

SUMMARY OF 2012 RESOLUTIONS

2011 Holdover Resolution No. 13.: Amends Article 1, Section 2 of the Constitution to prevent discussion of politics or religion in the Grand Lodge or Subordinate Lodges.

Resolution 1: Add Article 339b regarding formation of Masters, Wardens and Secretaries Associations.

Resolution 2: Amend Articles 277 and 429 regarding the vacant office of the Worshipful Master and the duties of the Worshipful Master and his removal or suspension from office by the Grand Master.

Resolution 3: Amend Article 658 regarding reinstatement or restoration of expelled Members.

Resolution 4: Add Article 225c regarding new Texas Masonic organizations and annual reports.

Resolution 5: Amend Article 119 regarding the report of the Finance Committee at the Annual Communication.

Resolution 6: Add Article 22a regarding Grand Master's edicts.

Resolution 7: Amend the Constitution to rename the title "Grand Organist" to "Grand Musician."

Resolution 8: Amend Articles 417, 421, 423, 423a, 425, 426, 428 regarding who may vote in a Lodge and how protests are processed.

Resolution 9: Amend Article 276a regarding Additional Qualifications.

Resolution 10: Amend Article 163 regarding the contribution to the Texas Masonic Youth Foundation and Article 163a regarding the Grand Lodge Building Maintenance Reserve Fund.

Resolution 11: Amend Article 318a regarding calculation of distribution on Endowed Memberships.

Resolution 12: Amend Article 2 to add a \$10 registration fee for the Grand Annual Communication.

Resolution 13: Amend Article 318a regarding options for endowed memberships for deceased or 50-plus or Life members in the amount of \$500.

Resolution 14: Amend Articles 324 and 327 regarding rejections of reinstatements.

Resolution 15: Amend Article 318a regarding endowed memberships in demised Lodges.

Resolution 16: Amend Form 26 regarding background investigations.

Resolution 17: Revise the Laws and Form 28 regarding background investigations.

Resolution 18: Amend the Laws regarding background investigations.

Resolution 19: Amend Form 26, Question 16 regarding a felony or Class A or Class B misdemeanor.

Resolution 20: Add Article 340C to require Civil Law to provide their guidance on conveying property within 30-days and appeals permitted by Lodges.

Resolution 21: Install a wheelchair ramp near the 8th Street entrance prior to the 2012 Grand Communication.

Resolution 22: Add Article 22 (a) or (b) and amend Article 644 regarding removing a Worshipful Master.

Resolution 23: Recognize the Texas Ruffian Masonic Motorcycle Group.

Resolution 24: Amend Article 400 regarding a candidate with a former rejection.

Resolution 25: Amend Article 358 regarding plural membership in another Grand Jurisdiction.

Resolution 26: Amend the Monitor in regards to the placement of "The Three Lesser Lights" and amend Forms 75a and 75b to permit optional arrangements for EA and FC Degrees.



**PROPOSED
RESOLUTIONS,
RECOMMENDATION,
AND
STATEMENTS OF
AVAILABILITY
TO BE CONSIDERED
AT OUR
GRAND ANNUAL
COMMUNICATION
TO BE HELD
DECEMBER 6, 7 & 8, 2012**



**PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED
AT OUR GRAND ANNUAL COMMUNICATION
TO BE HELD**

DECEMBER 6, 7, & 8, 2012

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

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2011 HOLDOVER RESOLUTION NO. 13

Referred to Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence

WHEREAS, the discussion of factional politics and sectarian religion among Masons contribute to undesirable contention and discord, and

WHEREAS, the Charges of a Freemason concerning God and Religion obliges Masons only to that religion in which all men agree, leaving their particular opinions to themselves; to be good man and true - men of honor and honesty, by whatever denomination or persuasions they may be distinguished; whereby Masonry becomes the center of union, and the means of conciliating true friendship among persons that must have remained at a perpetual distance

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Article I, Section 2 of the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Texas be amended as follows:

ARTICLE I TITLE AND PURPOSES

Section 1. Title (No Change)

Section 2. Purposes

The purposes of this Grand Lodge are to control and regulate the practice of Freemasonry throughout its jurisdiction, in accordance with the immemorial usages of this ancient and honorable Craft; to advance the moral and social interest[s] of its membership; to foster good citizenship, honest industry and upright living; to cultivate the exercise of charity in its best and broadest sense; to assist the widows and orphans of its deceased members; to stimulate friendship, harmony and brotherly love, and generally to promote, in its own way, the happiness of mankind – it is a Fraternity of good men, linked together by honorable and indissoluble bonds, to accomplish these noble purposes, eschewing all interest in factional politics and sectarian religion, and free from the dictation *or discussion* of both in *this Grand Lodge and its Subordinate Lodges*.

Leonard P. Harvey

RESOLUTION NO. 1

Referred to Committee on Purposes and Policies

WHEREAS, the Masters, Wardens & Secretaries Association ("MWSA") is not an officially chartered and sanctioned organization under the Laws of the Grand Lodge and the only current reference to them appears in a footnote or annotation to Article 10 of the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas and in the form by-laws in Form 23A; and

WHEREAS, Masters, Wardens & Secretaries Associations are disparate organizations organized at random by the officers of the Lodge in any Masonic District and always consist of officers of constituent Lodges of the Grand Lodge of Texas; and

WHEREAS, some MWSAs own property, and some conduct various fund raising operations, and neither the property ownership nor the fund raising activities are subject to any official auditing or reporting requirements for the purpose of monitoring such organizations by the Grand Lodge of Texas; and

WHEREAS, the Grand Lodge of Texas should be protected from being the "deep pocket" in the unlikely event of any misconduct by one of the officers of a Lodge who is also a member of a MWSA and acting as such or in the even more unlikely event of any wrongful action by a MWSA in performing any of its functions;

BE IT RESOLVED that "Art. 339b. Formation of Masters, Wardens and Secretaries Associations" shall be and hereby is added to the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas as follows:

Art. 339b. Formation of Masters, Wardens and Secretaries Associations. A Masters, Wardens and Secretaries Association composed of such officers of constituent Lodges in any Masonic District, with the approval of the Grand Lodge of Texas may be organized as an unincorporated, nonprofit association under Title 6 of the Texas Business Organization code for such purposes as the Grand Lodge of Texas may approve. All such Associations must each submit a request for approval of such organization to the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Texas, who shall forward such request to the Grand Master. Any such organization shall comply with all statutes of The Grand Lodge of Texas that apply to the Lodges, including those regulating the acquisition, sale, or mortgaging of Lodge property, conducting audits and filing audit reports with the Grand Lodge of Texas, all fundraising statutes, filing of all appropriate federal or state tax returns, as required, and compliance with all local, state, and federal laws and regulations. All of the

statutes of the Grand Lodge of Texas are hereby deemed to apply to all existing, and future Masters, Wardens and Secretaries Associations in the various Masonic districts in Texas, and each Masters, Wardens and Secretaries Association shall adopt and file with the Grand Secretary by-laws Form 23a, which may be amended from time to time as provided therein, which by-laws and subsequent amendments must be approved by the Grand Lodge before they are effective.

Once any such Masters, Wardens and Secretaries Associations have been approved by the Grand Lodge of Texas, they shall be included as an "Other Organization" for the purpose of Art. 225 as though specifically set out therein.

James F. Mobley

RESOLUTION NO. 2

Referred to Committee on Purposes and Policies

WHEREAS, the subject matter of Article 277 of the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas is the vacancy of the office of Worshipful Master in a subordinate Lodge; and

WHEREAS, Paragraph 4 of Article 277 addresses the vacancy in the office of Worshipful Master who has been "removed by the Grand Master or the Grand Lodge;" and

WHEREAS, Article 429 of the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas provides that a failure of the Worshipful Master or an officer acting as such to announce three or more protests "...shall be an official act of un-Masonic conduct for which he may be removed from office by the Grand Master." And

WHEREAS, Article V, Section 2, of the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Texas, provides for the powers of the Grand Master to include the power to "depose officers of subordinate Lodges, on information of un-Masonic conduct;..." and further provides that "...the exercise of all these powers is subject to laws of the Grand Lodge" and

WHEREAS, Article 22 of the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas provides for the exercise of the powers of the Grand Master, "...except as they be modified or restricted by the Constitution, Laws and Edicts of..." the Grand Lodge of Texas; and

WHEREAS, in the context of Masonic disciplinary matters, the terms "depose," "remove," and "suspend" are used interchangeably as are the terms "removal" and "suspension" and "removed" and "suspended," and

WHEREAS, in the context of Masonic disciplinary matters, the terms "charges" and "allegations" have the same meaning, and are used interchangeably; and

WHEREAS, Article 508 of the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas provides that "No penalty can be inflicted upon a Mason without the filing of a written allegation accusing a Mason of a Masonic disciplinary violation,...," and further provides that "A general charge of un-Masonic conduct without the information set forth herein will not be entertained by the Grand Master..." and

WHEREAS, Article 643 of the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas provides that "The Grand Master may suspend ... any Officer of a subordinate Lodge who has allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations filed against him from the functions of his office pending a Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing," and

WHEREAS, Article 644 of the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas provides for the consequences to a Worshipful Master who is suspended from office by the Grand Master during the pendency of charges of Masonic disciplinary violations; and

WHEREAS, Articles 277 and 429 are not clear regarding the removal or suspension of a Worshipful Master from office.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Articles 277 and 429 of the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas be amended to read as follows:

Art. 277. Office Vacant: When and How Filled. His office becomes vacant whenever the Worshipful Master:

Paragraphs 1, 2, and 3: No change.

4. [When] If the Worshipful Master, against whom allegations of Masonic disciplinary violations have been filed, [has been removed] is suspended from his office by the Grand Master or the Grand Lodge, the Grand Master shall notify the Grand Secretary, and shall inform the affected subordinate Lodge of such action. Such action of [removal] suspension shall prohibit recognition of such individual as a Past Master and preclude such individual from the rights and privileges pertaining thereto, unless and until he is restored thereto by the Grand Lodge.

Remaining paragraphs: No change.

Art. 429. Duty of Worshipful Master. It [is made] shall be the imperative duty of the Worshipful Master, or officer acting as Worshipful Master, to recognize and announce three or more protests as provided in Art. 428, and a failure to do so shall [be an official act of un-Masonic conduct] constitute a Masonic Disciplinary violation for which he may be [removed] suspended from office by the Grand Master upon the filing of an allegation of Masonic disciplinary violation for such failure to act, if the Grand Master accepts the allegation.

James F. Mobley, Chairman
Masonic Jurisprudence Committee

RESOLUTION NO. 3

Referred to Committee on Purposes and Policies

WHEREAS, Article 658 provides for the Reinstatement or Restoration by a Lodge of a suspended or expelled Mason; and

WHEREAS, the provisions of Article 506 pertaining to a conviction of a felony by a Mason and the automatic suspension and if the conviction is final the automatic expulsion of such Mason; and

WHEREAS, such Mason is expelled by Grand Lodge Law, and Lodges cannot set aside or overturn a Grand Lodge Law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Article 658 be amended as follows:

Art. 658. Reinstatement Or Restoration By Lodge. Petition And Vote. The Lodge having jurisdiction may, by a favorable ballot of the members of said Lodge present, reinstate or restore, as the case may be, a suspended or expelled Mason. A written petition for such reinstatement or restoration, signed by the petitioner, must be filed with the Secretary and presented to the Lodge reciting facts showing that he has made expiation for his offense and has discharged the terms and conditions of his sentence, [includ- ing completion of probation, parole, or supervised release;] said petition shall be read at the first stated meeting of the Lodge after it is filed. The Worshipful Master shall appoint a committee on investigation which shall report its findings and recommendations at a subsequent stated meeting of the Lodge whereupon a ballot shall be taken upon said petition. Only members of the Lodge in attendance may vote. In balloting on a suspended

or expelled Mason for reinstatement or restoration, other than for non-payment of dues, three black balls shall reject for one year, four blackballs for two years and five or more blackballs for three years. Protests shall be allowed in accordance with Article 660, and the ballot shall be announced accordingly.

Notwithstanding the above, [any member who is found guilty of, or who enters a plea of guilty, or of no contest to the charge of pedophilia or related charges (such as Indecency with a Child by sexual contact or any other means, Aggravated Sexual Assault with a Child by any means and Sexual Assault with a Child by any means) and having been previously expelled from Masonry, shall not be considered for reinstatement or restoration of any Masonic membership and said member shall be expelled from Masonry for life and never again be considered for any Masonic-related activity or membership. Any current Member having been charged and found guilty of, or having 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 expelled immediately, for life, from this Grand Jurisdiction] a member who is expelled under the provisions of Art. 506 is not eligible for reinstatement in this Grand Jurisdiction.

T. E. Gene Carnes

RESOLUTION NO. 4

Referred to Committee on Purposes and Policies

WHEREAS, in today's society, Texas Masons need to maintain the strength and unity of our Fraternity for future generations; and

WHEREAS, due to the increase in number of various Masonic organizations in Texas which are under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Texas AF&AM it has become increasingly important to identify those organizations; and

WHEREAS, the Grand Lodge of Texas AF&AM has the authority and responsibility to regulate Masonic organizations in Texas under its jurisdiction (Masonic affiliates); and

WHEREAS, a system of reporting by Masonic affiliates is considered the best way to strengthen and unify Texas Masonry;

NOW, BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, effective January 1, 2013 that the attached Report on affiliates be adopted; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the following provisions of the Laws of The Grand Lodge of Texas be amended as reflected, and a new Article 225c of the Laws of the Grand Lodge be added as follows, effective January 1, 2013:

"Article 225c. Any organization located in Texas which predicates its membership on Masonic membership, having Masonic purposes, and one or more Texas Masons as part of its membership or governance (other than a Lodge and other than those Masonic organizations described in Article 225) ("affiliates") shall adhere to the Masonic principles as set out in the Constitution and Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas.

Any new Texas Masonic organization which desires acceptance and recognition by the Grand Lodge of Texas under Article 225a ("new affiliate") shall submit the information about its Masonic purposes, governance, expected financial support and structure on forms provided by the Grand Secretary. This information must be provided by the new affiliate to the Grand Secretary by June 30 of the year of its submission to the vote of the Grand Lodge of Texas in Grand Communication.

Any existing Texas organization which is accepted and recognized by the Grand Lodge of Texas under Article 225a ("affiliate") shall submit an annual report about its purposes, governance, structure and financial position on forms provided by the Grand Secretary. This report shall be due in the Grand Secretary's office by June 30 of each year. Failure to submit the report shall subject the affiliate to revocation of its recognition and by the Grand Lodge of Texas."

Robert J. Glasgow, Chairman
Committee on Civil Law

RESOLUTION NO. 5

Referred to Committee on Purposes and Policies

WHEREAS, the laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas require that the Committee on Finance shall make its report on the last day of each Annual Communication, and

WHEREAS, this report was not presented at the 2011 Annual Communication.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Article 119 of the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas be amended as follows:

That the last sentence of Article 119 be deleted in its entirety and the following inserted:

Art. 119. Finance: Meetings and Duties. The Committee on Finance shall meet in the Grand Lodge Temple at Waco on call by its Chairman or by the Grand Master at such times and as often as circumstances demand. It shall examine the report on special matters referred to it by the Grand Master and by this Grand Lodge, including but not limited to, the review and analysis of the Minimum Audit Form No. 71 of the constituent Lodges. It shall examine, and if satisfactory, approve and keep in its custody the fidelity bonds of all Officers and employees of this Grand Lodge. ~~Its report shall be made on the last day of each Annual Communication.~~ *The Finance Committee report and action thereon shall be the first business considered by Grand Lodge on the last day of the Grand Annual Communication.*

W. Vernon Burke, Jr.

RESOLUTION NO. 6

Referred to Committee on Purposes and Policies

WHEREAS, the Canons of Construction of our Laws contained on pages 65 and 66 of our law book gives general rules to be applied as aids to ascertaining the true intent and meaning in all cases where there appears to be a conflict, ambiguity, inconsistency, uncertainty, confusion or vagueness as to the true meaning of a Statute, resolution, rule, regulation, edict, or decision promulgated or approved by the Grand Lodge; and

WHEREAS, Section VII of the Canons of Construction states that words should be given their general dictionary meaning except when used in a technical or some Masonic sense; and

WHEREAS, Section IX of the Canons also states to attain these objectives all Statutes, resolutions, rules, regulations, edicts, and decisions should be liberally construed; and

WHEREAS, the common dictionary meaning of "edict" is a decree or formal proclamation especially one issued by a government, ruler, or other authority or a formal authoritative command; and

WHEREAS, the foreword on page 32 of the present law book under the heading "The Statutes," references the fact that decisions of Grand Masters, (are) referred to generally as "Edicts;" and

WHEREAS, there has been some confusion about the authority of the Grand Master to issue an edict;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT a new sub-paragraph be added to Article 22 as follows:

Article 22a. The Grand Master may issue a Grand Master's edict or edicts as necessary to enforce the Constitution, laws, customs and usages of Masonry in Texas during his term as Grand Master. Any such Grand Master's edict(s) shall be presented to the next Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Texas, and if approved by the Grand Lodge, the edict(s) shall become an edict of the Grand Lodge of Texas, until amended, modified, or repealed. If such edict(s) is not adopted by the Grand Lodge at the next Annual Communication, the edict(s) expires and is of no force and effect.

T. E. Gene Carnes

RESOLUTION NO. 7

Referred to Committee on Purposes and Policies

WHEREAS, the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas does not own an "organ." The instrument available is a "synthesizer" or "sequencer" keyboard. It is capable of producing "organ tones" but it is fact not an organ. It is also capable of producing guitar sound, various horns, violins, synthesized human voices and even bagpipes, but it is not an organ. In the future, it may come to pass that another instrument might be appropriate such as a guitar or piano. That certainly would not fit the title Grand Organist.

WHEREAS, in constituent Lodges the counterpart of the Grand Organist it is simply called The Musician. Therefore, I propose continuity in the position by requesting an amendment to the Constitution renaming the title Grand Organist to Grand Musician.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Article IV, Officers of the Grand Lodge, of the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Texas, be amended as follows:

Section 1. Style and Rank.

The officers of the Grand Lodge, their rank and titles, shall be as follows:

Most Worshipful Grand Master
 Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master
 Right Worshipful Grand Senior Warden
 Right Worshipful Grand Junior Warden
 Right Worshipful Grand Treasurer
 Right Worshipful Grand Secretary
 Right Worshipful Grand Chaplin
 Right Worshipful Grand Orator
 Right Worshipful Grand Marshal
 Worshipful Grand Senior Deacon
 Worshipful Grand Junior Deacon
 Worshipful Grand Senior Steward
 Worshipful Grand Junior Steward
 Worshipful Grand Pursuivant
 Worshipful Grand [Organist] *Musician*
 Worshipful Grand Photographer
 Worshipful Grand Tiler

The title of Past Grand Masters, Past Deputy Grand Masters, Past Grand Wardens and District Deputy Grand Masters shall be Right Worshipful.

Section 2. No change.

Section 3. Appointive Grand Officers.

(a) The Grand Chaplain, Grand Orator, Grand Marshal, Grand Senior Deacon, Grand [Organist] *Musician*, Grand Photographer, Grand Tiler, and District Deputy Grand Masters shall be appointed by the Grand Master.

(b) No change.

(c) No change.

Sections 4 - 5. No change.

Section 6. Eligibility to Office.

The Grand Officers, except the Grand Chaplain, Grand [Organist] *Musician*, and Grand Photographer, must be members of the Grand Lodge at the time of their selection and, if willing to serve again, are eligible as often as may be the pleasure of the Grand Lodge or of the officer having

the power of appointment (as the case may be), and except as provided in Section 6(a) every member of the Grand Lodge is eligible to any office therein, whether present or not at the time of his selection.

(a) No change.

Sections 7- 10. No change.

Chapter 13 - Title I, Appointive Grand Officers

Articles 86 - 91. No change.

Art. 91a. Grand [Organist] *Musician*. The Grand [Organist] *Musician* shall provide appropriate music for all open and closed sessions of the Grand Lodge of Texas during the Annual Communication and at other times when requested by the Grand Master, or this Grand Lodge.

Art. 91b. No change.

Art. 92. No change.

Jack E. Benner, Jr.

RESOLUTION NO. 8

Referred to Committee on Purposes and Policies

WHEREAS, our current laws require that the identity of Masons filing a protest with the Worshipful Master of a Lodge not be disclosed by the Worshipful Master if he announces the protests; and

WHEREAS, a Mason need not be a member of the Lodge in which he is filing a protest; and

WHEREAS, peace and harmony of a Lodge would be better preserved if the Lodge knows who is making a protest and if the Lodge could discuss the protest;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Chapter 2, Title IV, Article 417 be amended as follows:

Article 417. Who May Vote. In balloting on petitions for the degrees or either of them, any member in good standing in a Lodge under the jurisdic-

tion of this Grand Lodge is entitled to vote, and all members of the Lodge present must vote.

In balloting on *petitions for the degrees or either of them*; petitions for affiliations; reinstatement; restoration; or applications for dimitt; certificate of good standing; waiver of jurisdiction; certificate of dismissal; or voting on examinations for proficiency; or the business transactions of the Lodge, only the members of the Lodge acting, shall vote.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the following Articles be amended as follows:

Article 421. Against Whom Effective. The election of a candidate to receive the [degrees or any of them,] *Entered Apprentice Degree* can be prevented or set aside by protests made to the Worshipful Master or any officer acting as Worshipful Master [of a Lodge]. A protest against the reinstatement to good standing in the Lodge of a former member or restoration to the status of a nonaffiliated Mason of a former member of another Lodge, convicted in said Lodge, who is laboring under a sentence of indefinite suspension or expulsion, for a Masonic disciplinary violation, other than for nonpayment of dues, shall be given effect by the Worshipful Master, or the officer acting as such, as a rejection of such petition as provided in Art. 627. Such protests cannot be withdrawn after they have been announced and read in a stated meeting of the Lodge.

Article 423. When and By Whom Made. Any member of a Lodge in this Grand [j] Jurisdiction may protest, [either orally or in writing, a candidate for any degree, either before or after his election] in writing, a candidate for the *Entered Apprentice Degree* before the election. In each case the protestor must give clearly his name and the name, number and location of his Lodge to the presiding Worshipful Master or any officer acting as the Worshipful Master. [Protest may be made by telephone if the person called is satisfied as to the identity and qualification of the Protestor; in each such case the person called must in the same telephone conversation advise the caller whether or not the protest is accepted. The Worshipful Master or officer acting as Worshipful Master, shall not disclose the identity of the Brother who made the protest, but shall immediately upon receipt of the protest notify the Wardens and Secretary that it has been made.] Notification of a protest can be done by telephone; the protestor must submit the protest in writing or if the Worshipful Master agrees, he can write the protest for the Brother. The protest will signify only that the Brother of the protest is a member of the Lodge or a non-member of the Lodge for voting purposes only. The Worshipful Master upon receiving the protest must notify the Secretary, Senior Warden and Junior Warden. These three elective officers (Senior Warden, Junior Warden, and Secretary) shall be notified of the protest but shall not have the name of the protestor or the name of the Lodge.

To be effective as to any petitioner for a degree, protests must be made after the petition is received by the Lodge and before [conferring the degree has begun] the election of the candidate. After the election there cannot be a protest if the candidate is elected to receive the degrees in Masonry.

[An outgoing Master is under duty to transmit to his successor all unannounced protests made to him.]

Only members in good standing of the acting Lodge may protest against reinstatement or restoration as authorized in Art. 627.

A protest should be factual with possible documentation and/or confirmation if requested by the Lodge Worshipful Master.

Article 423a. Separate and Joint Protests: Defined. A separate protest is that made by an individual Brother to the Worshipful Master or officer acting as Worshipful Master. A joint protest is that made by two or more Brethren who simultaneously appear before the Worshipful Master or officer acting as Worshipful Master [and] shall lodge a protest. Separate and joint protests shall have the same value or effect. The number of protesters cannot be announced until after the vote is taken.

Article 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 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.] The protest shall have effect upon the petitioner as per voted on by the Lodge membership present. If the protestor is not a member of the Lodge then the Worshipful Master or Secretary shall read the protest to members present, there will be one pro and one against statement by the membership on the protest. Membership can call for a hand or ballot vote to accept or reject the protest; if no vote is taken then the protest will not be counted. A protest from a Lodge member that is present will be read for information only about the protest and his vote will count automatically when the ballot is taken. No protestor's name will be read or announced when the protest is read. If accepted each protest will be counted as a blackball vote, the number of protesters will not be announced until after the vote is taken. When the protestor is present (members only) no protest will be read or announced to the membership, if he ask for the protest to be read and counted then he will not be able to vote with the membership. When the visiting protestor is present he has two options, 1-have the protest read and he can be the for speaker; or 2-he can have the protest read and have a member of the Lodge speak for him without noting who the protestor

is. When the protest is read it will become part of the minutes for that stated meeting. When blackballs are in the ballot box they will count per the following: three (3) blackballs equals one (1) year, four (4) blackballs equals two (2) years, and five (5) or more blackballs equals three (3) years. Blackballs plus protest will equal the total number for blackball count.

Article 426. Advancement After Protests. [When a candidate is protested after receiving the Entered Apprentice or Fellowcraft Degrees and wishes to advance after expiration of the time for which he was protested, he shall be required to present a new petition in writing for advancement and be re-elected before he shall be permitted to advance. A committee on investigation and report shall be appointed and the petition shall lie over not less than one lunar month before the ballot is taken thereon.] *When a Brother has received the Entered Apprentice Degree no protest can be made on the new Mason but Masonic Disciplinary Charges can be filed on the Brother and a Masonic Trial can be held per the pending charges. All procedures for a Masonic trial must be followed per the Articles on Trial Commission.*

If the Brother is found not guilty of the charges, then he can proceed with the degrees in Masonry by the authority of the Grand Lodge of Texas.

If the Brother is found guilty of the charges, then the trial judge will then set the verdict of the Brother's suspension, expulsion from the order with or without a time limit. This verdict will be read at the next stated meeting of the Lodge and recorded in the minutes.

Article 427. No change.

[Art. 428. Announcement of Protests. When three or more protests are lodged against a petitioner for the degrees or a degree or for advancement, before his election thereto, no announcement thereof shall be made by the Worshipful Master, or officer acting as such, until after the ballot on said petition has been taken and the result announced. The Worshipful Master shall then announce that three or more protests have been lodged against the petitioner, stating the number of such protests, which shall be recorded in the minutes of said Lodge; provided that the Brethren making such protests were not present during the taking of the ballot on such petition. In case they are present during the balloting, the protests of such as are present shall be disregarded, not counted, nor announced. When three or more protests are lodged against a petitioner after his election to receive the degrees or a degree, it shall be the duty of the Worshipful Master, or officer acting as such, to announce said protests at the first meeting of the Lodge, whether it be a stated or called meeting and it shall be recorded in the minutes.]

No degree shall be conferred on a protested candidate during the term of his rejection, after three or more protests have been lodged against him.]

Clarence R. Sellers

RESOLUTION NO. 9

Referred to Committee on Purposes and Policies

WHEREAS, Article 276a 2 provides for the additional qualification of a person prior to his installation as Worshipful Master or Warden "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; and

WHEREAS, in many Texas Lodges the members return to the line a number of times and hold the office of Warden and Worshipful Master due to the small numbers in or active in their Lodge; and

WHEREAS, several members of Texas Lodges have held the office of Warden and Worshipful Master in the past and are still active in their Lodge and knowledgeable of the lodge's business however, have not attended a Grand Lodge approved course in administration of his duties or completed the L.I.F.E. program

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that Article 276a, 2 of the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas, A.F.&A.M be revised and rewritten so as to read 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. To the satisfaction of the members of his Lodge, he shall be proficient to properly open and close an Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft, Master Mason's Lodge, and a Master Mason's Lodge of Sorrow in the manner prescribed by the Committee on Work and approved by this Grand Lodge, and
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. *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.*

Yellowhouse Lodge No. 841

RESOLUTION NO. 10

Referred to Committee on Finance

WHEREAS, at the 2003 Annual Grand Communication of Grand Lodge, Resolution No. 34 as submitted by Brother J. Weldon Clampitt was approved. The resolution provided that annual per capita in the amount of \$1.00 be deposited to the credit of a 501C(3) Tax Exempt Foundation identified as the Texas Masonic Youth Foundation, purportedly designed "to promote and encourage Texas youth to become interested in being a part of Texas Masonry."

WHEREAS, following Brother Clampitt's explanation of the resolution as submitted, and upon his motion to adopt, the Finance Committee was called upon for its report which generally stated: "*Brethren, it is your money that you are giving to this cause, so we present this to you without prejudice. So, we ask that you vote your conscience.*" The record does not indicate additional discussion of the matter, stating only that Resolution No. 34 was adopted.

WHEREAS, from the effective date of August 15, 2005 through October 31, 2011 the \$1.00 contribution to the Texas Masonic Youth Foundation has amounted to \$616,890.00. Additionally, approximately \$79,000.00 will have been added to that amount before Grand Lodge meets in 2012, increasing the net value of the foundation to approximately \$695,000.00.

WHEREAS, while the annual report of the Grand Lodge Youth Committee seldom informs the Masons of Texas concerning distribution of funds from the Foundation, nor are the Brethren routinely informed concerning the status of the Foundation itself, its directors, management structure, meetings, receipts, earnings, disbursements, beneficiaries or balance on hand.

AND WHEREAS, by comparison, the \$1.00 annual per-capita contribution of Texas Masons over the past eight years has created a Youth

Foundation Fund valued at approximately \$695,000.00. On the other hand, over the same period, their 0.10 per-capita contribution has generated approximately \$69,500.00 to the Reserve Fund held in Trust exclusively for structural maintenance and upkeep of the Memorial Masonic Grand Lodge Building. With our Grand Lodge facilities in dire need of vital repairs and ever increasing maintenance it would seem prudent to reverse the present practice and designate \$1.00 per-capita to the Grand Lodge Reserve Fund for structural maintenance and upkeep of the Masonic Grand Lodge Building to provide today's youth a future meeting place.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Article 163, paragraph 13 of the laws of the Grand Lodge be amended as follows:

Art. 163. Fees, Dues and Contributions. Each subordinate Lodge shall pay to the Grand Secretary fees, dues, and contributions as follows:

Paragraphs 1 – 12. No change.

13. For the Masonic Youth Foundation, to be remitted by the Lodge with its Annual Returns for each member on the rolls of the Lodge, the sum of [1.00] .10

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Article 163a of the laws of the Grand Lodge be amended as follows:

Art. 163a. Grand Lodge Building Maintenance Reserve Fund. The sum of [~~\$0-10~~] \$1.00 per year for each member on the rolls of all the Subordinate Lodges, shall be transferred from the Grand Lodge General Fund, to a Reserve Fund held IN TRUST, and used solely and exclusively for structural maintenance, renovation, remodeling and repair of the MEMORIAL MASONIC GRAND LODGE BUILDING. [The maximum amount which shall be permitted to accumulate, at any particular time in such fund, shall not exceed a sum equal to 10 percent of the estimated replacement cost of such Building, as determined not later than the last day of the annual communication of the Grand Lodge each calendar year by the Trustees of the Grand Lodge. In the event the amount accumulated in such Maintenance Reserve Fund shall exceed the maximum percent as herein provided, subsequent to the determination of the then current replacement cost, such excess shall be re-transferred to the Grand Lodge General Fund and no additional monies transferred to such Maintenance Reserve Fund, until the accumulated value of such Fund equals a sum less than the maximum percent of replacement cost currently in effect.]

Expenditures from the Grand Lodge Building Maintenance Reserve Fund shall be made only upon authorization of the [Trustees of the Grand Lodge], Directors of the Grand Lodge Masonic Library and Museum of

Texas [solely for the purpose of paying for structural maintenance, renovation, remodeling and repair costs for the MEMORIAL-MASONIC-GRAND LODGE-BUILDING].

Orville L. O'Neill

RESOLUTION NO. 11

Referred to Committee on Finance

WHEREAS, financial data and investment reports are generally available as of the end of the month or calendar quarter and no comparative information is available for the June 23 date used for the Masonic Lodge year.

Our ability to measure investment performance would be enhanced by changing our investment period to end on June 30. In addition we would save several man hours of labor that are now required to make manual adjustments and calculations.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Art 318a be amended as follows:

Art. 318a. Endowed Membership.

Paragraphs 1-3 No Change.

[4] 4a. The Endowed Membership fund shall be invested and reinvested from time to time under the supervision of the Grand Lodge Trustees.

The Grand Lodge Trustees shall take action as they may determine necessary to protect the Endowed Membership Fund for the benefit of the Lodges, including, without limitation, the formation of Trusts, Limited Liability Partnerships, corporations, or any other appropriate entity as may be determined by the Trustees.

b. For accounting and investment purposes the endowed Membership Fund shall be composed of endowment units with an initial value of \$100 each. The net asset value of an endowment unit may vary from one investment period to the next. *For the purposes of computing the net asset value of an endowment unit, interest and dividends received, any net realized capital gain or loss and the distribution required by this Article, the investment period shall begin July 1 and end the following June 30.* All endowment units shall be credited and allocated to the Endowed Lodges.

c. Annually, not later than the first day of August, Endowed Lodges shall receive a distribution from the endowed Membership Fund computed as follows:

(1) An amount equal to the interest and dividends received.

(2) Plus sixty percent (60%) of the net realized capital gain received; provided, the additional distribution may be reduced so that the additional distribution shall not cause the net asset value of an endowed unit to be less than \$100 after the additional distribution.

No distribution shall be paid for any endowed membership unit until August 1 of the 2nd calendar year after such endowment membership unit is received by the Grand Secretary.

d. An administrative fee not to exceed five percent (5%) of the annual distribution paid to the Endowed Lodges may be deducted from the distribution before payment is made to the Endowed Lodges.

Paragraphs 5-9 No change.

Thomas W. Ellison, Chairman
Investments Committee

RESOLUTION NO. 12

Referred to Committee on Finance

WHEREAS, the 2011 Annual Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas costs in excess of \$40,000.00 and will become more expensive in the future; in order to help offset these expenses, I propose the following:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Chapter 2, Title I, Communications, Article 2 of the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas be amended by the addition of paragraph three as follows:

Art. 2. Annual Communication.

Paragraphs 1 - 2. No change.

To defray the expenses incurred in holding such regular or special called communication of the Grand Lodge, each Member of Grand Lodge as herein

defined, each Lodge Representative and each Master Mason of a Texas Lodge must pay a ten dollar (\$10.00) registration fee to attend an annual or called meeting of the Grand Lodge of Texas.

W. Vernon Burke, Jr.

RESOLUTION NO. 13

Referred to Committee on Finance

Since many Lodges have increased their Endowment rates above the minimum rate of \$500.00, I would like to propose that the Grand Lodge change their Article 318a, so that a deceased Master Mason, a living Fifty-plus Year Master Mason or a Life Member of a Lodge may be honored with an endowment purchased in his name at the current \$500.00 rate. This will honor the Master Mason (past or present) by having his name listed on the Endowments for Lodges list and any honor board posted within the Lodge building. Richardson Lodge has started to endow their deceased Past Masters. This change will not diminish any income being paid to the Lodge, but it will enhance the income to the Lodge on a yearly basis through the Grand Lodge distribution in August each year.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Art. 318a. Section 2 be amended as follows:

Art. 318a. Endowed Membership.

Section 1. No change.

2. (a) The purchase price for an endowed membership shall be fixed annually by the Endowed Lodge as may be determined by a majority vote of the members present; provided that such purchase price shall be a multiple of \$100 (\$100 being the par value of an endowment unit) and shall be not less than \$500 (5 endowment units). The vote to fix the purchase price for an endowed membership shall be had at the time provided by Article 292 and any change in the purchase price shall be effective June 24.

(b) A deceased Master Mason may be honored in a Texas Lodge with the purchased of an Endowment in his name at the rate of \$500.00 (5 endowment units) or at the current lowest rate of the Texas Grand Lodge Endowment program.

(c) A Fifty-plus Year Master or a Life Member may purchase an Endowment for himself or be honored with the purchase of an Endowment

in his name at the rate of \$500.00 (5 endowment units) or at the current lowest rate of the Texas Grand Lodge Endowment program.

Sections 3 – 9. No change.

Frank W. Amadon, III

RESOLUTION NO. 14

Referred to Committee on Finance

WHEREAS, at a stated meeting of Joaquin Lodge No. 856 the members present unanimously voted to propose the following changes to the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas;

AND WHEREAS, approval of such changes would be in the best interests of Masonry in Texas;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Articles 324 and 327 be amended to read as follows:

Art. 324. Reinstatement After Three Years. A Member who has been suspended for non-payment of dues and remains so for three years is not reinstated automatically upon payment of dues in arrears, but is required to present his petition, in writing, to the Lodge at a Stated Meeting requesting reinstatement. The petition must be accompanied by payment of all dues in arrears to the date of his suspension, unless the amount thereof has been reduced under Art. 314, in which event the amount authorized shall be paid. 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. Whenever a petition for reinstatement is rejected, the dues tendered shall be refunded [upon request].

A Past Master, Past Grand or Deputy Grand Master or Past Grand Warden, who is suspended for non-payment of dues, is automatically reinstated to Grand Lodge membership upon his automatic reinstatement to Lodge membership under Art. 323.

Art. 327. Expulsion Permitted After Three Years: Reinstatement. When a member of a Lodge has been expelled for the non-payment of his dues as provided in Art. 326, and desires to be reinstated to membership, he shall present such a petition to his Lodge, in writing, at a stated meeting thereof,

and pay all dues in arrears, up to the date of his suspension, unless same has been reduced as authorized by Art. 314 of the Laws, in which case the amount authorized shall be paid. The petition shall lay over to a subsequent stated meeting and the Worshipful Master shall appoint a committee for investigation and report. It shall require a unanimous favorable ballot of the members of such Lodge present to reinstate the petitioner to membership. If such petitioner is rejected he may petition for reinstatement again after six months have elapsed. If he is rejected a second time he shall not petition again until one year has elapsed from the date of the last rejection. Any subsequent petitions shall not be received except after the elapse of an additional year. Any such petitioner for reinstatement, who is rejected, shall ~~[-upon demand, be entitled to a refund of the dues so paid]~~ *have the dues paid refunded.*

Joaquin Lodge No. 856

RESOLUTION NO. 15

Referred to Committee on Finance

Whereas, Article 318a, Section 6 provides:

6. Endowed memberships are not transferable with Lodge memberships, and remain to benefit the Endowed Lodge where such memberships are purchased. Endowed memberships purchased by members...cannot be transferred to any Lodge except as provided for ...demised Lodges.

Demised Lodges - Within 12 months after the dissolution or demise of an Endowed Lodge, the holder of an endowed membership certificate therein, if he affiliates with another Lodge of this Grand Jurisdiction, may transfer the endowed membership to the Lodge with which he affiliates. Any interest accruing from the Endowed Membership Fund from the date of the dissolution or demise of the Endowed Lodge to the date of the transfer of an endowed membership shall be added to the principal of the Grand Lodge Endowed Membership Fund.

WHEREAS, the language of Article 318a, Section 6 causes a member who has purchased an Endowed Membership in a demised Lodge to forfeit the purchased Endowed Membership to the Grand Lodge in the event the Endowed Member fails, for whatever reason, to affiliate "with another Lodge of this Grand Jurisdiction" within 12 months of the date after the dissolution or demise of that Endowed Lodge, and

WHEREAS, no Brother should forfeit to the Grand Lodge an Endowed Membership he has purchased simply because he has failed to affli-

ate "with another Lodge of this Grand Jurisdiction" within 12 months of the date following the dissolution or demise of the Lodge in which he is endowed, and

WHEREAS, this forfeiture has occurred and resulted in the deprivation of some of our Brethren who have purchased such Endowed Memberships in Lodges that are now demised, such as members of demised Nixon Lodge No. 985, for instance, and

WHEREAS, no financial harm will result to the Grand Lodge of Texas if the present forfeiture mandate of the Article 318a, Section 6, as written is amended to remove the "12 month affiliation" requirement,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Article 318a, Section 6 be amended to read as follows:

Art. 318a. Endowed Membership.

Sections 1 - 5. No change.

6. Endowed memberships are not transferable with Lodge memberships, and remain to benefit the Endowed Lodge where such memberships are purchased. Endowed memberships purchased by members and endowed memberships purchased in any part in honor or memory of a member, or endowed memberships purchased in any part by a Lodge, organization, individual or group of individuals in the name of a member or former member and, the endowed memberships of deceased members cannot be transferred to any Lodge except as provided for consolidated or demised Lodges.

Consolidated Lodges No change.

Demised Lodges [Within 12 months] [a]After the dissolution or demise of an Endowed Lodge, the holder of an endowed membership certificate therein, if he affiliates with another Lodge of this Grand Jurisdiction, may transfer the endowed membership to the Lodge with which he affiliates. *If the holder of an Endowed Membership affiliates with another Lodge of this Grand Jurisdiction within twelve months after the dissolution or demise of the Endowed Lodge, any interest accruing from the Endowed Membership Fund for that endowed membership shall transfer to the credit of the Lodge with which he affiliates. If the holder of such an endowed membership fails to affiliate with another Lodge of this Grand Jurisdiction within twelve months after the dissolution or demise of the Endowed Lodge, [A]ny interest accruing from the Endowed Membership Fund from the date of the dissolution or demise of the Endowed Lodge to the date of the transfer of an endowed membership shall be added to the principal of the Grand Lodge Endowed Membership Fund until the date the holder of the endowed mem-*

bership affiliates with another Lodge of this Grand Jurisdiction, from which time the interest will accrue to the benefit of the Lodge with which the holder of the endowed membership affiliated.

Sections 7 - 9. No change.

James N. Higdon and Roland G. Havens

RESOLUTION NO. 16

Referred to Committee on Civil Law

WHEREAS, some petitioners for the Degrees of Masonry have not been truthful in their responses to some of the questions on the Petition for the Degrees of Masonry, and

WHEREAS, some petitioners that have been convicted of child molestation, other felonies, and misdemeanor crimes of moral turpitude have unknowingly been made Masons because of the lack of honesty of the petitioner and the inadequacy of the current system of investigation of a petitioner; and

WHEREAS, current federal and state laws regarding the privacy of individuals make it difficult to thoroughly investigate the background of a petitioner without first obtaining his consent; and

WHEREAS, the Laws of The Grand Lodge of Texas, including the forms for petitions and investigations, do not provide for a petitioner to consent to a background check by anyone other than the investigating committee; and

WHEREAS, the petition and investigation process should be the same for all Lodges under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Texas.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT Form 26 be amended as follows:

Preamble, and paragraphs 1 through 33 and next to last paragraph above signature lines - No Change.

Final paragraph above signature lines to be amended as follows:

"I understand that as part of this Lodge's procedure for processing my petition, a[n] *confidential* investigative report will be prepared for the

Lodge whereby information is obtained through personal interviews with neighbors, friends or others with whom I am acquainted and through a personal and criminal background investigation by a company if engaged by the Lodge. This inquiry [may] will also include information as to my character, qualifications, general reputation, personal characteristics and mode of living. I further hereby knowingly and voluntarily consent to the investigations provided for herein, and I knowingly and voluntarily waive any cause of action whatsoever that I may have for defamations, invasion of privacy or any other cause as a result of said investigations. I authorize any person from whom any information about me is requested to provide the requested information. I hereby release the Lodge to which I submitted a petition, its officers, its investigating committee, The Grand Lodge of Texas and its officers from any and all liability for any damages that I may suffer as a result of said investigations. I fully understand that the degree fee set by the Lodge will include the fee that the Lodge pays to a company to conduct the background investigation. I agree to provide the investigating committee with my social security number with the understanding that the number will not be provided to the public and will not be kept in the permanent records of the Lodge."

I understand the complete background investigation report shall be returned to me regardless of whether I am accepted or rejected by the Lodge and the Lodge will retain no copies of such report in their files.

Remainder of Form 26. No change.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Investigation Report, Form 28 be amended as follows:

Preamble and paragraphs 1 through 18 - No Change.

The final paragraph shall be amended to read as follows:

After complete investigation and review of the background investigation report ordered by the Lodge, I have answered all of the above questions to the best of my knowledge and believe them to be true and correct. I, therefore, make the following recommendations:

Favorable _____ Unfavorable _____
(Answer "Yes" to one)

(Signed) _____
(Date Investigation Completed) _____

Oak Cliff Lodge No. 705

RESOLUTION NO. 17

Referred to Committee on Civil Law

WHEREAS, Masonry has, for ages, professed to "take good men and make them better," and

WHEREAS, recent concern has been expressed by the Masons of Texas over the quality of men entering the West Gate of Masonry, and

WHEREAS, the depth and intensity of the candidate investigation process has been called to question by many members of The Grand Lodge of Texas, and

WHEREAS, it is important that Members of this Fraternity are known to be good, solid law-abiding citizens.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the following additions be made to the Laws of The Grand Lodge of Texas:

Art. 307a. Fees: Background Investigation. In addition to the minimum fees specified in Article 307, there shall be a fee assessed to cover the cost of a formal and professional background investigation of the petitioner. This fee shall be sufficient to cover the cost of said background investigation only.

Art. 403. Petition for Degrees: Requisites. A candidate for the degrees must file with the Secretary of the Lodge a petition in writing, which must be presented to the Lodge at a stated meeting only. The petition must state the name of the petitioner in full; his age; date and place of birth; his domicile during the preceding twelve months; and shall contain all other matters required by law and Form No. 26. Said petition shall be signed by the petitioner in person and shall be recommended and the application personally signed by not less than two members of the Lodge.

In the event of death, expulsion or suspension of either or both signers before the petition is received, it will be necessary to obtain other qualified signers.

A certified or photostatic copy of petitioner's birth certificate must accompany the petition, which shall be retained as a permanent record of the Lodge, or withdrawn by petitioner upon substituting a photostatic copy thereof; provided that, upon being furnished with satisfactory documentary evidence, the Grand Master may issue his certificate of approval in lieu of birth certificate, which certificate shall accompany the petition and be retained as a permanent record of the Lodge.

When a petitioner's name has been changed by law or other proper means from that shown in the birth certificate, and a full explanation thereof deemed satisfactory to the Lodge is attached to the birth certificate, the petition may be voted upon if satisfactory in all other respects.

The petitioner shall sign a statement of consent to have a personal and criminal history investigation conducted by the Lodge, making due inquiry into the character and standing of the petitioner. The Lodge Secretary will order the background investigation report through a credible company certified to the Lodge by the Grand Secretary. No copies of the background investigation report shall be made nor shall the contents of such report be disclosed to anyone other than the investigation committee members. The complete background investigation report shall be returned to the petitioner regardless of whether he is accepted or rejected and a receipt from the petitioner shall be obtained by the Lodge and made a part of the Lodge records.

Art. 407. Referred to Committee. A petition for the degrees, along with the petitioner's consent to have a personal and criminal background investigation, shall be presented at a stated meeting and referred by the Master presiding to a committee of three members for investigation and report. A member of this committee may not be a recommender or any Mason listed as a reference on such petition, unless and except no otherwise qualified Brother is available to serve as such. Such report may be made at a subsequent stated meeting; but no ballot shall be taken thereon in less than one lunar month from the date the petition is received, unless dispensation is granted by the Grand Master under Article 414.

The Lodge may grant the committee further time upon request of one of its members; but no recommitment may be made after the committee has reported to the Lodge.

Art. 412. Committee: Duties and Report. The investigation by the committee shall include: the moral character [and], reputation [of the petitioner], personal background investigation and criminal background investigation, facts relating to jurisdiction, physical qualifications, and all other matters the Lodge is called upon to pass in balloting on petitioner. A face-to-face interview between each Investigation Committee member and the petitioner is required on all petitions for the Mysteries and Advancement, except on approval by the Worshipful Master.

The background investigation reports shall be ordered by the Lodge and sent to the Lodge Secretary. Only the Lodge Secretary and members of the investigation committee shall be able to view these reports, and no copies will be made by the Lodge. The contents of these reports will remain confidential and the reports will be returned to the petitioner regardless of whether he is rejected or accepted for membership.

The Lodge will use only those third-party information providers approved by the Grand Lodge Trustees and certified to the Lodge by the Grand Secretary for preparation of the reports on petitioners.

The Lodge will adopt and use the Privacy Policy provided by the Grand Lodge of Texas, and make a copy of that available to the petitioner.

Before a ballot can be taken a signed report of each of the three members of the committee shall be attached to the petition and read to the Lodge; each of which reports shall cover all matters referenced in this Article and in Form No. 28. If the Master of the Lodge is a member of the committee before his installation he may continue to serve thereon.

Art. 413. Ballot. When the report of the investigating committee has been made, and one lunar month has elapsed since the presentation of said petition, the ballot shall be taken. If found clear, the candidate may be initiated as soon as convenient. As to all petitions requiring ballot by the Lodge, the petitioner shall be notified in writing within fifteen days of such ballot, signed by the Worshipful Master and attested to by the Secretary of the Lodge, as to either his election or his rejection by the Lodge.

The Investigation Committee and any of its members, and Lodge Secretary, after the investigation committee has made its report to the Lodge, shall not disclose any information which was received by the Lodge concerning the personal or criminal background investigation of the petitioner.

Before a ballot can be taken, a signed report of each of the three members of the committee shall be attached to the petition and read to the Lodge; each of which reports shall cover all matters referenced in this Article and in Form No. 28, except any information derived from the background investigation report. If the Master of the Lodge is a member of the committee before his installation he may continue to serve thereon.

Oak Cliff Lodge No. 705

RESOLUTION NO. 18

Referred to Committee on Civil Law

WHEREAS, Masonry has, for ages, professed to "take good men and make them better;" and

WHEREAS, recent concern has been expressed by the Masons of Texas over the quality of men entering the West Gate of Masonry, and

WHEREAS, the depth and intensity of the candidate investigation process has been called to question by many members of The Grand Lodge of Texas, and

WHEREAS, it is important that Members of this Fraternity are known to be good, solid law-abiding citizens.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the following additions be made to the Laws of The Grand Lodge of Texas:

Art. 307a. Fees: Background Investigations. In addition to the minimum fees specified in Article 307, there shall be a fee assessed to cover the cost of a formal and professional background investigation of the petitioner. This fee shall be sufficient to cover the cost of said background investigation only.

Art. 403. Petition for Degrees: Requisites. A candidate for the degrees must file with the Secretary of the Lodge a petition in writing, which must be presented to the Lodge at a stated meeting only. The petition must state the name of the petitioner in full; his age; date and place of birth; his domicile during the preceding twelve months; and shall contain all other matters required by law and Form No. 26. Said petition shall be signed by the petitioner in person and shall be recommended and the application personally signed by not less than two members of the Lodge.

In the event of death, expulsion or suspension of either or both signers before the petition is received, it will be necessary to obtain other qualified signers.

A certified or photostatic copy of petitioner's birth certificate must accompany the petition, which shall be retained as a permanent record of the Lodge, or withdrawn by petitioner upon substituting a photostatic copy thereof; provided that, upon being furnished with satisfactory documentary evidence, the Grand Master may issue his certificate of approval in lieu of birth certificate, which certificate shall accompany the petition and be retained as a permanent record of the Lodge.

When a petitioner's name has been changed by law or other proper means from that shown in the birth certificate, and a full explanation thereof deemed satisfactory to the Lodge is attached to the birth certificate, the petition may be voted upon if satisfactory in all other respects.

The petitioner shall sign a statement of consent to have a personal and criminal history investigation conducted by the Lodge, making due inquiry into the character and standing of the petitioner. The Lodge Secretary will order the background investigation report through a credible company certified to the Lodge by the Grand Secretary. No copies of the background

investigation report shall be made nor shall the contents of such report be disclosed to anyone other than the investigation committee members. The complete background investigation report shall be returned to the petitioner regardless of whether he is accepted or rejected and a receipt from the petitioner shall be obtained by the Lodge and made a part of the Lodge records.

Art. 407. Referred to Committee. A petition for the degrees, along with the petitioner's consent to have a personal and criminal background investigation, shall be presented at a stated meeting and referred by the Master presiding to a committee of three members for investigation and report. A member of this committee may not be a recommender or any Mason listed as a reference on such petition, unless and except no otherwise qualified Brother is available to serve as such. Such report may be made at a subsequent stated meeting; but no ballot shall be taken thereon in less than one lunar month from the date the petition is received, unless dispensation is granted by the Grand Master under Article 414.

The Lodge may grant the committee further time upon request of one of its members; but no recommitment may be made after the committee has reported to the Lodge.

Art. 412. Committee: Duties and Report. The investigation by the committee shall include: the moral character and reputation of the petitioner; personal background investigation and criminal background investigation; facts relating to jurisdiction, physical qualifications, and all other matters the Lodge is called upon to pass in balloting on petitioner. A face-to-face interview between each Investigation Committee member and the petitioner is required on all petitions for the Mysteries and Advancement, except on approval by the Worshipful Master.

The background investigation reports shall be ordered by the Lodge and sent to the Lodge Secretary. Only the Lodge Secretary and members of the investigation committee shall be able to view these reports, and no copies will be made by the Lodge. The contents of these reports will remain confidential and the reports will be returned to the petitioner regardless of whether he is rejected or accepted for membership.

The Lodge will use only those third-party information providers approved by the Grand Lodge Trustees and certified to the Lodge by the Grand Secretary for preparation of the reports on petitioners.

The Lodge will adopt and use the Privacy Policy provided by the Grand Lodge of Texas, and make a copy of that available to the petitioner.

Before a ballot can be taken a signed report of each of the three members of the committee shall be attached to the petition and read to the Lodge;

each of which reports shall cover all matters referenced in this Article and in Form No. 28. If the Master of the Lodge is a member of the committee before his installation he may continue to serve thereon.

Art. 413. Ballot. When the report of the investigating committee has been made, and one lunar month has elapsed since the presentation of said petition, the ballot shall be taken. If found clear, the candidate may be initiated as soon as convenient. As to all petitions requiring ballot by the Lodge, the petitioner shall be notified in writing within fifteen days of such ballot, signed by the Worshipful Master and attested to by the Secretary of the Lodge, as to either his election or his rejection by the Lodge.

The Investigation Committee and any of its members, and Lodge Secretary, after the investigation committee has made its report to the Lodge, shall not disclose any information which was received by the Lodge concerning the personal or criminal background investigation of the petition.

Before a ballot can be taken, a signed report of each of the three members of the committee shall be attached to the petition and read to the Lodge; each of which reports shall cover all matters referenced in this Article and in Form No. 28, except any information derived from the background investigation report. If the Master of the Lodge is a member of the committee before his installation he may continue to serve thereon.

Remainder of Form 26. No change.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Investigation Report, Form 28, be amended as follows:

Preamble and paragraphs 1 - 18. No Change. The final paragraph shall be amended to read as follows:

After complete investigation and review of the background investigation report ordered by the Lodge, I have answered all of the above questions to the best of my knowledge and believe them to be true and correct. I, therefore, make the following recommendations:

Favorable _____ Unfavorable _____
(Answer "Yes" to one)

(Signed) _____
(Date Investigation Completed) _____

Robert W. Foster

RESOLUTION NO. 19

Referred to Committee on Civil Law

WHEREAS, the current question number 16 on Masonic Form No. 26 limits the required disclosure of charges of a misdemeanor to a "misdemeanor involving moral turpitude," and

WHEREAS, Freemasonry would be better served by informing a Lodge of any serious crime with which a petitioner may have been charged such as any Class A or Class B misdemeanor whether it involves moral turpitude; and

WHEREAS, Masonic Form No. 26, Question 16 should be revised to enable a Lodge to know whether anyone who desires to become a Mason has ever been charged with any serious crime such as Felony, Class A Misdemeanor, or Class B Misdemeanor

BE IT RESOLVED that Masonic Form No. 26 be revised as follows:

All matters in Masonic Form No. 26 prior to Question 16 – no change.

16. Have you ever been charged with a felony, or ~~misdemeanor involving moral turpitude~~ a Class A misdemeanor, or a Class B misdemeanor? ____ Yes, or ____ No

If so, when and where? Give details, (including any reduction to a lesser charge or enhancement to a higher charge) _____

Were you convicted of the charges? ____ Yes, or ____ No.

If so, give details as to the sentence issued including any fine and/or time in jail or prison: _____

Remainder of matters in Masonic Form No. 26 – no change.

John Mitchell Lodge No. 1401

RESOLUTION NO. 20

Referred to Committee on Civil Law

WHEREAS, as in some cases all forms for the buying, selling and leasing of property, and pamphlets of instruction for the buying, selling and leasing

of property have not been available in the Grand Secretary's office at the time the forms and pamphlets of instruction were requested, and

WHEREAS, earnest money contracts for the buying and selling of property have a set time on closing the sale contract and there is no time limit mentioned in Articles 340 and 341 for the Civil Law Committee to complete their investigation of the required proposed documents presented to them by the Lodge, it is possible that the Lodge could lose the property and the earnest money by forfeiture. Therefore, the undersigned amend Article 340, Permission to Acquire, Sell or Mortgage Lodge Property, by adding the following Article 340C.

Article 340. Permission to Acquire, Sell or Mortgage Lodge Property.

Sections A – B. No change.

C. (1) *The Grand Secretary shall have forms for the purchasing, selling and leasing of property and pamphlets of instruction pertaining to the same to be available to any Texas Lodge on request.*

(2) a. *The Civil Law Committee shall have 30 calendar days from the date that the Grand Secretary receives the required documents for the buying, selling or leasing of property to make their required investigation and inform the Lodge of their decision.*

b. *Thereafter, if corrections must be made by the Lodge, the Civil Law Committee shall have fifteen (15) calendar days from receipt by the Grand Secretary.*

c. *If corrections are still required by the Civil Law Committee, the Lodge shall make the correction and return the documents to the Grand Secretary and the Committee shall have 15 additional calendar days to make their final decision.*

d. *If the Lodge is not satisfied with the decision of the Civil Law Committee at the conclusion of the second 15 calendar day period, the Lodge shall have the right to appeal to the Grand Master within thirty (30) calendar days after receipt of the final written notice from the Civil Law Committee.*

Park Place Lodge No. 1172

RESOLUTION NO. 21

Referred to Committee on Civil Law

WHEREAS, Members and visitors of Grand Lodge who are mobility impaired have a difficult time navigating wheelchairs, mobility scooters and other such means of conveyance over the curb at the Eighth Street entrance to The Grand Lodge Temple and Museum, and

WHEREAS, there is a growing number of Members and visitors each year who are in need of assistance to enter the building; Our membership's median age is getting older; and

WHEREAS, requests to Grand Lodge Officers and the Executive Committee have been made several times to correct the situation, the response has always been negative with different reasons each time, i.e. costs too much, you can use the entrance on Seventh Street, or if we do one thing we may have to make the entire building A.D.A. compatible, and

WHEREAS, the Grand Lodge of Texas has made no appreciable effort to meet the requirements of the American Disabilities Act of 1990 since its inception, and

WHEREAS, we declare that as Brothers, "We always meet upon the level," that does not exclude Grand Lodge, and

WHEREAS, an offer was made to have a wheelchair ramp installed near the Eighth Street entrance prior to the 2011 Grand Communication at NO COST to the Grand Lodge of Texas and permission was denied (a cost of less than \$500.00), and

WHEREAS by not at least attempting to meet the minimum A.D.A. requirements we are exposing ourselves to the possibility or probability of lawsuits.

We request the Members of this Grand Lodge Assembly direct the persons responsible for the maintenance of this building have at least one ramp cut and installed in the curb near the Eight Street entrance prior to the 2012 Grand Communication.

Batson Lodge No. 974 and 51 Others

RESOLUTION NO. 22

Referred to Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence

WHEREAS, the Canons of Construction of our Laws contained on pages 65 and 66 of our law book gives general rules to be applied as aids to ascertaining the true intent and meaning in all cases where there appears to be a conflict, ambiguity, inconsistency, uncertainty, confusion or vagueness as to the true meaning of a Statute, resolution, rule, regulation, edict, or decision promulgated or approved by the Grand Lodge; and

WHEREAS, there appears to be a conflict or ambiguity with regard to the interpretation of the Constitution, Article V, section 2 and the intent of Articles 277, 429, 500, 643, 644 of the Statutes; and

WHEREAS, the Constitution provides the Grand Master the power to depose officers of subordinate Lodges, on information of un-Masonic conduct; and generally to superintend and direct the labors of the Craft and that the exercise of these powers are subject to the laws of the Grand Lodge; and

WHEREAS, Articles 277 states the office of Worshipful Master becomes vacant when the Master has been removed by the Grand Master or the Grand Lodge and stipulates the requirements of notification and who fills the station after removal; and

WHEREAS, Article 429 provides for the removal of a Worshipful Master by the Grand Master for an official act of un-Masonic conduct if he fails to recognize and announce three or more protests; and

WHEREAS, a Masonic Disciplinary Commission hearing on a setting Worshipful Master can only be held at the Grand Lodge according to Article 500; and

WHEREAS, Article 643 provides that the Grand Master may "suspend" any Officer of the Grand Lodge or subordinate Lodge when allegations of Masonic Disciplinary Violations have been filed; and

WHEREAS, some are interpreting that Article 643 limits the Grand Master from removing officers under the provisions of the other above referenced Articles; and

WHEREAS, Article 644 provides for the results of the suspending of a Worshipful Master, but not his removal by the Grand Master;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT Article 22 be amended by adding the following sub-paragraph:

Article 22 (a) or (b). The Grand Master may remove any officer of a subordinate

Lodge on information of un-Masonic conduct, abuse of his office, failure to attend to the functions of his office, violations of the charges and regulations of his office, or any allegations of Masonic Disciplinary Violations. Such removal from office does not preclude charges from being filed.

BE IT FUTURE RESOLVED THAT Article 644 be amended by adding the words "removed or" to the title and text of the article.

Art. 644. When Worshipful Master *Removed or Suspended*. When a Worshipful Master is *removed or* suspended from office by order of the Grand Master, said officer shall cease to exercise any of the duties, rights, or prerogatives of said office until he is thereafter restored, but he shall not thereby be deprived of any of the rights and privileges of membership in his Lodge. However, he shall not be entitled to the rights and privileges of a Past Master, or be or become a member of the Grand Lodge, unless and until he is restored thereto by the Grand Lodge.

T. E. Gene Carnes

RESOLUTION NO. 23

Referred to Committee on Fraternal Relations

This is a proposed resolution to the M:W: Grand Lodge of Texas, AF&AM, for the recognition of the Texas Ruffian Motorcycle Riding Group pursuant to Art. 225a of the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas. We are a group of like-minded Masons that enjoy the freedom of riding our motorcycles around this great State. Our purpose is to promote Masonry in the general public as well as to promote fellowship between Members of the Fraternity, to include Ancient Free & Accepted Masons. This group is NOT a Motorcycle Club! We do not recruit membership from the general public. We are members of the oldest and largest Fraternity in the world. We have taken an obligation to uphold the values and principles of Masonry and you MUST be a Mason in good standing in a Masonic Lodge under the Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Texas, AF&AM or in a Masonic Lodge recognized by the Grand Lodge of Texas to become a member of the Texas Ruffians Masonic Motorcycle Riding Group.

WHEREAS, we are not affiliated with any other motorcycle groups, RC's or M's other than those that are directly associated with Masonry. The Ruffian Members are not allowed to join, promote, support or be associated with the C.O.C (Coalition of Clubs) or any motorcycle group that might reflect poorly on our great Fraternity. We wear a traditional three piece patch that is easily recognized as being Masonic in nature and will conduct ourselves as such.

WHEREAS, we are seeking recognition by the Grand Lodge of Texas so that we may ride Texas roads displaying our patches and promoting Masonry and showing the public that Masons are still strong in Texas and still contribute to society as our Brothers have done for many years in the past. Many in our community still have no idea what Masonry is or what it represents and by riding our motorcycles and publicly displaying our pride in Masonry it is our belief that more people will have the opportunity to approach us and ask questions where they may have not had the opportunity to ask in the past.

WHEREAS, the structure of our organization we believe will also be conducive to keeping Entered Apprentice and Fellowcraft Masons interested and motivated to continue their work by giving them a little extra incentive to follow through to the next degree by earning of their Texas Ruffian Patches as outlined in our by-laws.

WHEREAS, we, as Texas Ruffians, will always remain mindful of our charge as a Mason and will be particularly attentive not to recommend a man to become a Mason unless we are convinced that he will conform to the laws, customs and usages of the Masonic order,

WHEREAS, in closing we would like to emphasize that our goal is no different than that of the Brother that adorns his car or truck with Masonic decals. We only wish to promote Masonry and show our pride in this great Fraternity and to that end that the reputation of the institution may be firmly established and the world at large convinced of its good effect.

Texas Ruffians Masonic Motorcycle Riding Organization

Purpose: To promote Masonry in the general public as well as to promote fellowship between members of the Fraternity, to include Ancient Free & Accepted Masons. This group is NOT a Motorcycle Club. We do not recruit membership from the general public. We are members of the oldest and largest Fraternity in the world. We have taken an obligation to uphold the values and principles of Masonry.

Qualifications for Membership: A member in good standing in a Masonic Lodge that is recognized by the Ancient Free & Accepted Grand Lodge of Texas.

(a) Membership Application – Any interested candidate will provide a current dues card indicating that the candidate is in good standing within an accepted Lodge under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Texas, AF&AM, or under the jurisdiction of a Grand Lodge recognized by the Grand Lodge of Texas.

Organizational Structure: In the Ruffian organization each Master Mason is an equal member. Everyone has the freedom to suggest rides, and functions that would be beneficial to the Craft, each other, and our fellow Man.

This group was first organized in Southern Maryland, by Master Mason Bro. Gene Gullickson, a Member of Prince Frederick Lodge No. 142, AF&AM. It was his vision to create a group of like-minded Masons with the same interest in motorcycling, and the fellowship of travelling with your Brothers. Brother Gene Gullickson designed the patch and holds the copyright on it. The manufacture, sale and use of the design will be solely controlled by him. All Texas Ruffian Coordinators will contact Brother Gene Gullickson for purchase of the patch set. This is to ensure the compliance of the rules of membership, and maintain the Ruffians contact list.

Chapters: Since we do not claim any kind of territory, each Blue Lodge is considered a chapter, and signified by the bottom patch and the Lodge number to its right.

Rules: The Ruffians emblems are three distinct and historical patches that are displayed on the outside of each fraternal member's jacket. These patches will be explained to each member as needed. Individuals that have been accepted within an approved Lodge to receive the three degrees of Masonry will be eligible to petition the Ruffians for membership.

1. Jackets/vest – All Ruffians will be required to display their patches on a black leather jacket or vest. No exceptions.
2. Motorcycles – All Ruffians will ride a motorcycle or trike with a 600cc or greater engine displacement. Not brand specific.
3. Compliance – Any Ruffian that is expelled or suspended from Masonry will be required to turn in his patches along with any other items affiliated with the Ruffians, such as T-shirts with

Ruffian logo, belts, stickers, etc. If a Member is accepted back into the Masonic Fraternity by the Grand Lodge of Texas, he may re-apply to join the Ruffian Masonic Motorcycle Riding Group.

4. Conduct – Ruffian members will be expected to conduct themselves in a manner that will reflect favorably upon the Masonic Fraternity. We are Master Masons and hold ourselves to a higher standard of conduct and any Member behaving in a manner that would reflect poorly on the Fraternity or would be perceived as behavior not upholding to the principals, teachings and precepts of Master Masonry will be required to turn in his patches and be disassociated with the Ruffian organization. Members will not be permitted to join the C.O.C. (Coalition of Clubs) or provide support in any way.
5. Continued Membership – All Texas Ruffian Members will be required to send a current copy of their dues card yearly indicating membership in good standing in a Lodge under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Texas, AF&AM, to the Texas Ruffian Coordinator.

Patches:

- Entered Apprentice – will be identified with a bottom patch identifying an accepted Masonic Lodge. Located above the bottom patch and off to the right, will be a smaller square patch identifying the Lodge number associated with the Entered Apprentice.
- Fellowcraft – will be identified with the same patches as an Entered Apprentice. In addition, the Fellowcraft will display a top patch with the name RUFFIANS.
- Master Mason – will be identified with the same patches as an Entered Apprentice and Fellowcraft as stated above. In addition, they will receive the center patch displaying the Square and Compasses.

Dues: No annual dues! All money accrued by Ruffians will be attributed to fundraising events that will promote the purpose of our Fraternity.

Steve Melton

RESOLUTION NO. 24

Referred to Committee on Membership

WHEREAS, Art. 449 forbids a Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction from obtaining jurisdiction over a candidate who has been rejected in another Grand Jurisdiction until that period of rejection has elapsed, and

WHEREAS, Art. 457 forbids a Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction from waiving jurisdiction over, or accepting a petition from, or conferring any degree upon a rejected candidate until that period of rejection has elapsed, and

WHEREAS, Art. 400 permits a waiver of jurisdiction to be requested on behalf of a rejected candidate while a period of rejection is in effect which is in contrast to Art. 449 regarding rejections that have occurred outside this Grand Jurisdiction, and

WHEREAS, requesting a waiver of jurisdiction on behalf of a rejected candidate while a period of rejection is in effect per Art. 400 is in contrast to Art. 457 by asking a Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction to grant one, and

WHEREAS, Art. 400 creates a loophole for a Lodge to accept and act upon a petition from a rejected candidate while a period of rejection is in effect which is also in contrast to Art. 457, and

WHEREAS, the procedure on how to handle previously rejected candidates needs to be uniform and consistent,

THEREFORE, be it resolved that Art. 400 be amended as follows:

Art. 400. Suspicion of Former Rejection. A Lodge having reason to believe or to suspect that a candidate has once been rejected, must not proceed with conferring the degrees until the matter has been thoroughly investigated [and, if found to be true, must either suspend further action upon the petition, or request a waiver of jurisdiction, if the other Lodge still retains it; or take such other action as the facts may warrant]. If it is discovered that a candidate has a prior rejection from any regular Lodge, and if that Lodge still possesses jurisdiction, all action upon the petition must cease. All fees that have been prepaid shall be refunded, and the facts of the matter shall be disclosed at the next stated meeting and noted in the minutes.

John L. W. Peters

RESOLUTION NO. 25

Referred to Committee on Membership

WHEREAS, the present provisions of Article 358 of our laws provides that any Brother holding parent membership in a Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction and residing in another Grand Jurisdiction with which we are in fraternal accord is permitted to petition a Lodge in such Grand Jurisdiction for plural membership, if such membership is permitted by the laws of the other Grand Jurisdiction, and

WHEREAS, those present provisions denies a Texas Mason the privilege of plural membership in a Lodge situated in another Grand Jurisdiction – if his residence is within the Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Texas, and

WHEREAS, the present provisions of Article No. 358, being applicable to all Texas Masons who are members of other Masonic related organizations recognized by the Grand Lodge of Texas, restricts the privilege of reciprocal plural memberships among other recognized Grand Jurisdictions,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Article 358 of the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas be amended as follows:

Art. 358. Plural Membership in Another Grand Jurisdiction. Any Brother holding his parent membership in a Lodge of this Grand Jurisdiction [and domiciled in another Grand Jurisdiction with which we are in fraternal relations] is privileged to petition a Lodge in [such] another Grand Jurisdiction for plural membership therein, if such membership is authorized by the laws of such Jurisdiction.

Orville L. O'Neill

RESOLUTION NO. 26

Referred to Committee on Work

WHEREAS, in the Glossary of the *Monitor of the Lodge*, page 240, under the term "Representatives of the Lesser Lights," it states: "In Masonry, three slender candles or candle-like electric lights near the Altar...formerly arranged differently for each degree. For full explanation, see "The Three Lesser Lights," by Jewel P. Lightfoot, Texas Grand Lodge Magazine, August, 1938."

WHEREAS, in the *Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas*, Form 75 illustrates that the Representatives of the Lesser Lights are to be arranged in an equilateral triangle on the south side of the altar, and

WHEREAS, in his *Manual of the Lodge*, PGM Jewel P. Lightfoot describes through illustrations (circumambulation diagrams), three distinct arrangements of the Representatives of the Lesser Lights, each degree having its own unique arrangement and esoteric significance,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Grand Lodge of Texas that Constituent Lodges of this Grand Jurisdiction, who desire to do so, be granted the option to arrange the Representatives of the Lesser Lights in the manner prescribed and illustrated in Lightfoot's *Manual of the Lodge*, when at labor in the Entered Apprentice and Fellowcraft Degrees.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Form 75a and 75b be established to illustrate the optional arrangements of the Representatives of the Lesser Lights for the Entered Apprentice and Fellowcraft Degrees, respectively.

San Marcos Lodge No. 342

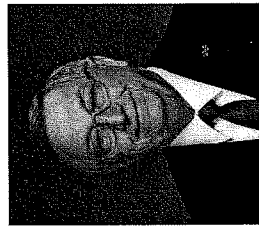
GRAND MASTER'S RECOMMENDATION

None

STATEMENTS OF AVAILABILITY

STATEMENT OF AVAILABILITY

FOR GRAND JUNIOR WARDEN



J. WELDON CLAMPITTE

Bellaire Lodge No. 1336

Raised – February 5, 1959
 Worshipful Master – 1977 – 1978
 Secretary, 2003 – 2009
 Endowed Member – 1988
 Life Member – 1978
 Golden Trowel – 1994
 50-Year Service Award – 2008

PLURAL AND ENDOWED MEMBERSHIPS

Holland Lodge No. 1 – Endowed Member, 2000
 Hubert Lodge No. 67
 Post Oak Island Lodge No. 181
 Gray Lodge No. 329 – Worshipful Master – 1992 – 1993;
 Endowed Member, 1988
 Lone Star Lodge No. 660, Secretary – 2009 – present
 Park Place Lodge No. 1172
 West University Lodge No. 1292, Secretary – 2011 – present
 J. W. Chandler Lodge No. 1452, Charter Member; Treasurer – 1988 –
 1992; Endowed Member – 1992
 Tranquility Lodge No. 2000
 Texas Lodge of Research

GRAND LODGE OF TEXAS

Esoeric A Certificate, 1972 – 2009; Life – 2009
 District Deputy Grand Master – Masonic District 30-E – 1987
 Grand Senior Deacon – 1983
 Grand Marshal – 1990
 Grand Orator – 2006

Grievances and Appeals Committee No. 2 – 1989 – 2000; Chairman –
 1989, 1993, 2000
 Grievances and Appeals Committee – 2001 – 2012; Chairman – 2001 –
 2007; Vice-Chairman – 2008 – 2012
 Return of Lodges U.D. No. 1 – 1996
 Asst. State Coordinator – 2000; 2001; 2002
 Area Workshop Coordinator – 1991; 1985 through 1990; 1993; 1996
 Grand Master's Planning Team – 1987; 1992; 1996; 1997; 1999; 2000;
 2001; 2002; 2006
 Grand Representative – Oregon – 2006 – Present
 William M. Beck Award – 2003
 Sam Houston Hall of Fame Membership – 1992

PERSONAL PROFILE

Education

San Jacinto High School, Houston – 1955
 Houston Community College – 1981; Phi Theta Kappa

Business/Profession

Houston Police Department, Retired – 1983
 Sergeant of Detectives, Homicide Division – 27 years
 Harris County District Attorney's Office, Retired – 2004, 19 years

Civic Activity

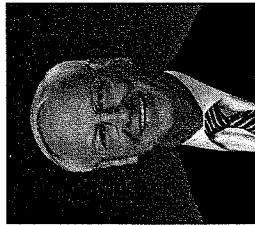
Texas Masonic Youth, DeMolay
 Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo, Lifetime Committeeman
 Military Service – United States Navy Reserve – 1954 – 1967

Family

Married Laura Clampitte – 1984
 Children – Four daughters
 Grandchildren – Two grandsons and two granddaughters

STATEMENT OF AVAILABILITY

FOR GRAND JUNIOR WARDEN



WENDELL PAUL MILLER

Brooklyn Lodge No. 386

Raised - May 16, 1970, (in James Ladd Burgess No. 1305);
Worshipful Master - 1999-2000 - Endowed Member;
Golden Trowel - 2002

PLURAL AND ENDOWED MEMBERSHIPS

Claud L. Austin Lodge No. 1450 - Worshipful Master, 2005 - 2006;
Endowed Member; Golden Trowel—2010
Artesia Lodge No. 406 - Endowed Member
Duck Creek Lodge No. 1419 - Endowed Member
Scyene Lodge No. 295 - Charter Member;
Worshipful Master, 2004 - 2005

GRAND LODGE OF TEXAS

Esoteric A Certificate, 2002 - Current
Esoteric B Certificate, 1998 - 2001
District Deputy Grand Master - Masonic District 13 - 2001
District Instructor - Masonic District 13 - 2003 - 2007; 2010 - Present
Grand Junior Steward - 2010
Area Workshop Coordinator - 2002 - Current
Grand Master's Conference Team - 2002; Grand Master's DDGM
Training Team - 2012;
Grand Master's Planning Team - 2013
Together Against Drug Abuse Committee - 2002 - 2008
Grievance and Appeals Committee - 2003-2009; Chairman, 2007 - 2009;
Member, 2011-2012

PERSONAL PROFILE

Education

Caddo High School, Caddo, Oklahoma - 1957 - 1961

Southeastern Oklahoma State University - 1961 - 1962
Northwestern University - 1991

Army Command and Staff College - 1986 - 1988

Business/Profession

Dallas Police Department - 1964 - 1967;
Texas Department of Public Safety, 1967 - 2003; Retired, 2003;
Major (Regional Commander)

Military

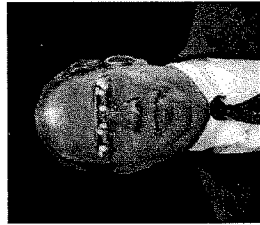
United States Army Reserve - 1965 - 1993, Retired Lieutenant
Colonel

Family

Married to Billie, 1967

STATEMENT OF AVAILABILITY

FOR COMMITTEE ON WORK



GARY L. ALEXANDER

Richland Hills Lodge No. 1348

Raised - April 26, 1993
 Worshipful Master - 1997 - 1998
 Secretary, 2001 - 2007, 2011 - Present
 Endowed Member - 1998
 Golden Trowel Award - 2001

PLURAL MEMBERSHIPS

Northern Star Lodge No. 377

GRAND LODGE OF TEXAS

Esoteric A Certificates, One-Year - 1994
 Esoteric A Certificates, Three-Year - 1995 - Present
 District Deputy Grand Master - Masonic District No. 64-D - 2004
 District Instructor - Masonic District No. 64-A 1998 - 1999
 District Instructor - Masonic District No. 64-D 2000 - 2011
 Communications Committee - 2003 - 2006
 Take Time to Read Committee - 2007
 Lodge Assistance Mentor Program, Vice-Chairman, 2008;
 Chairman, 2009 - 2010
 Grand Master's Planning Team - 2012

PERSONAL PROFILE

Education

W. W. Samuel High School, Dallas, Texas - 1969 Honors
 University of Texas at Arlington, Arlington, Texas - B.A. 1974

Business/Profession

Alexander and Associates, Consultants, Managing Partner
 Graphics to Go Graphic Design Company, Owner - 2000 - 2012
 Autonation USA, Fort Lauderdale, FL, General Manager - 1999

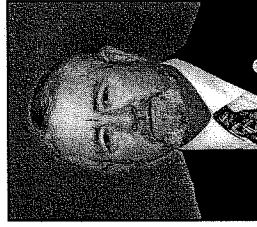
Premier Benefits Company - Prescript Pharmacy Plan,
 Owner - 1993 - 2012
 International Dental Plan/Association Dental Plan,
 Vice President - 1994 - 1995
 United Insurance Companies, Inc., Vice President - 1991 - 1994
 G E Capital Retail Credit Division, Regional Vice President - 1985
 - 1989
 Advisory Committee Member, Chapter 13 Bankruptcy Trustee,
 Northern District of Texas
 U S Trustee Office Pilot Program - 1980

Civic Activity

Boy Scouts of America, Adult Leader - 1988 - 1992
 Mayfield Road Baptist Church - Deacon
 Stoneridge Homeowners Association - Secretary
 JRS Special Needs Trust - Trustee

Family

Married to Sherry Alvis - 1974
 Children - Jeffery and Wife, Melody

STATEMENT OF AVAILABILITY**FOR COMMITTEE ON WORK****RICKY D. BROWN****Seagoville Lodge No. 654**

Raised - June 7, 2003
 Worshipful Master - 2008 - 2009
 Endowed Member - 2010

PLURAL AND ENDOWED MEMBERSHIPS

Pentagon Lodge No. 1080 - Worshipful Master - 2010 - 2011;
 Endowed Member - 2011
 Trinity Valley Lodge No. 1048 - Endowed Member 2007

GRAND LODGE OF TEXAS

Esoteric B Certificate, One-Year - 2006
 Esoteric A Certificates, One-Year - 2007
 Esoteric A Certificates, Three-Year - 2008 - Present
 District Deputy Grand Master - Masonic District No. 14-H - 2011
 District Instructor - Masonic District No. 14-C - 2008 - 2010;
 2011 - Present

PERSONAL PROFILE**Education**

W. W. Samuel High School, Dallas, Texas - 1972

Business/Profession

U. S. Postal Service - 10 years
 Kwik Wash Laundry Company - 10 years
 Cabinet Maker/Carpenter - self-employed - 20 years to Present

Civic Activity

Hurricane Katrina FEMA Reconstruction - 2005

Family

Married to Cynthia D. Hill - 1982
 Three Children - Tammie and Husband, Tony; Marcus and Wife,
 Courtney; Brad
 Five Grandchildren

STATEMENT OF AVAILABILITY**FOR COMMITTEE ON WORK****ALAN R. JOHNSON****Jacksonville Lodge No. 108**

Raised - May 22, 1980
 Worshipful Master - 2009 - 2010
 Endowed Member - 2008

PLURAL MEMBERSHIPS

Bullard Lodge No. 785 - Worshipful Master, 2008 - 2009;
 Endowed Member - 2008
 Tranquility Lodge No. 2000
 Texas Lodge of Research

GRAND LODGE OF TEXAS

Esoteric B Certificates, One-Year - 2006 - 2007
 Esoteric B Certificates, Three Year - 2008 - 2009
 Esoteric A Certificate, One - Year - 2009 - 2011
 Esoteric A Certificates, Three-Year - 2011 - Present
 District Deputy Grand Master - Masonic District No. 21-A - 2011
 District Instructor - Masonic District No. 21-A 2010 - 2012

PERSONAL PROFILE**Education**

Jacksonville High School, Jacksonville, Texas - 1971
 Lon Morris College, Jacksonville, Texas - A. A. - 1973
 Baylor University, Waco, Texas - B.B.A. - 1977

Business/Profession

Independent Insurance Agent - 34 years to present

Civic Activity

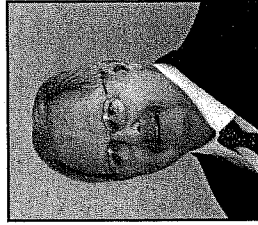
Jacksonville Kiwanis Club, President - 1985

Family

Wife, Jan Johnson, deceased - 1990
 Two step-children and two adopted daughters

STATEMENT OF AVAILABILITY

FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MASONIC HOME AND SCHOOL



CHARLES B. COCKRELL

Archives Lodge No. 1399

Raised – May 11, 1982
Life Member, 2002
Golden Trowel, 2005

PLURAL AND ENDOWED MEMBERSHIPS

La Porte Lodge No. 857 – Worshipful Master, 2008 – 2009;
Endowed Member – 2009
Corrigan Lodge No. 1103 – Endowed Member – 2008
Pasadena Lodge No. 1155 – Endowed Member – 2009
Freedom Lodge No. 1461
Tranquility Lodge No. 2000 – Secretary, 2005 – Present;
Endowed Member – 2007

GRAND LODGE OF TEXAS

District Deputy Grand Master – Masonic District No. 30-H - 2011 – 20012
Sam Houston Hall of Fame, Member

PERSONAL PROFILE

Education

Pasadena High School, Pasadena, Texas, 1965
Pipefitters Apprentice School – 1970 – 1975

Business/Profession

Outsides Fabrication Sales and Estimating, Retired 2002
Pipefitters Local Union No. 211 – Nominating Committees,
Election Committee, Chairman
Pipefitters Retirees Club, President – 2005 – Present

Civic Activity

Pasadena School Board – Advisor

Pasadena PTA – President

Pasadena Football, Baseball and Basketball Booster Clubs,
President

La Porte Community Center Hurricane Ike Volunteer

Pasadena Ronald McDonald Basketball Tournament Volunteer

Military

U. S. Army – June 28, 1967 – June 27, 1969
Combat Medic – Vietnam – 1967 – 1968
Bronze Star with "V"; E-5 Honorable Discharge

Family

Married Lynn Reber, February 14, 1976
Children – Ben W. Cockrell; Casey L. Cockrell and wife, Tasha Nichole
Grandchildren - One