

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



Nelson Eng, Worshipful Master

Glenn Starkey, Lodge Secretary

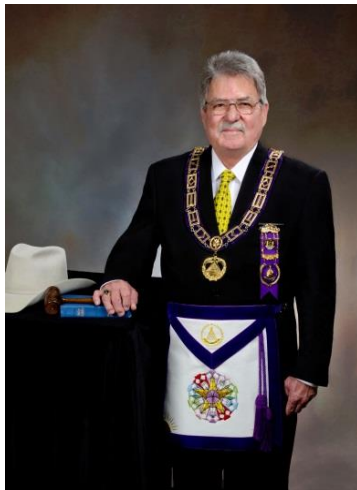
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**MARCH 2013**

**NEWSLETTER**

**March? Where did February go? And the time change has arrived again? Oh well, time flies when you're having fun, doesn't it?**

And by the way, **"Happy St. Patrick's Day!"** St. Patrick died on 17 March 461. It's amazing that the tradition of recognizing this day has lasted so long. Trivia though: Did you know the color originally associated with St. Patrick was "blue?"



**The MWSA (Masters, Wardens, and Secretaries Association)** held a Fish Fry in February to honor Walter W. Rogers, Grand Master of Masons in Texas. It was a great event and wonderful opportunity for everyone to enjoy fellowship with our Grand Master. The food was plentiful, delicious, and if you went away hungry, it was your own fault! Everyone that met our Grand Master spoke highly of him and said he was a true example of what a Mason should be! And he was truly appreciative of the efforts made on his behalf...

Have you ever seen the Grand Master's schedule? Talk about traveling and staying busy! If you ever have the opportunity to go to a conference or meeting where he's attending, be sure to go because it will be worth the trip. You can learn more about his schedule on the Grand Lodge of Texas website which has been totally revised and given a new look.

## **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

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1. **Thursday night, March 14 – Family Night** at our lodge. We will present our **COMMUNITY BUILDER Award** to **Judge Donna Starkey**, and then our John Wayne Chapter 3667 of the Order of DeMolay will present a program. Come share an evening of fellowship. The Pot-Luck-Dinner begins at 6:30 p.m.
2. **Monday nights – Degrees or "C" School**
3. **Wednesday night, March 13<sup>th</sup>** – MWSA Meeting – Master, Wardens, and Secretaries Association
4. **Thursday night, March 21st** – **Stated Meeting, Alvin Lodge #762.** Come join your brothers!

**For those who have not paid yet, your 2013 lodge dues are past due.** We don't want to suspend anyone so please send your dues in if you haven't yet. And **Thank You** to the endowed members and all who have promptly paid, sent me address updates, plus sent donations to assist with the postage. Your gift is greatly appreciated. I'm using this opportunity to update our official records and the Grand Lodge records with correct contact information and email addresses. 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 this month, but check our website's calendar <http://www.alvinlodge.org/calendar.html> for their meeting dates or any special programs. OES always has a worthy activity in progress!



**On February 1<sup>st</sup>, Mayor Gary Appelt of the City of Alvin issued a Proclamation** recognizing the John Wayne Chapter of the Order of DeMolay and celebration of the Order's 93<sup>rd</sup> anniversary. And, February 16<sup>th</sup>, the chapter was in Austin for Government Day taking part in its official activities. They are a serious group, but every now and then you have to loosen your tie and relax – and that's why I've included this photo. **CONGRATULATIONS** to all in their achievements. John Wayne would be proud of each of you!



*Check our lodge website calendar for their posted activity dates or go to their Facebook page noted at the end of this newsletter.*





## WORDS TO PONDER

**“Thinking outside of the box”**

*(Have you tried it lately?)*

## FROM THE SECRETARY’S DESK

Every lodge is confronted with problems. Some can be resolved by doing what you are supposed to do, and using common sense, while others require ingenuity and creativity. That’s where **“Thinking outside of the Box”** comes into play.

The most common problems in our lodges today are: (1) dwindling membership, (2) loss of members not returning to lodge after becoming Master Masons, and (3) lodge financial woes. You don’t have to be a rocket scientist to recognize any one of these problems in a lodge —and there are more, but those are the dark ones that no one wants to admit exist and are a main cause for #2—members leaving.

In 2012, the Grand Lodge distributed an excellent PowerPoint presentation addressing this very problem of why members leave and rarely return. *Did you see it?* Every Worshipful Master of the Lodge received the presentation.

As for solving the financial problems of a lodge, dues payments are just not enough these days to keep a lodge afloat, especially when building maintenance, increased insurance rates, and rising utility costs are knocking on your door.



That is when fund raisers become a key to survival. Sadly, though, you find you now have a problem within an existing problem: What fund raiser do you do and how will you do it without adequate membership participation?



*To solve problems in a lodge it takes true leadership, early proper planning, and a unified lodge membership.* Take one of those elements out of the equation and you have set yourself up for failure.

If you have a fund raiser that has been a consistent money-maker for you, then by all means, keep going! But if your activities to raise funds for the lodge are consistently more work than they are of benefit, or you only break even, then it is time to *think outside of the box* for new ideas. **Why do people repeat the same actions which do not work well, then expect a different outcome?** The most common answer to that question is: “That’s how we’ve always done it.”

When it comes to solving problems and coming up with new ideas, if you dump the responsibility for a fund raiser on one person then walk away—well, don't cry in your milk when the fund raiser fails.

America was born from its creativity, hard work, and ingenuity. Ever heard the saying, "Necessity is the mother of invention." The necessity is a fund raiser to support the lodge, and the invention is the new idea you come up with to achieve that goal.

Look for new ideas. Talk to your membership and seek their help – it's their lodge too. If you're not getting help from your members, then you have a bigger problem in existence than a fund raiser. Be honest with them, as well as yourself. If the lodge can't support itself, much less perform the charitable acts it is supposed to be doing, then it fails—and when it fails, the doors close forever. Yes, lodges have failed financially and had to close.

Research all the activities performed by various charitable organizations and borrow from their successes. No one said you have to reinvent the wheel, but whatever you do, don't repeat the same actions which don't work then expect a different outcome.

### ***"So Mote It Be"***

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***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](mailto: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 pay attention to the speed limit the next time you're taking your magic carpet for a spin around the block....

