

Alvin Masonic Lodge No. 762 A.F. & A.M.



Nelson Eng, Worshipful Master

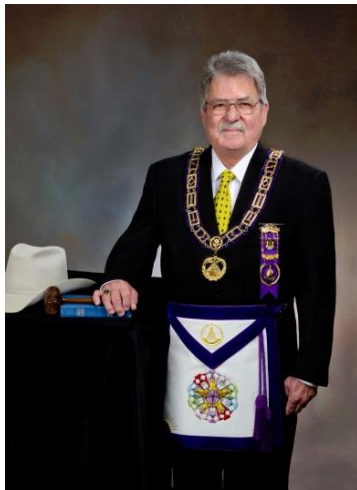
Glenn Starkey, Lodge Secretary

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APRIL 2013

NEWSLETTER

April showers bring May flowers...and hail storms. We haven't had much rain, but when we do, we get the whole enchilada. The last rain brought hardball sized hail that smashed residential windows, destroyed cars, and created power losses in neighboring communities. Alvin lucked out though and only received a fierce thunderstorm. Forget the May flowers. I'll be lucky to have trees still standing!



Mark Your Calendars! On the evening of April 10th, 6:30 pm, at the **Alvin Lodge**, the MWSA (*Masters, Wardens, and Secretaries Association*) will honor Walter W. Rogers, Grand Master of Masons in Texas. **It will be an open meeting** with a delicious meal and a great opportunity to enjoy fellowship and hear the Grand Master speak about Masonry. Bring your wives! If you are an EA or FC, come join us! You will enjoy meeting a true example of a Texas Mason.

The Alvin Lodge congratulates Judge Donna Starkey, Municipal Judge for the City of Alvin, on receiving our "2013 Community Builder" award. She has promoted safety and welfare programs for citizens; educational programs for children in the Alvin

school district, and serves as the President of the Texas Municipal Courts Association to enhance the criminal justice educational processes for all municipal judges and court clerks across the state of Texas. Her city court office has received recognition and numerous awards from the city and state for their community program involvement and efforts. Most recently the State of Texas Department of Transportation recognized Judge Starkey's office for its promotion of educational programs. She is an avid supporter of her community and its welfare.



CALENDAR TIME!

<http://www.alvinlodge.org/calendar.html>

1. **April 10, Wednesday** – Come meet the Grand Master of Masons in Texas at our lodge.
2. **April 20, Saturday** – Baked Potato Sale at our lodge by the John Wayne Chapter 3667 of the Order of DeMolay. The Sale goes from 9 am to 3 pm.
3. **Every Monday night** – Degrees or "C" School at the lodge
4. **Second Wednesday of every month** – MWSA Meeting at our lodge.
5. **Second Thursday of every month** – **FAMILY NIGHT** – Masons, OES, and DeMolay
6. **Second and Fourth Tuesday of every month** – OES Meeting
7. **First and Third Thursdays** – **Alvin Lodge #762 Stated Meeting.** Come join your brothers!

8. **Every fourth Thursday** – LIFE Program training at the Alvin Lodge.

For those who have not paid yet, your 2013 lodge dues are past due. We don't want to suspend anyone but after calling and trying to contact these brothers, and receiving no reply, they leave us no choice. I will send a letter to everyone with dues in arrears then prepare a Suspend List. But, **Thank You** to all who paid, provided me with updated contact information, and sent donations to assist with the postage. Having good email addresses allows me to communicate lodge information in the swiftest and most inexpensive manner.

Arlene Squires, Worthy Matron, OES #15 I didn't receive any news announcements from OES, but check our website's calendar <http://www.alvinlodge.org/calendar.html> for their meeting dates or any special events.

Mark Peebler, Advisor, John Wayne Chapter # 3667



I always try to include the latest news about the Chapter's activities – but this time there is simply so much good news that I don't have room to fit it all in with the participants' names! Our John Wayne Chapter has been busy.



They attended the Frank Marshall Tournament in March and took honors again! There was a tie for First Place in the Open Level Magnificent Seven. They won Fourth Section Salutatorian Medals. They won the Championship Best PM Councilor in the Fourth Section. They earned Proficiency Medals at the tournament – and more. That was all hard work and they well deserve our congratulations.



If you are Facebook, catch up on the latest information about the John Wayne Chapter # 3667, Order of DeMolay at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/John-Wayne-Chapter-3667-Order-of-DeMolay-Alvin-Texas/483169650391>

Speaking of achievements, we have a number of our brethren who deserve congratulations as well.

Our lodge is quite fortunate to have so many “certificate” holders as we do. It shows in the quality of our degree ceremonies and in the education of our members. Six of our brothers received esoteric work certificates and I want everyone to know of their accomplishments from the hard work they too put forth.



Brothers Robin Winslett and Gerald Wheeler received their “A” Certificates.

Brothers Nelson Eng, Al Pool, Paul Pool, and Craig Woodard received their “C” Certificates.

Everyone who studies and puts in the long hours of practice becomes a valuable resource for our lodge – and other lodges as well because they go assist in degree ceremonies. **Congratulations, Brothers.**



WORDS TO PONDER

“Sometimes the questions are complicated and the answers are simple.”

— **Dr. Seuss**

FROM THE SECRETARY’S DESK

I took on a six month contract to be the Security Director of a major industrial port. I’m also Secretary of the Lodge. And on top of that, each Tuesday (*I had it placed in my Security Director contract to allow me the day off*) I volunteer at the schools assisting children with their reading skills -- and I am a published author of three novels with two more novels waiting to be finished. Sometimes there are just not enough hours in the day to do what I need to do, much less what I would like to do. So, whenever I hear someone talking about how they don’t have time for this or that, I’m always interested, especially when they do not have a job which requires them to be on-call 24/7, they get off work sharply at 5 pm, and don’t have to work on the weekends in order to keep up the workload



from their jobs.

When you are young and have children to raise, their school activities can eat up your free time. (*Been there, done that!*) If you are continuing your education by going to college at night after work, that will wear you down with the classes and their studies. (*I remember those days!*) You are working rotating shifts pulling twelve hours at a whack, then that will wreck your body as well as your mind. (*Most of the time you don’t know what day it is, much less have time with your family.*) And there is always something that must be fixed around a house. (*Murphy’s Law: If it can break, it will, and at the wrong time.*) But when you haven’t been to lodge in so long that you can’t



remember the last time you attended, at least be honest with yourself about why. I state this for a reason.

With the younger generation there is an addiction to social media. For some reason, which I've never fully understood, they feel compelled to place their every action on Twitter and Facebook. "I'm here at the Astros game with *(name a person)*..." "I'm out at the deer lease..." "I'm at *(name the place)* with *(name a person)* ..." Then they post photos of everyone raising "adult beverages" into the air.

On one occasion we were discussing very important business at the lodge. A brother (who rarely came) wanted to provide input on the matter. I advised him to come to the lodge and hear all of the discussion. He immediately replied with a statement about how I didn't know everyone's personal situation and why they didn't come to lodge. It was a bit of a tirade, primarily arising from his guilt of not attending when he knew he could have. Why do I believe it was his guilt? Because he constantly placed his social activities on Facebook for the world to see, and he was definitely not restrained from coming to lodge by his Monday through Friday, 8 to 5 job.

The point to all of this is to be honest with yourself. If you can't be honest with yourself, then it's tough to be honest with others – especially a masonic brother.

We all need a break at times to help with "mental burn-out"; a few simple hours to sit, relax, and basically 'veg' out. And we especially need quality time to spend with family or to partake in some form of personal enjoyment.

I think it's often too easy to over-schedule lodge events whereby you never have family free time (Every Monday nights is a degree or esoteric practice; Wednesday nights are meetings; Thursday nights are meetings or gatherings, and include fund-raising work or special weekend needs.)



The key to remember is that you wanted to become a Mason, and part of that obligation requires periodic attendance and being a part of the lodge. ***Even if you only come to the stated meetings (that's two nights in a month), that would be better than never coming at all.***

Get out your twenty-four inch gauge, dust it off, and evaluate your time once more. Bring balance back into your life. Remember when you laid your hands upon the Holy Bible and willingly took the obligation? ***I'm sure GOD remembers even if you have forgotten.***

We have new officers, Secretary, and Treasurer in office now. Pretty soon, there will be a new set of folks taking the lodge positions. And we have a lot of new members too. So, things are different from when you last came – and you can help make our lodge better by getting involved. Your voice in our lodge is important.

As Secretary, I'm not begging anyone to return to lodge. I'm just asking you to join us once again as our brother.

"So Mote It Be"

Have you volunteered lately? When we help others without asking anything in return, we are making the world a better place for us, our children, and our children's children.

Always remember, you CAN make a difference.

The following website links are for your use. We post lodge information there and a large number of people are reading and using them as an informational stop. This technology is helping us get the latest news to you in the swiftest manner!

Alvin Lodge Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Alvin-Lodge-762-Ancient-Free-and-Accepted-Masons/>

Alvin Lodge Website: <http://www.alvinlodge.org/>

Alvin Lodge Calendar of Events: <http://www.alvinlodge.org/calendar.html>

Alvin Lodge Email: AlvinLodge762@gmail.com

John Wayne Chapter # 3667, Order of DeMolay Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/John-Wayne-Chapter-3667-Order-of-DeMolay-Alvin-Texas/483169650391>

Hope the newsletter provided food for thought. I always ask for news to share, so send it to me at our lodge email address. I want everyone to know about our Masonic family's accomplishments. Send me your feedback on the newsletter. Something in particular you would like to see in it?

Sincerely and fraternally,

Glenn

And don't forget your taxes are due April 15th!
You don't want the IRS knocking on your door....

