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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

**FROM THE EAST**

We need your e-mail address!

Brethren:

I am going to keep my article short this month, because I need you to send me an e-mail.

If you do not already receive e-mail updates from the Lodge, I need you to send an e-mail to:

**master@planomasoniclodge.org**

This will include you in the Lodge E-mail distribution list.

During the next couple months we will begin to phase out our printed Trestleboard in favor of the digital version. This change will also enable you to keep up with any special announcements and events going on at the Lodge and will help save the Lodge money.

Thanks for your support.

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**

<b>March 5</b>	<b>Stated Meeting (EA Degree)</b> <i>Dinner 5:30 P.M. / Meeting 7:00 P.M.</i>	Steward's Trestleboard
<b>March 12</b>	<b>EA Degree</b> <i>Dinner 6:00 P.M. / Degree 7:00 P.M.</i>	Beef Creole
<b>March 19</b>	<b>Masonic Education</b> <i>Dinner 6:00 P.M. / Degree 7:00 P.M.</i>	Arroz con Pollo
<b>March 26</b>	<b>Masonic Education</b> <i>Dinner 6:00 P.M. / Meeting 7:00 P.M.</i>	Beef Lindstrom
<b>April 2</b>	<b>Stated Meeting (EA Degree)</b> <i>Dinner 5:30 P.M. / Meeting 7:00 P.M.</i>	Steward's Trestleboard

## THE ROUGH ASHLAR

Brethren,

As you may have noticed, now we have a Rough Ashlar within our lodgeroom. Why is it in within the door? What is the significance of a Rough Ashlar? How should we care for it?

An “ashlar” is a rough stone taken from a quarry with the intent of preparing it for use in construction of a building. Its shape is that of a plank or rectangular solid, which would allow its use for paving or exterior construction. In ancient times these stones were from “freestone”, which meant sandstone or limestone, which could be easily shaped into smooth blocks or other forms. It was the refining and smoothing of these rough stones into their final “perfect” form and thus “fitted them for the builders use”.

For our Fraternity, the Rough Ashlar represents his rough state in life and the need to improve ourselves in our several stations. We are made aware, as a Fellowcraft, of the goal of being a better man, being more spiritual in our thoughts, and striving for perfection in our conduct. A path is laid before us and we are charged to work toward self-improvement. Duties, obligations and expectations are clearly placed in our hands to work toward a better life. We are taught to “smooth” ourselves, both externally and internally, and become a true Mason. We, as Brothers of the Fraternity, have a duty to ourselves and to our Brother to teach and pave the way to become better men and Masons.

Within the Rough Aslar, there are internal messages containing strengths, quality, potential, and character of the stone. The stone must begin with good quality and possess the potential to be a “perfect” stone in its journey from ‘rough’ to “perfect”. It must have no flaws of character, which may cause it to weaken in its purpose or use. Thus, when we search for candidates and prepare candidates, we should look carefully at their qualifications and character. The candidate must of of sound quality and have the potential to serve and strengthen the Fraternity. The candidate must be carefully inspected, as the Rough Ashlar, in order that he “fit” the design of the Freemasonry, its tenets, and goals. Just as one bad stone could ruin the exterior of a building, or weaken the overall structure, so one flawed Rough Ashlar can bring censure and reproach up the Fraternity, and thus weaken Freemasonry in the eyes of the outer world.

Henceforth, my journey begins in search a Perfect Ashlar. I may call on you to light the path ahead.

Your Senior Warden,

**Scott Shaeffer**

## TO HARMONY

OFFSPRING of Light! cherubic fair!  
Whose charms can never fade,  
Attune the poet’s humble air,  
His artless serenade.

When first from chaos nature sprung,  
And lovely order rose,  
With thy own notes the regions rung,  
Or sunk to soft repose.

’T was thine, pervading land and sea,  
To animate each scene,  
Diffusing wide the Deity,  
Celestial and terrene.

As Phœbus through the vernal store  
Sheds young creation’s rays,  
Embellishing from shore to shore  
The spring-extended days—

So thou, enthusiastic maid,  
Canst all our thoughts inspire,  
And warm the muse-frequented shade  
With all the seraph’s fire.

’Tis thine to soothe the human breast,  
When harrow’d deep with care;  
And lull the captive into rest,  
Though fettered with despair.

To Sympathy, thy sister bland,  
Thou giv’st the power to heal;  
And stay’st assassination’s hand,  
When lifting murder’s steel.

Does maniac passion quick subside  
To peace without alloy,  
With orient reason coincide,  
And feel the bosom’s joy!

Thy voice subdues the mental storm,  
And wakes the silver string,  
At once to charm, instruct, and warm  
Beneath composure’s wing.

And might a mason’s wish inspire  
Thy philanthropic ray,  
To peace thy notes should tune the lyre,  
And stop war’s sanguine sway.

My muse her humble smile of praise  
Should pour in rustic song,  
And cheerfully thine altar raise  
Amidst our village throng.

- **Dr. William Perfect**

## 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](mailto: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 March 2009:

**Which principle, when influencing our conduct, ensures that hypocrisy and deceit are unknown among Masons and inspires us to speak only sincerely and plainly?**

## MASONIC QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

### What exactly is a libertine?

Actually, what Freemasonry means when it uses the word "libertine" is a more difficult question to answer than you might imagine. The earliest written, legal reference in Freemasonry using this word may be found in Anderson's Constitutions of 1723:

*"...a Mason is obliged by his tenure to obey the moral law; and if he rightly understands the art, he will never be a stupid Atheist, nor an irreligious libertine."*

A common, modern definition of "libertine" is one who is a freethinker in terms of religion. It seems to me that this is hardly a satisfactory explanation of the word when used Masonically, because Freemasonry otherwise encourages an

independent streak when it comes to religious thought. Freemasonry also asks each member to devote themselves completely to their own preferred religious faith or practice. Taken jointly with Anderson's emphasis upon an "irreligious" libertine, this suggests that "libertine" Masonically implies someone other than an atheist, but who nonetheless considers themselves free from or beyond the boundaries of moral guidelines or imperatives. However, we must be very careful not to apply our own sectarian prejudices in evaluating this standard.

Freemasonry accepts any man of good character who can express a personal belief in Deity (however he may define that word), and while this is not explicitly stated in our work, it seems clear that Freemasonry expects this belief to provide a foundation for his moral conduct and a basis upon which to bind him to our Fraternity.

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](mailto: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](mailto: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

March 16 - Stated Meeting - 7:30 P.M.  
March 28 - Portrait Hanging - 1:00 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

March 3 - Advisory Board Meeting - 7:30 P.M.  
March 10 - Stated Meeting - 7:30 P.M.  
March 17 - Lodge Cleanup - 7:30 P.M.  
March 24 - 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

March 10 - Haggai (McKinney) Commandery Meeting - 7:30 P.M.

March 14 - Scottish Rite (Dallas) Spring Three-Day Reunion "Day 1" - 6:00 A.M.

March 16 - Scottish Rite (Dallas) Stated Meeting - Dinner 6:30 P.M. / Meeting 7:00 P.M.

March 24 - Haggai (McKinney) Chapter / Council Meeting - 7:30 P.M.

March 24 - Plano Shrine Club Dinner

March 28 - Scottish Rite (Dallas) Spring Three-Day Reunion "Day 2" - 6:00 A.M.





Plano Masonic Lodge #768

P. O. Box 860282

Plano, TX 75086

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## 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](http://www.planomasoniclodge.org)

### Plano Lodge Member Forum

[www.planomasoniclodge.org/forum](http://www.planomasoniclodge.org/forum)

### Texas Young Masons

[www.texasyoungmasons.org](http://www.texasyoungmasons.org)

### MWSA - District 9

[www.9thmws.ntxmason.org](http://www.9thmws.ntxmason.org)

### Grand Lodge of Texas

[www.grandlodgeoftexas.org](http://www.grandlodgeoftexas.org)

### North Texas Masonic Historical Museum & Library

[www.northtexashistory.org](http://www.northtexashistory.org)

### Featured Website for March:

<http://www.cornerstonesociety.com/>