



**2024 PROPOSED
RESOLUTIONS TO BE
CONSIDERED
INCLUDING STATEMENTS OF AVAILABILITY**



**TO BE CONSIDERED AT THE
188TH GRAND ANNUAL COMMUNICATION**

**TO BE HELD
JANUARY 18, 19, & 20, 2024**

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GRAND LODGE PROCEDURAL RULES ANNUAL COMMUNICATION

Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas:

1. Every member who desires to speak shall proceed to the rostrum in the East and seek recognition from the Grand Master. Each Speaker shall address the Grand Master and give his name, his current or past Lodge office and his Lodge name and number.
2. No member shall speak more than twice on the same subject on the same day unless granted permission by the Grand Master.
3. While a member is speaking, no member shall interrupt him unless he is willing to yield for a question.
4. If any member wanders from the subject under consideration, or is personal in his remarks, the Grand Master may call him to order, and he shall not proceed with his remarks without the permission of the Grand Master.
5. Any member who is twice called to order for a violation of the rules may be ordered to leave the room by the Grand Master.

Grand Master's Procedural Rules for this Annual Communication.

1. This Grand Lodge is convened to undertake its business. No member will engage in private conversations, make any remarks that are impertinent or unseemly, or use any unbecoming language, but shall pay due reverence to the Grand Master, and all other members of the Grand Lodge.
2. The Grand Master desires that all members be given an opportunity to speak on any issue before the Grand Lodge. Each member who desires to speak shall approach the rostrum in the East, seek recognition from the Grand Master, and speak through the microphone. Members will not be recognized to make remarks from the audience or balcony. Each member shall address the Grand Master. Recognition of other officers is not necessary or appropriate.
3. The Grand Master will announce any limit on time for each speaker or the number of speakers at the outset of these proceedings. Each speaker is encouraged to be as brief as possible, and not include in his remarks

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information already introduced by a previous speaker. The Grand Master has the right to ask a speaker to move on if he is repeating information that is already on the record or not discussing the matter being considered. If a member persists in being duplicative or redundant, he is subject to being called to order by the Grand Master and if such conduct continues, he may be directed to vacate the rostrum and will not be recognized again for any further remarks.

4. If any member wishes to offer an Amendment to a Resolution, the Grand Master directs that the amendment be in writing and submitted to the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence prior to consideration. That committee will determine if the amendment is in proper and legal form, germane to the subject matter, and not inconsistent with the Constitution and Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas. Members of the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence will be in their committee room which is located in the hall behind the Grand East. The Committee has been charged to assist in reducing your ideas into a presentable form for presentation to and consideration by the Grand Lodge.
5. Once any resolution or amendment is pending before the Grand Lodge, members may speak for or against it. The Grand Master will recognize proponents and opponents in alternating order. The Sponsor has the right to close the discussion.

Procedural Rules for Voting:

1. Pursuant to Article VII, Section I(a), Constitution of The Grand Lodge of Texas, all votes, except votes by "Lodges & Members", shall be determined by a majority of members of Grand Lodge present and voting.
2. Pursuant to Article VII, Section I(c), Constitution of The Grand Lodge of Texas, each member present shall be entitled to one vote. Members are the Grand Lodge Officers, Past Grand Masters, Past Deputy Grand Masters, Past Grand Wardens, Past Masters of Lodges, and Worshipful Masters and Wardens of Lodges under the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge, present and voting.
3. A vote by "Lodges & Members" shall be held in compliance with Article VII, Section I(c) as follows:

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When the vote is taken "by Lodges and Members" each "Lodge" represented is entitled to three votes, to be cast by its representatives collectively, and each "Member" of the Grand Lodge present in person is entitled to one vote.

"It will be the ruling of the Grand Master that all votes by Lodges and Members will be taken by electronic ballot."

4. Votes at a Grand Annual Communication may be taken by written ballot, a show of hands, voting books or electronic ballot at the discretion of the Grand Master.

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**PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS
TO BE CONSIDERED AT OUR GRAND ANNUAL COMMUNICATION
TO BE HELD JANUARY 18 – 20, 2024**

SUCH CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION AND LAWS ARE HERBY SUBMITTED AND ARE INDICATED BY ADDING AND DELETING CERTAIN LANGUAGE, WITH NEW LANGUAGE ITALICIZED AND DELETED LANGUAGE BLACKENED.

GRAND LODGE COMMITTEES

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RESOLUTION NO. 1

Referred to Purposes & Policies, Masonic Jurisprudence

WHEREAS, it was pointed out during the Grand Annual Convention in January of 2023 that today's youth and young men require more timely efforts and results, and

WHEREAS, our goal should be more in line with raising good young men to be better older men versus making a man wait to learn these truths, and

WHEREAS, we should be more focused on making Masonry work with our young men's lives and modern life & work, and

WHEREAS, only Master Masons may be dues-paying members of a Lodge or Lodges, able to vote and work the chairs, and

WHEREAS, membership has been in steady decline since at least the 1970s and it is beyond time to modernize our methods and see our Brotherhood grow

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that a special committee be appointed by the Grand Master to develop for adoption at the next GL Annual Communication a program designed to implement an All The Way in a Day Program.

Such program would allow a candidate to become a Master Mason in any one day or a combination of days without first having to complete the work of an Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, or Master Mason which would enable the candidate to become a full dues-paying Lodge member with full voting rights such that he might become a more immediate and productive member to the Lodge, to the community, and to other able-bodied men such as himself.

Submitted by:

Jeff Bodovsky, PM

George R. Reeves No. 396

Alan Bergquist, PM

George R. Reeves No. 396

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RESOLUTION NO. 2

Referred to Masonic Jurisprudence

WHEREAS the Grand Lodge of Texas seeks to cement bonds of good fellowship and brotherly love among its members and adherents, to foster good citizenship, advance the social and moral interest of its membership;

WHEREAS the question of the candidate's mental, moral, and such physical qualifications is one to be decided within the sound discretion of the members of the Lodge petitioned;

WHEREAS it is in the best interests of the Grand Lodge of Texas and its subordinate Lodges to attract, investigate and elect well qualified, worthy candidates to receive the degrees of Masonry;

WHEREAS current wording of Article 418 stipulates that in balloting on candidates for degrees, three blackballs shall reject for one year; four blackballs for two years, and five or more blackballs for three years, thus creating an election process that is both unfair and distinctly un-American

WHEREAS the current practice permits only three brothers to control and determine the vote. For example, this allows only three members to determine the vote. For example, if thirty members are present and vote and only three members cast blackballs, current practice allows 10% (percent) of the members voting to determine the outcome of the vote. This is patently unfair and un-American and allows a small group of malcontents or racists to wrongly determine the outcome of the vote:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Article 418 be amended as follows:

Art 418. **Blackballs: Effect.**

In balloting on candidates for degrees, ~~three blackballs shall reject for one year, four blackballs for two years; and five or more blackballs for three years.~~ *a simple majority of blackballs of the votes cast will reject for one year. If more than 60% of the votes cast are blackballs, the Petitioner is rejected for three years. If more than 75% of the votes cast are blackballs, the Petitioner is rejected for five years.* The term "blackball" shall be construed to include "Black cube." If the ballot contains ~~only one or two blackballs~~, and if no protest has been entered against the Petitioner, it shall be declared as favorable, but if one or more protests have been entered, each such protest shall be counted as a blackball in accordance

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with the provisions of Art. 425 of these laws, and the ballot shall be announced accordingly.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Article 420 be amended as follows:

Art. 420. Ballot Is a Finality When Announced.

[no change to first paragraph]

If the ballot is reported favorable by both Wardens, and the Worshipful Master has received one or more protests, which when combined with the number of blackballs cast equals ~~three or more~~ *more than a simple majority of votes and protests cast*, he shall announce the number of blackballs cast and the number of protests received by him, and declare the ballot as unfavorable. If the ballot is unfavorable when the final ballot is taken, he shall declare the ballot “unfavorable” and the Worshipful Master, only if the combined vote and protests is unfavorable, shall announce the number of blackballs cast and the number of protests received by him, and the same shall be recorded in the minutes of the Lodge.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Article 425 be amended as follows:

Art. 425. Effect of Protests.

A protest shall have the same effect and value and be counted as a blackball under Art. 418. ~~Three protests, or a combination of protests and blackballs with a combined total of three shall reject for one year. Four protests, or a combination of protests and blackballs totaling four shall reject the petitioner for two years; five or more protests, or a combination of protests and blackballs having a collective total of five or more, shall reject the Petitioner for three years.~~

Submitted by:

Michael A. Perez, PM

N. Houston Morning Lodge 1360

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RESOLUTION NO. 3

Referred to Masonic Jurisprudence

WHEREAS, the ancient custom prohibiting double jeopardy has a long tradition in common law, and is maintained in its full rigor in the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, every Mason in response to Question 15 in his Petition for the Degrees of Freemasonry (Form 26) declares he believes in the Constitution of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, it is customary for the decision of a jury, which has heard all the competent evidence, to be afforded deference in our judicial system; and

WHEREAS, Title V, Discipline, of the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas provides myriad procedures to ensure a fair, just, and legal hearing system is afforded to any Mason involved in Masonic discipline including a hearing before a masonic jury of his peers that is called in our laws a Masonic Disciplinary Commission; and

WHEREAS, the Grand Master is afforded with great power and authority to oversee disciplinary proceedings; and

WHEREAS, Title V, Discipline, currently lacks a sufficient clause to prevent double-jeopardy; and

WHEREAS, the Grand Lodge can inexplicably set aside an acquittal by a Masonic Disciplinary Commission, which creates doubt as to the finality of disciplinary proceedings and invites the revival of disposed-of charges for improper reasons;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Article 501 be amended as follows:

Art. 501. Powers of the Grand Master.

The Grand Master, when the Grand Lodge is not in session, shall have full power and authority to order filing of allegations in particular cases, to order disciplinary procedures in particular cases, to order appeals in particular cases at any time and notwithstanding time limits or procedural requirements otherwise applicable to appeals, and generally to supervise and direct procedure in all disciplinary procedures, appeals, and other disciplinary actions whenever and as he deems it proper to do so. When allegations and specifications are filed by or on order of the Grand Master, Articles 516, 517,

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518 and 520 shall not apply except that the Master shall set time for disciplinary proceeding and provide for a Masonic Disciplinary Commission and Trial Master as provided for in Article 518. When disciplinary procedure is had on allegations filed by or on order of the Grand Master, neither the time limit for notice of appeal provided for in Article 606 nor the time limit for filing the appeal provided for in Article 608 shall apply. *Furthermore, the Grand Master's dismissal of charges against a Mason forever bars said charges, or any other charges arising out of the same event, incident, or occurrence, from being brought or tried against the same Mason in the future.*

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Article 598 be amended as follows:

Art. 598. Result of Acquittal.

A Mason, after acquittal, cannot be tried a second time for the same offense, ~~unless, upon appeal the judgment of acquittal is set aside and a new disciplinary procedure is ordered by this Grand Lodge~~ *charge, or any other charges arising out of the same event, incident, or occurrence, in the future.*

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Article 606 be amended as follows:

Art. 606. Notice of Appeal.

Within thirty days after the decision of the Masonic Disciplinary Commission is rendered, or, if a motion for new proceeding is filed, within thirty days after the overruling of such motion, the accused, ~~or the Junior Warden, or any member of the Lodge~~ shall have the right to appeal to the Grand Lodge from any final judgment of the Masonic Disciplinary Commission, ~~or shall do so upon order of the Worshipful Master~~; and notice of appeal shall be given, either orally or in writing, to the Secretary of the Commission, whose duty it shall be to enter the appeal and the date of the notice of appeal in the record of the disciplinary proceeding and promptly report the notice of appeal to the Secretary of the Lodge.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Article 614 be deleted in its entirety as follows:

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Article 614 be deleted in its entirety as follows:

~~Art. 614. Appeal by Junior Warden Mandatory: When. Whenever a Brother has been tried and convicted of a felony or other crime~~

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involving moral turpitude in the Courts of the country, and he is subsequently tried by a Lodge and acquitted, or the penalty assessed is a reprimand, it shall be the duty of the Junior Warden to appeal the case to this Grand Lodge for review.

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that pursuant to Article 177 this Resolution shall take effect immediately upon the close of this Annual Communication.

Submitted by:

Christopher D. Livingston, PM
Richardson No. 1214

Gregory M. Wright, PM
Fort Worth No. 148

R. Carlton Newberry, PM
Cypress No. 1423

RESOLUTION NO. 4 **Referred to Purposes & Policies**

WHEREAS, there is no provision for a special session of the Grand Lodge of Texas other than being called by the Grand Master.

WHEREAS our laws require fifty (50) constituent lodges to be present to constitute a quorum to transact any business of the Grand Lodge of Texas when in session, and the Trustees transact the business of Grand Lodge when not in session.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Article VI Division II Constitution of The Grand Lodge of Texas be amended as follows;

Section 1. – Quorum No Change

Section 2. – Presiding Officers No Change

Section 3. – Communication

(a) No Change

(b) Special Communications of the Grand Lodge ~~may~~ shall be convened *within ninety (90) days* whenever the Grand Master, ~~or~~ presiding officer for the time, *majority vote of the trustees, or upon the written request of 50 constituent lodges to the Grand Secretary,* shall deem that the interest of the Craft require, but in such case at least one month's

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notice shall be given to each Lodge by the Grand Secretary, specifying in such notice the time, place and the purpose or purposes of such special Communication; and at such Communication no business shall be transacted other than that mentioned in such notice.

Submitted by:

Bradley W. Corley, PM
Cosmopolitan No. 872

J.L.McCutcheon, PM
Port Neches-Groves No. 1163

RESOLUTION NO. 5 Referred to Purposes & Policies

WHEREAS, The Grand Lodge Library and Museum is a separate and distinct 501(c)3 entity as defined by the Internal Revenue Service and,

WHEREAS, The Grand Secretary is an ex-officio member of the Board of Directors of the Grand Lodge Library and Museum and,

WHEREAS, The Board of Directors of the Grand Lodge Library and Museum have hired a building manager to oversee the day-to-day operations of the Grand Lodge Library and Museum including management of the Memorial Masonic Grand Lodge Temple and,

WHEREAS, this decision is fully supported by the current Grand Secretary.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that article 47a. of the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas be deleted in its entirety.

~~Art. 47a. **Supervision of the Grand Lodge Temple.**~~

~~The Grand Secretary shall be responsible for the management of the Memorial Masonic Grand Lodge Temple, and shall make such reports as may be required by the Trustees and shall make a report to each Annual Grand Communication.~~

Submitted by:

Justin B. Duty, PM
M. Denton Stanford No. 594

Don Paul Payton, PM
Mackenzie No. 1327

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RESOLUTION NO. 6 **Referred to Purposes & Policies**

WHEREAS, Lodges can use the time being spent reading Lodge minutes on other business, and

WHEREAS, posting a copy of the Lodge minutes prior to the stated meeting would give members time to discover errors or omissions.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that TITLE II BUSINESS OF THE LODGE, CHAPTER 19, MINUTES OF LODGE, be amended as follows:

Art. 337. Minutes of Lodge.

The minutes of the Lodge shall be transcribed for permanent record in a well bound book or in loose leaf form included in a substantial binder with secure locking devices. They shall conform as far as practicable to the official forms prescribed; and shall contain all the data set forth herein, and an accurate, concise statement of all business transacted and all other matters transpiring at the meeting and shall be approved at a stated meeting and signed by the Worshipful Master and Secretary in person at that meeting. Names of the officers filling the several offices as in said forms provided shall be given, and the number of members and visitors present, the names of whom shall appear in the register as provided in Art. 378. *The Worshipful Master may order the Secretary to post the minutes of called and stated meetings requiring approval at the Secretary's desk. If ordered by the Worshipful Master, the Secretary shall, one hour prior to the start of a stated meeting post copies of all minutes requiring approval at his desk and allow members to review the printed minutes and if necessary, provide additions or corrections. During the regular order of business, the Worshipful Master shall request that any minutes requiring approval be approved as printed and or corrected.*

Submitted by:

Justin B. Duty, PM

M. Denton Stanford No. 594

RESOLUTION NO. 7 **Referred to Purposes & Policies**

WHEREAS, Resolutions and Grand Master's Recommendations submitted for consideration at the Grand Annual Communication can be confusing to understand and,

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WHEREAS, a summary of the proposed change and its effect would be beneficial to all voting members of Grand Lodge of Texas.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Articles 107 and 172 of the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas be amended as follows:

Art. 107. Masonic Jurisprudence.

All Amendments to the Constitution; all Masonic Forms; all resolutions proposing Amendments to the laws of this Grand Lodge; and all matters pertaining to Masonic Jurisprudence, and such other matters as this Grand Lodge or the Grand Master may decide, shall be referred to the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence for examination, consideration, and report thereon, before same shall be acted upon by this Grand Lodge. *The Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence shall provide the Grand Secretary with a brief summary of all proposed resolutions and Grand Master's Recommendations and their effect to the Constitution and Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas. The Grand Secretary shall include this summary in the printed resolution booklet published prior to the Annual Communication.*

In reviewing the decisions of the Grand Master or the Deputy Grand Master, every ruling of the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence thereon, if approved by this Grand Lodge, shall have the force and effect of an Edict until it is modified, amended, repealed or suspended by subsequent action of the Grand Lodge. Provided that no such Edict shall be printed in the volume of Masonic Laws until it has been so designated and formulated by said Committee. (See Art. 177; see Constitution, Art. XII, Sec. 2; and see Constitution, Art. XIII, Sec. 1.)

It shall be the duty of the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence, during the recess of the Grand Lodge, to review the most recent actions of the Grand Lodge and compare the same with all extant Laws of this Grand Lodge and modify where necessary all existing Laws to conform to the most recent actions of this Grand Lodge, prior to the dissemination of the Law Changes. (~~Revised 1993~~) (Revised 2024)

Art. 172. Resolutions: Law Changes; Charter Petitions.

All Resolutions proposing any change in the Laws of this Grand Lodge, shall be filed with the Grand Secretary not later than August 15 each year. (Revised 2021)

All Grand Masters Recommendations proposing any change in the laws of this Grand Lodge, shall be filed with the Grand Secretary not later than August 15 of each year. Unless approved by a two-thirds majority of Lodges and members

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present, any resolution proposing any change in this Grand Lodge or its Laws affecting jurisprudence in any way that has been rejected by a vote of this Grand Lodge the subject matter of such proposal shall not again be considered for a period three (3) years subsequent to the Grand Annual Communication at which the proposal was considered. (Revised 2021)

The Grand Secretary shall, forthwith thereafter, deliver to each member of the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence all Resolutions and Grand Masters Recommendations which have been filed with the Grand Secretary by August 15. The Grand Secretary shall be provided, by the proposer of a Resolution or a Recommendation, with the proposer's mailing address, telephone number, FAX number and E-Mail address, if applicable. (Revised 2021)

Upon receipt of Resolutions and Recommendations from the Grand Secretary, the members of the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence will coordinate among themselves the examination of such Resolutions and Recommendations to determine whether any are not in proper and legal form or are generic in nature or are not specific as to substance or are inconsistent with the Constitution of the Grand Lodge and/or the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas or the Laws or Regulations of the State of Texas or of the United States of America. (Revised 1998)

The Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence, or designated member thereof, shall personally contact the proposer(s) of any Resolution, and/or the Grand Master as to any Recommendation, which does not meet the aforesaid criteria and shall use its best efforts to labor with each such proposer or the Grand Master to attempt to put such Resolution and/or Recommendation in proper and legal form and meet the other criteria stated aforesaid. (Revised 2017)

The Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence will be responsible to ensure that all Resolutions and Recommendations are in the hands of the Grand Secretary by November 15. Following the filing of such Resolution and Recommendations on or before the proceeding August 15. All such Resolutions and all Grand Masters Recommendations are subject to amendment by the Grand Lodge at the Annual Communication. The proposer (s) of such Resolutions and/or The Grand Master furnishing any Recommendations will be notified personally that the delivery to The Grand Secretary by August 15 has been effected. (Revised 2021)

The Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence shall provide the Grand Secretary with a brief summary of all proposed resolutions and Grand Master's Recommendations and their effect to the Constitution and Laws of the Grand

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Lodge of Texas. The Grand Secretary shall include this summary in the printed resolution booklet published prior to the Annual Communication.

All original petitions for Charters for Lodges not under dispensation, with necessary accompanying papers, shall be filed with the Grand Secretary not later than August 15, of each year, same, however, to be subject to amendment or correction. (Revised 2021)

Failure to observe the provisions of this Article 172 shall result in forfeiture of the right of any Resolution or petition to be referred to a Grand Lodge Committee or to be considered at the then forthcoming Annual Communication. These rules shall not apply to the report of any Committee acting on matters properly submitted to it. (Revised 1998)

The Grand Secretary shall forward to the Secretary of each Constituent Lodge five (5) copies of such proposed Resolutions to be distributed by the Worshipful Master of the Lodge. (Revised 1998)

All Resolutions proposing any change in this Grand Lodge or in its Laws shall be submitted in writing and in the manner herein prescribed either by a Lodge of its obedience or by a member of this Grand Lodge or as defined in Article 11, Section 1 of the Constitution. If submitted by a Lodge, the Secretary of same shall attest to it having been read and approved by a majority of its members present at a regular Stated Meeting of the Lodge held prior to August 15 of the year submitted to Grand Lodge. And, if submitted by one or more members of this Grand Lodge, it shall be signed by each such member (s) with the name of each member printed below his signature together with the name and number of the Lodge of which each signer is a Past Master and a Member in Good Standing. All Resolutions submitted shall be passed to the Grand Master by the Grand Secretary for referral by the Grand Master to the Committee assigned by him to review and report on same at next Annual Grand Communication of this Grand Lodge, and such referral, together with the name of proposer signing first, shall be noted on the printed copy sent to the Lodges. (Revised 2021)

Submitted by:

Justin B. Duty, PM

M. Denton Stanford No. 594

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RESOLUTION NO. 8

Referred to Purposes & Policies

WHEREAS, Art. 634. **When Suspended for Definite Time** currently states: When a Brother is suspended for a definite period of time and no appeal therefrom is taken to the Grand Lodge, he will be automatically reinstated in the subordinate and Grand Lodge, as the case may be, without action of the Lodge or Grand Lodge when the time specified in the judgment shall have expired.

WHEREAS, Art. 352. **Reinstatement in One Lodge: Effect**, currently states in relevant part: Any Brother holding plural membership in Lodges in this jurisdiction , who has been suspended or expelled for any cause by one of his Lodges, shall, upon reinstatement therein, be automatically reinstated in his other Lodge or Lodges, unless a protest is filed by a member of that Lodge with the Worshipful Master. ... Under this Article and Ar. 627, a protest has the effect of three blackballs.

WHEREAS, Article 630. **Reinstatement or Restoration by Lodge: Petition and Vote**, states, in relevant part, that “Any suspended or expelled Mason, except those suspended for non-payment of dues, must file a written petition for reinstatement or restoration with the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge or Texas. The petition must set forth the grounds for requesting such reinstatement or restoration ... The petition will be assigned to, and considered by, the Grievance and Appeals Committee and after appropriate investigation, and personal interview with the suspended or expelled Mason, if requested by either party, its findings of favorable to reinstate or remain suspended will be forwarded to the Grand Master for approval ...

WHEREAS, Grand Master’s Decision – 1950 – No. 77 holds that [A] member having been indefinitely suspended for un-Masonic conduct, the unanimous favorable ballot is necessary in order to reinstate ... Any member of any Lodge has the right to protest this reinstatement ...

WHEREAS, the members of the subordinate lodge(s) that the suspended brother was a member of should have the rights and privileges, as otherwise provided by the laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas to consider, subject to vote and protest, to decide if the suspended Mason should once again return to membership in their lodge. To do otherwise, by the singular provisions of Article 624, would potentially force the lodge, and its

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members, to continue to deal with issues that caused the brother to be suspended in the first place.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Art. 634, and Art. 635 be amended as follows:

Art. 634. When Suspended for Definite Time

*When a Brother is suspended for a definite period of time and no appeal therefrom is taken to the Grand Lodge, he will **not** be automatically reinstated in the subordinate and Grand Lodge, as the case may be, without action of the Lodge or Grand Lodge when the time specified in the judgment shall have expired. He shall be required to present his petition, in writing, to each subordinate Lodge he wishes to rejoin at a Stated Meeting, requesting reinstatement. The Worshipful Master shall appoint a Committee for Investigation and Report. The petition shall lay over to a subsequent Stated Meeting when a ballot shall be taken. If two-thirds favorable ballot of the membership of the Lodge present is cast, the petitioner shall be reinstated, otherwise, his petition shall stand rejected for a period of twelve (12) months.*

Art. 635. When Suspended for Definite Time;

When Appealed to Grand Lodge. When, after disciplinary proceeding, a Brother is suspended for a definite period of time, and appeal is made to this Grand Lodge, such appeal shall not suspend the findings and judgment of the Masonic disciplinary Commission, but if this Grand Lodge dismisses the appeal or affirms the judgment, or changes the length of time of the suspension to any other definite period, the time of his suspension shall begin to run from the date of the dismissal, affirmation, or other final action, by this Grand Lodge, and ~~he shall be automatically reinstated to his membership in the Lodge and in the Grand Lodge, as the case may be, at the expiration of such time without further action of the Lodge or of this Grand Lodge.~~ *He shall be required to present his petition, in writing, to each subordinate Lodge he wishes to rejoin at a Stated Meeting, requesting reinstatement. The Worshipful Master shall appoint a Committee for Investigation and Report. The petition shall lay over to a subsequent Stated Meeting when a ballot shall be taken. If two-thirds favorable ballot of the membership of the Lodge present is cast, the petitioner shall be reinstated, otherwise, his petition shall stand rejected for a period of twelve (12) months.*

Submitted by:

Don Paul Payton, PM
Mackenzie No. 1327

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RESOLUTION NO. 9 **Referred to Purposes & Policies**

WHEREAS, the proud history of Texas Masonry began in ale houses and taverns, and as H. L. Haywood wrote in his book *More About Masonry*:

The result was that Masonic fellowship was good fellowship in it, as in a warm and fruitful soil, acquaintanceship, friendship, and affection could flourish - there was no grim and silent sitting on a bench, staring across at a wall. Out of this festal spirit flowered the love which Masons had for their lodge. [... T]he lodge was a home, warm, comfortable, luxurious, full of memories, and tokens, and affection ...

and

WHEREAS, in many Masonic Grand Jurisdictions in the United States and abroad, Masons may responsibly enjoy alcoholic beverages on lodge premises following their meetings in furtherance of fellowship and brotherly love, and consistent with the virtue of Temperance, thereby strengthening their fraternal bonds; and

WHEREAS, in 1951, this Grand Lodge of Texas voted to prohibit the possession or consumption of “intoxicating liquors” on the premises of any building owned by this Grand Lodge or its constituent lodges, as codified in Article 508(3) of the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas; yet Article 224 of the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas permits its constituent lodges to meet in buildings where alcoholic beverages may from time to time be served and, within specified boundaries, partake thereof on the premises; and

WHEREAS, the inconsistency between Articles 224 and 508(3) affirmatively penalize lodges that own, or exclusively lease, their own lodge buildings, and permits those lodges that rent or lease their lodge rooms from other facilities to effectively exempt themselves from the language of Article 508(3); and

WHEREAS, previous resistance to removing this arbitrary prohibition has focused on the indefinable possibility that, should a Member engage in overindulgence or intemperance while on lodge property and then cause damage or harm, both the constituent lodge and this Grand Lodge might be exposed to legal and/or financial liability; notwithstanding the fact that the prohibition of lodges to purchase, sell, or serve alcoholic beverages to any person would remain in effect, thereby absolving themselves or this Grand

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Lodge of “dram shop liability” under Section 2.02(b) of the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Code; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Supreme Court has held that social hosts owe no statutory or common law duty to third parties injured by their intoxicated adult guests (*Graff v. Beard*, 858 S.W.2d 918 (Tex. 1993)), said holding rendering previously-raised concerns about financial liability of this Grand Lodge and its constituent lodges moot; and

WHEREAS, the inconsistency between Articles 224 and 508(3) is arbitrary and serves no purpose that promotes the good of Masonry, but instead actively stifles it unless the lodge instead rents its lodge room from another facility where alcoholic beverages are permitted, leading to disparity and potential disharmony among its constituent lodges; and

WHEREAS, should Brethren of a lodge that owns or has exclusive use of a lodge building wish to strengthen their fraternal bonds following a lodge meeting, our Laws currently require them to remove themselves to another location, frequently being one where alcoholic beverages are sold and consumed, to which the Brethren would likely drive motor vehicles, which additional effort and driving distance could temper a Brother’s enthusiasm in continuing their fellowship at such other location; and

WHEREAS, the possibility or likelihood of overconsumption or intemperance at an establishment where the consumption of alcoholic beverages is actively encouraged may significantly increase the likelihood that a Brother, returning home from such an offsite gathering of Brethren, might get into a motor vehicle accident that could cause harm to himself or other persons; and

WHEREAS, in December 1991, this Grand Lodge’s Committee on Membership Maintenance recommended that lodges hold “table lodges” as means of increasing interest and fellowship, and said report was adopted by this Grand Lodge by unanimous vote, recognizing the importance to and heritage of Freemasonry that Brethren be allowed to congregate informally as a lodge for purposes other than Stated or Called Meetings; and

WHEREAS, buildings of the Shrine and the Scottish Rite, two Masonic appendant bodies, often permit alcoholic beverages to be consumed, stored, sold, and even manufactured on their premises, yet neither of these bodies have ever been sued into insolvency; and

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WHEREAS, rather than our Grand Lodge continuing to enforce a sweeping, blanket and absolute prohibition on possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages upon all Constituent Lodges, said prohibition applying only to some lodges but not others depending upon the physical location of each lodge room, our Grand Lodge should hereby resolve to permit each Constituent Lodge to consider, by regular vote of its Members and proper adoption into its By-Laws, whether the responsible possession and/or consumption of alcoholic beverages in the building should be permitted;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that a new Article 224c to the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas be adopted as follows:

Art. 224c. *Possession or Consumption of Alcoholic Beverages on Lodge Premises.*

A Lodge or an individual Mason may not possess or consume any alcoholic beverage, as defined by the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Code, within any building owned by the Grand Lodge of Texas or any of its Constituent Lodges, except as follows:

(1) Small quantities of any such beverages or liquors required by existing rituals of any organization listed in Article 225 in the conferring of its degrees or orders, or in the ceremonies in observance of special occasions required by existing regulations of such organizations, which meet in a building owned by the Grand Lodge of Texas or any Constituent Lodge; and said beverages or liquors may be securely stored on the premises; and further, this prohibition shall not apply to space properly leased for commercial purposes. Constituent Lodges may meet in buildings where alcoholic beverages may from time to time be served. Constituent Lodges of the Masonic Grand Lodge of Texas may meet in buildings where other appendant Masonic organizations may, from time to time, serve alcoholic beverages, so long as such service is not in progress while the Lodge is open there; and further, be it enacted, that Constituent Lodges may let, lease, or rent portions of their buildings to other appendant Masonic organizations who may, from time to time, serve alcoholic beverages, so long as such service does not occur in the Lodgeroom of the building. [moved from Art. 508]

(2) Where a building is owned by a Constituent Lodge, the Lodge, by vote of its Members, may amend its By-Laws to permit the possession, storage, use and/or consumption of alcoholic beverages on its owned property, with the exception of Lodge rooms, subject to the following restrictions:

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(a) No alcoholic beverages may be consumed on Lodge premises for at least four (4) hours prior to or during any tiled Stated or Called Meeting, or any other function requiring use of the Lodgeroom;

(b) Only persons of legal drinking age under the laws of the State of Texas may possess, use or consume an alcoholic beverage on Lodge premises;

(c) No Lodge funds shall be expended on the purchase of alcoholic beverages in any amount, nor shall any Officer, Member or guest of the Lodge serve alcoholic beverages to any person other than him- or herself;

(d) Alcoholic beverages purchased by a Member and stored on Lodge property may not be accessed by any Member during the proscribed periods specified in Art. 224c(2)(a) above, except that a Steward or a Brother who cooks food for the benefit of and consumption by other Members and/or guests of the Lodge may use reasonable quantities of alcoholic beverages as called for by the recipe of preparation of said food, with the requirement that any liquid containing such alcoholic beverages be heated to boiling for a period of no less than fifteen (15) seconds so as to evaporate the alcohol content from the finished product; and

(e) All applicable State and local laws and regulations regarding the possession, use and consumption of alcoholic beverages shall be observed.

(3) Except as permitted in subsection (1) above, no alcoholic beverage may be stored, served, consumed, or possessed in the Lodge room of any building owned by the Grand Lodge of Texas or any of its Constituent Lodges.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Article 508 is hereby amended as follows:

Art. 508. Certain Other Masonic Disciplinary Violations.

It shall also be a Masonic disciplinary violation for a Lodge, a committee or any combination of Masons, or an individual Mason:

Subsections (1)-(2) and (4)-(38) – No changes.

Subsection (3) to be subdivided and amended as follows:

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(3)(a) To consume, possess, have in possession, or sell intoxicating liquor or an alcoholic beverage in any portion of the Grand Lodge Memorial Building, or on the premises of any building or portion of any building owned, occupied or used by any Constituent Lodge, unless said Lodge has duly amended its By-Laws in conformance with Art. 224c(3); provided, however, that this prohibition does not apply to use of said beverages as permitted by Art. 224c(1) small quantities of any such beverages or liquors required by existing rituals of such organization in the conferring of its degrees or orders, or in the ceremonies in observance of special occasions required by existing regulations of such organizations; and further, this prohibition shall not apply to space properly leased for commercial purposes. Constituent Lodges may meet in buildings where alcoholic beverages may from time to time be served. Constituent Lodges of the Masonic Grand Lodge of Texas may meet in buildings where other appendant Masonic organizations may, from time to time, serve alcoholic beverages, so long as such service is not in progress while the Lodge is open there; and further, be it enacted, that Constituent Lodges may let, lease, or rent portions of their buildings to other appendant Masonic organizations who may, from time to time, serve alcoholic beverages, so long as such service does not occur in the Lodgeroom of the building.

(b) To violate any part of Article 224c(3) by: (i) consuming an alcoholic beverage in a building owned, occupied or used by a Constituent Lodge during any Stated or Called Meeting or during the four (4) hour period prior to any such meeting on the premises; (ii) expending Lodge funds on any alcoholic beverage or allowing the Lodge or any Officer, Member or guest thereof to serve an alcoholic beverage to any person other than himself; (iii) consumption of alcoholic beverages on Lodge property in an amount that would lead the Member to act in an intemperate or irregular manner, which would damage the reputation of the Member, the Lodge, the Grand Lodge of Texas, or the fraternity of Masonry; or (iv) violating any applicable law or regulation regarding the consumption or possession of alcoholic beverages while in a building owned by a Constituent Lodge;

(c) Attending any meeting or function on Lodge property while in an intoxicated state due to alcohol consumption, as intoxication is defined under the laws of the State of Texas.

Submitted by:
Gary A. Wiener, PM
Gray No. 329

Kyle D. Wahlquist, PM
Hillcrest No. 1318

2024 Proposed Resolutions & Statements of Availability

John Bryant, PM
Old River No. 1442

Spencer Hanes, PM
Canadian No. 855

Billy J. Moreno, PM
Gray No. 329

James E. Ray II, PM
Live Oak No. 304

Michael Garrett, PM
Northwest No. 1434

Mario Reyna, PM
Gray No. 329

Matt Murphy, PM
Holland No. 1

Erickson E. Ybarra, PM
Gray No. 329

Jason J. Gilmore PM
Helotes No. 1429

Cody Webb, PM
Concho No. 1260

Charles W. Paschal, PM
Northwest No. 1434

RESOLUTION NO. 10 **Referred to Purposes & Policies**

WHEREAS, Article IV, Section 6 of the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Texas provides that every member of the Grand Lodge is eligible for election to a Grand Lodge elected office; and

WHEREAS, Article IV, Section 10 of the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Texas provides that any member of the Grand Lodge elected shall be installed into the office he has been elected to; and

WHEREAS, Article 512 of the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas provides that when: (1) charges have been referred to the Grand Master; (2) charges have been accepted by the Grand Master; and (3) those charges have been referred to a Masonic Disciplinary Commission, the Brother is then a "Mason laboring under Masonic disciplinary action"; and

WHEREAS, Article 512 of the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas further provides that a Mason laboring under Masonic disciplinary action may not be elected or installed into any office; and

WHEREAS, this creates a contradiction between the Grand Lodge Constitution and the Grand Lodge Law; and

2024 Proposed Resolutions & Statements of Availability

WHEREAS, the filing of charges against certain Brothers who have filed a Statement of Availability has been used as a method to block them from standing for election or from being installed into a Grand Lodge elected office; and

WHEREAS, the Grand Lodge Constitution should control, but has not been interpreted to control in said situation in the recent past; and

WHEREAS, this method could be used by future Grand Masters or Lodges in a political manner to exclude an individual from seeking a Grand Lodge office; and

WHEREAS, there is currently no appeal to stop this from happening;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Articles 641 and 667 be amended as follows:

Art. 641. Exclusive Original Jurisdiction.

The Grand Lodge has exclusive original jurisdiction and power to: 1. Try officers of this Grand Lodge and the Masters of Lodges on allegations growing out of or connected with any official act of any such officer or Master. 2. Discipline members of a Grand Lodge or of a subordinate Lodge for un-Masonic Conduct or insubordination committed in its presence during Communications of the Grand Lodge and/or during meetings of the Committees of the Grand Lodge, regardless of the time or place of the Committee meeting. 3. Discipline officers of the Grand Lodge and Masters of Lodges, while holding such offices, for Masonic offenses whensoever committed by them. 4. *Discipline members who have made themselves available for an elected Grand Lodge Office, Board, or position if charges are filed after the member files a Statement of Availability.*

Art. 667. Disciplinary Proceeding: When Held.

The Grand Master may cause the accused complained against to be tried in open session of this Grand Lodge; or he may refer the complaint or allegations to the Committee on Grievances and Appeals to hear and report the evidence thereon, either prior to or during the Annual Communication, with its recommendation to this Grand Lodge for final action.

(a) the trial of any member who filed a Statement of Availability and subsequently had charges filed against him must be held at the Grand Lodge Annual Communication prior to the election for which the Brother has made himself available.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution take effect immediately upon its approval by the members of this jurisdiction.

Submitted by:

R. Carlton Newberry, Jr., PM

Cypress No. 1423

RESOLUTION NO. 11

Referred to Purposes & Policies

WHEREAS, Art. 223 provides a list of “NECESSARY PARAPHERNALIA FOR LODGES IN TEXAS;” and

WHEREAS, Art. 223 expressly identifies that the list it provides is not a complete list, but represents only “the minimum requirement” for Lodges to have; and

WHEREAS, Art. 127 states that no paraphernalia “except as listed in Article 223” shall be used; and

WHEREAS, by limiting the permissible paraphernalia to only that “listed” in Article 223—while Article 223 expressly identifies the paraphernalia listed therein to merely be “the minimum requirement,” and not an exhaustive list of all permissible paraphernalia—Article 127 is in direct conflict with Article 223.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Art. 127 be amended to conform with Art. 223 by making the following change:

Art. 127. Ritual.

No ritual other than that promulgated by this Grand Lodge shall be taught or used in this Jurisdiction, nor shall *less* paraphernalia ~~except as~~ *than that* listed in Article 223 be used, nor shall preparation of Candidates include other than that provided in the Monitor of the Lodge or otherwise required by any provision of the laws of this Grand Lodge, provided however by special dispensation of the Grand Master, a degree team from another Grand Jurisdiction in fraternal relations with this Grand Lodge may confer a degree on one of their own candidates using ritual as approved in the degree team’s home jurisdiction, provided said ritual is in English.

Submitted by:

Randal Casey Bostain, PM

Pentagon - Highland Park No. 1080

Daniel Patrick McGettrick, PM

Albert J. DeLange No. 1403

2024 Proposed Resolutions & Statements of Availability

RESOLUTION NO. 12 **Referred to Purposes & Policies**

WHEREAS, the charitable activity of Masonic Lodges in their respective communities has and continues to allow greater opportunities for exposure, fellowship, and member involvement of each lodge, and

WHEREAS, not every lodge has a local Chapter of the Order of DeMolay for Boys or Assembly of the Order of Rainbow for Girls, and

WHEREAS, the current wording of Article 339 prohibits sponsorship of any other organizations with the exception of the Order of DeMolay for Boys or Assembly of the Order of Rainbow for Girls, and

WHEREAS, Masonry serves as a place to make good men better, developing youth into good men while exposing them to masonry benefits both the youth served and masonry's inherent survival, and many youth organizations exist with that express purpose, such as the Boy Scouts of America, and

WHEREAS, subordinate lodges should be able to make their own decisions regarding what organizations they support.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Article 339 should be deleted in its entirety as follows:

~~Art. 339. **Lodge Shall Not Sponsor Other Organizations.**~~

~~No lodge shall stand as sponsor for any other organization, even though such organization be composed exclusively of Master Masons or of the wives, sisters, sons or daughters of Master Masons. Provided that this article shall not apply to the Chapters of the Order of DeMolay for Boys and Assemblies of the Order of Rainbow for Girls. (Revised 2007)~~

Submitted by:

John-Michael Gillaspay, PM

Waco No. 92

Ed Brown, PM

Waco No. 92

William Badders, PM

Triune No. 15

Jason S. West, PM

Hondo City No. 756

Cliff Coan, PM

Armstrong No. 445

2024 Proposed Resolutions & Statements of Availability

RESOLUTION NO. 13 **Referred to Purposes & Policies**

WHEREAS, the L.I.F.E Counselor is not always knowledgeable in the administration of the Lodge, and

WHEREAS, many Lodges are not requiring their incoming Officers to actually complete the L.I.F.E program other than a quick readthrough, and

WHEREAS, valuable information from the Grand Lodge of Texas "Officers Leadership Training Program" is not being shared within the Lodge, and

WHEREAS, some lodges have financial problems and need the officer's training which teaches Finance, and

WHEREAS, lodges have closed due to lack of knowledge about how to operate a lodge.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that TITLE II SUBORDINATE LODGES, CHAPTER 12, WORSHIPFUL MASTER, ARTICLE 276a, ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATIONS be amended as follows:

Art. 276a. Additional Qualifications.

Prior to his installation as Worshipful Master or Warden, a Brother shall in all circumstances first be qualified as follows:

1. No change
2. To the satisfaction of the members of his Lodge, he shall have completed a Grand Lodge approved course in the administration of his duties or the Lodge Instruction for Effectiveness program (L.I.F.E.) under the supervision of the Masonic Education and Service Committee. The L.I.F.E. Program is to be administered by a Lodge Counselor appointed by the Worshipful Master, whose term expires upon the appointment of his successor in office. *This counselor shall be required to have, prior to his appointment attended the Grand Lodge of Texas "Officers Leadership Training Program".* Any person who has previously served as Worshipful Master of a Lodge under the Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Texas is exempt from the requirements of this article.

Submitted by:

Jerry O. Williams, PM

Bowie No. 578

2024 Proposed Resolutions & Statements of Availability

RESOLUTION NO. 14

Referred to Purposes & Policies

WHEREAS, The Grand Lodge of Texas does not have an approved apron that distinguishes the most honored Golden Trowel award and

WHEREAS, after reviewing the requirements to be able to received the Golden Trowel award it clearly states that this award is for a brother that has gone above and beyond in service to his local lodge and community and

WHEREAS, the only way to identify a brother who had received this most distinguished award is a small lapel pin about the size of a quarter that you would have to be within a few feet to even

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Grand Lodge of Texas Committee on Work design and approve an appropriate apron for the recipient of this most honored degree to be recognized for their service and include this as a proposed resolution at the 2024 Grand Communication.

Submitted by:
Stephen L. Byrd, PM
Royse City No. 663

RESOLUTION NO. 15

Referred to Purposes & Policies and Finance

WHEREAS, Article 318A of the laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas provide for Endowed memberships and the income produced there from would remain in the Endowed Lodge in perpetuity.

WHEREAS, no provision is made for the Endowed memberships of deceased Brothers or Endowed memberships of Honored Brothers or Endowed memberships in honor of SO (fifty) year Masons, in Demised Lodges to be retained to support constituent Lodges.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Article 318A (9) be amended to retain these Endowed Memberships of Demised Lodges and the Endowments made in Honor of deceased Brothers, as well as Endowments made in honor of SO (fifty) year Masons, and all unclaimed Endowed Memberships be moved, within one year, to the nearest Lodge in the District of the Demised Lodge.

Submitted by:

2024 Proposed Resolutions & Statements of Availability

Gene R. Eaves, PM
Norton Moses No. 336

RESOLUTION NO. 16 **Referred to Purposes & Policies**

WHEREAS, convicted felons, whether violent or non-violent, face devastating consequences which include spending considerable time in prison, lengthy and onerous periods of probation or parole, fines or restitution, job loss, loss of the Constitutional rights to vote, own or possess guns, or possess a professional license; and

WHEREAS, in some cases, Lodges have ignored such felonies of petitioners and voted them into Masonry; and

WHEREAS, no petitioner is so important and no increase in membership is so urgent, that we jeopardize the reputation of the fraternity; and

WHEREAS, many peace officers and other government officials are prohibited by regulation from socializing or association with known felons and are therefore prevented from petitioning a Lodge, or may be forced to withdraw from the fraternity because of such convicted felons being members of Lodges, which, in effect, keeps good men out of our fraternity; and

WHEREAS, the reputation of the fraternity at large should be the primary concern of all Masons;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Article 393 should be amended as follows:

Art. 393. Qualifications.

A candidate for the degrees of Masonry must be free-born, sound in mind, of good moral character, a full eighteen years of age on or before the day his petition is received by the Lodge, and disclose any known physical limitations or disabilities which will render him incapable of earning his own living or receiving and imparting, Masonically, all that is required by the ritual of the several degrees. However, an individual who has been found guilty of, or has pleaded no contest to charges of pedophilia (such as Indecency with a Child by sexual contact or any other means, Aggravated Sexual Assault with a child by any means, Sexual Assault with a Child by any means) shall be disqualified to submit a petition for the degrees of Masonry. *Further, if a candidate has been*

2024 Proposed Resolutions & Statements of Availability

finally convicted of a felony offense, as defined in Art. 509(4), he shall be disqualified to receive the degrees. After the foregoing requirements have been strictly met, the question of the candidate's mental, moral, and such physical qualifications is one to be decided within the sound discretion of the members of the Lodge petitioned.

Submitted by:

Wendell P. Miller, PM

Brooklyn No. 386

2024 Proposed Resolutions & Statements of Availability

STATEMENT OF AVAILABILITY FOR GRAND JUNIOR WARDEN



KEVIN T. BINDER

Temple Lodge No. 4

Raised September 7, 1999
Worshipful Master 2003 – 04
Worshipful Master 2014 – 15
Treasurer 2015 – Present
Endowed Member 2003
Golden Trowel recipient

Eagle Lake Lodge No. 366

Worshipful Master 2023 – 2024
Secretary 2021 – 23
Endowed Member 2023

Tranquility Lodge No. 2000

Endowed Member 2022

Grand Lodge of Texas

Internet Committee 2004
Memorials 2021 – Present
Chairman: 2021
District Instructor - 30B: 2008-11
District Deputy Grand Master - 30A: 2017 – 18
District Communications Officer - 30A: 2018 – 19
District Deputy Grand Master at Large: 2021 – 22
Grand Master's Regional Coordinator: 2021
Grand Junior Steward: 2022 – 23
District Instructor - 33: 2023 – Present
Esoteric A Certificate: 2002 – Present

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2024 Grand Masters Planning Team

2025 Grand Masters Planning Team

Education

University of Houston

Professional Degree from the Gemological Institute of America with
Certifications in:

Diamonds, Diamond Grading, Colored Stones & Colored Stone Grading

Personal / Professional / Civic

Owner/Vice President of Sid Binder's Fine Jewelry

Owner of Binder's Jewelry & Loan & International Fidelity Auctioneers

Owner of BPS Commercial Services 2012 - Present

Board of Directors of the Houston Scottish Rite: 2021 – Present

Board of Directors of Bellaire Little League: 2002

Bellaire Little League coach: 1997 – 2009

Youth Activities Coach 1997-2009

Meals on Wheels volunteer

Volunteered by feeding the homeless

Houston Food Bank volunteer

Retirement Home volunteer – provided flowers to residents, picked up &
delivered medications to residents, taught computer skills to residents, picked
up & delivered groceries for residents & helped with genealogy projects.

Family

Bryan – Son

Brandon – Son

2024 Proposed Resolutions & Statements of Availability

**STATEMENT OF AVAILABILITY
FOR GRAND JUNIOR WARDEN**



JUSTIN B. DUTY

M. Denton Stanford Lodge No. 594

Raised – August 28, 2004
Worshipful Master – 2010-2011
Secretary – 2011-2015
Treasurer – 2017-2019
Endowed Member
Golden Trowel – 2016

Z. S Teague Moody Lodge No. 568

Worshipful Master: 2013
Endowed Member

Crawford Lodge No. 585

Endowed Member

Grand Lodge of Texas

Grand Secretary – 2021-Present
Acting Grand Secretary – November 30, 2020 – January 16, 2021
Gold Seal Patron of the Grand Lodge Library and Museum - 2022
Patron of the Grand Lodge Library and Museum – 2020
Masonic Grand Lodge Library & Museum of Texas – Ex Officio Board Member

Union Lodge No. 82

Reconstituting charter member
Treasurer - 2020-2022

Ocean Lodge No. 230

Tranquility Lodge No. 2000

Endowed Member

Texas Lodge of Research

Associate Member

Sweet Home Lodge No. 576

Endowed Member

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Esoteric A Certificate – 2017-present
District Instructor - Masonic District No. 45 – 2020
District Instructor - Masonic District No. 61C – 2021
District Deputy Grand Master – Masonic District 61A – 2014
District Education Officer - Masonic District 61A – 2018
Member - Grand Lodge Credentials Committee – 2018-2019
Chairman - Grand Lodge Credentials Committee – 2020
Vice Chairman - 185th Grand Annual Communication Special Committee
Member – Grand Lodge Special Assignments Committee – 2020
Member Grand Masters Planning Team – 2020
Member Grand Masters Planning Team - 2022
Texas Masonic Charities Foundation – Board Member
Texas Masonic Charities Foundation – Treasurer 2022-2023
Grand Representative – Grand Lodge of Virginia
President – MWSA District 61 2010
Secretary – MWSA District 61 2011
Sam Houston Hall of Fame – 2015

Education

Tarleton State university – bachelor’s degree – Business Occupations

Personal Profile / Professional Profile / Civic Involvement

Poppa Rollo’s Pizza-Hewitt – Owner 2010-present
900 Degrees Pizzeria – Owner 2011-present
First Baptist Church Woodway – Member
AOPA Aircraft Owners and Pilots Assn. – Member
Experimental Aircraft Assoc. – Member
FAA Ratings – Instrument Rated Private Pilot, Airplane - Single Engine Land
Waco Restaurant Association – President 2005
Texas Restaurant Association Austin, TX – State Board Member 2005-2006

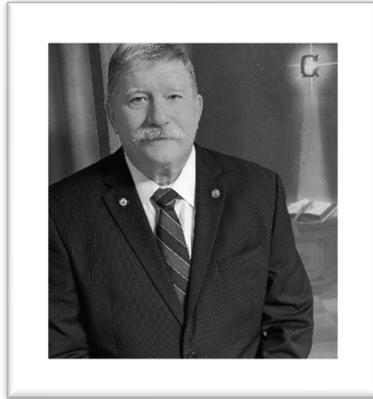
Family

Neeley Duty – Wife
Declan Duty – Son
Jonah Duty – Son
Piper Duty – Daughter

Grand Lodge Constitution Article IV, Section 6 Disclosure: Has received reimbursement for budgeted operating expenses as Grand Secretary.

2024 Proposed Resolutions & Statements of Availability

STATEMENT OF AVAILABILITY FOR GRAND JUNIOR WARDEN



H. N. "CHIP" GREEN JR.

Tarkington Prairie Lodge No. 498

Raised April 21, 2008

Endowed Member

Worshipful Master, 2012-2013

Treasurer, 2017-Present

Golden Trowel: 2018

Bedias Lodge No. 651

Endowed Member

Tranquility Lodge No. 2000

Endowed Member

Humble Lodge No. 979

Endowed Member

Washington Lodge No. 18

Endowed Member

Texas Lodge of Research

Endowed Member

Masters Wardens & Secretaries Association

27th Masonic District, President 2015

30th Masonic District 2020

Grand Lodge of Texas

District Deputy Grand Master 2015 - District 27

District Education Officer, 2018

District Deputy Grand Master 2020 - At Large

Grand Pursuivant - 2021

Dime-A-Day 2008-Present

2024 Proposed Resolutions & Statements of Availability

Sam Houston Hall of Fame, 2015
Patron Grand Lodge Library and Museum, 2018: Gold Seal 2020
Public Education Committee 2020 - Present—Chairman
Grand Master Conference Regional Coordinator -2021
Texas Masonic Charities Foundation 2021- Present- Board Member
Assistant State Coordinator 2023
Special Assignments Committee 2023-2024

Education

Tarkington High School Graduate 1979

Personal Profile / Professional Profile / Civic Involvement

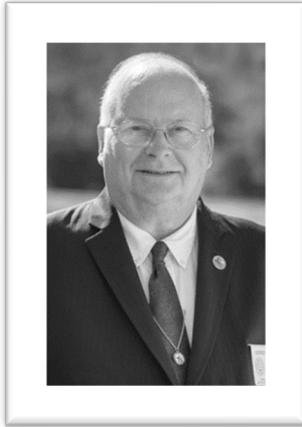
Worked at Union Tank Car Co. Area Manager – 1980 - 2010 Retired
Rounhouse 2010-Present – Part Time
Cleveland Livestock Show – 1991- President 1997
Trinity Valley Exposition – 1991-2015: Vice President of Grounds and Logistics
2008-2015
Texas FFA Alumni Council - Area IX Representative 1997-2000
Liberty County Appraisal Review Board 2016-2022: Chairman 2017-2021
Houston Livestock Show Life Member
Ducks Unlimited – Major Sponsor

Family

Sonda Green – Wife
Brandon – Son
Tiffany – Daughter

2024 Proposed Resolutions & Statements of Availability

STATEMENT OF AVAILABILITY FOR GRAND JUNIOR WARDEN



GEORGE D. MOXLEY

T. Neal Porter Lodge No. 1354

Raised - September 18, 1974
Worshipful Master, 1978 - 1979,
2018 - 2019
Secretary, 2009 – 2018, 2019 to
Present.
Endowed Member, 2011
Golden Trowel Award, 2012
25-Year Service Award, 1999
40-Year Service Award, 2014

Sweet Home Lodge No. 576

Endowed Member

Grand Lodge of Texas

District Deputy Grand Master, District 50, 2013
District Instructor, District 50, 2014 - Present
Grand Lodge Special Assignments Committee, 2015 – 2018
Texas History Committee, 2019 - Present
Texas History Committee, Vice Chairman, 2019
Texas History Committee, Chairman, 2023
Grand Lodge Security Committee, 2019 - Present

Gunsight Lodge No. 838

Endowed Member

Freedom Lodge No. 100

Endowed Member

Tranquility Lodge No. 2000

Endowed Member

Texas Lodge of Research

Endowed Member

2024 Proposed Resolutions & Statements of Availability

Regional Coordinator, 2020
Grand Master's Planning Team, 2022
Conference Coordinator, 2023
Sam Houston Hall of Fame, Full Member
Grand Lodge of Texas Library and Museum, Member

Education

Sidney Lanier High School, Austin, Texas 1968
University of Texas at Austin, 1968 – 1972

Personal Profile / Professional Profile / Civic Involvement

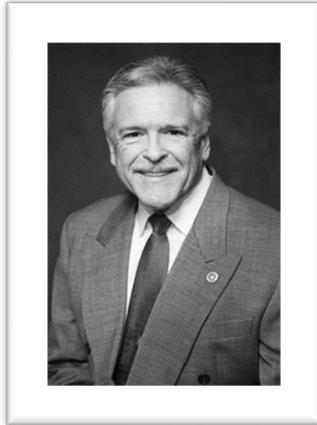
Austin Police Department, Police Officer, 1972 - 1998, Retired
Austin Independent School District Police Department, 1999 - 2004
Austin Police Department, Background Investigator, 2005 – 2017, Retired
Austin Police Department, Security, 2020 - Present
Founder and operator, American Karate of Austin, 1999 – Present
Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children, Board of Trustees 2015 - Present
Member University of Texas Longhorn Alumni Band, 1972 - Present
President, University of Texas Longhorn Alumni Band, 2005 - 2006
Austin Area Representative, University of Texas Longhorn Alumni Band, 1985 – Present
Longhorn Alumni Band Board of Directors, 2000 - 2004, President 2004
Longhorn Alumni Band Board of Trustees, 2006 -2010
Life Member University of Texas Alumni Association
Member Austin Police Association
Member Austin Police Retired Officers Association

Family

Linda Sevigny Moxley – Wife
Garrett Moxley – Son
Ashley Bruno – Daughter
Brandon Moxley – Son
Grandchildren:
Ethan
Yalena
Gwenyth
Colin
Brayden
Blake
Charlotte

2024 Proposed Resolutions & Statements of Availability

STATEMENT OF AVAILABILITY FOR GRAND JUNIOR WARDEN



JOHN M. WILKERSON

Allen Lodge No. 1435

Raised; June 29, 1982
Worshipful Master; 1989 – 1990
Treasurer; 1983, 1990 – 1994, 2001 - 2004
Endowed Member; 1989
Life Member; 1990
Golden Trowel; 1994

Melissa Lodge No. 569

Claude L. Austin No. 1450

Endowed Member

Masters', Wardens', & Secretaries' Associations

9th Masonic District

Grand Lodge of Texas

District Communications Officer; 1990 – 1992, 1993
District Deputy; 1995
District Deputy; 2014
Committee on Grievances and Appeals; 2001
Committee on Petitions and Returns of Lodges UD; 2008 – 2010

2024 Proposed Resolutions & Statements of Availability

Grand Masters Planning Team; 1995, 1998

Personal Profile/Professional Profile/Civic Involvement

Owner Creative Lighting

Education

Tyler Junior College; associate degree in Drafting

Family

Maureen Wilkerson – Wife

2024 Proposed Resolutions & Statements of Availability

STATEMENT OF AVAILABILITY FOR GRAND SECRETARY



BRAD S. BILLINGS

Trinity Valley Lodge No. 1048

Raised: February 21, 2007
Worshipful Master, 2012
Endowed Member

Texas Lodge of Research

Worshipful Master, 2015
Full Member
Endowed Member

Grapevine Lodge No. 288

Endowed Member

J.F. Brumit–Sunshine Lodge No. 341

Endowed Member
Life Member

Crawford Lodge No. 585

Endowed Member

Sweet Home Lodge No. 576

Endowed Member

Tranquility Lodge No. 2000

Endowed Member

Northern Star Lodge No. 377

Reconstituting Charter Member
Endowed Member

Claud L. Austin Lodge No. 1450

Endowed Member

Tyrian Lodge No. 187

Reconstituting Charter Member
Endowed Member

Huffman Lodge No. 1428

Endowed Member

Blanco Lodge No. 216

Endowed Member

2024 Proposed Resolutions & Statements of Availability

Masters', Wardens', & Secretaries' Associations

14th Masonic District of Texas
President, 2013
Vice President, 2012
Secretary / Treasurer, 2011

Dallas Masonic Service Bureau

President - 2019
Vice-President – 2018

Grand Lodge of Texas

Grand Master, 2022
Deputy Grand Master, 2021
Grand Senior Warden, 2020
Grand Junior Warden, 2019
Grand Junior Steward, 2015
District Deputy Grand Master, District 64-B, 2017
District Education Officer, District 14-E – 2018
Purposes & Policies Committee, 2013-2018
Vice-Chairman, 2018
Special Assignments Committee, 2018
Grand Master's Planning Team, 2018
Grand Master's DDGM Training Team: 2018
Esoteric B Certificate, 2008 - 2013
Esoteric A Certificate, 2013 - Present
Sam Houston Hall of Fame Member, 2018
Briscoe Workshop Coordinator Districts 14 & 64, 2017, 2018

Personal Profile/ Professional Profile/ Civic Involvement

Sales Executive – Big Wave Energy
Compass Christian Church – member
Stephen F. Austin Chapter 6, Sons of the Republic of Texas Honorary Member
Texas Navy – Admiral
Alcalde de San Antonio
Hidalgo de Bexar
Keys to the cities of Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico and Seagraves, Texas
John B. Jones Masonic Ranging Company – Major

Education

Seagraves High School, Seagraves, Texas

2024 Proposed Resolutions & Statements of Availability

Bachelor of Business Administration: Finance, Economics and International Business, Rawls College of Business, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas: 2006

Family

Brittany Billings – Wife

Grayson Bexar Billings – Son

2024 Proposed Resolutions & Statements of Availability

STATEMENT OF AVAILABILITY FOR GRAND SECRETARY



JASON P. COFFELT

J. H. Gurley Lodge No. 337

Raised: November 11, 2010

Worshipful Master, 2015 – 2016, 2017 – 2018

Secretary, 2018 - Present

Endowed Member

Golden Trowel Award, 2021

White Rock Lodge No. 347

Worshipful Master, 2021 – 2022

Grand Lodge of Texas

Grand Representative, Grand Lodge of Benin, Africa, 2018- Present

District Deputy Grand Master, 61-C, 2019

Waco Grand Master's Conference Coordinator, 2019

Grand Junior Steward, 2020

Committee on Youth Activities, 2021 – Present

Vice Chairman, 2022 – Present

Sam Houston Hall of Fame Donor, 2021

Waco Grand Master's Conference Coordinator, 2023

Personal Profile/ Professional Profile/ Civic Involvement

Masonic Grand Lodge of Texas, Waco, Texas

2024 Proposed Resolutions & Statements of Availability

Administrative Assistant, 2016 – 2021

Office Manager, 2021 – Present

Scottish Rite Foundation of Texas, 2011 – 2016

Bosqueville Methodist Church

Board of Trustees, Secretary

Technology Committee, Chairman

Lay Leding Nominations Committee

History Committee, Member

Bulletin Editor

Young Adults Representative

Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC)

Education

Waco High School, Waco, Texas 2009

National Honor Society

McLennan Community College, Waco, Texas, 2014

Certificate in Business Management

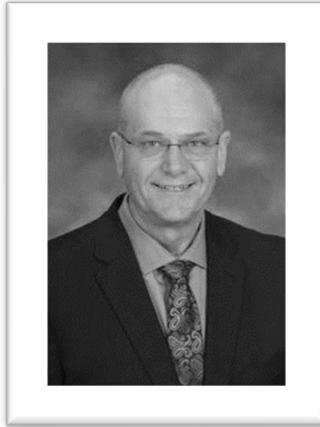
Associate degree in business management

Family

Leslie Michelle Coffelt – Wife

2024 Proposed Resolutions & Statements of Availability

STATEMENT OF AVAILABILITY FOR GRAND SECRETARY



RICHARD B. DANIEL

Orient Lodge No. 905

Raised: May 27, 1985

Endowed Member

Allen Lodge No. 1435

Worshipful Master: 1992 – 1993

Secretary: 1993 - 1995

Endowed Member

Golden Trowel Award, 1995

San Andres Lodge No. 170

Grand Lodge of Texas

District Communications Officer: 1996, 1997, 1998

District Deputy Grand Master, District 64-C, 2009

Communications Committee, member: 2008-2015

Texas Masonic Charities Foundation Board of Directors: 2012 – Present

Board President: 2020 – 2023

Secretary: 2023 - Present

Personal Profile/ Professional Profile/ Civic Involvement

Texas Instruments IT Management: 1986 - 1997

2024 Proposed Resolutions & Statements of Availability

Citigroup IT Director (retired): 1997 – 2017

USAA AVP IT Operations (retired): 2017 – 2021

Past Board Member, Northwest ISD School Board: 2011

Past Board Member and President, Northwest Education Foundation: 2011 - 2017

Director, Classic Bank Board of Directors: 2023

Education

Tarleton State University, Bachelor of Business Administration – Accounting: 1986

Family

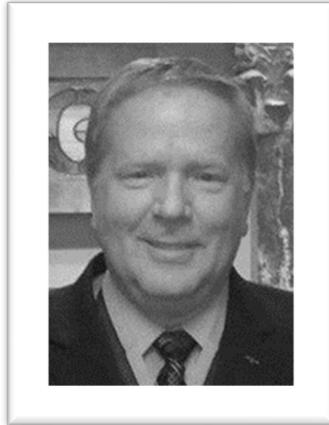
Sherri Daniel – Wife

Victoria – Daughter

Kathrine – Daughter

2024 Proposed Resolutions & Statements of Availability

STATEMENT OF AVAILABILITY FOR GRAND SECRETARY



MARK DIECKMANN

Houston Lodge No. 1189

Raised: May 1, 1990
Worshipful Master, 1994
Secretary: 1998-2011, 2020-Present
Endowed Member: 1995
Golden Trowel Award, 2003

30th District Masters', Wardens' & Secretaries' Associations

President: 2004

Grand Lodge of Texas

District Deputy Grand Master 2003-04
Grand Representative New Brunswick 2011
Credentials Committee: 2004 - 2011, 2012 - 2019, 2021 - 2024
Chairman 2009, 2012-17, 2018-22

Personal Profile/ Professional Profile/ Civic Involvement

Chevron USA – Drilling Representative and Engineer.
Amoco Production Co. – Sr. Production Engineer.
Anadarko Petroleum Corp. – Sr. Manager Operations
Optimization and Engineering Advisor.

2024 Proposed Resolutions & Statements of Availability

Concho Oil and Gas – Sr. Career Development Engineer
Registered Professional Engineer:
State of Colorado, 1987 to present
Former member of the Board of Directors
Sam Houston Council, Boy Scouts of America

Education

The University of Missouri-Rolla
Bachelor of Science (BS) and Master of Science (MS): Petroleum
Engineering

Family

Sherry Dieckmann – Wife
Jedidiah Dieckmann – Son
Joshua Dieckmann – Son

2024 Proposed Resolutions & Statements of Availability

**STATEMENT OF AVAILABILITY
FOR COMMITTEE ON WORK**



JOHN L. W. PETERS

New Braunfels Lodge No. 1109

Raised: May 21, 2005
Endowed Member
Worshipful Master: 2008 - 2009,
2009 – 2010

Austin Lodge No. 12

Endowed Member
Secretary: 2012-16

San Gabriel Lodge No. 89

Endowed Member

Grand Lodge of Texas

District Deputy Grand Master: District 35-B (2019)
District Instructor at Large: 2017 – Present
Class A Certificate: 2006 – Present

Personal Profile/ Professional Profile/ Civic Involvement

Life Member – University of Texas Ex-Students Association
Member and current Deacon of First Presbyterian Church, San Antonio

Henry Thomas Lodge No. 278

Endowed Member
Worshipful Master: 2016 - 2017

Bertram Lodge No. 583

Endowed Member
Worshipful Master: 2021-22

Davy Crockett Lodge No. 1225

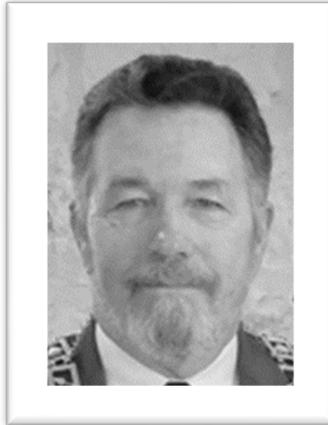
2024 Proposed Resolutions & Statements of Availability

Education

B.S. – The University of Texas at Austin (1998)

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STATEMENT OF AVAILABILITY FOR THE COMMITTEE ON WORK



PAUL D. JONES

Corpus Christi Masonic Lodge No. 189

Raised – August 14, 1978

Worshipful Master – 1983-1984

Endowed Member

Fredericksburg Masonic Lodge No. 794

Worshipful Master, 2022 – 2023

Endowed Member

Kendall Masonic Lodge No.897

Grand Lodge of Texas

Class A Certificate – 1982-1996, 2022-Present

District Instructor, District 37-A – 1986-1992

District Deputy Grand Master, District 37-A – 1992

Personal Profile/ Professional Profile/ Civic Involvement

Senior Director, Operational Smart Grids, Avangrid

Education

Texas A&M Corpus Christi, TX

BBA in Business Administration, Summa Cum Laude

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Del Mar College, Corpus Christi, TX

AAS in Electrical Engineering, Summa Cum Laude

AAS in Electronic Engineering, Summa Cum Laude

Family

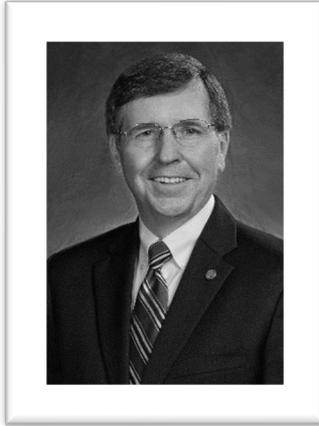
Silvia Jones – Wife

Christina Jones – Daughter

Philip Jones – Son

2024 Proposed Resolutions & Statements of Availability

STATEMENT OF AVAILABILITY FOR THE GRAND LODGE LIBRARY & MUSEUM OF TEXAS



MICHAEL L. WIGGINS

Liberty Lodge No. 48

Raised – June 8, 1978
Worshipful Master – 1984-1985
Treasurer – 1981-1982
Endowed Member – 1985
Golden Trowel Award – 2007

Texas Lodge of Research

Full Member – 1989
Worshipful Master – 1995-1996
Endowed Member – 1996

St. Alban's Lodge No. 1455

Grand Lodge of Texas

Grand Master – 2015
Deputy Grand Master – 2014
Grand Senior Warden – 2013
Grand Junior Warden – 2012
District Deputy Grand Master – Masonic District No. 107 – 1987
Grand Pursuivant – 2005
Committee on Masonic Education and Service – 1999-2005
 Chairman – 2002-2005
Committee on Purposes and Policies – 2007-2011, 2019-2020
Grand Representative to Ireland – 2016-Present
Grand Representative to New South Wales – 2007-2015
Masonic District No. 107 MWSA – Charter Member 1983
 President – 1984-1985
Grand Master's Planning Team – 2002, 2004, 2007

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Sam Houston Hall of Fame Member – 2005

Grand Lodge Library and Museum Patron – 2009

Personal Profile/ Professional Profile/ Civic Involvement

William M. Cobb & Associates, Inc., Dallas, Texas

President – 2011-2013, Vice President – 2006-2010, 2016-Present

University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma

Professor of Petroleum & Geological Engineering (Tenured) – 1991-2006

Engineering Dean's Advisory Committee – 1999-2000, 2003-2004

Engaged in the oil and gas industry since 1979 as a petroleum engineer

Society of Petroleum Engineers International – 1975-Present

Board of Directors – 2004-2006

Elected Distinguished Member – 2003

Boy Scouts of America Adult Leader – 1994-2006

Meals on Wheels – 1999-2005

Liberty County Historical Commission – 1985-1987

Texas Historical Commission Citation for Distinguished Service – 1988

Education

Liberty High School, Magna Cum Laude, Liberty, Texas – 1975

Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas

Bachelor of Science Cum Laude, Petroleum Engineering – 1979

Master of Engineering, Petroleum Engineering – 1988

Doctor of Philosophy, Petroleum Engineering – 1991

Elected to Pi Epsilon Tau Honor Society – 1978

Family

Tanya Steed Wiggins – Wife

Daughter Jordan Lopez – Daughter

Married to Donelo Lopez, Jr.

Joel Wiggins – Son

Married to Melinda Colin Wiggins

2024 Proposed Resolutions & Statements of Availability

STATEMENT OF AVAILABILITY FOR THE MASONIC HOME & SCHOOL OF TEXAS



TOMMY F. CHAPMAN

Nederland Lodge No. 1368

Raised May 10, 1983
Endowed Member
Worshipful Master 1990-1991
Golden Trowel 2002
40-Year Service Award 2023

Tyrian Lodge No. 187

Worshipful Master 2021-2022

Sweet Home Lodge No. 576

Park Place Lodge No. 1172

Endowed Member

Grand Lodge of Texas

Grand Master, 2018
Deputy Grand Master, 2017
Grand Senior Warden, 2016
Grand Junior Warden, 2015
Sam Houston Hall of Fame
Full Member 1-4-2019
Class A Life Certificate 2022
Class A Three-Year Certificate Expires 2025
District Deputy Grand Master, Dist. 26-A, 1995
Special Deputy to Grand Master 2013.
Grand Master Conference Chairman 2003.
Area Coordinator 2006
Grand Representative to the Grand Lodge of Benin Africa 2006-2018.

2024 Proposed Resolutions & Statements of Availability

Grand Representative to the Grand Lodge of Florida 2018-Present.

Petitions #2 Committee 1992

Youth Activities Committee 2005-2011, 2013-2014

Chairman - 2008, 2010, 2011, 2013, 2014

Vice Chairman 2009

Special Assignments Committee 2009,

Vice Chairman 2010

Masonic Home and School

Board of Directors 2020-Present

Vice President 2021-Present

Personal Profile/ Professional Profile/ Civic Involvement

Jefferson County Sheriff Department May 1, 1985- May 31, 2019.

Jefferson County Sheriff's Academy.

Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education:

Master Peace Officer Certificate

Master Jailer Certificate

Family

Kathy Chapman – Wife

1 Daughter

1 Son

1 Son in law

3 Grandchildren

2024 Proposed Resolutions & Statements of Availability

NOTES