

# Trestleboard

November 2007

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## From the East

Brethren,

I have 2 things to talk about this month. First is a CD that some of you may own titled Hiram's Call by brother Howie Dameron of Ohio. This was first brought to my attention by Brother Rhett North who performed a song from the CD at our family night in October. The song is about those of us who wear Masonic rings and what they stand for to Brother Dameron. I have been very moved by this song and listen to it often. The next track after this song is Brother Dameron speaking about masonry and what he feels makes a great lodge. Friendship, fellowship, and a true sense of belonging make lodges strong. I know we have that in Plano Lodge. So as Brother Dameron says "let's continue to practice the successful art of gathering."

Next, we had an open forum meeting in September and the subject of how Plano Lodge contributes to charitable causes came up. I have heard this question several times, in several ways recently. Some answers to this form of question are that we have semi-annual blood drives that benefit the Texas Scottish Rite Hospital. We readily contribute to the relief of poor and penniless Masons and their families. Or simply that we are not a charity, but a fraternity which chooses to sometimes contribute to charitable causes. Hearing this question often and not really being happy with the answers, although all we do are great acts of charity and do true good

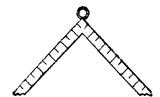
in the community, I propose this. *We manage our financial resources to better maximize return while minimizing risk, and create a pool of funds for charitable purposes.* I would like to begin

with a "scholarship" to accompany the Lamar awards we hand out each year. This has to be one of the most common fund raising causes for local lodges. It seems most other lodges in our district raise money each year and award 1 or 2 scholarships. Why not combine an award we already present with a monetary award that will provide an investment in young men and women who are of extraordinary character or have overcome hardships to continue with their education. I personally find it embarrassing that all we offer these students is a very nice medal and some paperwork. What a young man or woman graduating high school and continuing their education really needs is money. If we are able to use our resources effectively, we can provide a meaningful award to the students and not just a pat on the back.

Fraternally,

Chris Rhodes

Worshipful Master



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Is the lodge website under your favorites? If not, go to [www.planomasoniclodge.org](http://www.planomasoniclodge.org) and add it. Visit it often.

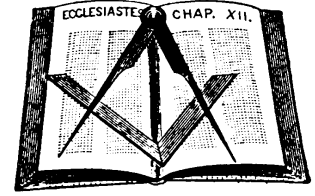


Quarrymen,

I hope you enjoy this paper on Masonic Wages, taken from the Grand Lodge of Texas website.

Your Junior Warden,

Scott Shaeffer



In these times the cost of living and wages are constant sources of concern, conflict, and shock. As the value of currency changes daily, we expect our wages to keep up and are surprised at the salaries of young people just beginning their careers. In many instances they are paid salaries matching those who have served decades doing the same job and we question the fairness and the future of such practices.

Wages in the Masonic sense are a different matter and the lessons of the Craft teach us they should reflect a progression from lower skill, such as the apprentice; to a higher skill, such as fellow-craft; and finally to the highest skill, being that of a master. In ancient times the edifices constructed required decades of effort and pay scales were very stable, generally remaining the same throughout the construction. Raises, as we know today and sometime expect, were rare and the ancient increases were measured in increased skill, not time in service.

In King Solomon's time wages included bread, wheat, wine, and beer, as well as gold and silver. Lower skills meant lower wages. The masters were exactly that, masters of their craft. Years of apprenticeship, study, work, learning and knowledge of the implements of the craft were required to achieve the position of master.

In the days of the great cathedrals it was the master, who drew the highest pay for his work, and it was necessary to prove his skill to justify his claim for wages. Since most people were unlettered, various signs, tokens, and grips were necessary to verify a stranger's claim and trust his skills. Thus is found the groundwork for many of the present day practices of the Craft.

In moving from the operative to speculative consideration, masonry and Masonic wages took on deeper symbolic meanings. The erection of a great cathedral now focuses on the construction of a good and wholesome life, reflecting personal improvement, serving humanity, and spreading happiness. Masonic labors are those acts of kindness, deeds of service, and gifts to others, which make this a better world. The white apron is but a constant reminder of the "purity of heart and uprightness of conduct" necessary to earn Masonic wages, and at last, when we move to "that house not made with hands", we will finally receive from the Great Architect our wages for a life well spent.

Brethren,

Here are the final numbers from the Scottish Rite Children's Hospital Blood Drive held at the Plano Masonic Lodge 768, October 27th, 2007.

82 Units.

13 Deferments.

Totals from April 07 Drive:

98 Units.

12 Deferments.




Totals from Oct 06 Drive:

103 Units.

12 Deferments.

Fraternally Yours, Brother David Carter

# Calendar of Events for November

<b>Plano Lodge Events</b>	<b>Around District 9</b>		<b>Plano Order of the Eastern Star #703</b>
<p>Nov 1 - Stated meeting "Family night" - 5:30 PM</p> <p>Nov 8 - Entered Apprentice</p> <p>Nov 15 - TBD</p> <p>Nov 22 - Thanksgiving (Dark)</p> <p>Nov 29 - TBD</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stated meetings in District 9 -           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First Thurs. Plano - 7 PM</li> <li>First Tues. Lebanon - 7 PM</li> <li>St. John's - 7:30 PM</li> <li>East Fork - 7:30 PM</li> <li>Second Tues. Lee - 7:30 PM</li> <li>Melissa - 7:30 PM</li> <li>Empire - 8:00 PM</li> <li>Second Mon. Celina - 7 PM</li> <li>Blue Ridge - 7:30 PM</li> <li>Second Tues. Allen - 7:30 PM</li> <li>Third Tues. Farmersville - 7:30 PM</li> <li>Fourth Tues. Princeton - 7:30 PM</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		<p>Nov 19 - Stated Meeting 7:30 PM</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><b>The chuck wagon</b></p>	<p><b>Adopt a Chair Program</b></p> <p><b>ONLY 18 CHAIRS LEFT!!!</b></p> <p>Remember a loved one forever, and help grow the Plano Lodge Building Fund.</p> <p>Chairs are \$100.00 each and 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@verizon.net</i></p>		<p><b>Plano Rainbow Assembly #320</b></p>
<p><b>Nov 1 - Swedish Meatballs</b></p> <p><b>Nov 8 - Stewards' Thanksgiving Trestleboard</b></p> <p><b>Nov 15 - Mexican Chicken Casserole</b></p> <p><b>Nov 22 - Thanksgiving!</b></p> <p><b>Nov 29 - Homemade Chili</b></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><b>Texas Young Masons</b></p> <p>For information on the Texas Young Masons, go to <a href="http://www.texasyoungmasons.org">www.texasyoungmasons.org</a></p>		<p>Nov 6 - ELECTIONS, Board Meeting 7:30 PM</p> <p>Nov 13 - Stated Meeting 7:30 PM</p> <p>Nov 20 - Lodge Clean-up</p> <p>Nov 27 - Initiation Meeting</p> <p>If your daughter is involved in Rainbow, please help with lodge clean up!</p> <p><u>Get your daughter or grand-daughter involved in Plano Rainbow</u></p>
<p><b>Events for the Super-Mason</b></p>	<p><b><i>Stock the Store Campaign:</i></b></p> <p>Brother Clay Smith is continuing the "Stock the Store" campaign which provides the "Country Store" where the residents of the Texas Masonic Retirement Center can pick up personal items - for free. <b>This is where YOU can help.</b> 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.</p> <p><b>Kleenex</b>, Cough Drops, Sugar Free Cough Drops, Talcum and Medicated Talcum, Lectric Pre-shave, Williams Pre-shave, <b>Knee-high stockings</b> (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, V05 Hair Styling products.</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scottish Rite Valley of Dallas stated meeting November 19.</li> <li>Plano Shrine Club meeting November 27</li> <li>Museum &amp; Library History committee, Working meeting November 12th and 26th at 5:30 PM.</li> </ul>			

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The Test  
Author Unknown

Several years ago, the story is told of a Mason who always wore his Masonic ring and lapel pin when in public. On some occasions, he rode the bus from his home to the downtown area. On one such trip and when he sat down, he discovered the driver had accidentally given him a quarter too much change. As he considered what to do, he thought to himself, "You'd better give the quarter back. It would be wrong to keep it." Then he thought, "Oh, forget it, it's only a quarter; who would worry about this little amount."

Anyway, the transit company gets too much fare; they will never miss it. Accept it as a 'gift from God' and keep quiet. When his stop came, he paused momentarily at the door, then he handed the quarter to the driver and said, "Here, you gave me too much change." The driver with a smile replied, "I noticed your Masonic ring and lapel pin. I have been thinking lately about asking a Mason how to join. I just wanted to see what you would do if I gave you too much change. You passed the test. Can you tell me how to become a Mason?"

When the Mason stepped off the bus, he said a silent prayer, "Oh God, Grand Architect of the Universe, I almost sold you and my beloved Masons out for a mere quarter."

Our actions are the only Masonic creed some will ever see. This is a really almost scary example of how people watch us as Masons and may put us to the test even without us realizing it! Always be diligent, whether it be at the theater, restaurant, grocery, service station or just driving in traffic.

Remember, whether it be a lapel pin, a ring, or an emblem on the car, you carry the name of our great fraternity on your shoulders whenever you call yourself a Mason. You never can tell who might be watching!