

Trestleboard

September 2006

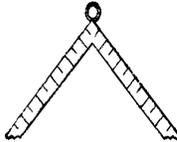
Volume 150

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 - Tiler Larry Moyer 214-317-9550

The SMITHsonian



From The East,

Direct the Wardens to
Order the lodge open

In our preparations to open a Masonic Lodge the Worshipful Master tells the Wardens to communicate to the brothers present that he is about to open a lodge, either EA or FC or Masters. And, that the lodge is opened for the reason of dispatching business. There are a couple of important points here to look closer at.

First, he is communicating. Communication: to share knowledge. We communicate on several levels in our lodges. We impart the special knowledge necessary to advance in our degrees with the implicit purpose of helping each other to become better men. We communicate the plans for our degrees and other activities that are necessary for the operation of our lodges. And lastly, we communicate as friends at meal time or on the sidewalk or even in e-mail just because we like to be with good men.

Second, we dispatch business. Dispatch conveys a sense of importance and efficiency. Something that is worthwhile to do; and, done to completion. What can be more important than our business of the teaching of the moral and ethical concepts that are the basis of our art?

And, considering the seriousness and importance of our work we should recall that standard of appearance that we set for ourselves. The Plano lodge has been noted for its relaxed dress code. We have agreed to certain casualness but not past a point. In respect for the importance of our work our standard calls for at least long pants, a shirt with a collar and shoes, (no sandals.) At other times a coat and tie might be more appropriate such as receiving honored guests or at installation.

See you in lodge. We have another busy month ahead.

Fraternally,

Fred Smith

Worshipful Master

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Is the lodge website under your favorites? If not, go to www.planomasoniclodge.org and add it. Visit it often.



THE LEVEL AND THE SQUARE

by Brother Rob Morris *Poet Laureate of Freemasonry*

(This poem, written in August, 1854, is the most popular Masonic Poem of all time.)

We meet upon the Level and we part upon the Square.
 What words of precious meaning, those words Masonic are!
 Come, let us contemplate them! They are worthy of a thought;
 In the very walls of Masonry the sentiment is wrought.

We meet upon the Level, though from every station come,
 The rich man from his palace and the poor man from his home;
 For the rich must leave his wealth and state outside the Mason's door,
 And the poor man finds his best respect upon the Checkered Floor.

We act upon the Plumb - 'tis the orders of our Guide.
 We walk upright in virtue's way and lean to neither side;
 The All-Seeing Eye that reads our hearts doth bear us witness true
 That we still try to honor God and give each man his due.

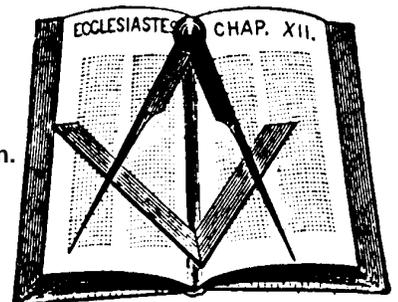
We part upon the Square, for the world must have its due;
 We mingle with the multitude, a faithful band and true.
 But the influence of our gatherings in memory is green,
 And we long upon the Level to renew the happy scene.

There's a world where all are equal - we are hurrying toward it fast,
 We shall meet upon the Level there when the gates of Death are past;
 We shall stand before the Orient, and our Master will be there
 To try the blocks we offer with His own unerring Square.

We shall meet upon the Level there, but never thence depart.
 There's a Mansion - 'tis all ready for each trusting, faithful heart.
 There's a Mansion, and a welcome, and a multitude is there
 Who have met upon the Level and been tried upon the Square.

Let us meet upon the Level, then while laboring patient here;
 Let us meet and let us labor, though the labor be severe;
 Already in the Western sky the signs bid us prepare
 To gather up our Working Tools and part upon the Square.

Hands round, ye faithful Brotherhood, the bright fraternal Chain.
 We part upon the Square below to meet in Heaven again!
 What words of precious meaning, those words Masonic are --
 We meet upon the Level and we part upon the square



Distinguished Masons in Plano History

William B. Blalack was a member of both Plano Lodge #235 and #768. Born in Alabama in 1830, William moved to Plano in 1854, when it had little more than a dozen residents, a post office, and a few stores. He married Elizabeth J. Dye in 1856, and together they raised their eight children: John William, Nora, Brazier, James, Edward, Elizabeth, Sloan, and Tilden. William was a prolific businessman, owning (with his brother T. H. B. Blalack) a hotel, grocery store, livery stable, mill and cotton gin, and a restaurant. He also served as the town's postmaster from 1856 through 1866. In 1873, he became Plano's first elected Mayor and served in this capacity in non-consecutive terms for a total of 16 years. As a part of his duties as Mayor, he became the first ex-officio chairman (president) of the board when the schools were taken over by the city and made public. He also donated 2/3 of an acre in the 1870's to help ensure that the railroad would run through Plano, greatly enhancing Plano prospects as an influential, thriving North Texas city.

Do you have an interest in history and research? The Historical Committee needs your help. We meet every 2nd and 4th Monday at 5:30 PM at the lodge.

For further information, please contact Kevin Main at hisory@planomasoniclodge.org.

Calendar of Events for September

<p>Plano Lodge Events</p>	<p>Eye on Grand Lodge</p>		<p>Plano Order of the Eastern Star #703</p>																							
<p>September 7 - Stated meeting "Family night"</p> <p>September 11 -Certificate Examinations</p> <p>September 14 -Entered Apprentice</p> <p>September 16 - Two Fellowcraft Degree</p> <p>September 21 - Masters Degree</p> <p>September 28 - Masters Degree</p>	<p>Have you made your plans to attend Grand Lodge this year?</p>	<p>September 18 - Stated Meeting</p> <p><i>Remember brethren, any wife daughter or relative of a mason is eligible for Eastern Star membership. Get them involved</i></p>	<p>September 18 - Stated Meeting</p> <p><i>Remember brethren, any wife daughter or relative of a mason is eligible for Eastern Star membership. Get them involved</i></p>																							
<p> The chuck wagon</p>	<p>Events for the Super-Mason</p>		<p>Plano Rainbow Assembly #320</p>																							
<p>September 7 - Sweedish Meatballs</p> <p>September 14 - Chicken Alfredo</p> <p>September 16 - Breakfast</p> <p>September 21 - Meatloaf</p> <p>September 28 - Brisket & Sausage</p> <p>All EA's, Fellowcrafts, and new Master Masons are reminded that they should help in the kitchen at least one week. Talk to the stewards about scheduling a time to help.</p> <p>Menu items are likely to change at the whim of the Senior Steward. Check the lodge website for updated menu information.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scottish Rite Valley of Dallas stated meeting Septembet 11. • York Rite McKinney is having its festival on September 9 and 23. • Hella Shrine Stated Meeting September 21 • Plano Shrine Club meeting September 26 	<p>September 5 - Board Meeting</p> <p>September 12 -Stated Meeting</p> <p>September 19 - Lodge Clean-up</p> <p>September 26 - Initiation</p> <p><u>Get your daughter or grand-daughter involved in Plano Rainbow</u></p> <p>Please support The rainbow charity of the year by purchasing support bracelets. Plano's very own Jarah Foster, Grand Worthy Advisor for the Rainbow Girls, has selected the Templar Eye Foundation.</p> <p>Bracelets are \$5 each. Donations also accepted.</p>	<p>September 5 - Board Meeting</p> <p>September 12 -Stated Meeting</p> <p>September 19 - Lodge Clean-up</p> <p>September 26 - Initiation</p> <p><u>Get your daughter or grand-daughter involved in Plano Rainbow</u></p> <p>Please support The rainbow charity of the year by purchasing support bracelets. Plano's very own Jarah Foster, Grand Worthy Advisor for the Rainbow Girls, has selected the Templar Eye Foundation.</p> <p>Bracelets are \$5 each. Donations also accepted.</p>																							
<p>Texas Young Masons</p> <p>are putting together a Stew Cook-off team, Chili Cook-off team and an Entered Apprentice Degree team.</p> <p>If you are interested, please contact Adam DeMasellis at adamdemasellis@yahoo.com.</p> <p>The stew cook-off team is competing in Sulphur Springs on September 16.</p>	<p>Around District 9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stated meetings in District 9 - <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Thu. 9/7</td> <td>Plano - 7 p.m.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tue. 9/5</td> <td>Lebanon - 7 p.m.</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>St. John's - 7:30 p.m.</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>East Fork - 7:30 p.m.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Th. 9/14</td> <td>Lee - 7:30 p.m.</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Melissa - 7:30 p.m.</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Empire - 8 p.m.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mo. 9/11</td> <td>Celina - 7 p.m.</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Blue Ridge - 7:30 p.m.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tu. 9/12</td> <td>Allen - 7:30 p.m.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tu. 8/19</td> <td>Farmersville - 7:30 p.m.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tu. 9/26</td> <td>Princeton - 7:30p.m.</td> </tr> </table>	Thu. 9/7	Plano - 7 p.m.	Tue. 9/5	Lebanon - 7 p.m.		St. John's - 7:30 p.m.		East Fork - 7:30 p.m.	Th. 9/14	Lee - 7:30 p.m.		Melissa - 7:30 p.m.		Empire - 8 p.m.	Mo. 9/11	Celina - 7 p.m.		Blue Ridge - 7:30 p.m.	Tu. 9/12	Allen - 7:30 p.m.	Tu. 8/19	Farmersville - 7:30 p.m.	Tu. 9/26	Princeton - 7:30p.m.	<p>PLANO Gift of Life BLOOD DRIVE</p> <p>SATURDAY OCTOBER 28, 2006</p> <p><i>Cutoff dates:</i></p> <p><i>You cannot give 2RBC after July 8, 2006,</i></p> <p><i>You cannot give Whole Blood after September 2, 2006, if you are going to give at the Plano Blood Drive</i></p> <p>Blood donors are eligible to give a whole blood donation every 56 days and double red blood cells every 112 days</p>
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	<p>Adopt a Chair Program</p> <p>ONLY 30 CHAIRS LEFT!!!</p> <p>Remember a loved one forever, and help grow the Plano Lodge Building Fund.</p> <p>Chairs are \$100.00 each.</p> <p>New name tags are available at a special price of \$10.00 each.</p> <p>Contact Larry Kester for more info.</p> <p><i>lhkester@comcast.net</i></p>																									

Plano Masonic Lodge #768
P. O. Box 860282
Plano, TX 75086

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PLANO, TEXAS



A Call for HELP,

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The Texas Masonic Retirement Center (TMRC) in Arlington is home to 49 Master Masons and 63 wives and widows of Masons. Most of the residents entered under the Total Asset Turnover plan, where all of their property, retirement funds and Social Security checks are turned over to the TMRC. In return, they have a very nice place to live, three meals a day, medical care, a very busy schedule of activities and a monthly allowance of \$70 each. They would purchase any personal items they want out of the \$70/month they receive, including toiletries such as toothpaste and hair spray. However, the TMRC has a "Country Store" where the residents can pick up these types of items - for free. The Country Store is managed by a volunteer who opens it for a few hours twice a month and it is stocked by donations from Masonic lodges around Texas. The TMRC provides a small budget so some things can be purchased at the dollar store to fill gaps in inventory. Our retired Masons and their wives and widows are making do with dollar store products like tissues and hoping that the Country Store doesn't run out of something they need - or they wait two weeks to go back. **This is where YOU can help.** When you buy these types of products for yourselves, please buy one or two extra and bring them to the lodge. Here is a list of items they will always need.

Items needed: Kleenex, Cough Drops, Sugar Free Cough Drops, Talcum and Medicated Talcum, Lectric Pre-shave, Williams Pre-shave, Stockings: Knee-highs, thigh-highs (beige or nude), Aloe Vera and Cocoa Butter creams, Oil of Olay, Cleansing cream, Ponds Cold Cream, Moisturizing Cream (day and night creams), Toner and Astringent, Liquid make up (light color), eye pencils, eye shadow, blush, lipstick, Compacts, loose face powder (light), Chapstick, Cologne: men's and women's, Softsoap, Toothpaste: Colgate, Crest and Sensodyne, Toothbrushes, Individually wrapped snacks and candy (mini candy bars), Trident Gum and regular gum, Sleep caps, Flushable moist wipes, Room deodorizers, aerosol and solid, New and use VHS and DVD movies, Spray Starch, Hair Spray