



OCT 2013  
NEWSLETTER



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

*Paul Pool - Worshipful Master, Glenn Starkey - Lodge Secretary, Newsletter Editor: [AlvinLodge762@gmail.com](mailto:AlvinLodge762@gmail.com)*



Apologies all around... I missed the September newsletter due to being booked solid with lodge business as well as my fourth novel being published and school volunteer activities. **But October's issue is here and overflowing with news.**

**Halloween is coming!** And don't forget about those school zones which are generally 20 MPH. No cellphone usage either while in a school zone and—a

new law went into effect which dramatically increased the fines for passing a school bus while it is loading or unloading.

**Our Stated Meeting time on the first and third Thursdays** of every month is 7:00 p.m. Meals begin shortly after 6:00 p.m. Starting lodge at 7:00 p.m. allows for proper discussion and administration of lodge business!

**And for the brothers that haven't been to lodge in a while,** I included an interior lodge room photo of what it now looks like since we remodeled! This year our lodge is a lot different!



**IMPORTANT:** *When you need information about lodge activity on a particular date, go to our Internet website and view the calendar: <http://www.alvinlodge.org/calendar.html>. As information is given to me, I place it there.*

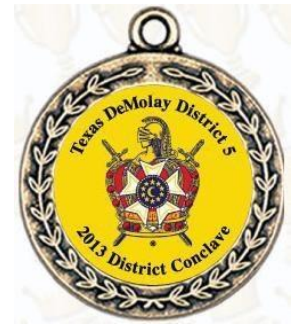
This is the best way to supply calendar information to everyone at anytime of the day or night. The calendar in the lodge dining room is a general calendar that may not be up to date. **By using the website's calendar as the single source of activity, you are viewing correct information.**

1. **Lodge Stated Meetings** – First and third Thursdays of each month. Generally, every Monday night is used for “C” School practice or a degree.
2. **MWSA Meetings** – Every second Wednesday of the month.

3. **Family Nights** -- (Masons, OES, DeMolay) – Every second Thursday of the month.
4. **“Life” Program** – Every fourth Thursday. *Contact Bro. Terry Turner for information.* This is open to all brothers and lodges in the area!
5. **DeMolay Meetings** – Every first and fourth Wednesday of the month.
6. **OES Stated Meetings** – Second and fourth Tuesday of the month. Iris Lowe is the Worthy Matron of OES #15.

*Mark Peebler, Advisor, John Wayne Chapter # 3667*

**Congratulations to Dad Chris Little and Mom Anna Peebler who were invested with the Cross of Honor** in September by Texas DeMolay EO and Past Grand Master of DeMolay International, Dad Weldon Clampitte, in a ceremony at the John Wayne Chapter, Alvin Masonic Lodge.



**Congratulations to School Teacher Dena Brown of Santa Fe High School.** She was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation by John Wayne Chapter for all of her hard work with students. The presentation took place in observance of Education Obligatory Day. The certificate was presented by Master Councilor, Tim Lane II. =>



<= Here's a great thing to see – new proud Squires of the Dixon Squire Manor.

Also in September, Jimmy Frick performed the Ceremony of Light and Tony Peebler performed the Flower Talk at La Marque Lodge #1325 A.F. & A.M. when the Chapter visited there. The DeMolays extend their thanks and gratitude to



Worshipful Master Tom Elder, Wardens and Brethren of La Marque Lodge for their great hospitality that night and for the very generous donation to the John Wayne Chapter.

<= Dad Peebler presented Colin Lamb with an Obligations Card. And on September 28<sup>th</sup> was Initiations! Talk about a packed month of activity for the John Wayne Chapter...

The Alvin Masonic Lodge extends its **“CONGRATULATIONS”** to all members of the John Wayne Chapter # 3667 for their fantastic efforts and hard work — and we want to recognize the “DADS” and “MOMS” who faithfully support them in so many ways. Send your personal compliments to the Chapter, Dads, or Moms to Mark Peebler,

[dadpeebler@jwdemolay.org](mailto:dadpeebler@jwdemolay.org) or

Chris Little,

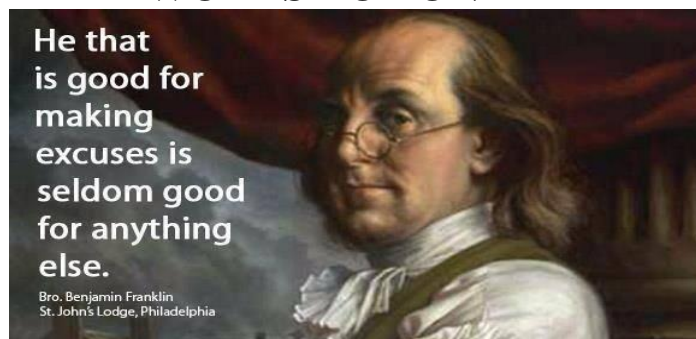
[clittle@cldaviscompany.com](mailto:clittle@cldaviscompany.com). They will appreciate your recognition of their endeavors!!!



<= Another photo of the September 28<sup>th</sup> Initiations....

**When you believe the youth of today have gone wrong and lost their way, pause a moment and think about these great young people and all they do!**

## WORDS TO PONDER





## FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

We were honored this month by the visits of two Master Masons from distant lodges. Brother Bill Shuler of Mt. Ararat Lodge #44 in Forest Hill, Maryland arrived the same night as Brother William “Willie” Miller, a ‘50+’ year Mason, of Tower Lodge # 1523 in Bonhill-Alexandria, Scotland.

Our Worshipful Master Paul Pool announced the visiting brothers to our brethren and presented each a special lodge pin and coin. My photo doesn’t do justice to the beautiful embroidery of Brother Miller’s apron. He said it was his lodge’s standard apron when “traveling.” This brother is an excellent representative of Scottish Masonry.

This month Brother Miller has been visiting his daughter in Pearland, TX. Prior to coming, he said he’d reviewed our lodge via our website. He complimented the overall information we display and how helpful it is for visiting brothers to see. This substantiates my belief in the importance of doing that ‘little bit extra’ for the lodge because you never know how it may be of benefit—or present you to the world!



## WELCOME HOME TO BROTHER BUDDY GLASS !!!

Bro. Glass was our Steward last year and was always present as a volunteer to help the lodge. He left to perform a year long security assignment in Afghanistan but now he’s home with us. We are glad he’s back!

At the September MWSA meeting, brothers running for the Grand Lodge South office came to meet and answer questions from all. This was an excellent opportunity to hear the views of Masons who one day may be our Grand Master of Texas. I was particularly impressed with a brother who spoke about his belief on “Masonry in Action.” I wish it could have been recorded so everyone could hear it verbatim because of its importance.

*“We work on ourselves in order to help others, but also we help others in order to work on ourselves.”*

— Pema Chödrön



In brief, the discussion was about lodge involvement with their communities, membership numbers being low, increasing lodge maintenance costs, brothers falling away and rarely coming to lodge, etc. The point upon which all this hinged was Masonry (*in this case ‘lodges’*) in action.

Lodges say they are community oriented, yet do little in order to be recognized by the community. After a while, the community knows there is a Masonic lodge in town but doesn't know much else about it. When lodges begin taking action to benefit their communities, they receive recognition and that translates into brothers wanting to be involved as well as to be recognized as a Mason! An example given was of a small lodge that conducted a fund-raising event for something other than the lodge. I believe it was to help a sick person with their medical bills in that community. The community loved it, talked about the lodge, suddenly brothers returned to lodge wanting to be a part of it AND membership dramatically increased. The lodge was recognized as being truly community oriented. How innovative!

The entire discussion, when viewed properly, showed how one thing related to another and culminated in positive benefits to the lodge and Masonry in general. Putting Masonry into action, actually doing something good for the community, is true Masonry...

Masonry is more than coming to eat a meal, say and do the same things in a meeting, *make no changes, make no decisions*, then rush out the door so you're not caught and have to do something. We, as Masons and members of our lodge, are individually responsible for how good our lodge is and how it's viewed by our community.

*What if one day you received official notification that the lodge is closing its doors due to no one coming to lodge, rising financial expenses, and lack of member and community support?*

I'm proud to say that this year we have a Worshipful Master who is addressing issues, trying to do what's right, making decisions, taking proper administrative actions, and has placed true community programs into action. He's receptive to new ideas and the key is that he's willing to try for the benefit of the lodge. We're not just selling briskets to pay bills and do one scholarship program. We are doing Time to Read, Fantastic Teeth, Gift-of-Life Blooddrive, Scholarships, as well as a car show and other fundraisers to pay bills. We also have more plans on the table. If you have a community oriented idea or any idea that will help the lodge, bring it to us.

***Stagnation will kill our lodge. It will kill any group or organization. Sitting back on our laurels, doing only what has been done in the past and being afraid to make changes or decisions for the future only drives another nail in our coffin. Placing Masonry into action, actually doing something, breathes life into us...***

The holidays are coming like a runaway freight train. Halloween is only a few weeks away. **Please bring a few bags of candy to the lodge** so we can give it away to the kids as we do every year. The lodge is also ramping up to **cook turkeys again for Thanksgiving** and we intend to make them better than last year. I'll send out more information in a few weeks.

There will be Christmas programs scheduled as well... Especially the Santa visit for the kids (and adults too.) The adults dog-pile onto Santa to have their pictures taken as well! (*Secretarys' get to go first...*)

The Golf Committee is working on plans for our **Annual Golf Tournament** to be held April 28, 2014 at the Alvin Country Club. So, all you Pros and Hackers need to make note on your calendars. (*Don't worry, it will be here before we realize.*) And we don't care how good a golfer you are... **The point is to come have fun!**

Sorry, folks, but we have to discuss another serious issue—the security and overall cleanliness of our lodge. **Our building is *continuously* used for meetings by the lodge masons and organizations such as OES, DeMolay, MWSA, and various special social functions. It speaks well of us to be such an active lodge and that it is a comfortable environment for activities.**

We always ask everyone to please properly secure the building (turn off ovens, stoves, lights, fans, reset the A/C, lock all doors) when leaving, but we still find doors open, lights and fans on, etc.

Unfortunately, we also continue to discover attempts to break into the rear door lock box. ***We've been lucky but one day our luck will run out and we are going to find our lodge totally vandalized.*** When this occurs, it will cost thousands of dollars to repair and get it back in order. We cannot afford such repairs. The lodge is already addressing high monthly maintenance costs because of its volume of usage.



Our lodge kitchen and dining room is used by every group. Many a fantastic meal has been provided there for meetings! But just as at your own home, poor cleaning after a meal will attract bugs.

The lodge pays to have the building cleaned twice a month and we've been paying for years to have an exterminator spray every three months to control insects. The lodge stays clean until the next meeting and the extermination program definitely works because someone complained about having to sweep up dead bugs before meetings. Yes, that's because the spray program is working. It's better to sweep them up before a meeting than to play "smack the bug" during a meeting.

**Please help the lodge and every group that uses the lodge by cleaning after meetings, double-checking all the electrical systems, appliances and locking the doors when you leave the building.**

**"May you live upon the level and part upon the square."**

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

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***Volunteered in your community or at the lodge 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 in this world.***

The following links are to help you find lodge information in the swiftest manner!

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

