M.:W.: Michael L. Wiggins

2015 Grand Master of Masons in Texas

On the Cover:

The Grand Master’s right hand rests on a gavel and the Holy Bible. The gavel was presented to the Grand Master by his daughter Jordan at his installation as Master of Liberty Lodge No. 48 in 1984. The Bible is “The Grand Master’s Bible” that has been signed and passed from Grand Master to Grand Master since 1962. The presence of the Holy Bible reminds the Grand Master that God should be the center of his life while the gavel reminds him that he should demonstrate the Wisdom of Solomon in governing the Craft.

A bust of Anson Jones, the first Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Texas, rests on the pedestal beside the Grand Master. The bust represents the rich Masonic heritage he inherits from his predecessors while reminding him of his obligation to infuse into the Lodges the true spirit of Freemasonry; to make wise decisions for the good of the Fraternity; to give due commendation to the worthy; and to rebuke those who act contrary to our laws.

The Grand Master wears the Seal of the Grand Master on the ring finger of his left hand, while he wears his Texas A&M University class ring on his right hand.
GRAND MASTER’S MESSAGE


As we embark on the 2015 Grand Lodge year, I want to express my thanks and appreciation to the Freemasons of Texas for the opportunity to serve you as Grand Master. As I knelt at the Altar on 6 December 2014 to take my oath of obligation as Grand Master, the enormity of the station that I was accepting rushed over me. It was a humbling and powerful experience. There is no adequate way to express my appreciation to each of you for your confidence in my abilities to lead our Fraternity during 2015. Thank you!

My official portrait as Grand Master includes a number of symbolic items. One of these is a small bust of Anson Jones, the first Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of the Republic of Texas, which rests on my right. For me this bust represents the rich heritage of Texas Freemasonry and reminds me of my obligation to infuse the true spirit of Freemasonry into the Lodges of Texas and to make wise decisions for the good of the Fraternity. In a bigger sense, this should be each Freemason’s objective: to create the true spirit of Freemasonry in each of our Lodges; to act for the good of the Fraternity in all we do; to recognize the worthy Brother for his good deeds; and, to whisper wise counsel to those who behave contrary to the ideals and principles of Freemasonry.

Somewhere along the way, many of us and many of our Lodges have lost the key to Freemasonry’s growth. What is that key? The True Spirit of Freemasonry! I believe that spirit is contained within the words spoken to the Entered Apprentice candidate when he is told that self-centeredness, selfishness, and selfish motives are not in keeping with the reverential spirit required by the true seeker of Divine Light and Wisdom.

You see, Freemasonry is a quest for Light and Wisdom. It is a life-long journey in understanding ourselves and our relationship to God. The spirit of that quest is grounded in the purposes of Freemasonry: “to diffuse light; to banish ignorance; to promote peace and happiness among mankind; to relieve distress; to protect the widows and orphans of our brethren; to inculcate a wider knowledge concerning the existence of the Grand Architect of the Universe, and of the arts and sciences connected to His Divine laws.” It is the spirit we should exhibit in our daily lives that is built upon the foundation of the Fatherhood of God, the Brotherhood of Man, and the Immortality of the Soul.

The Lodge is a sacred space for Masonic education and enlightenment, creating a moral discipline founded on the highest standards of ethics, morality, and character delivered by ritual, symbols, and allegory. Following the work of the lodge, the brethren can adjourn to a festive board for friendship, fellowship, and fun. It is during this period where fraternal conviviality is enjoyed in a haven of mutual respect and toleration that our members truly become a “Band of Brothers” joined together by the mythical tie of Freemasonry.

In order for us to Practice Freemasonry, we must Teach Freemasonry. As Masonic leaders, we must have the faith and the courage to create an atmosphere where Freemasonry is “divinely taught to men divinely inspired.” We must communicate the mission of Freemasonry to the public, but we can only do so when we begin to live and practice those things that Freemasonry teaches and for which it stands and has stood through the years. If we create the proper culture within our Lodges, we will develop that Band of Brothers dedicated to diffusing light, banishing ignorance, promoting peace and happiness among mankind, and improving their understanding of God and the Universe. Then, and only then, will the Spirit of Freemasonry permeate our Fraternity.

Several years ago, I was traveling through town when I spotted a street banner placed by a church that said: Love God. Serve Others. Transform Lives. It was clear the intent of the banner was to encourage people to serve others to improve the lot of the less fortunate. However, I think its meaning is much more personal. Freemasonry is a life-long quest whereby we perfect our practice of the principles of Freemasonry through the continual study of its teachings. At its core, Freemasonry teaches us to love God, to serve others, and if we do, the life we transform will be our own.

God bless you.

Michael L. Wiggins
Grand Master
Tommy Frank Chapman was born in Port Arthur, Texas to Edward E. Chapman, Sr. and Anna Y. Chapman. He married Kathy on May 10, 1985.

Tommy and Kathy are the parents of two children: Katie and Chance. Following his graduation from Nederland High School, he attended McNeese State University in Lake Charles, Louisiana and Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas.

Tommy went to work for the Jefferson County Sheriff Department in 1985. He has earned two Masters’ Certificates from the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education.

Tommy was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason on May 10, 1983 in Nederland Lodge No. 1368 by his father. He served as Worshipful Master of Nederland Lodge in 1990-1991. Tommy was presented with the Golden Trowel Award by Nederland Lodge in 2002. He currently holds a Class A Certificate which expires in 2016, giving him 20 total years. Tommy served as District Deputy Grand Master of Masonic District No. 26-A in 1995. He has served the Grand Lodge of Texas in the following assignments: Committee on Petitions, Youth Activities Committee as Chairman for five years, Grand Master Conference Chairman, Area Coordinator, Grand Representative of the Grand Lodge of Benin near Texas, Special Assignments Committee as Vice-Chairman twice, and Special Deputy to the Grand Master.

Tommy is a Past High Priest of Port Neches Chapter No. 436. He served the Most Excellent Grand Chapter of Texas on several committees, as District Deputy Grand High Priest, as Grand Representative, and as Most Excellent Grand High Priest in 2012-2013.

Tommy is a Past Thrice Illustrious Master of Port Neches Council No. 413. He served the Most Illustrious Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Texas on several committees, as District Deputy Grand Master, as Grand Representative, and Most Illustrious Grand Master in 2007-2008.

Tommy was knighted as a Knight Templar in Port Arthur Commandery No. 73 and is a Past Commander of Beaumont Commandery No. 38. He has served the Grand Commandery of Texas on several Committees, as Grand Representative, and received the Knight Templar Cross of Honor in 2014.

Tommy served as Puissant Sovereign of the San Felipe Conclave Knights of the Red Cross of Constantine. He is a member of Thomas H. Ridout Priory No. 75, Knight of York Cross of Honor, Resurrection Tabernacle No. XXI, Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests, and Southeast Texas York Rite continued on page 11
GRAND MASTER’S GALA

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7:15 PM

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Results of the 179th Grand Annual Communication

Resolutions:

2012 Tabled Resolution No. 17A – Postponed until the Grand Communication in 2015. To create a criminal background check for a Petitioner.

2013 Tabled Resolution No. 3 – Postponed until the Grand Communication in 2015. Amended Title V of the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas to rescind the current Title V and replace it with the Title V that was in effect prior to December 4, 2004.

Resolution No. 1 – Adopted as substituted. Requiring the appointment of a Committee to study the re-write of Title V.

Resolution No. 2 – Adopted as amended. Amends current Title V to make procedures more effective.

Resolution No. 3 – Not Adopted. Proposal that the GL assess $100 per Texas home Lodge member for 2015, 2016, and 2017 to renovate and operate the GL Building.

Resolution No. 4A. – Adopted as amended. States that we continue to have this Grand Lodge Building in Waco, and it be renovated, restored and/or repaired as needed.

Resolution No. 4B. – Not Adopted. Proposal that the GL Trustees establish a separate fundraiser to restore the GL Building.

Resolution No. 5 – Not Adopted. Proposal to amend Article 318a to permit endowed member to transfer his endowed membership.

Resolution No. 6 – Not Adopted. Proposal to Amend Article 318a to permit Trustees to authorize at least a $5 distribution each year (even if it dips into the corpus).

Resolution No. 7 – Adopted. Add Article 163e about the Ownership and Management of the EMF.

Resolution No. 8 – Adopted as amended*. Amends Art. II, Art. IV and Art. VII of the Constitution of the GLT to ensure that Masters and Wardens have full voting rights at all Grand Annual Communication and all contested elections of Grand Lodge Officers be conducted by written ballot of Lodges and Members.

Resolution No. 9 – Withdrawn. Proposal to amend the Constitution and Article 118 to Masonic Graduates Advisory Committee duties.

Resolution No. 10 – Postponed until the Grand Communication in 2015. Amend various statutes of the GL Laws in Title I to update the GL Laws as to the Masonic Home and School after closing of the residential facility in Fort Worth in 2005.

Resolution No. 11 – Postponed until the Grand Communication in 2015. Amend Constitution Article IX to update the GL Constitution with the closing of the MHS residential facility in Fort Worth in 2005.

Resolution No. 12 – Adopted. Amend Article 393 to delete requirement that a felony automatically disqualifies a candidate.

Resolution No. 13 – Withdrawn. Proposal to amend Article 313 in processing the Uniform Receipt Card.

Resolution No. 14 – Not Adopted. Proposal to amend Article 226 and permit handguns in the Lodge room.

Resolution No. 15 – Adopted. Change the name of New Salem Lodge No. 87 to Alex Tully Masonic Lodge No. 87.

Resolution No. 16 – Not Adopted. Proposal to amend Article 405a and permit Lodges to e-mail names of candidates to its members.

Resolution No. 17 – Adopted. Amend Article 178, Laying of Cornerstones.

Resolution No. 18 – Postponed until the Grand Communication in 2015. Amend Article 126f, GL Committee on Mediation Nos. 1 and 2, to require the Grand Master to have the Mediation Committees mediate pending Masonic disciplinary charges.

Resolution No. 19 – Adopted as amended*. Amend Article IV, Section 7, of the Constitution to vote by either written or electronic ballot.

Resolution No. 20 – Adopted. Adds Article 224b, Portraits and Displays in Lodge Rooms.

Resolution No. 21 – Adopted as amended. Amend Article 340 to require the Civil Law Committee to act upon conveyance of property issues within a limited time frame.

Resolution No. 22 – Adopted. Amend Article 172, Paragraph 6, to ensure that all Resolutions are filed with the Grand Secretary by April 15 and Recommendations on or before June 15.

* Since this resolution would amend the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Texas, it must be adopted at the 2015 Grand Communication before it is effective.

continued on page 11
Masonic Home and School of Texas proudly upholds a legacy of more than a century of helping children, families, and Texas Masonic widows.

**Children’s Services**
Masonic Home and School of Texas provides funding to meet the needs of qualified children for dental treatment, therapies for autism or learning disabilities, tuition for special schools, psychological testing, psychiatric consultation, psychotherapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech therapy, educational services, tutoring, school supplies, after-school activity programs, career counseling, and more. Scholarships are available for former students of Masonic Home and School and Masonic Home ISD. We are glad to consider helping any child, just give us a call toll-free at 1.877.203.9111 or visit mhstx.org.

**Children’s Tooth Decay Prevention**
Masonic Home and School of Texas offers the Fantastic Teeth Fan Club tooth decay prevention program in partnership with Masonic Lodges and schools. Together, we have provided 250,000 first graders with free dental kits over the past four years. Our new goal: 300,000 free dental kits! You and your Lodge can bring this wonderful program to your community today. Learn more at mhstx.org or call us toll-free at 1.877.203.9111.

**Widows’ Program**
For more than a century, Masonic Home and School of Texas has provided a home, meals, activities, and many other services for the entire lifetime of widows of Texas Master Masons. Today, these amenities are offered in partnership with the Texas Masonic Retirement Center in Arlington, Texas. We welcome your toll-free call to 1.877.203.9111 about this program for widows; learn more about eligibility requirements at mhstx.org.

If you know someone needing help, please call toll-free 1.877.203.9111 or visit mhstx.org.

Masonic Home and School of Texas is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization. The only requirements for assistance are need and Texas residency, but the ultimate determination is made by Masonic Home and School of Texas, in its sole discretion.
The Grand Master has designed emblems for 2015 that demonstrates his belief that we as Freemasons should teach and practice Freemasonry in our daily lives. We stood at the door of Freemasonry as a candidate searching for light and upon entry we obligated ourselves to be practitioners of the principles of Freemasonry. Freemasonry is not a destination but a journey whereby we perfect our practice through the continual study of its principles.

**GRAND MASTER’S EMBLEM**

The Grand Master has designed emblems for 2015 that demonstrates his belief that we as Freemasons should teach and practice Freemasonry in our daily lives. We stood at the door of Freemasonry as a candidate searching for light and upon entry we obligated ourselves to be practitioners of the principles of Freemasonry. Freemasonry is not a destination but a journey whereby we perfect our practice through the continual study of its principles.

**ACROSS**

1. TO REJECT
2. GIFTS BY LODGES TO WORTHY STUDENTS
7. MASTER MASON ABBREVIATION
9. CORN, WINE AND
12. THE WIDOW’S SON
14. PRESIDING OFFICER AT FORMATION OF GRAND LODGE OF REPUBLIC OF TEXAS
17. LAST STONE - SIGNALING COMPLETION OF A BUILDING
18. FAMOUS 18TH CENTURY SCOTTISH POET AND FREEMASON
19. MODE OF RECOGNITION
22. SECOND DEGREE
24. SYMBOL OF INITIATION, INNOCENCE AND IMMORTALITY
25. EARLY MASONIC MEETING PLACE
26. ONE OF FIVE ORDERS OF ARCHITECTURE
29. SYMBOL OF MORTALITY
30. FIRST GRAND MASTER OF REPUBLIC
32. _______ MOTE IT BE
33. BLINDFOLD
34. _______ TIME TO READ
35. SYMBOL OF WELL-GROUNDED HOPE
36. MEETING ON THE_______

**DOWN**

1. THE FIRST OF THREE TENETS OF MASONRY
3. USED TO DESCRIBE A CIRCLE
4. MASON’S ATTIRE
5. TILER’S _______
6. PRESIDING OFFICE OF A LODGE
8. GOVERNS THE NIGHT
10. JACOB’S _______
11. MEMBERSHIP FEE
13. CABLE _______
15. TIE THAT BINDS THE CANDIDATE AND THE LODGE
16. GRAND LODGE TERRITORIAL BOUNDARY
17. DEDICATION STONE
20. _______ BOARD
21. DECADE
23. TO _______ TO THE SUBLIME DEGREE
27. LODGE MANUAL
28. AHLMAN ________, FIRST BOOK OF CONSTITUTIONS
30. SYMBOL OF A WELL-SPENT LIFE
31. SYMBOL OF RIGHT CONDUCT

Answers on page 11
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Grand Junior Warden  continued from page 2

College and received the Order of the Purple Cross in 2013.

Tommy is a member of the Galveston Scottish Rite Bodies and was coroneted a Thirty-Third Degree Inspector General Honorary in 2003 and served as the presiding officer of all four bodies. He is Degree Master on the 6th and 15th Degrees, Assistant Degree Master on the 28th Degree, and has served on committees and the Reunion Staff.

Tommy is a member of Nederland Chapter No. 1079 Order of the Eastern Star and is a Past Patron. He has served the Grand Chapter of Texas on various committees.

Tommy has served on the Advisory Board of Port Neches Assembly No. 159 International Order of the Rainbow for Girls from 2003-2013. He received the Grand Cross of Color Degree in 2001.

Tommy is a Life Member of DeMolay International. He served as Master Councilor of Nederland Chapter and received the Degree of Chevalier, Legion of Honor, Cross of Honor, and Advisor Honor Key. Tommy has served as Chairman of the Advisory Council of Nederland Chapter Order of DeMolay since 1993. He was made an Honorary State Master Councilor of the Texas DeMolay Association by his son during his term. He served as Grand Commander of the Texas State Court of Chevaliers 2013-2014. He was elected an Honorary Member of the International Supreme Council of DeMolay International in 2013.

179th Communication  continued from page 5

Resolution No. 23 – Not Adopted. Proposal to amend Monitor regarding closing EA & FC Lodges.
Resolution No. 24 – Adopted as amended. Require the Committee on Work to provide an accurate Texas code or cipher book by the 2015 Grand Annual Communication.
Resolution No. 25 – Postponed until the Grand Communication in 2015. Amended Title V of the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas to rescind the current Title V and replace it with an amended Title V that was in effect prior to December 4, 2004.

Grand Master’s Recommendations:
Recommendation No. 1 – Not Adopted. Proposal to create a GL Strategic Planning Committee.
Recommendation No. 2 – Adopted. Criminal Background Checks – Proposes a centralized criminal background check system that would comply with federal law and be centralized in the Grand Secretary’s office. Petitioners for the degrees would be required to obtain the background check with the report going only to the GS Office. The GS Office will notify the Lodge about the petitioner’s qualifications. Effective July 1, 2015.
Recommendation No. 3 – Not Adopted. Proposal to establish a uniform Table Lodge Procedure.
Recommendation No. 4 – Adopted. Real Estate Transactions – Proposes legislation to improve the procedure for Lodge real estate transactions.

Test Your Masonic Knowledge Answers  continued from page 9

Across

1. Blackball
2. Scholarships
7. MM
9. Oil
12. Hiram
14. Sam Houston
17. Capstone
18. Robert Burns
19. Grip
22. Fellowcraft
24. Acacia
25. Inn
26. Ionic
29. Scythe
30. Anson Jones
32. So
33. Hoodwink
34. Take
35. Anchor
36. Level

Down

1. Brotherly Love
3. Compasses
4. Regalia
5. Sword
6. Worshipful Master
8. Moon
10. Ladder
11. Dues
13. Tow
15. Obligation
16. Jurisdiction
17. Cornerstone
20. Tracing
21. Ten
23. Raise
27. Monitor
28. Rezon
30. Ark
31. Square
Message from the Grand Secretary...

Masonic Education

Tradition is the bedrock upon which Freemasonry exists. Masonic education is the key to maintaining traditions and the Masonic Lodge is the bedrock upon which it stands. The 179th Grand Annual Communication (GAC) completed a challenging Masonic year in 2014 and started the annual quest to lead the craft and Lodges to improved procedures to conduct the business of Freemasonry.

PGM Martin did a marvelous job in leading us through a difficult agenda. Grand Master Mike Wiggins and the 2015 team have started their fast-paced schedule to implement the new legislation and to sharpen the Lodges’ skills to preserve Freemasonry in the Grand Lodge of Texas. Masonic education is the core of the 2015 program. The reverse side of the GM’s coin depicts the 47th problem of Euclid that “teaches Masons to be general lovers of the arts and sciences” and alludes to the Grand Master’s believe in the importance of Masonic education. GM Wiggins’ proclamation directs each Masonic Lodge to present a Masonic education program on the first stated meeting each month.

Masonic education at the Lodge level is the essential element for the craft to understand Freemasonry. To be effective, every Lodge should have a system or a group of qualified members that provide instruction to its members about Freemasonry, training for Lodge officers, and knowledge of Lodge administration. Use GM Wiggins’ published monthly programs within your Lodge program, incorporate Lodge administration material from the GS forums, and include instruction of the meaning of the esoteric work in your system. Grand Lodge can provide guidance; but, the Lodge must teach Freemasonry to its members.

Finally, I announced that I would not stand for reelection in December 2015. See your Lodge Secretary for a copy of the announcement. Visit with me during my final waltz across Texas. Attend the 2015 GS Schools of Instruction and learn about Lodge administration. Look for me at the historical observances. I will be glad to share my 2015 travel calendar.

Sincerely and Fraternally,

Tom Guest
Grand Secretary

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Let’s resolve this year to get free money for the Masons of Texas using “Goodsearch.com”, a search engine powered by Yahoo. The pennies you earn searching and the percentages (up to 3% of order) you earn shopping online using Goodsearch are combined and at year’s end the free money is sent to The Library and Museum. Read more information at www.goodsearch.com to sign up to support the Masonic Grand Lodge Library and Museum of Texas. If only 20,000 Masons would do ten searches per week for 52 weeks this year, we would get over $100,000 in free money.

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Tanya’s Project

Over a number of years, it has become a tradition for the wife of the Grand Master to choose a charity or project to support through the sale of a pin for ladies. This year Tanya has chosen to focus attention on the Masonic Library and Museum of Texas, specifically the need for funding of the restoration and endowment of the building for the future. It has been said great buildings provide legitimacy to ideas and a journalist recently wrote, “it’s worth a visit to the Grand Lodge to try to get an idea of what the Texas Masons are about.” The Masonic Library and Museum should be a vibrant building with a proud heritage contributing to the future of the state just as the Texas Masons are a vibrant fraternity with a proud heritage contributing to the future of mankind.
The Grand Lodge of Texas, A.F. & A.M.
P.O. Box 446
Waco, Texas 76703

Grand Lodge of Texas
2015 GM Conferences

Saturday, January 10, 2015
Northeast Texas (Pine Tree Junior High)
Registration 9 AM, Conference 10 AM
William L. Wyatt – wlrawyatt@juno.com, 903.736.0522
Jimmy R. Rumsey – jim.rumsey@suddenlink.net, 903.291.2811

Saturday, January 24, 2015
Río Grande Valley (Isla Grand Beach Resort)
Registration 9 AM, Conference 10 AM
David Gower – david@spiproperty.com, 956.459.5119

Saturday, January 31, 2015
Houston (Arabia Shrine Center)
Registration 9 AM, Conference 10 AM
H. Bart Henderson – hbhblackbart@msn.com, 713.859.0306

Saturday, February 7, 2015
Dallas (Hella Shrine Center)
Registration 9 AM, Conference 10 AM
David W. Hefner – d.hefner1@verizon.net, 214.629.0391
Darrell C. Hefley – darrellhef@att.net, 214.368.7264

Saturday, February 28, 2015
Southeast Texas (Wesley United Methodist Church)
Registration 9 AM, Conference 10 AM
Duane Anthony – texasfreemason@att.net, 409.988.4824

Saturday, March 7, 2015
San Antonio (Alzafar Shrine Center)
Registration 12 PM, Conference 1 PM
Robert L. Jett – r-jett@sbcglobal.net, 210.602.2673

Saturday, March 28, 2015
Corpus Christi (Al Amin Shrine Center)
Registration 12 PM, Conference 1 PM
R. Michael King – kingmedia2014@gmail.com, 361.696.1585

Saturday, April 25, 2015
Waco (Waco Scottish Rite)
Registration 9 AM, Conference 10 AM
Robert Lowrance – rlowrance@lowrance-family.com, 254.681.2673

Saturday, May 2, 2015
West Texas/Panhandle (Lubbock Scottish Rite)
Registration 12 PM, Conference 1 PM
Ronnie Kinney – genseclubsrl@gmail.com, 806.747.3268
Andy Wines – lbkweecare@yahoo.com, 806.781.6094

Saturday, May 9, 2015
Fort Worth (Masonic Temple)
Registration 9 AM, Conference 10 AM
Sonny Tull – hfsonnytull@sbcglobal.net, 817.938.6037

Saturday, May 30, 2015
El Paso (El Paso Scottish Rite)
Registration 12 PM, Conference 1 PM
Larry Kane – lkane@elpasoscottishrite.org, 915.533.4409