



PUBLISHED MONTHLY

Volume 175 - October 2008

Senior Officers

| | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| Worshipful Master | JJ Miller | 972-496-7767 |
| Senior Warden | Scott Shaeffer | 972-509-5252 |
| Junior Warden | Adam DeMasellis | 214-244-7830 |
| Treasurer | Barry Parrish | 214-876-6819 |
| Secretary | Harry F. Powell II | 972 424-7153 |

Junior Officers

| | | |
|----------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Senior Deacon | Clay Smith | 972-881-8341 |
| Junior Deacon | Kevin Main | 214-796-9054 |
| Senior Steward | Bill Goodell | 972-228-7087 |
| Junior Steward | Brian Chaput | 972-599-7789 |
| Marshal | Paxton Dunn | 469-363-5417 |
| Chaplain | Bob Pannell | 972-596-4416 |
| Master of Ceremonies | Eric Beck | 972-443-0007 |
| Tiler | David Carter | 469-467-0633 |

HELP FOR BENNY FERGUSON

Brethren,

This is your opportunity to practice charity and support Brother Benny Ferguson who sincerely needs our help. On July 29th 2008, Benny suffered a stroke on the right side of his brain which affected the left side of his body. This is complicated by the fact that he suffered from polio as an infant and the right side of his body is afflicted by post polio syndrome. He currently only has the use of his right arm.

Benny has a growing list of medical equipment needs that are not covered by insurance, Benny's inability to work, and the mounting medical expenses are placing a great financial burden on his family. These costs currently exceed \$25,000.00. The most urgent need is a van with a wheel chair lift, an electric wheelchair (\$15,000), a Hoyer lift (\$1,800) and a specialized shower chair.

Please donate whatever you can. Please make checks out to the "Ferguson Medical Fund" and mail them to:

Benny Ferguson
707 Sunny Slope
Allen, TX 75002

His wife, Synne, can be reached at 214-803-7089 (cell) or you can call Benny at (214)-390-7943 to inquire further about how you can help.

Sincerely and fraternally,

JJ Miller

Worshipful Master

For the latest on Lodge news and events and to download an electronic copy of the Trestleboard, go to:

<http://www.planomasoniclodge.org/>



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PLANO LODGE CALENDAR OF EVENTS & DINNER MENU

| | | |
|-------------------|--|------------------------|
| October 2 | Stated Meeting (EA Degree) <i>Dinner 5:30 P.M. / Meeting 7:00 P.M.</i> | Steward's Trestleboard |
| October 9 | Order of the Essenes (Open) <i>Dinner 6:00 P.M. / Degree 7:00 P.M.</i> | Chicken Cacciatore |
| October 16 | FC Degree <i>Dinner 6:00 P.M. / Degree 7:00 P.M.</i> | Braised Brisket |
| October 20 | Museum & Library Golf Tournament | |
| October 23 | Festive Board (Museum & Library) | |
| October 25 | Blood Drive (Breakfast & Lunch for Donors) | |
| October 30 | FC Degree <i>Dinner 6:00 P.M. / Degree 7:00 P.M.</i> | Roast Beef |

WHO SHOULD WE VOTE FOR?

I know what you're thinking. Is the Senior Warden going to suggest a candidate? Am I going to ask you to support a political party? Not hardly. This is a taboo subject within Freemasonry and one that is totally personal for the Mason.

We are taught that within the lodge room, we are not to discuss religion or politics. But, there have been many conversations outside of the lodge room that have been very productive. In these discussions brothers offer their opinions, and suggest a certain course of action when elections are held. These are solely opinions, and one of the beautiful traits of Freemasonry is that we can discuss and debate politics without the fear of offending.

Within the lodge room, we leave our political persuasions at the door as we don our aprons. We are not republicans, democrats, independents or communists. Many years ago, our ancient brethren recognized the dividing nature of bringing political discussions within the walls of the lodge. If these conversations spilled over into the lodge room, then we would dictate how a person thinks. This would totally undermine the free thinking nature of our fraternity. Freemasonry allows us the freedom to open our minds to all of the possibilities and contemplate thoughts and ideas openly we have never considered.

I have had numerous discussions with other brethren outside of the lodge about politics. We have not always agreed in every conversation, but we allow each other to speak his opinion. I have good Mason friends that are democrats and republicans. At the end of the day we meet each other on the square and keep our passions within due bounds.

In closing, I suggest that we all vote in all of the elections and let our voices be heard. Consider the candidates carefully and make the choice of the person that best represents your thoughts and beliefs.

Your Senior Warden,

Scott Shaeffer
 Scott_wrs@verizon.net

MASONIC QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

What is the origin and meaning of the terms "Entered Apprentice" and "Fellowcraft"?

The earliest written records of Freemasonry, often called the "Old Charges" and belonging to early operative guilds, indicate that until 1475 there was really only one ceremony or degree conferred in making one a "Fellow of the Craft", and this was a ceremony shared by both Masons and Wrights (construction laborers). Apprentices were accepted without ceremony. Sometime after 1475, the Lodge of Edinburgh began conferring a uniquely Masonic version of this Fellow's degree. In 1583, a system was established for the "Booking" of Apprentices in a municipal register which recorded their names, the names and trades of their masters, and the number of years for which the Apprentices were bound to serve and study. The purpose of this record was to help apprentices eventually obtain their right of "freedom" following the completion of their terms.

By 1598, it is evident that two separate ceremonies were being worked in many Scottish lodges, one marking the entry of the name of the Apprentice in the municipal register with a subsequent grade or degree at the end of his term following an examination of his skills or his "Master's Piece". If the Apprentice passed this examination, he would be admitted to full membership in the Lodge as a "Fellow" of the Craft. The details of these ceremonies of entrance and passing do not appear in writing until 1696 in the Edinburgh Register House Manuscript, which remains one of the most significant and provocative sources for those interested in the history of Masonic ritual.

Thanks to all of our members and their families who are submitting questions about Masonic history, philosophy, and symbolism that need an answer. If you have a question that you would like to submit, please send an E-mail to trestleboard@planomasoniclodge.org.

UNTITLED FESTIVE BOARD ODE

We have no idle prating
 Of either Whig or Tory;
 But each agrees
 To live at ease,
 And sing or tell a story.

We will be men of pleasure,
 Despising pride and party;
 Whilst knaves and fools
 Prescribe us rules,
 We are sincere and hearty.

If any are so foolish
 To whine for courtiers' favour,
 We'll bind him o'er
 To drink no more,
 Till he has a better favour.

If an accepted Mason
 Should talk of high or low church,
 We'll set him down
 A shallow clown,
 As understanding no church.

The world is all in darkness,
 About us they conjecture;
 But little think
 A song a drink
 Succeed the Mason's lecture.

Then, landlord, bring a hogshead,
 And in the corner place it;
 'Till it rebound
 With hollow sound
 Each Mason here will face it.

- Unknown



PAY YOUR DUES ONLINE

Please watch for details in November's Trestleboard about how you will be able to pay your dues and make donations to the lodge using online bill payments, as well as pay your dues for the coming year in monthly installments.

MASONIC TREASURE HUNT

Each month during this Masonic year, the Trestleboard will contain a question based upon information contained in the Monitor of the Lodge for the Grand Lodge of Texas. For those of you who still have the copy you received at your initiation, it should be easy to find the answer, although the questions will become increasingly difficult over time. Collect all of your answers throughout the year, and the final puzzle in June will provide the last clue, which will require your answers from all of the previous questions for its solution. All correct answers to this final puzzle that are submitted to trestleboard@planomasoniclodge.org on or before Wednesday, June 24, 2009 will be entered into a drawing for a \$100 gift certificate to the local restaurant called Love and War in Texas. Do not send in your individual monthly answers. Only correct answers to the final puzzle will be accepted. Good luck! (There will be no other hints provided, so don't ask.)

Question for October 2008:

Which rung of the theological ladder of Jacob is considered the greatest, enduring through the boundless realms of eternity?

FIRST ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT BENEFITTING THE MUSEUM & LIBRARY

<http://www.miraclegolfconcepts.com/eventdetail.php?id=290>

On October 20, 2008, the North Texas Masonic Historical Museum and Library is hosting a fundraising golf tournament at the Golf Club at Twin Creeks in Allen, TX. This will be a 4 person scramble event and the cost will be \$125 per player. **The deadline for signing up is October 7, 2008...so don't wait!**

Alternatively, you could PLAY FOR FREE! How? We have partnered with Miracle Golf Concepts and PGA Tour Superstore to offer an exciting package that will help the Museum & Library raise additional funds. All you have to do is sign up for the tournament by going to the website above and clicking on "Register to Participate in this Event." Through this website you can choose to either pay the entry fee to play in the tournament, sign up as a fund raiser, or donate directly to the event. If you raise \$250, you'll earn a \$50 gift card to

PGA Tour Superstore; raise \$500 to receive a \$150 gift card; raise \$1000 and earn a **\$300 gift card!** After you sign up to help, you'll have the opportunity to email a pre-written donation request letter to all your family and friends, who will then go to the website and make a donation. It's that easy to help the Museum & Library raise some much needed operating funds!

Even if you're not a golfer, you can help! You can participate by being an all-time putter on your team. Or, you can sign up as a Fundraiser on the Miracle Golf website.

Each golfer will enjoy a complete program of special events, including: 18 holes of golf (including cart), a complimentary green fee voucher, a "Lone Star Rewards" card, a \$27 practice round, a prize package, 15% discount in the pro shop, a \$20 gift card to PGA Tour Superstore, and an exciting awards banquet. Plus, you can win prizes in a putting challenge on the practice green, two longest drive contests, closest to the pin challenge, and a Hole-in-One Contest!

We are still looking for sponsors for the event, so please have anyone who is interested contact me at 214-435-4758.

Thank you so much for your support!

Eric Beck

ADOPT A CHAIR PROGRAM

ONLY 18 CHAIRS LEFT!!!

Remember a loved one forever, and help grow the Plano Lodge Building Fund.

Chairs are \$100.00 each and new name tags are available at a special price of \$10.00 each.

Contact Larry Kester for more information.

lhkester1@verizon.net

DISTRICT 9 STATED MEETINGS

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| First Tuesday | East Fork - 7:30 P.M. Lebanon - 7:00 P.M. St. John's - 7:30 P.M. |
| First Thursday | Plano - 7:00 P.M. |
| Second Monday | Blue Ridge - 7:30 P.M. Celina - 7:00 P.M. |
| Second Tuesday | Allen - 7:30 P.M. |
| Second Thursday | Empire - 7:30 P.M. Lee - 7:30 P.M. Melissa - 7:30 P.M. |
| Third Tuesday | Farmersville - 7:30 P.M. |
| Fourth Tuesday | Princeton - 7:30 P.M. |



PLANO ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR #703

October 15 - Practice - 7:30 P.M.
October 20 - Stated Meeting - 7:30 P.M.
October 24 - Initiation - 7:30 P.M.

Brethren, as a Mason, you, your wife, your daughters or any other female relative at least 18 years of age is eligible for membership in the Order of the Eastern Star.



PLANO RAINBOW ASSEMBLY #320

October 7 - Advisory Board Meeting - 7:30 P.M.
October 14 - Stated Meeting - 7:30 P.M.
October 21 - Lodge Cleanup - 7:30 P.M.
October 28 - Initiation Meeting - 7:30 P.M.

If your daughter is involved in Rainbow, please help with lodge clean up!

Brethren, your daughters and granddaughters aged 11 to 20 should be a part of the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls.

APPENDANT BODIES

October 4 - Scottish Rite (Dallas) Fall Three-Day Reunion "Day 3" - 6:00 A.M.

October 20 - Scottish Rite (Dallas) Stated Meeting - Dinner 6:30 P.M. / Meeting 7:00 P.M.

October 28 - Haggai (McKinney) Chapter / Council Meeting - 7:30 P.M.

October 28 - Plano Shrine Club Dinner

Be sure to check out the Member Forum on the Plano Lodge Website.

To sign up, go to:

<http://www.planomasoniclodge.org/forum/>



Plano Masonic Lodge #768

P. O. Box 860282

Plano, TX 75086

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PLANO, TEXAS



STOCK THE STORE CAMPAIGN

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. **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. There is a large box at the top of the stairs to drop the items as you come in.

Here is a list of items they will always need:

Kleenex, Cough Drops, Sugar Free Cough Drops, Talcum and Medicated Talcum, Lectric Pre-shave, Williams Pre-shave, knee-high stockings (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, eyeshadow, 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 used VHS and DVD movies, Spray Starch, Hair Spray, V05 Hair Styling products.

FREEMASONRY AND THE INTERNET

Plano Lodge

www.planomasoniclodge.org

Plano Lodge Member Forum

www.planomasoniclodge.org/forum

Texas Young Masons

www.texasyoungmasons.org

MWSA - District 9

www.9thmws.ntxmason.org

Grand Lodge of Texas

www.grandlodgeoftexas.org

North Texas Masonic Historical Museum & Library

www.northtexashistory.org

Featured Website for July:

<http://freemasonry.bcy.ca/info.html>