



TEXAS ALLIED MASONIC DEGREES ASSOCIATION
President: Gary Dixon

MINUTES

ANNUAL MEETING OF
JUNE 16, 2012
Texas Scottish Rite Foundation
Waco, Texas

In attendance were 94 brothers from 21 AMD councils.

The Texas AMD councils represented were:

San Antonio No. 261
Ebenezer Bacon Nichols No. 269
Robert Bruce Brannon No. 270
Holy Stone No. 274
Sam Houston No. 275
Tejas No. 282
John E. Musick, No. 284
Holy Grail No. 287
Masonic Oak No. 323
Texas No. 335
Worth's Hiram Abif No. 342

Col. William Barrett Travis No.
344
Rio Grande No. 368
Waco No. 384
G. C. Sanders No. 402
West Texas No. 438
Grand Arcanum No 447
Grand Bethlehemite No. 448
Anson Jones No. 462
Charlie Goodnight No. 500
Coastal Bend No. 509

OPENING:

An AMD Council was opened in due form at 9:04 am by Grand Bethlehemite Council No. 448.

The minutes of the previous TAMDA annual meeting were read, and the meeting was then

turned over to TAMDA President **Gary Dixon**.

Introductions were made of Past Presidents of TAMDA and distinguished members from the various grand Masonic bodies.

President (and Most Illustrious) **Gary Dixon** thanked Bro. **Claude Ervin** for use of the Scottish Rite facilities for the annual meeting and stated that he hoped that we would not get in the way of the beauty pageant on the first floor.

R. V. **John Elkington**, Grand Superintendent of the Texas North Jurisdiction was introduced and thanked for his willingness to speak to the annual assembly on such short notice.

President **Gary Dixon** also noted that Bro. Jeff Miller was going to run for the Grand Council line in the fall.

President **Dixon** then thanked the officers of Grand Bethlehemite Council No. 448 for opening the meeting and dismissed them from their stations until closing.

COURTESY RECEPTION AND OBLIGATION OF CANDIDATES:

President **Dixon** then called upon Most Venerable **Kenneth Fischer**, Past Grand Sovereign Master of the Grand Council of the AMD, to obligate new candidates elected to the various AMD councils that were present.

This being done, Right Venerable **James Roy Elliott**, Past Grand Superintendent of the Grand Council of the AMD, gave an excellent explanation of the Allied Masonic Degrees to the new brothers.

GUEST SPEAKER:

Most Venerable **Kenneth Fischer** spoke to the members about the importance of AMD. AMD degrees preserve rituals that would have been otherwise lost, and it provides a service to Freemasonry by putting on these degrees. He challenged the all Texas AMD Councils to consider putting on a degree at Texas AMD Day.

He noted that the next meeting of the Grand Council AMD, held during Masonic Week, would be in a new location: the Hyatt Regency, Reston, VA.

He noted that the secretary is the most important office in any organization, and reminded the councils to file their annual returns and 990 forms. It is very important to do so. Each council has to file its own. He also thanked all council officers for their hard work.

SHORT BREAK

CONFERRAL OF DEGREES (Morning):

1. Anson Jones Council No. 62 conferred the **Superintendent** degree.

Participants: Nick Fehrenbach, Matt Cast, Kenneth Miller, Tony Dixon, Max Omberg, and Skip Smith. The candidate was Richard Hudman.



2. Holy Stone Council No. 274 conferred the **Secret Monitor (American Version)** degree.

Participants: David Rogers, Rex Lewis, Harold Brown, Steve Rankin, Max Gilley, and David Anderson. The candidate was David Bindel, who also gave the lecture.



3. Grand Arcanum Council No. 447 conferred the **St. Lawrence the Martyr** degree. Participants: David Raucher, John Wilson, Richard Schlaudroff, Bruce Rideaux, Harold Collum, and Justin Bauer. Larry Hopkins was the candidate.



President **Dixon** thanked the councils for their work in putting on these degrees and announced that **Jack Davis**, SM, had been elected KC, Red Branch of Eri, by Gran Behethlemite Council.

LUNCH BREAK

The wonderful Rainbow Girls served a very delicious Mexican Stack lunch.

During the lunch hour, Robert Bruce Brannon Council No. 270 conferred the Installed Sovereign Masters degree on all SMs and PSMs that had not yet received this degree. Participants: James Kirkpatrick SM, Roy Elliott SW, Sam Allsbrooks, MC, Robert Kirk, Chaplain.

CONFERRAL OF DEGREES (Afternoon):

4. San Antonio Council No. 261 conferred the **Knight of Constantinople** degree. Participants: Andy Pool, Don Garrito, Sam Green, Paul Adkins, Chip Green, Bob Cox, Nelson Dunn, Jessie Garza, Nick Ramos.



5. Robert Bruce Brannon Council No. 270 conferred the **Architects** degree. Participants: James Kirkpatrick SM, Robert Cagley SW, Ken Cooley JW, Sam Allsbrooks SD, Gerald Joe Hocker JD, and Ed Hjorth Tiler. The candidate was Joe Jones.



President Dixon thanked each one of the councils for putting on the degrees for the benefit of the brothers assembled.

BUSINESS MEETING:

President Dixon requested and the members approved by a show of hands that the business meeting start early. The business meeting opened at 2:20 pm.

President Dixon mourned the loss Very Illustrious **Paul Warren** and noted that **Larry Ravert** had passed away last night and that Right Worshipful **Fred Allen** was in the hospital for cardiac problems.

Other notices of sickness: **Howard Percable** is in a nursing home in Texas City with dementia and **Ray McKown** has been hospitalized twice for cardiac issues and may require surgery.

At the request of President Dixon, **Larry Blanchard** gave a prayer for sick and dead.

No old business being left from the previous annual meeting, President Dixon called for any new business.

First Vice President **James Kirkpatrick** proposed a change to the By-Laws; to wit, that future line officers of TAMDA be either Sovereign Masters or Past Sovereign Masters of constituent AMD councils. This would apply to line officers only (i.e., excluding the Secretary and Treasurer) and would not apply to those currently in the line.

First Vice President Kirkpatrick made a motion to adopt the change to the By-Laws, which was duly seconded. There was no discussion on this matter; thus, the resolution was unanimously adopted by a show of hands. The updated by-laws are listed on the website.

The Report of the Treasurer:

All bills to date have been paid. Payment needs to be made for today's annual meeting; i.e., use of the building, lunch, and coffee and donuts. The Treasurer then made a motion to spend \$750 to cover these expenses. The motion being seconded, it was adopted by a show of hands.

That being done, the Treasurer reported that TAMDA had a bank balance of \$2,467.73 as of June 20, 2011. It collected \$1245 in fees for the 2012 annual meeting. After payment of the \$750 approved, the association had a balance of \$2,962.73 as of June 16, 2012.

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the Treasurer's Report, which was approved by a show of hands.

President Dixon suggested that if anyone wants to put together degree teams for the three Red Branch of Eri degrees, to let the officers know.

James Roy Elliott made a motion that pre-registration stay at \$15.00, but that registration at the door be charged at \$20.00. President Dixon noted that pre-registration forms are available on the TAMDA Web site. A suggestion was made to raise it to \$30.00. Bro. **Rex Lewis** noted that members should not be able to pre-register and then pay at the door, because some will register and not show up, and that pre-registration should mean submission of a completed form and payment. Bro. Elliott restated the motion: Only registration and money received will constitute pre-registration.

The motion was duly seconded and approved by a show of hands.

A question was asked whether there should be a deadline to have the form mailed in. The officers agreed that a deadline would be incorporated into the form. Bro. Ervin suggested that the deadline be two weeks before the date of the meeting.

First Vice President Kirkpatrick described how to get to the Web site from GCAMD and gave the TAMDA address. He also noted that he would put the TAMDA Web address on the flyer for next year.

The Secretary also agreed in future to have cards available at the desk; which included the TAMDA Web address.

A member noted that a celebration of the 160th anniversary of the chartering of Burleson Chapter No. 21, Royal Arch Masons, would be held on June 23rd 2012 in the Scottish Rite Cathedral, 4th and Ave. E, San Antonio.

Matt Cast suggested that in the future we might have Knight Masons meet on the Friday night prior to AMD Day, and that we might also offer the Yellow Dog degree as an alternate with the Masonic Order of the Bath degree at the end of AMD Day. He stated that he appreciated AMD Day and that it was a thrill for the candidates.

First Vice President Kirkpatrick brought up the issue of the date of next year's meeting. He noted that next year's Grand Sovereign Master (tradition prevailing), the current Right Venerable **Matthew D. Dupee**, would attend Texas AMD Day if we can meet on June 22. A motion was made to set the date of the next AMD Day to June 22, 2013. The motion having been duly seconded, it was unanimously approved by a show of hands.

A member raised the issue that some have to drive a long distance to attend AMD Day and made a motion, which was seconded, to have the meeting start at 11:00 am instead of 9:00 am. Bro. **Rex Lewis** offered an amendment to the motion to start the meeting at 10:00 am instead of 11:00 am. The amendment being seconded, it was approved by a show of hands. Past President **Gene Schneider** suggested that if only a few people have to drive a long way that the majority of the membership should not be punished by dragging out the day longer by starting later. The vote on the motion as amended: 27 for / 30 against. The motion failed approval. The starting time for the meeting time remains at 9:00 am.

ELECTION:

No more business coming before the association, President Dixon called for the election of new officers.

Most Venerable **Kenneth B. Fischer**, Past Grand Sovereign Master, assumed east to conduct the election of officers, all nominations to be seconded by the east.

President **Dixon** nominated First Vice President **James “Webmaster” Kirkpatrick** to serve as President of TAMDA for the ensuing year. No other nominations forthcoming, Bro. **Kirkpatrick** was elected by acclamation.

President-Elect **Kirkpatrick** then nominated Second Vice President **Dan Turner** to serve as First Vice President of TAMDA for the ensuing year. No other nominations forthcoming, Bro. **Turner** was elected by a show of hands.

Past President **Buford J. Young** nominated Bro. **Jack W. Lester**, PSM of G. C. Sanders Council No. 402, for Second Vice President of TAMDA for the ensuing year. No other nominations forthcoming, Bro. **Lester** was elected by a show of hands.

Bro. **Richard Schlaudroff** nominated Bro. **Claude Ervin** to succeed himself as Treasurer of TAMDA for the ensuing year. No other nominations forthcoming, Bro. **Ervin** was elected by a show of hands.

Bro. **Claude Ervin** nominated Bro. **Richard Schlaudroff** to succeed himself as Secretary of TAMDA for the ensuing year. No other nominations forthcoming, Bro. **Schaudroff** was elected by a show of hands.

Most Venerable **Kenneth B. Fischer** then declared the election closed.

INSTALLATION:

President-elect **Kirkpatrick** announced that the installation team would include Most Venerable **Kenneth B. Fischer**, Installing Officer; Right Venerable **James Roy Elliott**, Installing Marshal; and Right Venerable **John Elkington**, Installing Chaplain.

After invoking the aid of Deity, Most Venerable **Fischer** duly installed the newly elected officers of TAMDA and the installation declared by Right Venerable **Elliott**.



President **Kirkpatrick** thanked the members for their confidence in him and especially thanked Past President **Dixon** for working with him during the past year.

President Kirkpatrick put **Matt Cast** in charge of determining the feasibility of putting on a “Fun Degree” for next year.

Bro. **Claude Ervin** noted that he had been attending a meeting at the Grand Lodge on the Grand Master’s Conference for next year. That conference will focus on the MM obligation, and will be open only to MMs. He stated that the conference planned was very moving and well prepared; and that it could revive Masonry in Texas. He urged the members to plan to attend; that it will be a significant event in Texas Masonry. Credalism at the altar is what makes us MMs.

President **Kirkpatrick** asked that the councils contact the officers if they want to do degrees on AMD Day next year.

Second Vice President **Jack Lester** thanked the members for their confidence in him.

CLOSING:

Nothing further being brought before the association, the officers of Grand Bethlehemite Council No. 448 resumed their stations and closed the council at 3:32 pm.

Our Most Honorable **Fred E. Allen** was not present, due to medical reasons; therefore, the Masonic Order of the Bath was cancelled.

Richard E. Schlaudroff, Secretary