grand Secretary from \$40, 000. to \$50,000. and add the listing of his salary to the annual budget. **Adopted**

**#36:** To require that a printed copy of the annual budget be distributed to each member of the Grand Lodge prior to its presentation for approval. **Adopted**

**#37** to create a separate endowment fund for Masonic widows. **Tabled until 2004 Grand Lodge**

**#38:** To amend Art. 318a governing rules for purchase of endowed memberships. **Tabled**

**#39:** To increase minimum dues from \$30. to \$60. **Withdrawn**

**Note: Motion to reconsider #16; (paper ballot.) 3063 votes possible for 739; against 1,244**



*“The Fellowcraft Pillars” continued  
from page 2*

develop our minds regarding the mysteries of nature and the laws of the universe. Through an improved understanding of our surroundings and the works of nature we begin to develop a true appreciation for Deity and his mighty creation.

The ornamental detail regarding the network, lily-work and pomegranates denote unity, peace, and plenty, respectively. While the Biblical account does not provide a clear picture of what the capitals (chapters) looked like, it does indicate they were highly ornate. The purpose of the network was to provide a background and its intricate, interconnected arrangement suggests unity. The lily-work represents peace, the lily being a symbol of both peace and purity. Peace is a noble attribute we should strive for in our spiritual relationship with God and as Masons, we should promote peace between all men. The pomegranates must have been striking with two hundred on each capital. The pomegranate fruit, due to the exuberance of its seed, is an emblem of plenty, which was one of its ancient significances.

The explanation of the Fellowcraft Degree in the Masonic ritual provides very similar details of the two pillars provided in both the Biblical account of I Kings and that of Flavius Josephus. However, the Masonic ritual alludes to two spherical bodies placed on top of the pillars, which represent the terrestrial and celestial spheres upon which maps of the features of the earth’s surface and heavenly bodies were depicted. An account of King Solomon’s Temple in II Chronicles 4: 13 suggests the pillars were topped with bowl-like containers. This Masonic addition, however, does not distract from the symbolism that together these spherical shapes represent the universality of Freemasonry.

The Fellowcraft Pillars, as reminders of the two pillars Jachin and Boaz that stood in front of King Solomon’s Temple can be studied from two viewpoints. From one viewpoint, the pillars suggest the massive power, which upholds the universe, provides the laws of nature, and suggests the eternities of the heavens. Before such a Power, man should bow down and worship, engrave upon his heart that the Almighty God is indeed the creator of the universe and the giver of life, and realize that the most godlike man is one whose life is the

most constructive.

From another point of view, the pillars suggest the fact of birth, which has more and larger meanings than at first thought. One does not enter a well-furnished manhood by chance, like a blind man blundering through a doorway, but by virtue of study, labor, and preparation. On one-hand, there is the terrestrial sphere with its wisdom and knowledge concerning the earth, its physical existence, and its manual tasks to provide for himself and his family physically. On the other, there is the celestial sphere, with its wisdom of spiritual life, the conscience and imagination, and of the intellect and study of God’s nature to provide for himself and his family spiritually.

In the process of becoming a Fellowcraft Mason, you passed between the two great pillars, Jachin and Boaz, of your own free will. This signified you were no longer a youth but a man. You have the essentials for success, achievement, and happiness. If you passed these pillars with understanding, if you realize that power without control is dangerous, you have learned the lesson taught by the symbolism of the pillars