

SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:

- **New Officer Lineup**
- **Calendar of Events**
- **Change of Address/ Contact Info**
- **What is Brotherly Love?**
- **How to Contact the Lodge**

INSIDE
THIS ISSUE:

The Bottom Line	2
Ice Cream Social!!!!!!!!!!	3
Event Calendar	3
Masonic Education	4
Help Your Lodge's \$\$\$	5
Membership Committee	6
Endowments	6
Ritual Practices	7
Contact and Committees	7

Garland Trestle-Board

VOLUME 137, ISSUE 1

JULY, 2011

The Master's Carpet

By the time this publication reaches you, the 2011-2012 Officers of Garland Masonic Lodge No. 441 A.F. & A.M. will have been installed. The full officer line-up is listed on page 7. I only wish that my Masonic mentor and teacher, Marvin E. Grover, could have been there to see me installed.

It is with a humble heart and an open mind that I take the East as Worshipful Master of Garland Lodge. Having the opportunity to lead the Lodge for the next 12 months is a great responsibility, one that I do not take lightly nor half-heartedly. I cannot express enough the appreciation I have for the Brethren who have entrusted to me the awesome and awe-inspiring role of leadership of their Lodge. I will do my very best to live up to your expectations.

The officers and I have relatively few, but significant, programs planned for this Masonic year. Each of these is important to the life of our Lodge and to the Fraternity, and taken together will ensure that our Lodge is strengthened in both numbers and Fraternal health. There are three areas which Garland Lodge will focus on this Masonic year:

1. Membership
2. Brotherly Love
3. Masonic Education

Each of these dovetails with the others, and is briefly touched upon here.

We are going to strengthen our membership rolls by bringing back suspended members; encouraging dues-paying but inactive members to participate; actively seeking and encouraging other men to think about becoming Masons; and providing *reasons* to come to Lodge. We will host monthly special events geared toward these goals, as well as several family activities.

We are going to promote brotherly love amongst ourselves and other Masons, making our Lodge a

“safe” place to express our thoughts “on the level”; where everyone’s opinion is valued and treated with respect. Personal attacks against a Brother or his reputation are not to be tolerated in or outside of the Lodge. Peace and Harmony will prevail.



Those of you that know me know that Masonic Education is near and dear to my heart. Masonic Education will include monthly Masonic lectures, weekly floor schools, participation in Masters, Wardens & Secretary functions, district-wide training sessions, esoteric proficiency (A/B/C Certificates), participation in

Appendant Bodies, and other programs. As we gain new members, there will be plenty of opportunity for all to learn/relearn/refine various parts in the Degrees.

Brethren, these programs may seem to be “simple” on the surface, but I assure you they are not easy things to accomplish. It will require hard work, dedication and perseverance on the part of many members. But if you love Masonry and Garland Lodge as I do, I know you will want to join me in making 441 a place where Masons *want* to be.

If you are asked to help or serve on a committee, I hope you will agree to do so, giving it your very best effort. If you are not asked to serve, but think there is something you can do to help your Lodge, please don’t hesitate to call or email me. I welcome and listen to all suggestions, criticisms and input from all members.

Again, I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your vote of confidence, and I look forward to serving you and Garland Lodge this year.

Fraternally,
Jerry Lawson
Worshipful Master

The Bottom Line: From the Treasurer

Brethren, the Master has asked me to write a brief synopsis of the financial circumstance in which the lodge now finds itself. This circumstance arises as the result of two events.



First, the lodge collects annual dues from each member in the amount of \$67.00. In turn, the lodge is required to pay to the Grand Lodge the "Grand Lodge per capita dues" equal to \$14.25 for each member on its rolls (members with 50 years or more service are exempt from all dues). The difference of \$52.75 (\$67.00 - \$14.25) is operating revenue used to fund lodge operations. At the last Grand Lodge session the Grand Lodge per capita dues were increased from \$14.25 to \$25.00 per member. We will incur the 75% increase in this Masonic year.

Secondly, since the financial crisis two

years ago the Grand Lodge has not paid any return on endowed memberships to the constituent lodges. Never the less, the Grand Lodge has required that the constituent lodges continue paying the Grand Lodge per capita dues on these endowed members. Additionally, payments on endowed memberships in the three years prior to suspension did not exceed \$25.00 per member. While we are hopeful that payments on endowed memberships will resume shortly, we do not believe they will exceed an amount greater than the \$25.00 per capita. If such be the case, the lodge will lose the operating revenue generated by 134 endowed members or roughly 25% of total membership.

How to manage the likely revenue shortfall created by these two events is the major concern with which the Budget/Finance Committee now labors. We will pass along more information as it becomes available.

- Tim Towson, Treasurer

A New Brother's Perspective



We are taught in the description of the Working Tools of a Master Mason that we are a "society of Friends and Brothers, among whom no contention should ever exist, but that noble contention, or rather, emulation, of who can best work and best agree." Whatever differences we might have with one another, we

should remember that admonition, get past any discord, shake hands as Brothers and start the revival of this beautiful lodge, now almost empty. Let us bring back the glory of the past and make it possible to once again be proud to be Masons and members of Garland Lodge.

What's Going On at 441?

(All meetings at 7:00PM, unless otherwise indicated)

- July 6 Garland DeMolay Stated Meeting
- July 12 Garland Lodge Stated Meeting 7:30
- July 14 Garland Chapter/Council Stated Meeting and Installation Ceremonies 7:30
- July 18 Garland Eastern Star Meeting
- July 19 EA Proficiency/FC Degree Practice
- July 21 Garland Chapter/Council floor school
- July 26 FC Degree
- July 31 Garland Ice Cream Social 2-5PM

Garland Lodge floor school every Tuesday

Garland Chapter/Council floor school every Thursday

Garland DeMolay every Wednesday

- Aug 1 Garland Eastern Star Stated Meeting
- Aug 1 Garland Lodge Officers 6:00PM
- Aug 6 EA Degree 9:00AM (Breakfast at 8:00)
- Aug 3 Garland DeMolay Stated Meeting
- Aug 9 Garland Lodge Stated Meeting 7:30PM
- Aug 11 Garland Chapter/Council Stated Meeting 7:30PM

Ice Cream Social!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



In continuation of Friendship and Brotherly Love you are encouraged to come to Garland Lodge Sunday, July 31st between the hours of 2PM and 5PM, where you will enjoy some tasty ice cream, sherbet or sorbet and engage in peaceful conversation and harmonious fellowship with your Brother Masons, family and friends. This is an open event. Bring your

buddies, your sons, your wives and your daughters, and cool off on a hot summer afternoon with a cone or a bowl of your favorite treat. Come and introduce yourself to the new installed officers. If they don't yet know you, they'd love to meet you, as they realize that without YOU there is no Lodge. See you there!

Give your business some exposure

Business ads in this publication are available for purchase. The income from these ads go to help fund the Lodge's charitable activities, such as DeMolay, Widows' Appreciation, Blood Drives, Police & Firefighters Breakfast, etc.

These rates are for 12 issues, each of which is distributed to a minimum of 500 subscribers each month.

Ads can be purchased for very reasonable rates in the following sizes:

Contact Jerry Lawson for more information or to place your advertisement.

- 2"x3-1/2" (business card equivalent) : \$75
- Quarter page: \$150 Half page: \$250 Full page: \$500

Masonic Education Corner

Brotherly Love

The principal tenets of Freemasonry are Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth. It is necessary not to overlook the word “principal”, for it signifies that, while our fraternity lays the greatest emphasis on these three teachings, yet there are others which must not be overlooked.

By a “tenet” of Freemasonry is meant some teaching so obviously true, so universally accepted, that we believe it without question. Examples lie everywhere about us. Good health is better than illness; a truthful man is more dependable than a liar; it is better to save money than to waste it; an industrious man is more useful



than an idle one; education is to be preferred to ignorance. These are but a few of the countless examples of teachings that no intelligent man can possibly question. Everybody takes them for granted. They are Tenets.

Freemasonry considers Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth to be teachings of this kind, true in the sense that no man can question them; they are obvious, self-proving, and axiomatic. It is not uncommon for men to consider Brotherly Love, while highly desirable, as not practicable, and therefore but a vision, to be dreamed of but never possessed. It is challenging for Freemasonry to call

these “tenets” thus stating that they are plainly and obviously and necessarily true. Unless you grasp this, and see that the teachings of Freemasonry are self-evident realities, not visionary ideals, you will never understand Masonic teachings. For Freemasonry does not tell us that the principles of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth ought to be true, that it would be better for us all if they were true – it tells us that they are true. They are tremendous realities in human life, and it is as impossible to question their validity as to question the ground under our feet, or the sun over our heads. Our question is not whether to believe them or not, but what are we going to do with them?

Love places the highest possible valuation on another person. A man’s mother or father, his wife or sweetheart, his children, his intimate friends, he values not for advantages he may gain from them, not for their usefulness, but each one in his own person and for his own sake. We work for such persons, we make sacrifices for them, we delight to be with them; that in detail and practice, is what is meant by love.

What then, is *Brotherly Love*? Manifestly, it means that we place on another man the highest possible valuation as a friend, a companion, an associate, a neighbor. “By the exercise of Brotherly Love, we are taught to regard the whole human species as one family.” We do not ask that, from our relationship, we shall achieve any selfish gain. Our relationship with a brother is its own justification, its own reward. Brotherly Love is one of the supreme values without which life is lonely, unhappy, and ugly. This is not a hope or dream, but a fact. Freemasonry builds on that fact, provides opportunity for us to have such fellowship, encourages us to understand and to practice it, and to make it one of the laws of our existence, one of our Principal Tenets.

Next issue: Relief and Truth

**What is
meant by
Brotherly
Love?**

Excerpted from
“The Masonic
Scholar: A Manual
of Masonic
Education for
Candidates”

Member Million Dollar
Round Table

Texas
Leader Round Table

Dwayne M. Gentsch

Financial Services

P.O. Box 472227
Garland, TX 75047-2227

Bus: (972) 271-2120 • Res: (972) 278-1665

Registered Representative

Securities offered through: **PMG SECURITIES CORPORATION**
2500 Westfield Drive • Elgin, IL 60123
1-800-463-7642 • Member: NASD & SIPC

advertisement

Sick and Distressed

Please contact Herb Cook at
972-475-2459 or
hcooksrl@verizon.net
with any updates or
requests pertaining to sick
or distressed Brothers or
their family members.

Change of Address?

New email or phone?

Can you help us keep our records updated? Let us know if any of your contact information has changed, or of any other information you wish to share.

Please submit any changes to jerry.lawson@yahoo.com or mail to the P.O. Box shown on the back page.

Want to Save Your Lodge Some Bucks?

Are you interested in helping Garland Lodge save some money in its operating expenses? Here are some ideas you might consider:

1. Donate \$5.25 to defray printing & postage costs for 12 issues of the Trestle-Board, or opt-in for electronic distribution. It may not seem like much, but with 500+ members the costs add up.
2. If you are an endowed member, consider remitting your dues, or a portion thereof, to offset the \$25 "per capita" we must send to Grand Lodge.
3. Donate cash for, or provide, kitchen and pantry supplies (plates, bowls, plastic-ware, napkins, trash bags, coffee, tea, bottled sodas, etc.)
4. Make sure all lights are turned off, and thermostats adjusted properly, when you are the last leaving the building.
5. Purchase a personal or business ad in this publication.

These and possibly other ideas will help us reduce costs in these trying economic times.



Every Mason is on the Membership Committee

Brethren, each and every Master Mason is on the Membership Committee. It would be hard to believe that a Master Mason knows absolutely no other man that believes in a Supreme Architect, lives a life worthy of being called a “good man”, and otherwise meets the criteria for being made a Mason. Each of us has a father, son, brother, cousin, uncle, father-in-law, nephew, grandfather, co-worker, or friend that meets the requirements of becoming a Mason. Talk to him or them about Masonry; gauge his interest and answer his questions.

A candidate must, of his own free will and accord, present himself for the Degrees, but we are allowed to talk about Masonry to potential candidates and “invite” them to petition. Grand Lodge of Texas law states, in part:

“This Grand Lodge ... acknowledges to all Masons of its obedience, that it is permissible and proper to extend a neutrally-



worded invitation to petition for the Degrees of Masonry to a man whom you have strong reason to believe is of good moral character and reputation...” (Art 393a)

A certain Master Mason of our Lodge once told me his “trick” for breaking the ice with potential candidates: he simply asks them “What Lodge are

you a member of?” and sees where it goes from there. Whatever your particular angle or tack, remember that there is no better way of piquing a man’s interest in something than by telling him what that thing means to YOU. Tell him what YOU believe, what Masonry means to YOU, and how it has helped YOU become a better man, husband, father, and community member.

Where are these men? At your office; at your church; at your social clubs; down the street; even the man who makes your venti-double-mocha-soy-no-whip-latte every morning.

The old adage says “To be one, ask one.” Let us invert the model and say “To make one, find one.”

I challenge each and every one of you to find a man worthy of our Order and “neutrally invite” him to petition our Lodge.

A Note About Endowments

When Lodge “Endowments” were created by the Grand Lodge years ago, they were envisioned as a means by which a member could accomplish two things:

1. Provide an investment vehicle for the Lodge to receive yearly income from his \$500.
2. Allow a member’s dues to that Lodge to be “paid in full” for his lifetime.

If you were like me, you purchased your Endowment because it made financial sense as opposed to paying regular dues each year: “Sure the Lodge might lose a little money on me being endowed while I’m alive, but they start making money after I’ve entered into the Celestial Lodge Above,” was my thinking when I wrote that \$500 check.

But the reality, My Brother, is that the Lodge is suffering because of our

endowments. The return on investment for each Endowed member is, at best, equal to the Grand Lodge per-capita of \$25; and at worst, \$0 (even though we must **continue** to send the \$25 per capita). This means that for each living endowed member the Lodge is “losing” \$42 to \$67 dollars: **on the order of \$5600 to \$9000 !!**

In order to alleviate some of this financial “pain” on the Lodge, we are asking Endowed members to seriously consider doing one of the following:

1. Send in \$25 to Garland Lodge each year, to ease our per capita burden.
2. Send in the **full** amount of dues each year, to not only ease our per capita burden, but to also provide income for our operating expenses.

We realize that many Endowed brothers are on a fixed income, or have other financial burdens which would prevent them from doing either of

these. **Therefore, we are also asking those brothers that can afford it, whether Endowed or not, to “Adopt a Brother” and remit an unnamed brother’s per capita or full dues amount to the Lodge.**

We are looking into other avenues of raising revenue, and see this as a short-term temporary “band-aid” to help our financial situation.

If you look at your Endowment as a way of honoring your Lodge as well as providing you a guarantee that you can never go suspended for non-payment of dues, rather than as a way of avoiding paying dues altogether, you will have a better appreciation and perspective of what your Endowed membership truly means.

Look into your heart, Brother: remember that lesson in the Northeast Corner, and see how deep you can dig to support YOUR Lodge.

How to Contact Us

Garland Lodge's website is: www.garlandlodge441.org



[Garland Masonic Lodge No. 441](#)

Subscribe to Garland Lodge email updates and news by sending an email to:

garland441+subscribe@googlegroups.com

Jerry Lawson can be reached at: jerry.lawson@yahoo.com or 214-289-6474

Please let us know if you would like to receive this publication via email, to save postage and printing costs.

Ritual Practice Nights

The Lodge continues to hold Masonic floor school on each Tuesday evening at 7:00pm in the Lodge Room. The purpose of these sessions is to improve our ritual proficiency in Degree work and opening and closing lodge. If you would like to improve your own proficiency, as well as participate in fraternal bonding, come on down and join us.

We always have a meal at 6:30, where we sit around the dining table and get to know each other a little better. This

would also be a great opportunity to invite friends who are interested in learning about becoming a Mason.

If you aren't very proficient in the work, or you're a little rusty, or have never even participated in Degree work, come on out anyway. We run a very relaxed, non-threatening learning session, in which everyone is treated with respect. Instructors are also available for one-on-one sessions. Come join us and see what you're missing.

Garland Lodge Committees and Officers

Investments:

Maurice Williams
Danny Thomas (chair)
Tim Towson (treasurer)
Jim Bookhout
Kevin Slaton

Maintenance:

Eric Stuyvesant (chair)
Robert Suits
Evanor Schefer

Membership:

Eric Stuyvesant (chair)
Brian Pittman
Robert Sharp

L.I.F.E. Counselor:

Tim Towson

Scholarship:

Hutch Hutchinson
Larry Case (chair)
Preston Edwards
Tim Plunk
Jody Krizan

Committee on Work:

Jerry Lawson (chair)
Eric Stuyvesant
Phil Schreiber
Dan Dancer

Sick and Distressed:

Herb Cook (chair)
Cliff Edwards

Gift of Life Liaison:

Robert Sharp

Funeral:

Morris Apple (chair)
Danny Thomas
Robert Sharp
Evanor Schefer
Eric Stuyvesant

Budget:

Keith Dancer (chair)
Eric Stuyvesant
Dwayne Gentsch
Tim Towson
Gene Baskin

Charitable Activities:

To Be Filled (your name here?)

Officers:

Jerry Lawson—Worshipful Master
Danny Thomas—Senior Warden
Eric Stuyvesant—Junior Warden
Tim Towson—Treasurer
Gene Baskin—Secretary
Cliff Edwards—Chaplain
Keith Dancer—Senior Deacon
Phil Schreiber—Junior Deacon
Maurice Williams—Master of Ceremonies
Dan Dancer—Marshal
Jim Beasley—Tiler



Garland Lodge No. 441 A.F. & A.M.

Located at:

125 E. State St.

Garland, Texas 75040

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 460702

Garland, Texas 75046-0702

Telephone: **972-276-7614**

Garland Masonic Lodge has been continuously making Masons in Texas since the 1870s. It has a rich and proud history in Garland, Dallas County and Texas. As Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, we believe in the existence of One True God, the Immortality of the Soul, and the Brotherhood of Man.

Stated Meeting: 2nd Tuesday of each month 7:30PM (Supper at 6:30)



**Garland Masonic Lodge
No. 441 A.F. & A.M.**

125 East State Street, Garland, Texas 75040
P.O. Box 460702 - Garland, Texas 75046-0702
(972) 276-7614

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Garland, Texas
Permit No. 37**