

Back East

Lodge Officers

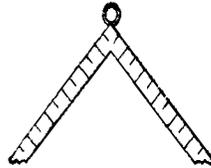
• Worshipful Master	Gene Blackmore	972 222-7879
• Senior Warden	Joe Moses	469 450-2964
• Junior Warden	Fred Smith	972 342-0813
• Treasurer	Warner Richeson	972 422-4268
• Secretary	Harry F. Powell II	972 424-7153

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Visit our website at:

<http://Planomasoniclodge.org>



Brethren:

This month's topic is the importance of the blue lodge to our other bodies. It reminds us that without masons none of the other organizations would exist in their present forms. We are the base for the Scottish Rite, York Rite, Shrine, Grotto, Eastern Star, DeMolay, Rainbow, Job's Daughters and, others that are less known in this area. Our teachings are fundamental to each of the other orders and are expanded to fit the needs of our youth in the youth organizations. It has been said the lessons of the York Rite and Scottish Rite bodies are an extension of the lessons of freemasons and both organizations require a person to be a master mason to gain admission. The Shrine also requires a petitioner to be a master mason and until recently also required membership in either the Scottish Rite or the York Rite. In my humble opinion the decision to remove that requirement was an error and I would encourage any brother to go through Scottish Rite or York Rite before joining the Shrine and maintain their membership in those orders as well.

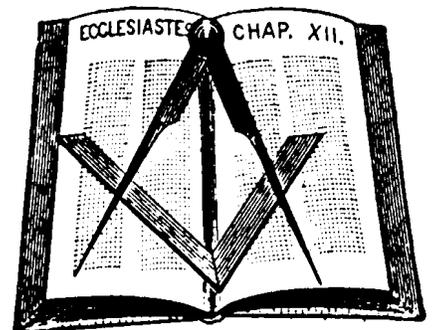
The support of our youth organizations is of the utmost importance for it is the youth that will grow to

be the leaders of our great nation. The teachings of Rainbow, DeMolay, and Jobs Daughters assist in the development of a proper moral lifestyle to further this country. They are also a fine training ground for future Masons.

March is looking to be a busy month and petitions are picking up again so get ready to come to lodge and help with conferring the degrees, get to know our new members, and renew friendships with long time brothers. In February we suffered the loss of several long time masons and must remember them and their families in our prayers. In closing I will repeat the famous words of the late Marvin Victor, "IT'S GREAT TO BE A MASON!!!"

In the light

R. Gene Blackmore



Out West - The Senior Warden's Column

The Importance of the Certified Degree to the Lodge

Brethren,

A while back, some of the members of Plano got together and decided to study the ritualistic work of the Entered Apprentice Degree and become the first degree team at Plano to ever receive a certified degree.

We passed with a score of 980 out of 1000 points. To pass this graded degree we needed a score of at least 901. This sparked a lot of interest in becoming certified in the Fellow Craft degree as well. We endeavored and scored a 970 out of a possible 1000 points. Our degree team did another excellent job and first for Plano Lodge.

We now have our sights set on the Master's Degree Certification and I believe we will also be successful in this endeavor. Why is getting a Master's Degree certification so important? What does it mean to lodge? What does it mean to me?

Well, I will answer the last question first. For me, getting the certification means that myself and twelve other brethren dedicated ourselves to learn and perfect, as much as humanly possible, the ritualistic work to ensure the integrity of this time honored tradition.

The teachings of the degree helps to engrain the philosophy of our art, and by demonstrating the precision

of the floor work as well as the esoteric work, I believe it promotes the art and meaning of masonry. It also allows us to provide the best possible experience for the brother receiving the degree and the brethren watching the degree.

Maintaining the integrity of the work by being tested and certified allows this great fraternity to continue in its philosophy of making good men better men. I believe the lodge benefits from the certification by creating the spark in a newly raised brother to want to learn and participate in a degree and become certified himself.

Why is it so important? Because, maybe the next newly raised brother might be head of the committee on work... or better yet Grand Master.

Again, I invite all who have not attended lodge for some time to come back and see what you have been missing. All you need is your dues card. The fellowship is still here, and now all we need is you.

Fraternally,

Your Senior Warden

Joe Moses

The Chuckwagon



March may come in like a lion and out like a lamb, but thankfully neither one of them cooks up very well.

March dinner menu:

3 - Gumbo

10 - Turkey meatloaf

17 - Seafood Chowder

24 - Pot roast

31 - Chicken spaghetti casserole

Scripture for March

On Palm Sunday:

Matthew: 21: 1-11

Mark: 11: 1-14

Luke: 19: 28-44

John: 12: 12-43

On the crucifixion:

Matthew: 27: 33-44

Mark: 15: 24-41

Luke: 23: 26-49

John: 19: 1-37

“Gift-of-Life” Blood Drive - Saturday, April 30 7am-3pm

Have you ever wanted to know exactly what the goals and purpose of the Gift of Life Program are? Why is it needed and why do we care? Here’s a little blurb about it so you know why it’s important we donate at our blood drive.

**TEXAS SCOTTISH RITE
HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN**
Dallas

**THE SHRINE ORTHOPEDIC
HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN**
Houston

**THE SHRINE
BURN CENTER**
Galveston

“Texas Masons working to provide the total annual blood requirements for the Masonic Hospitals of the State of Texas.”

The State of Texas uses more blood and blood products than its citizens donate requiring us to import blood from other states. This makes blood and blood products very expensive for everyone in Texas. Our fraternal hospitals require approximately 9,000 units of blood each year. This demand places our hospitals in the position of bidding against and bargaining with every hospital in the state to secure available blood for much needed surgeries. This is not a good situation for Texas or our fraternal hospitals. The Gift of Life’s goal is to solve this problem.

The Gift of Life serves to meet the blood requirements of our hospitals with the annual surplus donated to other Texas hospitals. This not only meets an essential need for our hospitals but also helps our communities by making much needed blood available whenever and wherever it is needed.

The Gift of Life is also designed to provide an easy opportunity for the general public to become acquainted with Masonry. There is a Masonic Lodge in most communities throughout the state and most people are willing to donate blood when it benefits children. With adequate planning, proper publicity, and a convenient way to donate, the Gift of Life’s goal to provide 20,000 units of blood annually can be achieved.

Plano Lodge participates in the Gift of Life Program twice annually: the last Saturday in April and the last Saturday in October. These dates provide blood when the supply is typically the lowest and the demand is highest. This participation also helps to give the public a sense of "what Masons do" and how we help "our kids."

Make time to give blood this year and use this event as an opportunity to invite a friend or neighbor to the Lodge to help with this noble and worthy cause.

Calendar of Events for March

Plano Lodge Events

- Mar 3** - Stated Meeting
- Mar 10** – EA degree
- Mar 17** – FC degree
- Mar 24** – MM degree
- Mar 29** – Briscoe Workshop
- Mar 31** – MM degree

Events for the Super-Mason

- Scottish Rite Valley of Dallas stated meeting Mar 14th.
- Hella Shrine stated meeting Mar 17th.
- Plano Assembly Rainbow #320, Mar 8th & 22nd.
- Plano Chapter #703 Order Of Eastern Star Mar 21st.
- Plano Shrine Club meeting Mar 22, 6:30 Los Rios CC

Plano Masonic Lodge #768
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Plano, TX 75086

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Blood Drive	Adopt a Chair Program	Briscoe Workshop
<p>Saturday, April 30</p> <p>Plano Lodge</p> <p>First bleeding at 7:00AM.</p> <p>Last bleeding at 3:00PM.</p> <p>Breakfast and a Bar-B-Q lunch will be served.</p> <p>The Gift of Life Blood Drive for the Scottish Rite Hospital is very important to the lodge. Please take the time to come give blood for the children.</p> <p>Contact JJ Miller or Tim Pedregon for more information.</p> <p>Cost: Free. (You cannot beat the cost.)</p>	<p>ONLY 38 CHAIRS LEFT!!!</p> <p>The Adopt-A-Chair Program is still available.</p> <p>Chairs are \$100.00 each.</p> <p>This is an excellent way remember a loved one and/or leave a little something of yourself in your lodge forever.</p> <p>If you would like to purchase a chair, see Larry Kester.</p> <p>He also has Lodge name tags available for approx. \$7.55.</p>	<p>Who: Hosted by Charles McKay</p> <p>What: Spring Briscoe Workshop</p> <p>When: Tuesday March 29, 2005 Dinner at 6PM Workshop at 7PM</p> <p>Where: Plano Lodge</p> <p>Why: To learn more about Masonry.</p> <p>You don't want to miss this Spring's Briscoe workshop which Charles McKay does such a great job presenting. Every Mason is well served by attending.</p>