



BRENHAM MASON

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF GRAHAM LODGE NO. 20 A.F. & A.M.

In This Issue

THE MASTER'S CORNER:
MIKE THORPE, WM

LODGE NEWS & UPDATES

INTERVIEW WITH A
BROTHER:
KEN LANE

THE MASTER'S CORNER

MIKE THORPE, WM

Brethren, it was indeed a pleasure to see all the brothers who attended our May stated meeting. You each are an inspiration to me and I truly value your input and ideas.

Graham Lodge is awakening, and becoming very active. We are joining forces with our brothers in the Shrine, assisting them with the Maifest activities. Last weekend we BBQed and this week will assist in serving the meal to the Houston Shrine. We had a great time working together in fellowship.



The Brenham Shrine Club has volunteered to help us in July with cooking and serving baked potatoes at the Hot Nights and Cool Tunes.

Brothers working together, helping brothers, and in return we ALL are able to help our charities.

I am so thankful and appreciative of all the support each of you have given. I truly look forward to the next Masonic year.

- Mike

LODGE NEWS



Scholarships 5/3/2021

Our scholarships were awarded to 6 deserving Brenham High School Students. Each student received \$500.

Three more scholarships are scheduled to be awarded to Burton High School students ASAP.

Fundraiser

July 10, 17, 24, 31

We have reserved/paid for a location to sell concessions at Hot Nights Cool Tunes.

Spanning 4 weekends in July, H.N.C.T. is a Family Oriented concert venue hosted by Downtown Brenham.

Besides the concert, there is local food, art, and a car show.

If you are interested in helping with the food booth, we need meat smokers, potato cookers, someone to run the cash transactions, and as always brothers to shake hands, meet and greet.

Contact Eddy Jezisek or Keith Killgore for details.

ej1095@gmail.com
(979) 218-5716

BRENHAM MASON



Brenham Maifest

Brenham celebrates Maifest May 7th and 8th at Fireman's Park beginning Friday at 5:00 pm. Maifest is a Historic German festival featuring music, carnival, food and drinks.

We have a large presence of brothers and a storied history with Maifest.

Come out with your family and see the highlight of the Maifest Ceremony – the Junior Coronation at 7pm Friday and Senior Coronation 7pm Saturday, along with a Parade through Downtown Brenham on Saturday morning.

Baby On The Way

We are excited for Bro. Curlee and his family as they are expecting a baby any day now.

Officer Elections

Reminder: We are electing officers in the next few months.

The Awning

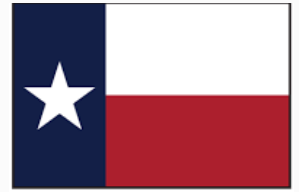
Our front awning is in need of an overhaul at the least, and a complete rebuild at the worst.

Blinn Cornerstone

Because of COVID complications, the cornerstone ceremony at the new Blinn Science/Technology building has been postponed multiple times. Bro. Thorpe and Bro. Stark are patiently working to get dates set while coordinating with multiple parties.

The new building is massive and stands between Prairie Lea Cemetery and Old Main. We are proud of our partnership and history with Blinn over the years.





JW - J.W. Burchfield, WM - Ken Lane, SW - Clifford Brisbin, 2018

INTERVIEW WITH A BROTHER: KEN LANE

WITH EDDY JEZISEK



When Ken Lane speaks, people stop and listen. Rest assured, if he states an opinion, it is done with care and thoughtfulness. He is one of those guys who has walked the walk and has the wisdom to show for it.

This month, we are grateful that he has taken the time to share a bit of wisdom with us.

Ken Lane

- Raised at Hubert Lodge #67, Chappell Hill, Texas

How many years have you been a Mason?

- 11 years and counting

Appendant Degrees

- Scottish Rite - Austin
- Star of Republic Scottish Rite Club
 - Caldwell, Texas

Positions held

- WM - Graham Lodge, Brenham
- WM - Hubert Lodge, Chappell Hill
 - Multiple Officer's Chairs
- DDGM - 2014'
- Golden Trowel Award - 2018' (Graham)

Can you talk a little about your background, because you have been a part of some interesting work

I spent six years in the Army as a Flight Engineer in a transportation company. We flew the Sikorsky CH-37 & Sky Hook.

I have always found myself in some type of competition. In High School it was football and rodeo. In the Army it was martial arts. Afterwards its was various running events.

I attended Washburn University, Topeka, Kansas, receiving a degree in Accounting, and University of Southern California Graduate School, Business Economics.

My first career was 19 years with the railroad and then I completely switched professions, (which was a scary thing) and got into the oil business. Mainly working as a contract manager and project manager among other things.

I traveled the world working in the oil/natural gas business, spending years abroad in places like Argentina, Brazil, and Ecuador. I even lived in Jakarta, Indonesia for a time.

What motivated you to join Masonry?

My Grandfather was a Mason and I admired him very much. That being said, I didn't join for a long time. Joining the lodge was always on my mind but I didn't commit until after I retired because I was always on the move.



Joining the lodge was always on my mind...

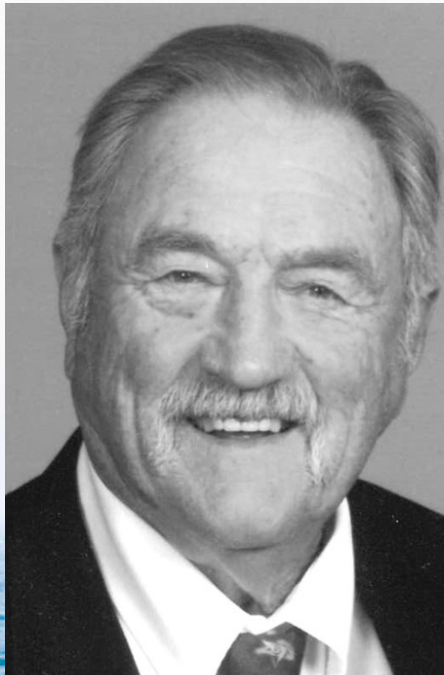
I didn't commit until I retired because I was always on the

move

Do you have any important Masonic influences?

I have a lot of close friendships with the brothers. One that stands out is Aaron Collier. We became fast friends after I became a Master Mason and we traveled everywhere together. He is really a Mason's Mason. He, along with Nick Nelms and I spent a lot of time on the road together. During my DDGM year, we only missed 2 meetings all year in District 44.





What made you want to stay a member? What kept bringing you back?

You see a lot of brothers that develop a love for Masonry and then time goes by, they get disenfranchised or miss a few meetings and then it is easier to miss a few more and before you know it, their zeal wears thin. We stop coming sometimes for work and family reasons and that is okay. I was fortunate to be at a place in my life that I was able to serve and still do.

I am bought in to the needs of the lodge and the brothers enough that I've always tried to stay active.

The biggest factor in staying active is the long lasting friendships. Those are formed from working together and traveling to Masonic events. All of us brothers counting on each other.

“

The greatest joy of my life is my grandchildren

What are some of the most important lessons you have learned over the course of your Masonic Career?

Never give up, persistence will always pay off. You won't always get along with every brother but you have to work with them. None of what we do happens properly on your own.

Some people say that they have had difficult or stressful experiences, but they have learned important lessons from them. Can you give some examples that apply to what you have learned?

In leadership, there is a lot of them. You are going to have stress. When it happens, it is a test of your character and you just have to make the best of it and do what is right. But it is tough serving in leadership sometimes.

Do you have any advice for new Masons?

Get your work done in a timely manner, Don't drag it out. Make time to meet with your instructor more often than the minimum once a week. If you do, you will be much happier and less stressed.

“

Maintaining & reestablishing verbal communication is key, Personal contact. I just don't see a lot of guys coming back otherwise

What are your thoughts on retaining members and bringing members back?

A good thing would be a telephone committee. Maintaining and reestablishing verbal communication is key. A newsletter alone just won't do it. Personal contact, I don't see a lot of guys coming back otherwise.





What makes a peaceful and harmonious lodge?

When you learn to accept the vote of the lodge. Some brothers just can't do that and they move on.

What would you say you know now about living a happy and successful life that you didn't know when you were twenty?

That's a really tough one. Maybe focus on the things you know you can change and accomplish them first.

Likewise, if you get into a situation where there is no other choice but a bad one, accept it and do your best.

I have a plaque at home that reads: "You never know how strong you are until being strong is the only choice you have."



Masonry will always be a part of my life. When it is time for me to go into an assisted care home, my plan is to join the Masonic Retirement home in Arlington, Texas.

Then by the grace of the Grand Architect, I will still be proudly wearing the white leather apron of a Mason when I enter the Celestial Lodge above.



“
If you aren't enjoying what you do, you better change it



2020-2021 Officers



Master: Michael Thorpe



Sr. Warden: Aaron Curlee



Jr. Warden: Joe Jordan



Treasurer: Dan Blalock



Secretary: Kirby Simmons



Chaplain: J.W. Burchfield



Sr. Deacon: Alan Menchaca



Jr. Deacon: Brad Kuecker

Marshal: Dr. Robert S. Stark



Tyler: Keith Killgore

Master of Ceremony: Kenneth Hetzel



www.grahamlodge20.com

