

Gray Line



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

MAY 2020

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CHARTERED JUNE 24, 1870

OFFICERS FOR 2019-2020

BILLY J. MORENO

WORSHIPFUL MASTER

TODD D. SMITH

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JUNIOR WARDEN

MARK S. HERZOG

TREASURER

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SECRETARY

DOUG W. HISSONG, PM

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JUNIOR DEACON

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JOSEPH L. HEREFORD

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Greetings from the East



Brethren,

During this time of worry, it's important to remember that Masons and their families need never be alone. Your Officers are still here for you, to provide support and friendship whenever needed. If any Brother or their widow needs any help whatsoever - groceries, food, general supplies, or even just to hear a friendly voice - please don't hesitate to contact me or any of my Officers.

Our 150th Anniversary Celebrations have been postponed until the fall; however, our June 3, 2020 Stated Meeting will take place as originally scheduled. The Grand Master has proclaimed that as long as we maintain proper social distancing measures, we may conduct any business that we would normally conduct during this Stated Meeting, including the election of Officers for 2020-2021. These social distancing guidelines (which you can also find on Page 5 of this newsletter) are:

- No meals may be served, so we will not have our usual 6:00 p.m. dinner and fellowship. If you are planning to attend, please be seated in the Lodge Room **by 7:00 p.m.**
- All Masons **MUST** keep a six-foot distance from other Masons. This means all Brethren attending should leave two empty seats between them and the nearest Brother. (If balloting should be necessary, the Senior Deacon will advise the Lodge of permitted exceptions to this rule.)
- Masons are strongly urged, *but are not required*, to wear face masks.
- We will have hand sanitizer available at numerous places in our Lodge building.
- To maintain proper social distancing, **Masons should not shake hands** (except as required)

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Greetings From the East

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by a proficiency examination, after which both Brothers involved should immediately use hand sanitizer).

- Masons are encouraged to only attend their own Lodges, and not to visit other Lodges at this time.
- Masons are encouraged NOT to attend Lodge if they have any signs of illness or do not feel comfortable in attending. Those individuals considered "at risk" (see Paragraph 7 of Page 5 for the definition) are encouraged not to attend Lodge.

The Grand Master will not attend at the June Stated Meeting as originally planned. We expect him to reschedule his official visit at a later date.

We are also authorized to conduct our June Called Meeting for the Installation of Officers on Saturday, June 27th, observing the same social distancing guidelines. When we send the official announcement for the Installation, we will advise whether the ceremonies will be open to non-Masons.

My term as Worshipful Master was effectively cut short by about three months, but we still accomplished many things and improved our Lodge, both aesthetically and in overall membership satisfaction. I want to thank my Officers for all their hard work and dedication.

It has been my privilege to serve you as the 148th Worshipful Master of Gray Lodge. If your cable tow will permit, please join us for the June 3rd Stated Meeting, so I can thank you in person.

- Billy Moreno, Worshipful Master

From the Senior Deacon

Brethren, first, the executive summary:

- Gray Lodge **WILL** hold its June 3 Stated Meeting, at which the election of Officers will take place, in addition to regular Lodge business. No dinner will be served. The Grand Master's official visit to Gray Lodge will be rescheduled.
- Gray Lodge **WILL** hold its Called Meeting for Installation of Officers on June 27. No refreshments will be served. We have not yet received guidance regarding whether this can be an open meeting, as the Lodge has traditionally done.
- Gray Lodge must **POSTPONE** our Sesquicentennial Celebration and Dinner, originally scheduled for June 20.



As you know, Gray Lodge (along with all other Texas Lodges) has been dark since March 21, by order of Grand Master Paul D. Underwood. On April 29, M:W: Underwood issued a proclamation allowing Texas Lodges to resume labor in very limited circumstances. (Copies of the Grand Master's Proclamations can be found on Pages 4 and 5.)

In summary, beginning May 25, Texas Lodges may hold one Stated Meeting for electing Officers (and regular Lodge business), and Called Meetings to open/close Lodges of Sorrow and for Installation of Officers. No food is to be served at any of these functions. No other meetings are currently authorized. This means we must partially curtail our plans for celebrating the 150th anniversary of Gray Lodge #329. Specifically, as noted on the next page, the June 20 Sesquicentennial Banquet has been postponed until this fall.

May the Great Architect of the Universe continue to keep Gray Lodge Brethren and their families safe and healthy, and do the same for all regular Masons and, indeed, the entire world!

- Gary Wiener, Senior Deacon



150 Years and (Still) Counting

The worldwide pandemic has unfortunately caused havoc with Texas Freemasonry, as it has for everyone. In keeping with Grand Master Paul D. Underwood's official Proclamations in March and April, here are where the plans for celebrating Gray Lodge's 150th anniversary stand (subject to change):

The full Lodge calendar is on Page 5. (Don't forget that the most up-to-date calendar is always online at www.Gray329.org/calendar.)

Wednesday, May 6 — NO STATED MEETING; Gray Lodge remains dark until June 3

Wednesday, June 3 — June Stated Meeting & Election of Officers

Stated Meeting for regular Lodge business and the Election of Officers for the 2020-2021 Masonic year, at 7:00 p.m. This is the only Stated Meeting authorized by the Grand Master as of May 18, and strict social distancing guidelines are to be observed. Per the Grand Master's Proclamation, dinner will NOT be served. The official observance of Gray Lodge's 150th Anniversary, and M.:W.: Underwood's official visit to Gray Lodge, is postponed until the fall.

Saturday, June 27 — Installation of Officers

150th Installation of Officers of Gray Lodge No. 329. Time to be announced; per the Grand Master's Proclamation, no refreshments will be served. We do not yet know whether this meeting may be opened to friends and family.

POSTPONED — Sesquicentennial Celebration & Banquet

Sesquicentennial Celebration & Banquet at the Houston Scottish Rite Temple has been postponed, in keeping with the spirit of the Grand Master's Proclamation. Tickets are still on sale from Lodge Officers.

Other Lodge Meetings, Esoteric Practices, and Degree Work — SUSPENDED

Upon receiving further guidance from the Grand Master, these will be scheduled and Gray Lodge members notified.

Friday, March 27th, 2020 GRAND MASTER'S DECISION No. 1

QUESTION: Does the Grand Master have authority to indefinitely suspend stated and called meetings of the Lodge?

ANSWER: Yes, if a local, state, national or world crisis exists that would warrant such action. This would include pandemics or other crises that result in national, state and/or local orders directing or requiring such suspension of such meetings. Although, at present, there is no specific authority in our Grand Lodge law authorizing such action, nevertheless, the Grand Master has the power and duty to superintend and direct Masonic activities and to ensure compliance with all national, state or local orders directly pertaining to the operations of the Craft.

Wednesday, April 15th, 2020 GRAND MASTER'S DECISION No. 2

QUESTION: May the esoteric work of Masonry be studied by telephone between two brothers known to each other?

ANSWER: Yes. The two brothers must know each other as Masons and must assure each other, as far as practical, that the telephonic "voice-only" conversation is secure and is between those two brothers only. No other electronic or digital video or audio platform, service or device is permitted.

The Grand Lodge of Texas

ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS

Message from the Grand Master

Saturday, March 21st, 2020



The COVID-19 pandemic has caused substantial and material disruptions in the lives of all Americans, including the activities of Texas Masonic Lodges. For this reason, I issued an Order cancelling all gatherings of Texas Masons which were anticipated to exceed ten in number. This Order included stated meetings of Lodges for an indefinite period of time unless, in the discretion of the officers and members of the Lodge, the meeting would be in the best interest of the Lodge and, most importantly, would not pose a risk to the health of those attending.

Since that time, the Governor of Texas and state public health officials have strongly discouraged all meetings of ten or more individuals. At this time, it is not known when the pandemic will end or whether the conditions that are now occurring in Texas will worsen.

The charge of the Worshipful Master given and accepted at every installation requires, among other things, that he “cheerfully conform to the laws of the country in which he resides”. The action taken in this proclamation is consistent with the above affirmation.

Because of danger to human life that presently exists, and the directions of various officials of the State of Texas concerning the risks of holding meetings, I am today issuing the following Proclamation:

It is ORDERED that no Texas Lodge may hold a stated or called meeting until this order is rescinded by subsequent proclamation of the Grand Master.

I and your Grand Lodge Trustees are well aware that this Order will cause substantial disruption in the operations of Texas Lodges, including perhaps the election and installation of Lodge officers. However, the existing world-wide crisis requires the Grand Lodge of Texas to take extraordinary action to protect the lives of its members & follow the lawful directives of Federal, State, & local authorities.

Paul D. Underwood, Grand Master - 2020

The Grand Lodge of Texas

ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS

Message from the Grand Master

Wednesday, April 29, 2020

Grand Master's Proclamation

On April 27, 2020, Governor Greg Abbott issued new orders to open the State of Texas through the "Open Texas" plan. The Governor's Report to Open Texas can be found at

<https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/OpenTexas-Report.pdf>.

This plan is both a road map and guideline as to how various businesses and entities are to re-open. In light of this action, Texas Masonic Lodges are authorized to resume some activities by closely adhering to the following directives:

1. Commencing May 25, 2020, Lodges may hold stated meetings for the primary purpose of election of Lodge officers for the ensuing year. In addition, Lodges can conduct regular business appropriate to a stated meeting.
2. Lodges may not have called meetings until further proclamation from the Grand Master, other than one Lodge of Sorrow, or a called meeting for the purpose of installing officers.
3. No degrees will be conducted until further proclamation from the Grand Master.
4. No meals will be cooked or consumed at stated or called meetings at this time.
5. Strict social distancing rules as established in Governor Abbott's "Open Texas" will be followed, including the following:
 - (a) All Masons MUST keep a six-foot distance from other Masons.
 - (b) Masons are strongly urged, but are not required, to wear face masks;
 - (c) Lodges are encouraged to have hand sanitizer available at numerous places in the Lodge building;
 - (d) To maintain proper social distancing, Masons should not shake hands;
 - (e) Masons are encouraged to only attend their own Lodges, and not to visit other Lodges at this time;
6. Lodges that meet quarterly may hold a stated meeting on or after May 25, 2020, and prior to June 24, 2020, for the purpose of electing Lodge officers and other business appropriate to a stated meeting.
7. Most importantly, all Texas Masons are strongly encouraged NOT to attend Lodge if they have any signs of illness or do not feel comfortable in attending. Masons must self-screen for any signs or symptoms of COVID-19 before attending any Lodge meeting. Those individuals considered to be "at-risk", including those who are 65 or older, and especially those with chronic lung disease; moderate to severe asthma; chronic heart disease; severe obesity; diabetes; chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis; liver disease; weakened immune system or other risk factors are encouraged not to attend Lodge. You are the sole decision-maker as to whether you should attend Lodge. There is nothing more important at this time than the health and well-being of our Texas Masons.

Further Proclamations will be issued when it is deemed both safe and prudent to do so while, at the same time, adhering to the directives of the State of Texas on re-opening.



Paul D. Underwood
Grand Master, 2020



The Magazine Will Be A Little Late ...







As part of Gray Lodge's 150th Anniversary celebration, your Officers are assembling a commemorative magazine highlighting our Lodge's history. To finance the printing and distribution of this free publication, we are selling a limited amount of advertising space in this commemorative, full-color booklet, the cover of which is pictured to the right.

Our Masonic family gets first opportunity to participate in the creation of this publication by purchasing space as shown below. You can advertise your business, or you and your affiliate Lodges can simply publish a message of congratulations.

We are volunteers, so we can't create graphic ads (though we will lay out black and white text ads with you). If you want a full-color ad of at least a half-page, we'll need your camera-ready artwork, at least 300 dpi, CMYK preferred.

Please contact our Editor (and Senior Deacon) Gary Wiener at sdeacon@gray329.org for more information.



 1/8 page	 1/4 page vertical	 1/4 page horizontal	 1/2 page horizontal
 1/2 page vertical	 Full page	Rates for Premium Positioning (full or half page only): Inside front cover +20% SOLD Inside front facing page +15% Center spread +25% Inside back facing page +15% Full inside back cover +35% <small>Gray Masonic Lodge #329 A.F. & A.M. is a tax-exempt corporation under Internal Revenue Code § 501(c)(10), and is exempt from collecting state sales tax for this fundraiser under Texas Tax Code §§ 151.310(a)(1) and (c).</small>	

"The real secrets of Masonry are never told, not even from mouth to ear. For the real secret of Masonry is spoken to your heart and from it to the heart of your brother. Never the language made for tongue may speak it, it is uttered only in the eye in those manifestations of that love which a man has for his friend, which passeth all other loves."

~ William Howard Taft

UPCOMING LOCAL MASONIC EVENTS (Gray Lodge activities are [hyperlinked](#))

Please note that due to the current pandemic, all plans are subject to change at the direction of the Grand Master and the discretion of the individual Masonic bodies.

The most up-to-date calendar info is always available at <http://www.GRAY329.org/calendar>.

MAY 2020

ALL MASONIC ACTIVITIES CANCELLED UNTIL MAY 25.

27	Wed.	District 30 MWSA Meeting	Reagan Lodge #1057	POSTPONED
28	Thurs.	Scottish Rite Stated Meeting	Scottish Rite Temple	POSTPONED

JUNE 2020

3	Wed.	Gray Lodge Stated Meeting	Gray Lodge #329	No Dinner / Meeting 7:00 pm
9	Tues.	Bluebell Chapter OES Meeting	Gray Lodge #329	7:30 pm
15	Mon.	Arabia Shrine Stated Meeting	Arabia Shrine Temple	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
24	Wed.	District 30 MWSA Meeting	Reagan Lodge #1057	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
25	Thurs.	Scottish Rite Stated Meeting	Scottish Rite Temple	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
27	Sat.	Gray Lodge Officer Installation	Gray Lodge #329	Meeting time TBA

JULY 2020

1	Wed.	Gray Lodge Stated Meeting	Gray Lodge #329	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
14	Tues.	Bluebell Chapter OES Meeting	Gray Lodge #329	7:30 pm
20	Mon.	Arabia Shrine Stated Meeting	Arabia Shrine Temple	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
22	Wed.	District 30 MWSA Meeting	Reagan Lodge #1057	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
23	Thurs.	Scottish Rite Stated Meeting	Scottish Rite Temple	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm

Coins and Caps Are Still On Tap

As part of Gray Lodge's 150th Anniversary celebration, we are finalizing designs for Sesquicentennial coins/ingots and for branded merchandise (see our 150th logo on the next page). All proceeds will go toward our Scholarship and Building Funds.

As soon as the designs have been finalized, we will send an email notifying all Members, complete with pictures and ordering information.

We are already working to have embroidered logo baseball caps made. If there is specific merchandise you'd like to see bearing our special commemorative logo, please let JW Erickson Ybarra (jwarden@gray329.org) or SD Gary Wiener (sdeacon@gray329.org) know as soon as possible!

"Masonry was not made to divide men, but to unite them, leaving each man free to think his own thoughts and fashion his own system of ultimate truth. All its emphasis rests upon two extremely simple and profound principles, love of God and love of man."

~ Joseph Fort Newton

"The secrecy of Masonry is an honorable secrecy; any good man may ask for her secrets; those who are worthy will receive them. To give them to those who do not seek, or who are not worthy, would but impoverish the Fraternity and enrich not those who received them."

~ William Howard Taft

Keep Us Posted

If you have moved, or updated your email address or phone number, please update your record at <http://grandlodgeoftexas.org> (in the Member Portal), call us at 713-730-9329, or email Bro. Darrin Pitts at secretary@gray329.org with your new information so we can stay in touch.

Also, please let the Secretary know if you have any personal announcements you would like us to pass along to the Brethren.

If you have suggestions for how we can continue to improve the Gray Line newsletter, please email them to Bro. Gary Wiener at sdeacon@gray329.org.

MASTER MASON ANNIVERSARIES

MAY 2020

1 Darrell Dodds (1981)	13 Gerald Zucker (1964)	21 Thomas Smith (1962)
1 Donald Smith (1981)	14 Michael Hill (1980)	27 Edward Bock III (1977)
3 Darrell Craig (1960)	14 Kenneth Knoblock (1975)	27 Charles Janke (1970)
6 Ricardo Ramirez (1986)	14 Brad Ledbetter (2015)	28 Harry Green (1952)
8 Jerry Spencer (1959)	14 Paul Sala (1997)	30 Mike Nanny (1979)*
9 Warren Ayres (1995)	15 William Gillespie (2000)	30 William Pray (1984)
9 Jason Pollick (2013)	15 Carl Sontag (1969)	31 Harry Borcharding (1948)
11 Joseph Addison (1983)	16 Lee Hooker (2000)	31 Nelson Fisher (1972)
11 Jeffrey Kapche (2011)	17 Steven Cobb (2018)	31 Michael Green (2006)
11 Dragos Oprea (2017)	18 Sidney Victory (1968)*	31 David Reece (1989)
11 Samuel Winstead (1983)	19 Charles Baxter (1977)	31 Carl Rubly (2006)
13 Bennie Irish (2009)		

* Past Master of Gray Lodge

JUNE 2020

2 Preston Voosen (1998)	12 Mark Levine (1985)	23 Gregory Morgan (2010)
9 Donald Brown (1982)	13 Harvey Fodell (1953)	28 James Dillon (1995)
9 James Lemons (2010)	15 Deryl Ridenhour (1983)	30 Carlos Huerta (1993)
9 William Martin (1982)	17 Harry Fikaris (1987)	30 Christopher Krummel (1993)
10 Roger Durden (1992)	18 Matthew Mckown (1992)	30 Aaron Tyksinski (2010)
10 Dean Forbes (1981)	21 Owen Arnold (1968)	
11 Jack Green (1987)*	22 William Lane (1967)	
11 John Stevenson (1987)	23 Rene Canales (2004)	

* Past Master of Gray Lodge

JULY 2020

8 Andres Garza (1992)	18 Curtis Walton (1960)	26 Donald Keller (1993)
8 David Pupo (1993)*	19 Donald Hernandez (1989)	29 Daniel Sweet (1998)
10 Mark Pravel (1985)	19 Thomas Murray (1978)	30 Richard Hollinger (1980)
13 David Aguilar (2011)	21 Patrick Dees (2009)	30 William Konecny (1986)
13 Michael Baldwin (2011)	23 Luis Massas, Jr. (1997)	31 Lounceny Bangoura (2014)
14 James Bracht (1976)	24 Doug Hissong (1973)*	
15 Bobby Clark (1959)	25 Michael Polychronopoulos (2007)	
15 Jose Rodriguez (2013)		
18 Paul Elders (1970)		

* Past Master of Gray Lodge

Bro. Jerry Keith Atkins, PM

February 20, 1938 — May 13, 2020



We are sad to report that Gray Lodge Past Master Jerry K. Atkins laid down his working tools Wednesday, May 13, 2020. Brother Atkins was Worshipful Master of Gray Lodge for the 1972-1973 Masonic Year.

Bro. Atkins was born February 20, 1938 and graduated from Dickinson High School and Texas A&M University, where he was in the Corps of Cadets. He was initiated in South Houston Lodge No. 1295 on Sept. 15, 1964; passed Sept. 3, 1965; and raised a Master Mason Nov. 16, 1965. He thereafter transferred his membership to Gray Lodge, of which he was a Life Member following his term of service in the East. Bro. Atkins also served on the board of directors of the Houston Masonic Library and Museum Foundation.

Bro. Atkins' family will conduct a private family service, with plans for a memorial and Masonic service to be announced soon. We will share this information with the Gray Lodge membership as soon as it becomes available.

Please keep Bro. Atkins' family in your thoughts and prayers. Rest in peace, our Worthy Brother.

Gray Lodge Scholarship Raffle — It's Still On!

To support our Scholarship Fund, Gray Lodge announces our big raffle for a customized AR-15 style Ruger sporting rifle AND a customized Glock 19 pistol. You haven't seen firearms that look like this before! In addition to these two one-of-a-kind prizes, the winning ticket holder will also receive:

- Customized matching carrying case
- Five boxes of 9mm ammo
- Free laser engraving of your choice on both weapons, plus the plate on the carrying case
- Two branded shot glasses
- A Full Armor T-shirt

You can purchase raffle tickets from any Gray Lodge Officer. The tickets are priced as follows:

\$10 for one
\$50 for six
\$100 for 12

The drawing will be held at our 150th Anniversary Celebration and Dinner later this fall. You don't have to be present to win (but we'd sure like to see the joy on your face in person when you do!).

Please contact WM Billy Moreno (master@gray329.org) for more information.

