

# Gray Line



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

JULY 2022

2370 BARKER OAKS DRIVE  
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77077

(713) 730-9329

CHARTERED JUNE 24, 1870

## OFFICERS FOR 2022-2023

[GARY A. WIENER](#)

WORSHIPFUL MASTER

[STEVEN E. COBB](#)

SENIOR WARDEN

[VIGIL M. ROXAS](#)

JUNIOR WARDEN

[DANIEL R. SWEET](#)

TREASURER

[DARRIN I. PITTS, PM](#)

SECRETARY

[DOUG W. HISSONG, PM](#)

CHAPLAIN

[ZACH D. WILLNER](#)

SENIOR DEACON

[LEO I. BARNUEVO](#)

JUNIOR DEACON

[M. POLYCHRONOPOULOS](#)

SENIOR STEWARD

[YOUSSEF JAMAL DIALLO](#)

JUNIOR STEWARD

[RICHARD H. COBB, SR.](#)

MARSHAL

[MARSHALL T. COLLINS](#)

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

[RICHARD H. COBB, JR.](#)

MUSICIAN

[BRAD J. LEDBETTER](#)

TILER

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<http://www.GRAY329.org>

## Greetings from the East



Brethren,

What an incredible honor and privilege — and what an awesome responsibility — you have bestowed upon me in electing me Worshipful Master of Gray Lodge No. 329 for this Masonic Year. I do not, for one instant, take for granted the faith you have placed in me for the next 12 months, and I pledge to reward that faith in every way I

possibly can.

If you were able to join us for our Installation of Officers on July 2nd, you witnessed a great ceremony, led by our Grand Master Brad Billings and our Grand Senior Warden Bart Henderson. A good time was had by all. Although my intent in asking Most Worshipful Billings to install our Officers was to surprise my father with his 60-Year Masonic Service Award (he unfortunately could not attend), it later occurred to me that this would provide the added benefit of raising Gray's profile in the Houston Masonic community, in the most positive ways possible.

This dovetails neatly with my theme for Gray Lodge this year: "Pride". My mission is for every member of our Lodge to become proud, not only to be a Mason, but specifically a *Gray Lodge* Mason. I spoke briefly about this at Installation, and will go into more detail at our Stated Meeting on August 3. I hope your cable tow will permit you to join us as I share my vision for the upcoming year — not to change what Gray Lodge currently is, but to help it evolve more rapidly into what it can become.

*(Continued on page 2)*

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## Greetings From the East

*(Continued from page 1)*

My special thanks are due to PM Erickson Ybarra, who has left our Lodge much stronger since he ascended to the East; PM Darrin Pitts, who kindly yielded this year's Installation spotlight to M.:W.:Billings and R.:W.:Henderson; to our most recent Golden Trowel award recipient, PM Doug Hissong, for his friendship and Masonic hospitality through the years; and to PM Billy Moreno, who persuaded me none-too-gently that I could best serve the Brethren of Gray Lodge by serving in its officer line.

My tenure as a member of Gray Lodge No. 329 has been a fantastic experience so far. I look forward to learning more about myself and Masonry while in your service for the ensuing year.

Fraternally and Sincerely,

*Gary Wiener  
Worshipful Master*



L to R: TI Ledbetter, CH Hissong, SD Willner, W.:Craig Enderli, Grand Musician; JS Diallo, R.:W.:Bart Henderson, Grand Senior Warden; TR Sweet, MC Collins, WM Wiener, SC Pitts, M.:W.:Brad Billings, Grand Master; SS Polychronopoulos, SW Cobb, JW Roxas, MU Cobb, MS Cobb, JD Barnuevo, W.:Corey Harris, Grand Tiler.

## 2022-2023 Gray Lodge Officers

Congratulations to our newly-installed Lodge officers for the 2022-2023 Masonic year:

Gary Wiener	Worshipful Master
<b>Steven Cobb</b>	Senior Warden
<b>Vigil Roxas</b>	Junior Warden
<b>Daniel Sweet</b>	Treasurer
<b>Darrin Pitts, PM</b>	Secretary
<b>Doug Hissong, PM</b>	Chaplain
<b>Zach Willner</b>	Senior Deacon
<b>Leo Barnuevo</b>	Junior Deacon

<b>Michael Polychronopoulos</b>	Senior Steward
<b>Youssef Diallo</b>	Junior Steward
<b>Richard Cobb, Sr.</b>	Marshal
<b>Marshall Collins</b>	Master of Ceremonies
<b>Richard Cobb, Jr.</b>	Musician
<b>Brad Ledbetter</b>	Tiler

Appointed, uninstalled Officers:

<b>Erickson Ybarra, PM</b>	Lodge Education Officer
<b>Doug Hissong, PM</b>	Lodge Instructor
<b>Scott Bulkley</b>	Building Mgr. / Webmaster

## 2022 Installation of Officers

The 152nd Installation of Officers of Gray Lodge No. 329 took place on Saturday, July 2 in our Lodge room. It was a pleasure to once again welcome Brethren, guests and families to witness the installation of Gary Wiener as the 151st Worshipful Master of Gray Lodge. Ruthven Commandery No. 2 returned to provide the Color Guard for our ceremonies.



The installing Officers were:

**Darrin Pitts, PM**  
**M.:W.:Brad Billings, Grand Master**  
**R.:W.:Bart Henderson, Grand Sr. Warden**  
**Doug Hissong, PM**

**Master of Ceremonies**  
**Installing Officer**  
**Installing Marshal**  
**Installing Chaplain**



Following the Installation, Past Master Ybarra presented WM Wiener with the traveling Master's lapel pin. PM Kevin Roberts (our "Wizard of Wood") made the Master's and Wardens' gavels, which were presented to WM Wiener by his mother. M.:W.: Billings presented WM Wiener with a special Grand Master's coin and a gift of a beautiful sounding block for the new gavel. Families and guests then repaired to the dining hall, where they were treated to a barbecue feast catered by Rudy's BBQ.





## Gray Lodge Committees 2022-2023

### Standing Committees

#### Arbitration ([arbitration@gray329.org](mailto:arbitration@gray329.org))

Chair WM Gary Wiener  
Co-Chair SW Steven Cobb  
Member JW Vigil Roxas

#### Audit ([audit@gray329.org](mailto:audit@gray329.org))

Chair Mario Reyna PM  
Members SW Steven Cobb  
CH Doug Hissong PM

#### Building & Grounds ([building@gray329.org](mailto:building@gray329.org))

Chair SD Zach Willner  
Co-Chair Scott Bulkley (Building Manager)  
Members JW Vigil Roxas  
JD Leo Barnuevo  
SS Michael Polychronopoulos  
JS Jamal Diallo  
MC Marshall Collins  
TI Brad Ledbetter

#### Communications

([communications@gray329.org](mailto:communications@gray329.org))

Chair WM Gary Wiener  
Co-Chair JW Vigil Roxas  
Members TR Daniel Sweet  
SC Darrin Pitts PM  
SD Zach Willner  
Scott Bulkley (Webmaster)

#### Finance ([finance@gray329.org](mailto:finance@gray329.org))

Chair TR Daniel Sweet  
Co-Chair WM Gary Wiener  
Members SC Darrin Pitts PM  
JPM Erickson Ybarra  
SW Steven Cobb  
JW Vigil Roxas

#### Fraternal Assistance ([assistance@gray329.org](mailto:assistance@gray329.org))

Chair WM Gary Wiener  
Co-Chair SW Steven Cobb  
Members JW Vigil Roxas  
SC Darrin Pitts PM  
TR Daniel Sweet  
CH Doug Hissong PM

#### Funeral ([funeral@gray329.org](mailto:funeral@gray329.org))

Chair CH Doug Hissong PM  
Co-Chair JPM Erickson Ybarra  
Members WM Gary Wiener  
SW Steven Cobb  
JW Vigil Roxas  
TR Daniel Sweet  
SD Zach Willner  
JD Leo Barnuevo

#### Investment ([investment@gray329.org](mailto:investment@gray329.org))

Chair TR Daniel Sweet  
Co-Chair JPM Erickson Ybarra  
Members WM Gary Wiener  
SW Steven Cobb  
JW Vigil Roxas  
Mario Reyna PM  
Duke Isak (Investment Manager)

#### Masonic Education ([education@gray329.org](mailto:education@gray329.org))

Chair JPM Erickson Ybarra  
Co-Chair SW Steven Cobb  
Members LI Doug Hissong PM  
WM Gary Wiener  
JW Vigil Roxas  
SD Zach Willner  
JD Leo Barnuevo  
SS Michael Polychronopoulos  
JS Youssef Jamal Diallo  
MC Marshall Collins  
MS Richard Cobb Sr.  
Mike Nanny PGM  
Roberto Sanchez PM

#### Membership, Sickness & Distress

([membership@gray329.org](mailto:membership@gray329.org))

Chair JW Vigil Roxas  
Members WM Gary Wiener  
JPM Erickson Ybarra  
CH Doug Hissong PM  
SW Steven Cobb  
SC Darrin Pitts PM  
SD Zach Willner  
JS Youssef Jamal Diallo

## Gray Lodge Committees 2022-2023 (continued)

### Special Committees

#### Awards ([awards@gray329.org](mailto:awards@gray329.org))

Chair JPM Erickson Ybarra  
Co-Chair Billy Moreno PM  
Members Al Florido PM  
Richard Fawcett PM  
WM Gary Wiener

Billy Moreno PM  
Richard Fawcett PM

#### By-Laws, Rules & Regulations

([by-laws@gray329.org](mailto:by-laws@gray329.org))

Chair SW Steven Cobb  
Co-Chair JW Vigil Roxas  
Members SC Darrin Pitts PM  
TR Daniel Sweet  
WM Gary Wiener  
CH Doug Hissong PM

#### Charitable Endeavors ([charity@gray329.org](mailto:charity@gray329.org))

Chair SD Zach Willner  
Co-Chair WM Gary Wiener  
Members SW Steven Cobb  
JW Vigil Roxas  
CH Doug Hissong PM  
Mike Nanny PGM

#### Fundraising ([fundraising@gray329.org](mailto:fundraising@gray329.org))

Chair SW Steven Cobb  
Co-Chair TR Daniel Sweet  
Members WM Gary Wiener  
JPM Erickson Ybarra  
SD Zach Willner  
JD Leo Barnuevo  
MC Marshall Collins  
MU Richard Cobb Jr.  
TI Brad Ledbetter  
Al Florido PM

#### Community Relations ([community@gray329.org](mailto:community@gray329.org))

Chair WM Gary Wiener  
Co-Chair SW Steven Cobb  
Members JW Vigil Roxas  
SD Zach Willner  
CH Doug Hissong PM

#### Membership Outreach ([outreach@gray329.org](mailto:outreach@gray329.org))

Chair SD Zach Willner  
Co-Chair WM Gary Wiener  
Members SW Steven Cobb  
JW Vigil Roxas  
CH Doug Hissong PM  
Mike Nanny PGM

#### Ritual Proficiency ([ritual@gray329.org](mailto:ritual@gray329.org))

Chair SW Steven Cobb  
Co-Chairs LI Doug Hissong PM  
SD Zach Willner  
Members WM Gary Wiener  
JPM Erickson Ybarra  
JW Vigil Roxas

#### Social Activities ([activities@gray329.org](mailto:activities@gray329.org))

Chair JW Vigil Roxas  
Co-Chairs JD Leo Barnuevo  
SS Michael Polychronopoulos  
Members SD Zach Willner  
JS Jamal Diallo  
MS Richard Cobb Sr.  
MC Marshall Collins  
MU Richard Cobb Jr.  
TI Brad Ledbetter

### Lodge Endowments

#### Humphrey Benevolent Fund

Board: WM Gary Wiener  
SW Steven Cobb  
JW Vigil Roxas  
SC Darrin Pitts PM  
TR Dan Sweet  
CH Doug Hissong PM  
JPM Erickson Ybarra

#### Frank E. Ahrendt Scholarship Fund

Board: WM Gary Wiener  
SW Steven Cobb  
JW Vigil Roxas  
SC Darrin Pitts PM  
TR Dan Sweet  
CH Doug Hissong PM  
SD Zach Willner

## Gray's Influence is Spreading Like ... *(hm, never mind)*

This Masonic year, Gray Lodge No. 329 has a distinction that few other lodges anywhere can claim: Our members will govern FOUR Houston-area lodges from the East!

Gary Wiener, of course, will serve Gray Lodge as Master this year, but our Lodge's influence is spreading beyond our doors:



Congratulations to our Brethren and friends! May they lead and serve their Lodges well from the East!

R.:W.: Aaron Tyksinski, DDGM and APM, was installed as Master of Holland #1 on June 24 ...



Richard Fawcett, PM (2017-2018) was installed as Master of Clear Lake #1417 on June 26 ...



... and Gray SD Zach Willner ascended to the East at East Bernard #817 on July 21!

## SAVE THE DATE—October 22!

### A.S. Richardson Lecture and Festive Board

Make your plans now to join us Saturday evening, October 22, 2022, for our 14th Annual A.S. Richardson Lecture, this year to be combined with our Festive Board. Our speaker will be Ben Williams, longtime publisher of *Rocky Mountain Mason* magazine (<http://www.rockymountainmason.com>), Past Grand Orator of the Grand Lodge of Colorado, current Secretary for Research Lodge of Colorado, and Past Master of Colorado lodges Norwood #111 and Telluride #56.

Bro. Williams was voted "Mason of the Year" in Colorado for 2015. He has served in numerous leadership capacities within both the Scottish Rite and York Rite, and in 2017 served as the grand commander for the Grand Commandery of the Knights Templar of Colorado.

Bro. Williams' lecture topic, as well as ticket prices, are to be determined. However, we expect this year's Richardson event to sell out—so mark your calendars now!



## “... that Important Lesson of Charity”

The **Humphrey Benevolent Fund** was established from the bequest of the estate of Brother W. S. Humphrey to Gray Lodge in 1929, The property in the estate of Brother Humphrey was set aside by the membership of Gray Lodge as an endowment for charitable purposes, primarily to relieve the distresses of Gray Lodge Brethren and their wives, widows, mothers, sisters and daughters. In addition, the Fund may be used for appropriate Community Charity Projects.

Although many Brethren don't know about the Humphrey Fund, rest assured that the mission of its Administrative Board (composed of the five principal Elected Officers and two Brethren appointed at the Worshipful Master's discretion) is to provide emergency financial help when it is critically needed — no questions asked, no identities disclosed. The Fund was able to provide assistance most recently to several Brethren during Hurricane Harvey.

The gifts from the Humphrey Fund are just that — gifts — and the Fund does not require nor expect to be reimbursed. However, that means that from time to time, the available cash in the Fund dips to an alarmingly low level. When that happens, it is up to those Brethren whose cable tow will permit to share their generosity, so that it can be put to best use when it is needed.

As part of his Initiation reception, WM Wiener encouraged attendees to show their appreciation for the meal provided by donating to the Humphrey Fund. As a result, the Fund's balance grew by \$460 — but, needless to say, we, as a Lodge, can do better. Please donate if you can, either via cash or check to our Lodge Secretary, or via PayPal using this QR code . The money will be available for a very worthy cause (and, in case of emergency, it will be available for you, too!).



## The “151 Club” (Master's Club) is in Full Swing!

WM Wiener heartily thanks **R.:W.:Mike Nanny, PM/PGM**, for (once again) becoming the Masonic year's first member of the Master's Club!

The “151 Club” is open to any Gray Lodge member who provides extra support to the Lodge by contributing an amount equal to annual dues, in addition to their Endowed, Life or 50-Year Membership or regular dues.



The Club provides extra income to Gray Lodge to be spent at the Master's discretion, but only for the benefit of the Lodge (and the Master's Club members). Members receive a special lapel pin and will be recognized on a plaque for their support of the Lodge! Use the QR code to the left to become a 151 Club Member!

## UPCOMING LOCAL MASONIC EVENTS

Please note that all plans are subject to change and should be confirmed before attending. The most up-to-date calendar info is always available at <http://www.GRAY329.org/calendar>.

**We are working to repair the online calendar feed and will have new links for you soon.**

### JULY 2022

27	Wed.	District 30 MWSA Meeting	<a href="#">Reagan Lodge #1057</a>	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
28	Thurs.	Scottish Rite Stated Meeting	<a href="#">Scottish Rite Temple</a>	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
28	Thurs.	<a href="#">Lodge Education &amp; Esoteric Work</a>	Gray Lodge #329	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
30	Sat.	Holland Lodge #1 Festive Board	<a href="#">Arabia Shrine Temple</a>	Check-In 6:00 pm / Dinner 7:30 pm

### AUGUST 2022

3	Wed.	<a href="#">Gray Lodge Stated Meeting</a>	Gray Lodge #329	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
4	Thurs.	<a href="#">Lodge Masonic Education</a>	Gray Lodge #329	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
8	Mon.	Houston Council #1 Meeting	<a href="#">Holland Lodge #1</a>	Meeting 7:00 pm
9	Tues.	Bluebell Chapter OES Meeting	Gray Lodge #329	7:30 pm
11	Thurs.	<a href="#">Lodge Education &amp; Esoteric Work</a>	Gray Lodge #329	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
12	Fri.	Ruthven Cmdry #2 Stated Meeting	<a href="#">Holland Lodge #1</a>	Meeting 7:00 pm
15	Mon.	Arabia Shrine Stated Meeting	<a href="#">Arabia Shrine Temple</a>	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
18	Thurs.	<a href="#">Lodge Ritual / Degree Practice</a>	Gray Lodge #329	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
20	Sat.	<a href="#">Lodge Work Saturday</a>	Gray Lodge #329	Begins 9:00 am
24	Wed.	District 30 MWSA Meeting	<a href="#">Reagan Lodge #1057</a>	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
25	Thurs.	Scottish Rite Stated Meeting	<a href="#">Scottish Rite Temple</a>	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
25	Thurs.	<a href="#">Lodge Education &amp; Esoteric Work</a>	Gray Lodge #329	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm

### SEPTEMBER 2022

7	Wed.	<a href="#">Gray Lodge Stated Meeting</a>	Gray Lodge #329	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
8	Thurs.	<a href="#">Lodge Masonic Education</a>	Gray Lodge #329	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
9	Fri.	Ruthven Cmdry #2 Stated Meeting	<a href="#">Holland Lodge #1</a>	Meeting 7:00 pm
12	Mon.	Washington Chapt #2 Meeting	<a href="#">Holland Lodge #1</a>	Meeting 7:00 pm
13	Tues.	Bluebell Chapter OES Meeting	Gray Lodge #329	7:30 pm
15	Thurs.	<a href="#">Lodge Ritual / Degree Practice</a>	Gray Lodge #329	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
17	Sat.	GLOt Forum & Certificate Exam	<a href="#">Aldine #1412</a>	Forum 9:00 am / Exam to follow
19	Mon.	Arabia Shrine Stated Meeting	<a href="#">Arabia Shrine Temple</a>	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
22	Thurs.	Scottish Rite Stated Meeting	<a href="#">Scottish Rite Temple</a>	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
22	Thurs.	<a href="#">Lodge Catechism Instruction</a>	Gray Lodge #329	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
24	Sat.	<a href="#">Lodge Work Saturday</a>	Gray Lodge #329	Begins 9:00 am
28	Wed.	District 30 MWSA Meeting	<a href="#">Reagan Lodge #1057</a>	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
29	Thurs.	<a href="#">Lodge Education &amp; Esoteric Work</a>	Gray Lodge #329	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm



## August Stated Meeting

Please plan now to join us for the first Stated Meeting of the new Masonic Year on Wednesday, August 3. WM Gary Wiener will lay out his vision for Gray Lodge No. 329 for the upcoming year.

Dinner will be served at 6 p.m., with an Entered Apprentice Mason's lodge to open at 7 p.m.

Also, please mark your calendars now to attend the second official visit of DDGM Hunter Schappaugh to Gray Lodge at our September 7 Stated Meeting!

## Keep Us Posted

If you have moved, or updated your email address or phone number, please update your record at [grandlodgeoftexas.org](http://grandlodgeoftexas.org) (in the Member Portal), call us at 713-730-9329, or email Bro. Darrin Pitts at [secretary@gray329.org](mailto: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.

## MASTER MASON ANNIVERSARIES

### JULY 2022

8	Andres Garza (30 yrs)	21	Patrick Dees (13)
8	David Pupo (29) *	23	Luis Massas (25)
10	Mark Pravel (37)	24	Doug Hissong (49) *
13	David Aguilar (11)	25	Michael Polychronopoulos (15)
13	Michael Baldwin (11)	26	Donald Keller (29)
14	James Bracht (46)	26	Michael Crisamore (18)
15	Bobby Clark (63)	29	Dan Sweet (24)
15	Jose Rodriguez (9)	30	Richard Hollinger (42)
18	Paul Elders (52)	30	William Konecny (36)
18	Curtis Walton (62)	31	Louceney Bangoura (8)
19	Donnie Hernandez (33) **		
19	Thomas Murray (44)		

\* Past Master of Gray Lodge

\*\* Affiliated Past Master

### AUGUST 2022

3	Mark Phelps (43 yrs)	21	James Lyon (31) *
8	Joey Hereford (3)	22	Cory Lawrence (3)
9	Michael Farnell (10)	25	Thomas Schwartz (12)
9	Todd Smith (10)	26	Max Bowen (65)
9	Richard Snell (57)	27	Michael Viteri (19)
11	Rajesh Kadiyala (12)	29	Chris Matthews (15)
11	Jack Barnett (6)	29	Jose Padilla (15)
11	Ian Martin (18)	29	Vigil Roxas (3)
11	Richard McHenry (23)	31	Raymond Leloup (33)
16	Edward Ettel (49)	31	John Pulley (39)
19	James Houk (13)		
20	Frederick Laughlin (40)		

\* Past Master of Gray Lodge

### SEPTEMBER 2022

5	Dwight Hollon (22 yrs)	18	Roger Castillo (20)
6	Mark Vonderau (38)	19	Abdel Fustok (21)
7	Robert Martin (16)	22	James Hoffman (6)
9	Alexander Di Caro (52)	22	Christopher Spry (29) *
10	Norman Dow (42)	23	Roy Shaw (58)
10	John McGalin (7)	24	Chris Haist (7)
11	Gregory McCoy (31)	29	Merle Zimmerman (51)
15	Larry Gabriel (46)	30	James Gilbert (55)
15	Norman Peterson (70)		
17	Miguel Grajeda, Sr. (45)		

\* Past Master of Gray Lodge

*"As we continue to improve ourselves in Masonry, we are indeed improving life. We know from history that without ideals to guide us, the garden of a man's life will not grow into a place of beauty."*

*~ Stanley F. Naxwell*