



Kendall Masonic Lodge No. 897 A.F. & A.M.
 897 E. Blanco Road, Boerne, Texas 78006
 December 2023



FROM THE EAST



will be our joint Christmas party with the OES. Everyone is asked to bring some kind of finger food and if you would like to participate, bring a gift of some kind in the \$10 range for a White Elephant gift exchange. We will start at 6:00pm and go till?

Fraternally yours,
 A.K. (Bubba) Peel
 Worshipful Master

Greetings Brethren,

It's hard to believe it, but we are quickly closing in on completing the first half of the year already. So far, it's been an exciting and busy past few months.

November was a great month for us once again. Along with DDGM Right Worshipful Tony Lenard, I was given the honor of presenting this year's service awards to a group of Masons receiving their 25, 40, and even a 60-year pin and certificate. We also passed one of our EAs to a Fellow Craft and raised one other member to the sublime degree of a Master Mason.

Our stewards came through for us once again to honor our local first responders. Brother Pete Smith, Ken Davis along with the help of Brother Josh Criddle did a great job of cooking up some really tasty hamburgers.

We also had our magic show this month, which was once again a big help to our college scholarship fund. Thanks to Brother Abb Kessler for handling the tickets, flyers, posters, and everything else in making that happen. We are truly a blessed lodge to have Brother Kessler here to handle all our finances. He really does an awesome job.

Brethren don't forget coming up on the 4th of December we will be honoring one of our brothers with the Golden Trowel Award. Be sure and mark that on your calendar. Also, the 15th of December



Masonic Appendant Bodies

Since one of my duties as Marshal of the Lodge is Masonic Education, I thought I would briefly review *some* of the Masonic appendant bodies recognized by the Grand Lodge of Texas.

The three largest appendant bodies of Masonry are the Scottish Rite, the York Rite and the Shrine. The Scottish Rite and York Rite bodies consist of additional degrees which are similar to our primary three degrees (Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft, and Master Mason). These additional degrees are not considered 'higher' than that of Master Mason (even though they may have higher "degree numbers" attached to them) as both organizations will tell you.

The Scottish Rite consists of 29 degrees (the 4th to the 32nd degree) which are presented on stage by costumed Scottish Rite brothers at a fall (October) or spring (May) 'reunion' where a class (or group of candidates) experiences them for the first time. For

each degree one member of the class is chosen to represent the class on stage as the candidate. This requires more than one day, and the degrees expand upon the esoteric concepts introduced in our first 3 degrees. The Scottish Rite is open to all Master Masons, and the San Antonio 'Valley' is the nearest Scottish Rite body to Boerne.

The York Rite is similar to the Scottish Rite, in that it accepts the first 3 Lodge degrees and adds 10 further degrees, each with its own lessons. The York Rite came from England (while the Scottish Rite came from France where it is *supposed to have originated from Scottish immigrants to France*). The York Rite consists of a Royal Arch **Chapter**, a **Council** of Royal and Select Masters, and a **Commandery** of Knights Templar. The York Rite degrees focus more on the initiatic experience and new members are often initiated individually rather than in classes as in the Scottish Rite. The Commandery of Knights Templar requires a member to express a Christian belief, but Chapter and Council do not have this requirement. The nearest Chapter and Council to Boerne is in Kerrville while the nearest Commandery meets in our Lodge!

The Shrine (or Shriners International) is an appendant body of Masonry which focuses on brotherhood, family, fun and philanthropy. The Shrine was founded as the 'Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine' (AAONMS) in the 1870s in New York by a group of Masons who were looking to enrich their Masonic experience with fun and fellowship. In the 1920's they expanded their mission to support a system of hospitals to treat ill and injured children at no cost to their families. The Shrine Hospitals are now probably the most visible public face of the organization. The Shrine originally required petitioners to have obtained the highest degree in either the York or Scottish Rites, but now any Master Mason can petition for Shrine membership. The nearest Shrine chapter to Boerne is the Alzafar Shrine in San Antonio.

Other appendant organizations recognized by the Grand Lodge of Texas include the Grotto, the Order of the Eastern Star (open to Master Masons and their wives or other female relatives {by birth, marriage, or adoption} who are 18 years or older) and High Twelve International. There are numerous other organizations for Masons and their

families, but these are the primary ones for Master Masons (identified on the Grand Lodge of Texas webpage). I hope this information proves educational.

Fraternally,
Bruce Butterfras – Marshal &
Lodge Education Officer



SECRETARY'S CORNER

Brethren... Let me begin by wishing you and your families a very Happy Holidays and a Merry Christmas to finish 2023.

November has come and almost gone and I'm still waiting for our 2024 dues cards to arrive. As you probably heard Grand Lodge is moving to a plastic dues card this year. That may be why they have been delayed. However, I will send out the 50+, Life Members, and Endowed Members cards as soon as they come in. If I have not received the cards by the last week of November, I will send out the dues' notices to all other members. Remember that in June the Lodge raised dues to \$175.00 per year. As previously noted, this increase does little more than account for inflation over the past four years. So please send in your check as soon as you can prior to January 1st, and I will get your dues cards mailed to you when they get here. Thanks.

Events I want you to know about in December 2023:



➤ Brethren. Just a note that in November we Passed one brother from an Entered Apprentice to a Fellowcraft Mason and a second rose to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason. Come and be a part of this work even if you simply support our candidates as they work with their instructors to memorize the Esoteric work.



➤ On Monday, December 4th at 7:00 PM Kendall Lodge will hold an open meeting and present the highest honor that a Masonic Lodge can give to a Brother. Curious as to whom? Well... be there on that Monday evening and see who is presented our 2023-2024 Golden Trowel Award, Certificate, and Pin. You might be surprised, and a reception will follow.



➤ On Monday, December 11th at 6:00 PM come to the Officer Called Meeting. We will be discussing the 2024 Grand Lodge of Texas Resolutions as well as the Brethren that have made themselves available for Grand Lodge and Library & Museum offices for the coming year.



➤ Come to our Stated Meetings held every 3rd Monday evening. This month that will be on Monday, December 18th. Bring your family, enjoy dinner with us at 6:30 PM, then come to the Stated Meeting at 7:30 PM. Several of our wives remain in the Banquet Room throughout our meeting, and your wives are welcome to visit with them.



➤ Kendall Lodge's Philosophical Round Table will be dark in December due to the holidays. It will return on January 27th at 7:00 PM to continue discussions concerning Masonic points of interest that are in an outline prepared by the Brothers Leonard and Butterfras.

ALSO, OF INTEREST WITH APPENDENT BODIES:



➤ Boerne Chapter No. 200 will hold their next Stated meeting on the first Tuesday evening of the month, December 5th, at 7:30 PM in Kendall Lodge per their bylaws. Hope to see all Order of the Eastern Star members there.



➤ On Saturday, December 16th at 2:00 PM, Boerne Chapter will Initiate four (4) new members into the Order of the Eastern Star. All members and OES visitors are welcome to come and join us.



➤ The M. C. Holman Masters, Wardens, and Secretaries Association of the 51st Masonic District will be dark for the month of December. We will return on January 28th, 2024 in Kerrville! All Masons and their families are invited to come and join us. We will have a light meal at 6:30 PM, and the Business Meeting will begin at 7:00 PM. All EAs, FCs, and Master Masons and their guests are invited to join us each month.



➤ Alzafar Shrine's next Stated Meeting will be on the 2nd Thursday in December. Come and join us for dinner at 6:00 PM and the Stated Meeting at 7:00 PM on December 14th, 2023, at the Alzafar Shrine Center.



➤ The Nekodah Daughters of the Nile Temple No. 44 will be dark in December.



➤ Brownwood Commandery Chapter No. 22 meets on the 1st Wednesday of every month at Kendall Lodge. If you are a Sir Knight then please join us for dinner at 6:00 PM with the Stated Conclave at 7:00 PM.

The San Antonio Valley of the Scottish Rite Bodies meets at the Scottish Rite Temple on Alamo Street in downtown San Antonio. Their Stated Meeting is on the 1st Thursday of the month. The in-person classes are on the 4th Thursday with the CME ZOOM class on the 3rd Monday.



Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 688 meets at Kendall Lodge on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM. If you are a VFW member or interested in joining, then please drop in and meet Commander Scott Galliardt or one of the other officers or members.

FINALLY:

We are at the Lodge every Monday evening starting about 6:30 PM until around 9:00 PM or until we finish. We conduct round tables for esoteric work or practice floor work if we are not holding a Stated or Called Meeting. We are also there on Saturday mornings from 9:00 AM until Noon doing the same. If you need something during the week or just want to talk, Abb, Bruce, and I are normally at the Lodge on Wednesday mornings from 9:00 AM until Noon. We will be glad to talk with or assist you.

**Gary L. Bausell
Your Secretary
December 2023**

Masonic Discussions

Masonic Discussions is presented to be an exploration of discussions that might arise from questions posed by non-Masons about our fraternity. I hope it proves worthy of its promise.

(John is a Master Mason – Tom is his friend at work)

“How are you today, Tom?”

“I’m great John, hey, what is that new sticker on your truck?”

“That’s my new Masonic Lodge sticker to show my pride in being a Master Mason”

“Oh, wow, is that the same as the Freemasons? I didn’t know you were a Freemason... I thought the Freemasons were a group of devil worshipers who are trying to take over the world...”

“Well, I hate to break it to you Tom, but we’re just regular guys. We have meetings like other organizations and try to do good things for the community such as awarding scholarships to students and donating to the battered women’s shelter. We have initiation ceremonies that are very solemn and include an oath taken on the Holy Bible, so I don’t see how we could be worshipping the devil if the Bible is always at the center of our Lodge.”

“But I heard one time, that you worship the leader of your lodge...”

“Well, we call our ‘president’ the ‘Worshipful Master’, but that’s just an old English term which means ‘honorable leader’ and we **certainly** don’t worship him. In fact, we don’t worship any specific deity. We require every member to express a belief in a supreme being and we are tolerant of all religions. When we pray, which we do several times in every meeting, we address our prayers to the ‘Great (or Supreme) Architect of the Universe’ which is an acknowledgement that a Supreme Being designed and created the Universe. That’s what all our members are required to believe. Whether they call him God or Allah it doesn’t matter to us.”

“But with all the praying are you trying to take the place of the church?”

“Certainly not, Tom. In fact, most of our members are **also** active members of the various churches in town. There have been many Masons who were also **ministers** of their churches. We surely couldn’t do that if we were trying to take the place of the church.”

“But you surely must be trying to run the world. I have heard that a lot of US Presidents were Masons!”

“You’re right. Many of our US Presidents have been Masons but of course **many were not**, and that certainly doesn’t prove that we are trying to take over the world. In fact, each state in the US has its own Masonic governing body which is independent of all others. We recognize each other’s Lodges so

members can visit Lodges in other states, but there is **not** one governing body for Masons in the US. In fact, on the subject of politics, we forbid any discussion of politics in our Lodges and members are forbidden to mention their membership when campaigning for elected offices.”

“Wow, it looks like I had a totally wrong impression of the Masons. It really sounds like a good organization”.

“It is. If you would like to meet more of the members of my Lodge, why don’t you bring your family to the El Chapparal Restaurant next Monday night. We are having a 5th Monday dinner with our families, and friends are always welcome. You can meet other members and you might already know some of them.”

“Thanks John, I just might do that. I’ve been curious about the Masons for a while, and now I think that I would like to find out more about them.”

“That sounds great, Tom. I hope to see you on Monday night!”

Esoteric Roundtable

If you are a Master Mason and enjoy contemplating the symbolism of Masonry, the Esoteric Roundtable meets on the 4th Tuesday of every month. Please come and join our discussions! We will be happy to have you.

Raised in	December
Brother	Years Ago
Douglas H. Zinsitz	19
Samuel E. Offer	32
Richard L. Fulk	33
Robert L. Carpenter II	35
Clifford R. Rick	37
Paul S. Lemon	37
Bruce W. Butterfras	45
Alexander Casiano	49

Robin L. Scheel	51
Ottie L. Konkright	55
Bryan W. Dedeker	66
Robert E. Messerli	69

Born in	December
Brother	Date
Don M. Edmondson	12/3
Jimmy I. Miller	12/3
Albert L. Putnam	12/3
Gerald C. Shows	12/10
Tyler G. Smith	12/10
Charles F. Wetherbee	12/10
Terrance J. Degrood	12/11
William R. Martin Jr.	12/13
Garrett M. Ethridge	12/15
Thomas F. Sawyer	12/18
Earl L. Noah	12/19
William L. Webb	12/20
Jack E. Cameron	12/23
Matthew P. Archilla	12/29
Douglas H. Zinsitz	12/30