



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	214-435-4758
Tiler	David Carter	469-467-0633

THE BEEHIVE

Are you working at everything you do to your full potential, or are you letting yourself down by getting by on the bare minimum? Are you doing all that you can for yourself, your family, and your brethren, or are you wasting some of the talents that the Great Architect gave you?

The beehive is one of my favorite symbols in Masonry. It is an emblem of industry and symbolizes the importance of working diligently and in harmony. Like the bee, Masonry encourages us to work hard at our families, jobs, and the Craft. Small efforts made daily produce large accomplishments over time.

For example, if you work at anything 10 minutes a day, in a year you have devoted more than 60 hours to it. (That is a week and a half at work!) If you commit ONE hour a day to your activity, in a year you will have worked more than NINE - 40 hour work weeks! think of the things you could get done! You probably spend at least that much time watching TV! It is better to be tired from hard work than to be tired of doing nothing.

Life goes by quickly, so turn off the TV and get started on something productive today! Commit to doing a few projects well. You will be amazed at how much you accomplish and how much satisfaction work brings to your life.

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		
May 7	Stated Meeting (EA Degree) <i>Dinner 5:30 P.M. / Meeting 7:00 P.M.</i>	Steward's Trestleboard
May 9	Conference of the Middle Chamber <i>Museum & Library (1PM - 4PM)</i>	
May 11	Morals & Dogma Study Night <i>Museum & Library (7:30 PM)</i>	
May 14	FC Degree <i>Dinner 6:00 P.M. / Meeting 7:00 P.M.</i>	Rice Casserole
May 21	FC Degree <i>Dinner 6:00 P.M. / Meeting 7:00 P.M.</i>	Baked Ziti
May 28	Masonic Education <i>Dinner 6:00 P.M. / Meeting 7:00 P.M.</i>	Woodmas's Roast
June 4	Stated Meeting (EA Degree) <i>Dinner 5:30 P.M. / Meeting 7:00 P.M.</i>	Steward's Trestleboard

A LETTER FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

Brethren,

Are we, as a Masonic Lodge; growing, maintaining or losing membership. This is a very tough question to ask, but one that ensures we are properly evaluating our current situation. If we continually ask this question, we can address how to plan the future. So, I would like you to ask yourself this question. I have spoke to our future leadership team and posed this question. I presented ideas to the officers with the goal of increasing current membership.

If you have ideas on how to improve lodge membership, please contact me to discuss. No ideas can be dismissed in order for us to grow.

What were your expectations upon visiting a lodge?

Did Plano Lodge exceed your expectations after your first contact?

Were you personally contacted after you asked how to become a Mason?

After you left the Lodge for the first time, were there unanswered questions that you wished you had asked?

Would you say this was a pleasant or uncomfortable visit?

Was there a "welcome packet" given to you upon your first visit?

Were you greeted with a smile and a handshake?

What was your comfort level once inside?

Did you receive a petition on your first visit?

Was the petition explained to you?

These are but some of the questions we should ask ourselves as Lodge officers and members. If we continually strive to improve our methods, we will only 'grow'. If you would like to discuss this, please do not hesitate to contact me!

Your Senior Warden,
Scott Shaeffer
 214-384-0317
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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 May 2009:

What levels human greatness and inspires us to regard those who are placed on the lowest spoke of fortune's wheel?

CONFERENCE OF THE MIDDLE CHAMBER

Saturday, May 9, 2009
1PM – 4PM

Hosted By:
North Texas Masonic Historical
Museum and Library
 (1st Floor – Plano Masonic Lodge)

The quarterly Conference of the Middle Chamber is a great opportunity for Freemasons, young and old, to join each other in exploring and unfolding the beauties of Masonic philosophy, history, and practice. Each conference hosts presentations, discussions, and panels selected from proposals submitted by Masons.

Topics for presentation in May will be:

Masonic Antiquities
William R. Goodell

The Cubical Stone in the Symbolic Lodge
Kevin K. Main

**The Creation of the Worlds:
 From a Point to a Solid**
Matt Smithey



MASONIC QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

When a candidate decides to use something other than the Bible during his degrees, to which passages should the book be opened?

Texas Grand Lodge law requires that a candidate preferring a different book be allowed to do so, but it does not stipulate which specific passages should be used in each degree, probably because there is no specific list of appropriate books.

Common Volumes of Sacred Law (VSLs) in use throughout the Masonic world are the Bible, Torah, Tanakh, Qur'an, Bhagavad Gita, Guru Granth Sahib, Pāli Canon, Vedas, Upanishads, Tao Te Ching, and Avesta. However, the candidate is truly free to choose any book of his preference.

By convention, many jurisdictions open these volumes at random or to the first third during the Entered Apprentice degree, the last third during the Fellowcraft degree, and the middle during the Master Mason degree. The candidate may also decide to choose a specific passage of significance.

Historically, even passages from the Bible applied to each degree have varied greatly throughout the many Masonic jurisdictions. The reading of specific verses during the degrees in Texas only became the convention in the early 20th century. Before that time, it was quite common to sing specific songs during the appropriate section of each

degree, the lyrics and music for which appeared in the earliest Texas monitors.

Today, common scriptures used for each of the degrees throughout the world are as follows:

Entered Apprentice: Psalm 133, Ruth 2, Ruth 4, and Genesis 22

Fellowcraft: Amos 7, Judges 12, I Kings 6, II Chronicles 3, and I Corinthians 13

Master Mason: Ecclesiastes 12, I Kings 7, I Kings 8, Genesis 4, Amos 5, II Chronicles 6, I Kings 13, I Kings 14, Psalm 133, and Isaiah 9

In recent times, it has become quite common to use the following very appropriate passages in the Qur'an:

Entered Apprentice: Surah 3: 103

Fellowcraft: Surah 2: 255

Master Mason: Surah 85: 12-16

It is important to realize that many faiths have restrictions regarding the handling of these sacred volumes. Many believe that the Qur'an must not be touched by non-Muslims and only after ceremonial preparation. The Bhagavad Gita may be touched with the hands, but not the lips. As a result, principle officers often handle these books using gloves, and candidates may choose instead to bow after taking their obligation. When the required appropriate ceremonial preparation for the candidate is not an option, the Lodge may elect to hold the volume over the candidate's head when he might otherwise be required to make physical contact with the book.

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.

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

May 18 - 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

May 5 - Advisory Board Meeting - 7:30 P.M.
May 12 - Stated Meeting - 7:30 P.M.
May 19 - Lodge Cleanup - 7:30 P.M.
May 26 - 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

May 12 - Haggai (McKinney) Commandery Meeting - 7:30 P.M.

May 18 - Scottish Rite (Dallas) Stated Meeting - Dinner 6:30 P.M. / Meeting 7:00 P.M.

May 26 - Haggai (McKinney) Chapter / Council Meeting - 7:30 P.M.

May 26 - Plano Shrine Club Dinner



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

THE GENIUS OF MASONRY

As useful knowledge is the great object of our desire, let us diligently apply to the practice of the art, and steadily adhere to the principles which it inculcates. Let not the difficulties that we have to encounter check our progress, or damp our zeal; but let us recollect that the ways of wisdom are beautiful, and lead to pleasure. Knowledge is attained by degrees, and cannot every where be found. Wisdom seeks the secret shade, the lonely cell, designed for contemplation. There enthroned she sits, delivering her sacred oracles. There let us seek her, and pursue the real bliss. Though the passage be difficult, the farther we trace it the easier it will become.

Union and harmony constitute the essence of Freemasonry: while we enlist under that banner, the society must flourish, and private animosities give place to peace and good fellowship. Uniting in one design, let it be our aim to be happy ourselves, and contribute to the happiness of others. Let us mark our superiority and distinction among men, by the

sincerity of our profession as Masons; let us cultivate the moral virtues, and improve in all that is good and amiable; let the Genius of Masonry preside over our conduct, and under her sway let us perform our part with becoming dignity; let us preserve an elevation of understanding, a politeness of manner, and an evenness of temper; let our recreations be innocent, and pursued with moderation; and never let irregular indulgences lead to the subversion of our system, by impairing our faculties, or exposing our character to derision. In conformity to our precepts, as patterns worthy of imitation, let the respectability of our character be supported by the regularity of our conduct and the uniformity of our deportment; then as citizens of the world, and friends to every clime, we shall be living examples of virtue and benevolence, equally zealous to merit, as to obtain, universal approbation.

- Jeremiah How
(The Freemason's Manual)



UNTITLED POEM

GUARDIAN genius of our art divine,
Unto thy faithful sons appear;
Cease now o'er ruins of the East to pine,
And smile in blooming beauty here.

Egypt, Syria, and proud Babylon,
No more thy blissful presence claim;
In England fix'd thy ever-during throne,
Where myriads do confess thy name.

The sciences from eastern regions brought,
Which after shone in Greece and Rome,
Are here in several stately lodges taught,
To which remotest brethren come.

Behold what strength our rising domes uprear,
'Till mixing with the azure skies;
Behold what beauties through the whole appear,
So wisely built they must surprise.

Nor are we only to these arts confin'd,
For we the paths of virtue trace;
By us man's rugged nature is refin'd,
And polished into love and peace.

- Unknown

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, eye shadow, blush, lipstick, Compacts, loose face powder (light), Chapstick, Cologne: men's and women's, Soft soap, 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 May:

<http://www.freemasonry.fm/>