

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



Nelson Eng, Worshipful Master

Glenn Starkey, Lodge Secretary, 281-585-3989

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**NOVEMBER  
2012**

**NEWSLETTER**



## Time Change

All clocks fall back  
one hour November 4

**You get to sleep an extra hour....** This year is flying by! Seems like we just started our new masonic year then Halloween arrived and now Thanksgiving is only a few weeks away... Blink an eye and Santa is coming!

**Congratulations to** Bros. W.G. Middlebrook Jr., Sam Rowe, Wilburn Koenig, and Andy Zumwalt Jr. for their 60 Year Service Awards. **Congratulations to** Bros. Garrett Miller, Douglas Oberhoff, and Ross Mitchell for their 50 Year Service Awards. **And Congratulations to** Bro. Glenn Starkey, your Secretary, for his 25 Year Service Award.

**Congratulations to** Past Master Al Pool, Worshipful Master Nelson Eng, Senior Warden Paul Pool, Junior Warden Craig Woodard for receiving/renewing their "C" Certificates, and Past Master Gerald Wheeler for receiving his "A" Certificate – all in October 2012. Our lodge holds a certificate school each Monday night if a degree is not scheduled. It's a great opportunity for Master Masons to brush up on the esoteric work. *All lodges are invited to participate if you wish!*



**Family Night, Thursday, November 8<sup>th</sup> is our Thanksgiving Dinner together.** Lodge Masons, OES, and DeMolay will be sharing this special evening of fellowship! Please come out and join your Masonic Family. Dinner will start at 6:30 p.m.

**We are also accepting donations of canned goods to feed several families in need this Thanksgiving. *This is a worthy cause.*** Be a part of it.

**2013 Lodge Dues Cards arrived. Be sure to send your dues payment.** An email was recently sent advising the card distribution methods this year. *Save the lodge some money.* If you live in town, stop by the lodge prior to any stated meeting and I will give you your card. For those brothers that are out-of-town or ill, I will gladly mail it to you. I'm also trying to properly update our official records with everyone's



correct mailing  
addresses and telephone  
numbers.

**Be sure to read the  
essay "A Mind is a  
Terrible Thing to  
Waste." It is at the  
end of the  
newsletter.**

**DON'T FORGET TO VOTE** in the Presidential election! A lot of good men and women have given their lives through the years to insure your freedom to do so. Your candidate may win or he may lose, but you can't complain about governmental actions if you don't go cast your ballot.

**Alvin Lodge Name Tags** are available now. They have a magnetic clip (which *really* holds tight) and no more pins and clips to hold it to your shirt. You can have your name or combination of name and office on the nametag if you wish. We have the signup form in the lodge dining room or you can contact Craig Woodard (832-643-0568) for more details.



**We have some great baseball type caps now for the lodge! Made by one of our brothers and is one of our many fund raisers. If any other lodge wants caps (they also come in brown), he'll make them and donate part of the proceeds to us!**

**The caps are in the Secretary's Office if you want to see one!**

**The MWSA (Masters, Wardens, Secretary Assn.) 31<sup>st</sup> District** is having their Thanksgiving Dinner on Wednesday, November 14<sup>th</sup> at our lodge. They meet on the second Wednesday of each month unless otherwise noted. Bro. Robin Winslett of our lodge is this year's Vice-President.

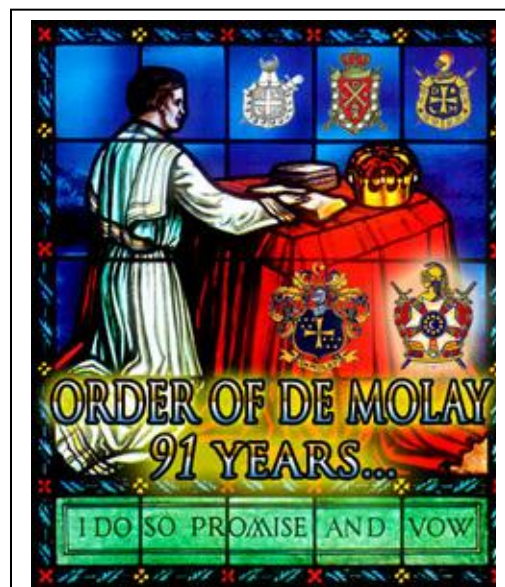
**Unfortunately, we recently lost a member of our Masonic family.** Richard Stillinger, husband of OES member Elizabeth Stillinger and son-in-law of Dodie & D.W. Pranger passed away. Our condolences and prayers are extended to the family. Please keep them in your hearts.

*Arlene Squires, Worthy Matron, OES #15*



I didn't receive any news announcements from OES for the month of November, but check our website's calendar <http://www.alvinlodge.org/calendar.html> . OES stated meetings are scheduled for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of each month.

*Mark Peebler, Advisor, John Wayne Chap. # 3667*



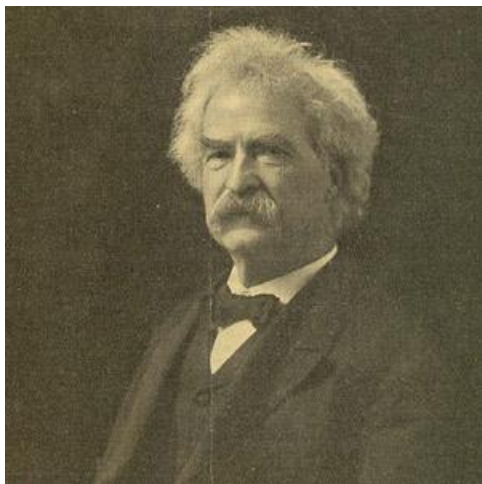
The John Wayne Chapter # 3667 stays busy... I didn't receive any special news announcements but I read about several upcoming events on their Facebook page. *Check our lodge website calendar for their posted dates or go to their Facebook page noted at the end of this newsletter.*

**The City of Alvin Municipal Court Week 5K Educational Run** will be held on Saturday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> from 8 a.m. to noon at Alvin's National Oak Park (same location our lodge held its Car Show.) More information is listed at the end of this newsletter. **Family Fun.**

**Is it written in stone?** It can be. The memory of anyone you wish to honor can be engraved in a brick and displayed upon our lodge walkway wall. Our **"Build a Wall of Fame" brick program** is ongoing and the wall is steadily getting bigger! For \$100 a brick you can place your name, a loved one's name, or anyone's name on a brick that will be displayed for years to come so everyone who walks into our lodge will see it. You can download the flyer and order sheet at <http://www.AlvinLodge.org>. If you have questions, send an email to our lodge and I will insure Bro. Robin Winslett receives them. He is coordinating this worthy project.

***Have you volunteered lately? Not just at the lodge*** (although we definitely can always use help in many ways), ***but volunteered to help anywhere!*** 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.***

**October's newsletter photograph quiz** must have been too hard. Only one person responded with the answer. **Congratulations to Bro. Robin Winslett** for knowing it was George Washington.



This month's photo: Does anyone know who this Mason is?

### ***FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK*** **"A mind is a terrible thing to waste...."**



These past weeks you've probably noticed the high volume of acorns falling from oak trees. Park your car near our lodge and you'll probably hear a steady *thunk* as the acorns fall and strike it. Walking to and from our building, you are bound to have a few land near you, if not on you.



At my age, after a war, years as a police officer, and a career in security, I believed I had reached a point where few things would surprise me. Evidently, I have not.

As I walked out of the lodge one afternoon, a gentleman riding a bicycle stopped to ask if I was the Worshipful Master. He said he had questions. I offered to answer any that I could, and he proceeded to ramble on about conspiracies, infiltration of the Masonic Order, and masonic laws to prohibit the government from taking one's property. It was then I realized an acorn had just fallen in front of me *again* and the only thing lacking was an aluminum foil hat to prevent alien penetration of his brain. We had a wonderful discussion with me nodding and him talking. But I resolved my dilemma by advising him when Nelson Eng, our wonderful Worshipful Master, would be available to further discuss his concerns. The gentleman left happy, and so did I—with mental images of that future meeting.

I say an acorn had fallen in front of me *again* because only a week ago I encountered another conspiracy theorist. While the bicyclist clearly suffered from some form of mental disorder, the other suffered from ignorance, something which cannot be cured by the medical profession, but only through education.

The Grand Lodge had received inquiries from a local person in our area about masonry. Seeing the man, (we will call him “John Q” for this writing) as a possible petitioner for our lodge, I was asked to contact him. I respectfully complied, wrote John Q and invited him to our lodge to meet the brothers and ask any questions he wished. Providing a basic foundation of our meeting times, our Family Nights, and the fellowship we have, I believed I'd been quite courteous and informative. And he replied.



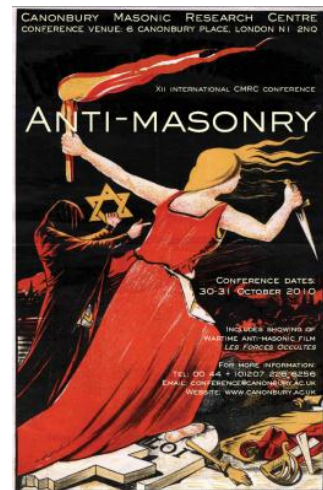
I will not have you suffer through the multiple misspellings of John Q's email, but in short he wrote that he didn't want his family caught up in something they couldn't handle. He had heard of freemasons' satanic worshipping and blood sacrifices, and wanted me to be upfront with him about our rituals. John Q said he watched a lot of television shows and knew of masons and the Illuminati. At this point I wondered if his aluminum foil hat was picking up interference from his television as he typed on his computer.

Wanting a neutral response, I asked a knowledgeable brother to compose an educated reply, one which should alleviate John Q's primitive beliefs. The reply was written quite well, informing him of great men, great achievements in masonry, and so forth. I sent it on to John Q.

Shortly, I received a reply thanking me for taking the time to answer—but—John Q had seen You Tube videos of secretly filmed masonic ceremonies in which they drank blood, etc., and he wanted to know if we were a cult or a devil worshipping organization. He even asked if he were to become a mason and learn our secrets and later decided masonry wasn't for him or his family, “*Do you kill people when they want out?*”

As I read such ignorance, a thought came to mind: “A mind is a terrible thing to waste.” Surely, he must be some individual who has nothing better to do than waste my time. But no, he was as serious as a heart attack. He was as I previously stated, ignorant. Ignorant of the truth like so many people about masonry.

John Q didn't suffer from a mental imbalance such as the bicyclist did. John Q was simply uneducated, never bothering to put forth the effort to truly expand his mind with knowledge, accepting only You Tube videos and conspiracy theory television programs as his rightful mental foundation. And that is what sets our masonic family apart from others—or at least it should because we highly value and encourage education among many other principles. Our history tells of men who were leaders, not followers; men who built a nation with democracy.



While we in masonry may have a hearty laugh at John Q's inquiries, it is sad commentary to realize that in today's modern age, people still believe as he does. Perform a quick search of "freemasons" on the internet and for every one truthful story, you will find ten which are malicious.

Yes, a mind is a terrible thing to waste. Actually, quite sad. We should lead by example in our daily lives so that the uneducated will learn the truths about us as masons. When we take office or position in the lodge, we should do so because of a desire to build a better lodge than the year before—not take office so we may say we have a title and then begin a daily countdown until our terms are over. There is so much to learn from people such as John Q, primarily that "a mind is a terrible thing to waste."



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The following website links are for your use. Our internet presence is very active. We post lodge information there and a large number of people are reading and using them as an informational stop. Our lodge is growing and 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>

That's all the latest news I have. Hope the newsletter has helped in some way. **If you have a story or news you would like to share, send it to me at our lodge email address so I can post it.** I want everyone to know about our Masonic family's accomplishments.

Give me your feedback on the newsletter. Something else you would like to see in it?

*Sincerely and fraternally,*  
*Glenn*

# ALVIN MUNICIPAL COURT WEEK

## 5K EDUCATIONAL FUN RUN

JOIN THE CITY OF ALVIN MUNICIPAL  
COURT AS WE EDUCATE OUR  
YOUTH AND COMMUNITY DURING  
MUNICIPAL COURT WEEK

Date: NOVEMBER 3, 2012

Time: 8:00 AM-12 PM

EVENT LOCATION:

NATIONAL OAK PARK

118 S MAGNOLIA ST, ALVIN, TX 77511

Join us as we run at the Beautiful Alvin  
National Oak Park. This is not a timed  
race, just a run for completion. Run or  
Walk. You can set your own pace!

EVERYONE IS A WINNER!

**FREE**

RESTROOMS &  
WATER STATIONS  
PROVIDED

### FREE ENTRY!

ALL AGES WELCOME TO PARTICIPATE!  
CERTIFICATE ISSUED AT THE END OF RUN

### **PRIZES**

QUIZ AND  
PRIZE DRAWING



### ON RUN DAY:

Wear Comfortable Shoes  
Sign In at Registration Table  
Complete Entry Form

Children **MUST** be  
accompanied by an  
adult that remains at  
the event.

## NOVEMBER 3

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

CARRIE YOST, JUVENILE CASE MANAGER  
CITY OF ALVIN MUNICIPAL COURT  
216 W. SEALY ST \* ALVIN, TX, 77511  
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281-388-4250