



Senior Officers

Worshipful Master	JJ Miller	972-496-7767
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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

FROM THE EAST

December marks the close of 2008 and WHAT a year it has been. Like every year, it has had its triumphs and tragedies, its good times, and its hard times. December is a time to reflect upon the past year and begin looking forward to the next. It is also a time to reflect upon all God has given us. It is very easy to get caught up in the hustle and bustle of life, pursuing the “next” thing, or working frantically to get everything “checked off” our lists. We are frequently too hurried, too tired, or too stressed to really enjoy those everyday blessings we have been given. Each time you see your family and friends this month, take the time to think about what a special gift that person has been to your life, how they have made your life better, and how much that means to you. These are the real gifts in life.



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

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



I want to wish everyone a safe and very Merry Christmas! (I hope everyone who practices another faith will reciprocate with a well wish for their spiritual holiday.)

Fraternally,

JJ Miller

Worshipful Master

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PLANO LODGE CALENDAR OF EVENTS & DINNER MENU

December 11	Stated Meeting (EA Degree) <i>Dinner 5:30 P.M. / Meeting 7:00 P.M.</i>	Steward’s Trestleboard
December 13	Toy Drive at the Fillmore <i>3:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.</i>	
December 18	MM Degree <i>Dinner 6:00 P.M. / Degree 7:00 P.M.</i>	Venison Chili
January 1	Stated Meeting (EA Degree) <i>Dinner 5:30 P.M. / Meeting 7:00 P.M.</i>	Steward’s Trestleboard



A FREEMASON'S CHRISTMAS WISH

*It is the time of year when the Brethren rejoice,
And sing carols of praise in resounding voice.
Days of merriment and long nights of cheer,
As we all await the "Happy New Year!"
It is a time of family and life long friends,
A time of happiness and to make amends.
Roast turkey and baubles and the Nutcracker Suite,
We each have our own way to make Christmas complete.*

*As we stroll through this happy month of December
Find time to pause and take time to remember
That distinguishing sign of a Freemason's heart —
Those acts of Charity. How great they are.
As your family gathers 'round your Christmas tree,
And the children play with giggles of glee,
Spare a thought for the poor, the man with no shoes,
Whose daily meal is less than your dues.*

*Remember also the Grand Lodge above,
And the Supreme Great Architect's act of love.
And practice those virtues we hold so true.
Have some fun! But let Temperance chasten you.
And during this season of peace and joy
Look well to our future — the girl and boy.
Then wonder what lessons you may them teach,
And with your guidance what heights they may reach.*

*So, to all of my Brethren from far and wide,
Whether your Christmas be snow, or hot and dry,
May the Architect grant his celestial boon
And keep your good health 'til we meet again soon.
Take care of yourself and those you find dear.
Keep this festive spirit throughout the next year.
Look toward your next date with our happy band.
Til our next merry meeting. Apron, heart, and hand.*

Written by IPM Brother Andrew Bradley of Paxton Lodge # 608 of the United Grand Lodge of New South Wales. Intended for the Fraternity as a whole.

Merry Christmas!

Your Senior Warden,

Scott Shaeffer
scott_wrs@verizon.net

GREY WITH THE FROSTS OF AGE

GREY with the frosts of age,
Dim o'er the midnight page,
Bowed toward the earth, where
soon my rest must be,
I give my closing years,
With all its sighs and tears,
Oh, land of holy mysteries, to thee!
Hills, over which our Brotherhood
have trod,
Dales, in whose shadows Masons
worshipped God!

No nobler work at hand;
It is our fatherland;
There first JEHOVAH breathed
His awful name:
In that historic earth
Our customs all had birth;
Our emblems from the land of
Hiram came:
Eastward they rose, where Orient
suns enrobe;
Westward they moved, encircling all
the globe.

Then, Craftsmen, work with me!
Freemasons, come, and see
The sacred mountain where our
Temple stood;
Join your right hand with them
Who, at Jerusalem,
Have linked anew the
Mason-brotherhood:
Help us to kindle up the latent
flame
That on Moriah gilt the Holy
Name.

- Rob Morris

PAY YOUR DUES ONLINE

Please watch for coming details in the 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 December 2008:

Which virtue, equally distant from rashness and cowardice, should be deeply impressed upon the mind of every Mason?

MASONIC QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

What is the origin of the four cardinal virtues?

The four cardinal virtues (temperance, fortitude, prudence, and justice) can be traced back to the early Greek philosophers, particularly Plato who enumerated these virtues in his Republic, adding to them Piety. Later philosophers and theologians added to these the three "theological" virtues (Faith, Hope, and Charity), comprising the seven "Heavenly" virtues. The word "cardinal" is often etymologically connected to the Latin "cardo", meaning hinge, as these virtues represent the hinges upon which the door of the moral life swings.

These virtues have long been personified in the allegorical images of four

women, and their depiction has often been utilized among funerary images and engravings. Temperance pours the contents of one jug into another, often explained as the mixing of wine with water and suggesting an approach of moderation in all things, the avoidance of extremes. Fortitude is depicted beside a broken column, encouraging us to overcome adversity and strive to discover the hope and opportunity that lie behind difficulty. Prudence stares into a mirror and holds a staff entwined by a serpent, reminiscent of the rod of Asclepius, which is often viewed as a symbol for healing. It suggests the importance of self-knowledge and personal reflection, the importance of judging our own actions before those of others, and through these actions, the healing of old wounds. Justice holds a sword and a set of scales, reminding us of both the unerring equity and severity of justice.

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.

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

December 5 - Stated Meeting - 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

December 2 - Advisory Board Meeting - 7:30 P.M.
December 9 - Stated Meeting - 7:30 P.M.
December 16 - Lodge Cleanup - 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

December 15 - Scottish Rite (Dallas) Stated Meeting - Dinner 6:30 P.M. / Meeting 7:00 P.M.

December 23 - Haggai (McKinney) Chapter / Council Meeting - 7:30 P.M.

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 December:

<http://masonic-poets-society.com/>