



# BRENHAM MASON

GRAHAM LODGE NO. 20 A.F. & A.M.



## This Month

THE MASTERS CORNER

LODGE NEWS & UPCOMING  
EVENTS

### At dawn on March 6, 1836,

the 13th day of the siege, the Battle of the Alamo commenced. Fighting lasted roughly 90 minutes, and by daybreak all the Defenders had perished, including a former congressman from Tennessee, David Crockett. The loss of the garrison was felt all over Texas, and even the world.



“We cannot tell what may happen to us in the strange medley of life. But we can decide what happens in us – how we can take it, what we do with it – and that is what really counts in the end.”

– **Joseph Fort Newton**

# THE MASTER'S CORNER



MICHAEL THORPE, WM.



Brethren,

This year is going by quickly. Our Lodge has been Busy. I thank each of you for your support and involvement. We distributed the fantastic teeth program again this year, and the smiles on those First-graders made every second and every breath worth it.

This month we received DDGM of District 44, RW Robert Carlton Newberry at our stated meeting.

Soon, we will be reading a petition for an EA, and a petition for plural membership. There is ongoing discussion about Hot Nights and Cool tunes. We had a GREAT time hosting our Masonic widows and they all had smiles to share with us. They visited and enjoyed a meal with us and each other.

We have begun distributing our Public Schools week gifts to the teachers and students and should have completed that before this is printed, It was another enjoyable time of interacting with our schools and the students.

Graham Lodge will be Hosting a District 44 work shop on May 14th at 9 AM should be done by noon. This workshop will be to certify the primary officers of the lodges per Grand Lodge rule.

We continue to practice every Monday evening at 6 PM, we hope to see you.

Finally, WHAT A GREAT TIME WE HAD going down to Sealy, San Felipe lodge and winning the traveling Gavel. Thanks to all the Graham bunch who traveled with us.

Brothers it is an HONOR serving you, and I Hope each of you can find length in your cable tow to come out lodge and join us in our labors.



# LODGE NEWS

## **\*\* Family Night \*\* Super Bowl Party** **Sunday February 13, 2022**

The First (that we know of) lodge Super Bowl party was a hit. Over 20 brothers, family, and good friends were in attendance. The food was excellent with 8 Chili entries. Winner of the chili contest was Brother Ken Lane. RW R. Carlton Newberry Jr. and family were in attendance and from reports, played a fierce game of dominoes.



# LODGE NEWS

## Fantastic Teeth Program, February 2021

Brenham ISD - Krause, Alton, BES

Burton Elem

With Michael Thorpe WM, George Allan Wells SW, Ken Lane JW, Nick Nelms PM, Boris Davis

### TODAY ISSUE PRESENTS:



# LODGE NEWS

## Graham Lodge No. 20 Widows & Sweethearts Banquet.

Honoring the ones we love.

Patsy Hermann, Dorothy Lesser, Ellen Wiese, Beth Stark, Oma Mills.

To the ladies of masonry, we thank you for the class and grace in which you conduct yourselves, always motivating us to achieve a higher standard. We are most thankful for the sacrifice of time that you endure while we are serving the craft, our community, and bettering ourselves. You are our in our hearts always.



# LODGE NEWS

## Traveling Gavel

The Gavel. Is back in Brenham.

Thank you SanFelipe Lodge for your hospitality and fellowship.

Photo by Carter Sharbrough

The Gavel was started a few years ago by a group of District 44 Brothers as a reason to visit other lodges (In Force). Nick Nelms actually built it from wood donated by Brother Donnie Barrone of Warren Lodge in Caldwell. So, without contention, brothers of the 44th, come and take it, and we will feed you the best stated meeting meal you have had all year and catch up on old times.



# LODGE NEWS

## Public Schools Week, February 2021 Brenham ISD - Burton ISD

With Michael Thorpe WM, George Allan Wells SW, Boris Davis

Science • Health • Wellness

Graham Donated thousands of Pencils & Pens for the Students and an awesome coffee cup for the Teachers.

TODAY'S ISSUE PRESENTS:



## Arabia Shrine Circus - April 20-24, 2022

### Fort Bend Fairgrounds

After a two-year absence, Arabia Shriners of Houston, Texas is bringing back the Shrine Circus! April 20 - 24, 2022 at the Fort Bend Fairgrounds!

For more information please visit us at [www.arabiashrinecircus.org](http://www.arabiashrinecircus.org)

Tickets will be available online in the coming weeks. See Keith Killgore, Aaron Curlee, James Stephens, or any of the guys with a Fez for details.

TODAY ISSUE PRESENTS:

ARABIA SHRINERS PRESENTS

# SHRINE CIRCUS

April 20 - 24, 2022 | Fort Bend Fairgrounds

ARABIA SHRINE CIRCUS 2022  
RUN AWAY WITH ME TO THE CIRCUS

A DAY FILLED WITH FUN AND GAMES


## LIVE ANIMALS AND AMAZING ACTS

THE WORLD'S GREATEST FRATERNITY

ADULTS: \$20 • CHILDREN 4 - 12 YEARS OLD: \$10 • CHILDREN 3 & UNDER: FREE

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For more information  
please call 713 664 3437 or visit  
[www.arabiashrinecircus.org](http://www.arabiashrinecircus.org)



Donations are Not Tax Deductible and Benefit Arabia Shrine Center



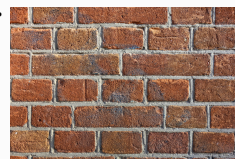
# On The Topic of.. Lodge Committees & Other Things

(op-ed) FROM INTERVIEWS WITH A WHOLE BUNCH OF BROTHERS.

Brethren,

If you are still reading after the headline, thank you.

I know that the quickest way to exit a conversation is to bring up committees, however they are a vital part of what makes a lodge work, and that's not just me talking. We have spoken to multiple Past Masters of successful lodges and asked for their thoughts on how to avoid contention especially during periods of growth. All agree, that it is important to carefully reflect on how we as a lodge can best work and best agree. Strong Gavel is First. Brotherly Love is next and a big part of that is organizing work properly.



## Masonry is Experiencing Growth

We are busy and all hands on deck are needed. But how do we manage growth and still keep those stated meetings to a manageable length of time. All organizations have struggles and ours (chartered in 1845) has had its share. But no brother I have ever heard of joined the lodge to cause trouble, so how does it happen?

I purposely leave you with more questions than answers today, but one thing is for sure, the diversity of talent within Masonic Lodges is vast, we have brothers from all walks of life and most of them want to participate in one way or another.

After asking around, most Masons agree that the worst thing we can do is have a brother leave because he cannot find a way to get plugged-in to the lodge. The second is forcing someone into a job or role that they are ill-suited for.

## Build a Committee without Creating a Clique

Friendships naturally form around things that people have in common. People often feel supported and welcomed because of their similar interests. Its natural to do this. We are brothers and want to stay that way, below is the definition of a clique from the world of business.

### Cliques

- Make it clear to outsiders that not just anyone can join and be part of their group.
- Often focus on maintaining their popularity or status.
- Accomplish status by making those on the outside feel like they are less important than those inside the clique.
- Notorious for using their perceived power as a way to hurt or bully others.
- Often exclude, ostracize and leave out others on purpose.
- Mean. And this meanness isn't always limited to those on the outside.

Are we as Masons diametrically opposed to all of the above points? Should we hold ourselves and our brothers accountable if we are guilty of such actions? If so, what is the proper method to do so?

How do I as a Mason avoid cliques? Is a Committee the same thing?

# On The Topic of.. Lodge Committees

cont.



## Pro's and Cons

*"We don't need a meeting for that, we've been doing it for years without it and never had any problems"*  
*-Guy in every lodge.*

Two issues with the above statement.

First, what happens when that one person in which everything runs through, passes to the celestial lodge above, or is one day unable to perform the duty?

Secondly, have there really been **NO** issues? Are you a servant leader as in one who leads by example? Do you enable those you work with to grow and shine or are you controlling everything to honor yourself? Are you placing "your way" above the good of the craft?

Perhaps the worst thing in the world that could happen to me personally, would to find out that people have been afraid to address my behavior (which has hurt the lodge) because they are scared I might react poorly or even quit. This is a brother that is loved but not liked.

Here are a few observations, again from the business world.

### When Committees Work

1. Written Committee Description.
2. An Effective Committee Chair
3. Effective Members Appointed
4. Accountability to the Central Organization
5. Well-run Meetings (concise)
6. Good Food (Jezisek added that one)

### When Committees Don't Work

Committees don't work well when there is:

1. Lack of long-term agenda.
2. Reliance on bad information.
3. Inability to focus on the right issues.
4. Poor involvement by one or more members.
5. Lack of clear purpose.
6. Guys don't show up (see 1-5)

Do you agree? Is there anything you might add or takeaway from these descriptions?

### What the PM's Say

*A while ago, we started requiring officers of the lodge to be on specific committees during their year. This accomplished a few things, first it ensured that at least one person would take charge and that aspect would be addressed. Secondly, by the time you reach the East, you have at some level, participated in every aspect of the lodge.*

- PM

While not intentional, this method may also make brothers decide if they are cut out for additional responsibility.

*To start, decide as a lodge to be really good at something. Ritual, Greeting, Fundraisers, whatever you decide. Start there and that will get the ball rolling before you try to do too much and end up not very good at any of it - PM,*

# On The Topic of.. Lodge Committees

cont.

## Last Thoughts

### What some of the new (young) guys say

- Our lodge looks old fashioned and not well cared for from the outside. I almost did not join because it looked like no one was ever there.
- I want to see more of Masonry, is blue lodge just about stated meetings and that's it?
- How do I get more involved in \_\_\_\_\_ when these guys have been doing \_\_\_\_\_ for so long?
- How do we deal with the person who tries to run everything, or someone who is rude and disrespectful, but we still really care about him?

### Response From the PM's

*My year in the East, we had a brother that shouted out negative comments in lodge, stirred up mess outside, and was generally not very nice. I learned to gavel him down in lodge, but more effective was just going over the top in showering him with praise. Calling him out by name and thanking him for pointing out all of our flaws and defects. He sorta stopped after that.*

### Another brother responded...

*We had a brother who was on the surface level an effective leader. But as time went on, it became evident that all things in the lodge were to go through him. He had built up quite a faction for himself and became a de-facto king-maker. He was also on every committee including building and finance. Problem being, if he did not like you, then you were never going to a chair and were excluded from most things to do with lodge.*

*This all came to a head when the Senior Warden went to him in private and said, next year you will not chair any committees and will behave yourself. The Brother who was chided subsequently quit, which is sad but we experienced unprecedented growth afterwards.*

### Another response..

*A public rebuke is not the first step. Being in leadership is having those tough conversations first, man to man, then with brothers, and only as a last resort bringing everyone in.*

**What are your takeaways from this discussion? Please use this to start conversations in your lodge. If we stop talking to each other we start dying.**

*If you wish to add anything to the newsletter, please contact us and we will make sure it gets due attention. All opinions for the good of Masonry are welcome. thank you brothers.*

# **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**3.7 Practice Night @ 6:00**

**3.12 EA Degree (x2) @ Hubert Lodge #67  
Chappell Hill Texas - 5055 Main St.  
10:00 AM**

**3.14 Practice Night @ 6:00**

**3.21 Practice Night @ 6:00**

**3.28 Practice Night @ 6:00**

**4.7 April Stated Meeting  
Dinner at 6:00 Open to All  
Meeting (for Masons) @ 7**

**4.20-24 Arabia Shrine Circus  
Ft. Bend Fairgrounds**

**4.21 (tentative) First Responder's Day**

**5.7 Maifest Parade - Downtown Brenham  
with Arabia Shrine Luncheon @ Graham Lodge No. 20  
Banquet Hall - Hosted by Brenham Shrine Club**

2021-2022 Officers



**Master: Michael Thorpe**



**Sr. Warden: George Allan Wells**



**Jr. Warden: Ken Lane**



**Treasurer: Dan Blalock**



**Secretary: Kirby Simmons**



**Chaplain: Aaron Curlee**



**Sr. Deacon: Jerry Jackson**



**Jr. Deacon: Eddy Jezisek Jr.**

**Marshal: Dr. Robert S. Stark**



**Tyler: Keith Killgore**

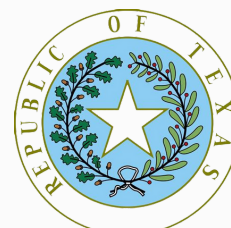
**Master of Ceremony: Kenneth Hetzel**

**Senior Steward: Bill Grubbs**

**Junior Steward: Brad Tegeler**



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[www.grahamlodge20.com](http://www.grahamlodge20.com)