

If you are receiving this email, you are in some way associated with Amarillo, San Jacinto and surrounding Lodges and their masonic families, and the York Rite. **If you do not wish to receive these emails**, do not hesitate to reply to this email to let me know and you will be promptly removed from the list - *I will not be offended*. You will rarely receive more than one email a week, unless there is a special occasion. If anyone knows of someone who might wish to receive this bulletin or has ideas on how to improve it, please have them email me at gary.freedman@hotmail.com.

Announcement Summary: *Grand Lodge Workshop, *New Investigation Guidelines, Commandery Inspections, Community Builder Award, Masonic Discussion Forum, Scottish Rite Reunion, Lodge Maintenance, Veterans, Define "JUSTICE", Prayer Requests (* - indicates a new or updated topic)

This Week: (Degree Times Are In RED)

Monday September 19th @ 7:30 p.m.—Borger Chapter & Commandery Stated Meetings @ Borger

Wednesday September 21st @ 6:30 p.m.—Amarillo Commandery Practice – OOT

Thursday September 22nd @ 7:30 p.m.—Canyon Lodge Stated Meeting

Friday September 23rd @ 5:30 p.m. —O.E.S. District 2 Fraternal Visit @ Canyon Lodge

Saturday September 24th @ 8:00 a.m.—O.E.S. District 2 School of Instruction @ Canyon Lodge

Saturday September 24th @ 1:00 p.m.—West Texas York Rite College Stated Meeting @ Lubbock York Rite

Saturday September 24th @ 6:15 p.m.—Ushering - WWE @ Civic Center (for info call Dawn @ (806) 367-3165)

Sunday September 25th @ 6:00 p.m. — Drill Practice @ 8th & Harrison

Every Monday @ 6:00 p.m.—Blue Lodge floor practice @ Palo Duro Lodge led by District Instructor, Brother Don Ewing. This is for ALL Masons from E.A. to M.M. who wish to learn their work better, including opening and closing, and conferring all of the Blue Lodge Degrees. All Wardens and Worshipful Masters should strive to obtain at least a "C" Certificate, which consists of the trial lectures (Q&A) for the three degrees plus opening and closing all four lodges. Add the conferral of the three degrees for a "B" Certificate, and for an "A" Certificate all this plus the three short-form degree lectures. Piece of Cake!

Upcoming events:

Wednesday September 28th @ 6:00 p.m.—Lubbock Scottish Rite Stated Meeting

Wednesday September 28th @ 6:30 p.m.—Amarillo Commandery Practice – Open & Close

Friday September 30th @ 4:00 p.m. —San Angelo Commandery **Inspection** @ San Angelo Commandery

Sunday October 2nd @ 6:00 p.m. — Drill Practice @ 8th & Harrison

Monday, October 3rd @ 6 p.m. — Plainview Commandery Dinner and Stated Meeting @ Plainview

Tuesday October 4th @ 7:30 p.m.—San Jacinto & Carson Lodge Stated Meetings @ Amarillo & Panhandle resp.

Wednesday October 5th @ 7:00 p.m.—Grand Lodge Workshop @ Palo Duro Lodge

Thursday October 6th @ 7:30 p.m.—A.E. Shirley Chapter O.E.S. Stated Meeting

Thursday October 6th @ 7:30 p.m.—Palo Duro & Unity Lodge Stated Meetings @ Palo Duro & Borger resp.

Friday October 7th @ 7:30 p.m. —Amarillo Commandery **(NO DINNER TONIGHT)** Stated Meeting @ Amarillo

Friday-Sunday October 7th-9th — Canyon Fair on the Square

Tuesday October 11th @ 6:30 p.m. — Scottish Rite Education Program @ Palo Duro Lodge

Wednesday October 12th @ 6:30 p.m.—Amarillo Commandery Practice – OOT

Thursday October 13th @ 6:30 p.m.— MASONIC DISCUSSION FORUM – See Note Below **NOTE DATE CHANGE**

Thursday October 13th @ 7:30 p.m.—Amarillo Lodge Stated Meeting

Friday October 14th @ 7:30 p.m. — Amarillo Chapter and Council and Stated Meetings
Saturday October 15th @ 8:30 a.m.—Breakfast @ Amarillo Lodge
Saturday October 15th @ 9:30 a.m.—Hansford Lodge Stated Meeting
Sunday-Tuesday October 16th-18th — Grand Chapter & Council York Rite @ Waco
Monday October 17th @ 7:30 p.m.—Borger Council & Commandery Stated Meetings @ Borger
Wednesday October 19th @ 6:30 p.m.—Amarillo Commandery Practice – OOT
Thursday October 20th @ 7:30 p.m.—A.E. Shirley Chapter O.E.S. Stated Meeting
Thursday October 20th @ 7:30 p.m.—Palo Duro and Unity Lodge Stated Meetings @ Palo Duro & Borger resp.
Sunday October 23rd @ 6:00 p.m. — Drill Practice @ 8th & Harrison
Wednesday October 26th @ 6:00 p.m.—Lubbock Scottish Rite Stated Meeting
Wednesday October 26st @ 6:30 p.m.—Amarillo Commandery Practice – OOT
Thursday October 27th @ 7:30 p.m.—Canyon Lodge Stated Meeting
Sunday-Tuesday October 28th-29th @ 6:00 p.m. & 6:00 a.m. — Scottish Rite Reunion @ Lubbock
Sunday October 30th @ 6:00 p.m. — Drill Practice @ 8th & Harrison

Friday November 4th @ 6:00 p.m. —Amarillo Commandery Dinner (everyone welcome) and **Inspection** @ Amarillo Commandery
Saturday November 5th @ 10:00 a.m. —Veteran's Day Parade @ Polk Street
Saturday November 5th @ 1:00 p.m. —Childress Commandery **Inspection** @ Amarillo Commandery
Saturday November 5th @ 6:00 p.m. —Borger Commandery **Inspection** @ Borger Commandery
Saturday November 12th @ 11:00 a.m. —San Jacinto **Community Builder Award** @ Amarillo Lodge

Announcements:

- The newly formatted **Grand Lodge Workshop** is coming to Amarillo next month on Wednesday, October 5th @ 7 p.m., at Palo Duro Lodge (**Note No Commandery Practice This Day**). It will be similar in format to the old Briscoe Workshops, and will include interactive problem solving scenarios for current and prospective lodge officers, but all Masons should and are encouraged to attend. **For more information, see the attached flyer.**
- It seems that we have become somewhat lax in our investigations of prospective Masons, therefore Grand Lodge has issued **new investigation guidelines**. Each Lodge has a copy of the new guidelines, which should be reviewed at your stated meetings and given to the members of investigation committees. It is up to the judgment of these committees to determine whether or not a candidate is of good character and qualified to be a Mason, so please take this important responsibility seriously.
- Our annual **Commandery Inspections** are coming up fast, so all officers need to make a special effort to attend all of our practices if possible, as well as all Sir Knights. If you know that you will not be able to make a practice or meeting, please display **knightly courtesy** and inform the Commander or another officer ahead of time so we can make arrangements for a substitute. **Amarillo Commandery's annual inspection** will be Friday, November 4th @ 7:30 p.m. If you know you will not be able to make it, please inform the Commander as soon as possible.
- San Jacinto Lodge has scheduled the **Community Builder Award** for **Saturday, November 12 at 11:00 a.m.** following the Hansford Lodge stated meeting. Brethren, we are attempting to make this a very public event and it is very important that all of our masons in the area and members of appendant bodies support it. We intend to invite local dignitaries and the Press, so it is not only intended to bring attention to the recipients and their cause, but it will

also provide much needed positive press for our fraternity. We will be honoring **Barry, Judy and Thomas Lynch**, who through their efforts at conceiving, planning and executing the Lake Tanglewood “Tri to Make a Difference” Triathlon, have raised over \$250,000 over the last 5 years, 100% of which goes to needy children in the Panhandle through the Children’s Miracle Network. The Lynches are coming to the presentation under the pretense of giving a short presentation on their efforts and do not know they are receiving the award, so if you know them please don’t let the cat out of the bag. **For more on their story, see the attached brochure.**

➤ **Masonic Discussion Forum:** Our October forum will be open to anyone who is interested, whether they wish to actively participate or merely listen to the discussion. We have had some of our ladies express interest in discussion, so our next topic will be **“How does masonry fit into our lives outside of the fraternity?”** For now, we will continue to meet on the **second Thursday** at the Amarillo Lodge dining hall before Amarillo Lodge’s stated meeting. This will enable the members of Carson Lodge to participate since their stated meetings are on the same night as San Jacinto’s. Any ideas for upcoming topics? Please submit them. **Membership** is a hot topic these days... What are the numbers? Why are they dwindling? How can we reverse the trend? How can we get inactive members to come back? Sounds like a good subject for November.

➤ Our Fall **Scottish Rite Reunion** for the Even degrees is coming up at the end of October, so practice times will also be popping up for the 9/10th, 14th, 28th and 31st degrees. Please check the calendar for practice dates and if you know of anyone who is interested in becoming a Scottish Rite Mason, please get them a petition, or direct them to a member.

➤ **Lodge Maintenance: Proxy Certificates** are due the GS Office by Nov. 15th. **Form 990’s** are due to be filed with the IRS and a copy sent to the Grand Secretary’s office no later than Nov. 15th. This is a requirement for **ALL Lodges** so that we can maintain our tax-exempt status – it is the Law and there are no exceptions. **Raffles:** A Lodge may conduct as many fund-raising projects as they need, but they can only conduct **two raffles per year**. Raffles must be conducted in accordance with State laws, and the **earnings of the raffle can only be used for charity.**

➤ **Request to our Military Veterans:** If you so choose, I would ask that you please respond to this email with your Name, Lodge, Commandery, and Branch of Military Service in which you did your Duty. This information is only for our database, and for some (very) occasional veteran specific information or requests. Thank you for your service to our Country.

➤ *Definition of the Week:* **JUSTICE – Uprightness; Fairness; One of the Four Cardinal Virtues.** “Justice is that Standard, or Boundary of Right which enables us to render every man his just due, *without distinction*. This virtue is not only consistent with Divine and human laws, but is the very cement and support of civil society, and as Justice, in a great measure, constitutes the real, good man, so should it be the invariable practice of every Mason never to deviate from the minutest principles thereof.”

➤ Please remember these people in your **prayers:** Dallas Alford, Bob Blinderman, Dean Cleere, Bob Clements, Gerald Cook, Kelly Foss, Wade Goldston, Richard & Melody Izatt, Clayton Knapp, Wesley Masters Sr., Harley McDougal, Lee Price, Patrick Skipper, Dan Solley.

Although most of us here in Texas are Christians, it is not a requirement that you be a Christian to become a Mason. If you are interested in **the only Christian branch of Masonry**, ask us about the York Rite and the **Knights Templar of**

Texas. These are very beautiful and instructive degrees that, like the Scottish Rite, bring more light to Masons, but lead distinctively to the Christian Orders of the Commandery and are most definitely worth your while. We meet right here in Amarillo every month and welcome new candidates. For more information contact a member of the York Rite or visit www.texasYorkrite.org. "Every Christian Mason should be a Knight Templar."

If anyone has anything I forgot or wishes to add to next week's newsletter, please let me know.