



Gray Line

JULY 2019

NEWSLETTER OF GRAY MASONIC LODGE No. 329, A.F. & A.M.

Greetings from the East



Brethren,

As the new Worshipful Master, I would like to thank all the members of Gray Lodge No. 329 for your support. Education and quality of work are a great priority of mine, and with the assistance of our dedicated and motivated officers, this will be a very productive year. Together we will guide the lodge in a direction we can all be proud of.

In this issue:

- Greetings from the East
- 2019-2020 Officers
- 2019 Installation of Officers
- Community Awards
- Lodge Improvements
- Website Improvements
- Upcoming Events

Every second Thursday (unless rescheduled), there will be a Masonic education round table in order to enlighten the brothers of Gray Lodge, and any visitors from other lodges who wish to be a part of our education. I will encourage my officers to keep our work at a higher standard, as is the tradition of Gray Lodge. Expect some open meetings this year to allow family and friends to be a part of what we do, as well as get-togethers to strengthen the bond of the brethren and their families. There will be much more to come, so keep your eyes and ears open for our upcoming events.

- Billy Moreno, Worshipful Master

2019-2020 Gray Lodge Officers

Congratulations to our newly-installed Lodge officers for the 2019-2020 Masonic year:

Billy Moreno	Worshipful Master
Todd Smith	Senior Warden
Erickson Ybarra	Junior Warden
Mark Herzog	Treasurer
Darrin Pitts, PM	Secretary
Doug Hissong, PM	Chaplain
Gary Wiener	Senior Deacon
Steven Cobb	Junior Deacon
Luiz Soriano	Senior Steward
Scott Bulkley	Marshal
Brad Ledbetter	Master of Ceremonies
Kleber Siqueira	Musician
David Aguilar	Tiler

Appointed, uninstalled Officers:

Doug Hissong, PM	Lodge Instructor
Scott Bulkley	Building Manager
Bill Bradford	IT Consultant

2019 Installation of Officers

This year's Installation Ceremony was held on Saturday, June 29. As per our custom, Ruthven Commandery No. 2 provided the Color Guard. The Installing Officers were:

Darrin Pitts, PM	Master of Ceremonies
Roberto Sanchez, PM	Installing Officer
Richard Fawcett, PM	Installing Marshal

After the Ceremony, barbecue, refreshments and fellowship were enjoyed by our officers and Lodge members, their wives and guests in the Dining Hall.

CHARTERED BY THE GRAND LODGE OF TEXAS ON JUNE 24, 1870
2370 BARKER OAKS DRIVE, HOUSTON, TEXAS 77077 • 713-730-9329

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Community Awards

Gray Lodge presented its annual scholarships, the Mirabeau B. Lamar Awards, the Community Builder award, and the Gray Lodge Honor on June 20.

The Lamar Medal was awarded to **Mrs. Jaime Ybarra**, of Hemmenway Elementary in Cy-Fair ISD.

The Community Builder Award went to **Ed Hendee**, founder and owner of Taste of Texas Restaurant.

JPM Al Florido conferred the annual Gray Honor upon **SW Todd Smith**, who has worked tirelessly for Gray Lodge and Houston Masonry during the past year. Congratulations to all award recipients!

Lodge Improvements

Gray Lodge members have been busy this year making improvements to our Lodge building. Although only 13 years old, it was beginning to show signs of wear. The following improvements have already been made:

- ◆ **JW Erickson Ybarra** organized and catalogued our Lodge's library holdings in the Shearn Smith Board Room. We now have one of the finest Masonic libraries in the region!
- ◆ **JD Steven Cobb** and **SW Todd Smith** deep-cleaned the Lodge kitchen, and even repaired the non-functioning half of our old-time oven.
- ◆ **TR Mark Herzog** got our industrial refrigerator repaired, saving the Lodge the expense of purchasing a replacement..
- ◆ **JPM Al Florido**, **WM Billy Moreno** and **SW Smith** installed improved lighting in the Lodge parking lot. We'll all feel much safer when the sun goes down!
- ◆ **MS Scott Bulkley**, **SW Smith**, **MC Brad Ledbetter** and **EA Joey Hereford** gave the outside of the Lodge building and our patio and walkways a much-needed power-washing. Thirteen years' worth of accumulated grime is gone!
- ◆ **SD Gary Wiener** obtained lettering to identify our building from the street, and a number of Brethren worked hard to help with installation. Take a look next time you drive by!

There are still improvements to be completed (and all members are encouraged to lend their time and assistance to these projects):

- ◆ **WM Moreno** plans to donate and install a sign marking the Lodge driveway, near the street, to make the Lodge entrance easier to identify.
- ◆ **JPM Florido** plans to replace our worn-out air conditioning units with new, more energy-efficient systems.
- ◆ The second floor of our Lodge building will be organized and finished out to make the space usable,

so that offices and "huddle rooms" will be available for candidate education, memory work, and other potential uses.

Website Improvements

The Gray Lodge website had sadly fallen out of regular use. A number of factors contributed to much of the content being out-of-date. Fortunately, **SD Gary Wiener** has been busily updating the website's blog and calendar with Gray Lodge events and other area Masonic items of interest, and has found a way for Lodge members to add the Lodge's calendar feed directly to their own iPhone, Android or Outlook calendar. (Please email SD Wiener at sdeacon@gray329.org, for instructions and links.)

The website is also accepting member registrations again. If you would like access to the Members' Area (to access private Lodge content and post your own bulletins), please register at <http://www.gray329.org> and you'll be approved quickly!

Upcoming Events

(Gray Lodge events in **bold blue**)

July 18: FC Degree Practice

July 24: Dist. 30 MWSA Meeting (Reagan #1037)

July 25: Called Meeting: Two Fellowcraft Degrees

Aug 1: MM Degree Practice

Aug 1: Proficiency Exam ONLY (S.P. Waltrip #1328)

Aug 2-4: Officer Leadership Training (Arabia Shrine)

Aug 7: Gray Lodge Stated Meeting

Aug 8: Called Meeting: Master Mason's Degree

Aug 15: Masonic Education Round Table

Aug 22: Called Meeting: Master Mason's Degree

Aug 28: Dist. 30 MWSA Meeting (Reagan #1037)

Aug 29: TBA

After each Stated or Called Meeting, you are invited to join Brethren at the **King's Head Pub**, 1809 Eldridge Parkway, for additional fellowship and fun.

Keep Us Updated

If you have moved, or updated your email address or phone number, please call the office at 713-730-9329 or email secretary@gray329.org with your new information so we can stay in touch. Also, let the Secretary know if you have any personal announcements you would like to make to the Brethren.

*There are no strangers in Freemasonry,
only friends you've yet to meet.*

~ Bro. Dave Thomas