

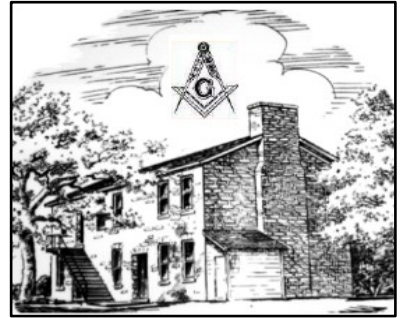
Onion Creek No. 220 A.F. & A.M.
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THE BEACON

Onion Creek No. 220
 Ancient Free and Accepted Masons
 Chartered by the Grand Lodge of Texas – June 16, 1858
 Visit our website at <http://www.onioncreeklodge220.org>



April 2020

Lodge Officers 2019 - 2020

WM: **David “Tide” Williams**
 SW: **Orlando Perez**
 JW: **Raul J. Scully, PM**
 Treas: **Dennis C. Kestner, PM**
 Sec: **Troy J. Shugart, PM**
 Chap: **James C. Wells, PM**
 SD: **Richard Alonso**
 JD: **Jeromy W. Odom**
 SS: **Abram Wallace**
 JS: **Bobby Clakley**
 Mar: **Dennis J. Ross, PM**
 MC: **Curtis A. Gilgan, PM**
 Mus: **William L. Lewis, PM**
 Tiler: **Franklin “Ed” Merica**

Living Onion Creek Lodge Past Masters

1969- Tommie J. Conner
 1970- Ralph L. Cearley
 1974- Jimmy M. Hodges
 1977- Roy L. Hamor
 1978- Bobby J. Doherty
 1980- Ronald B. Norwood
 1981- Howard D. Hall
 1982- Alan L. Karotkin
 1984- Matias H. Ruiz
 1987- Elliott R. Wilson
 1988- Jerry T. Jarmon
 1991- Ronnie H. Lee
 1993- Albert A. Mehlhaff
 1994- Walter H. Argall
 1995- Javier R. Gonzalez
 1996- Kenneth P. Wood
 1997- William S. Lear
 1998- John W. Turner
 2000- Walter E. Sanders

Living Affiliated Past Masters

J. Roland Brown
 Gerald T. Dawson
 Allen W. Deaver
 Carlton L. Edwards
 Robert Eschenburg
 Elbert I. Franks
 Reagan W. Hammett
 Bennie L. Hudson
 Howard Kimball
 James M. King
 Don R. Long
 Wes Mersiovsky
 Jorge A. Millan
 Gene C. Payne
 Troy J. Shugart
 Bill Weathers
 James C. Wells
 Roni Zulu



Onion Creek No. 220 A.F. & A.M. South Austin, Texas



April Birthdays

Jack H. Broome, Luis M. Ramirez 1; John C. Preece, Andrew W. James 2; Wilbert H. Else, Marion P. Kerr 4; Gerald C. Carruth, William L. Hatten, David “Tide” Williams 8; Bennie L. Hudson, Franklin E. Merica III 9; Joe D. Beaver, Jerry F. Trammell 10; Hamilton B. Carter 11; William W. Winnie III 13; Lawrence I. Falk 14; James K. Miller 15; Gerald L. Curry, Jesus P. Velazquez 16; Brett M. Chandler-Finch 17; Benjamin B. Rauschke 18; James W. Dobbs 20; Antonio F. Moreno 22; James E. Meeks III 24; Frank C. Hankins, Thomas R. Mayfield 26; Charles L. Allen 27.

*Happy Birthday, Brothers!
 May the Supreme Architect bless you with many more!*

Masonic Birthdays; raised in April (year)

L.A. Westling, Donald W. Dickerson 57; Forest M. Cruse, Sr. 59; Raymond D. Hannah, Ladare V. Benoit 62; Ernest C. Applegate 64; Rodney H. Lewis, Donn C. Winner 65; Wayne E. Moore 66; George W. Henry 71, David J. Faria 78; Daniel P. Vasquez 80; James W. Fouts 86; David C. Kestner 87; Javier R. Gonzalez, Robert F. Simo 88; William S. Lear, Orlin G. Williams 92; Joe A. Pickering 96; Robert L. Roda 98; Thomas S. Estes 03; Omar Chavez 07; Christopher R. Dawson 10; Larry L. Haney, Patrick L. Williams 12.

*And God said, “Let there be light,”
 and there was light!*

Stated Meeting

**April Stated Meeting
 Cancelled**

Onion Creek Lodge Committee Chairmen:

Beacon Editor: David Karhi
Breakfast Socials: Jeromy Odom
Building: Jeromy Odom
Abram Wallace
Cemetery: Dale Flatt, PM
Communications: Troy Shugart, PM
Esoteric Instruction: Richard Alonso
Finance: Curtis Gilgan, PM
Funeral: Troy Shugart, PM
Historian: H. Max Fisher
Hospital: David Karhi
Ill and Visitation: David “Tide” Williams
Vanguard: Raul Scully, PM
Pleasant Hill Advisory: H. Max Fisher
Special Events: Chris Dawson, PM

From the East

I hope this month's newsletter finds you and your loved ones healthy and safe. Together, we are facing an unprecedented situation. The global coronavirus pandemic is affecting all our families, our businesses and our communities. We are forever changed, and our world is still changing. As the number of cases in Texas continues to rise, and until there is a vaccine, our only options are to practice social distancing and positive hygiene techniques. Additionally, the Grand Master issued the following decree:

*In accordance with the foregoing recommendation of the CDC, it is my order that all gatherings of Texas Masons which are anticipated to exceed **ten (10)** in number, including the scheduled Grand Master's Conferences, are hereby cancelled.*

As such, I am extending the lodge shut down period until the end of April. While it pains me to take such drastic measures, we just can't risk the lives of our membership and their families. The officers are seeing to the necessary business needs (bills, maintenance, etc.) during this period, and hopefully we will be able to come back together as an extended family in the very near future. Let's just get past this current threat first.

So, what can we do in the meantime? In addition to ensuring the safety and health of your immediate family, we need to do the same for our extended family. We have quite a few members who fall into the higher-risk category (65 years and older). These members must be even more vigilant in their social distancing practices. Because of this, we are starting an outreach program. This program is designed to keep regular contact with our membership, and provide assistance (errands like grocery store, medicine, etc.) to those in need. If there are any other programs or recommendations, please reach out to me.

"It is only in our darkest hours that we may discover the true strength of the brilliant light within ourselves that can never, ever, be dimmed." – **Doe Zantamat**

How can you help? First and foremost, let's make sure we are maintaining contact with our

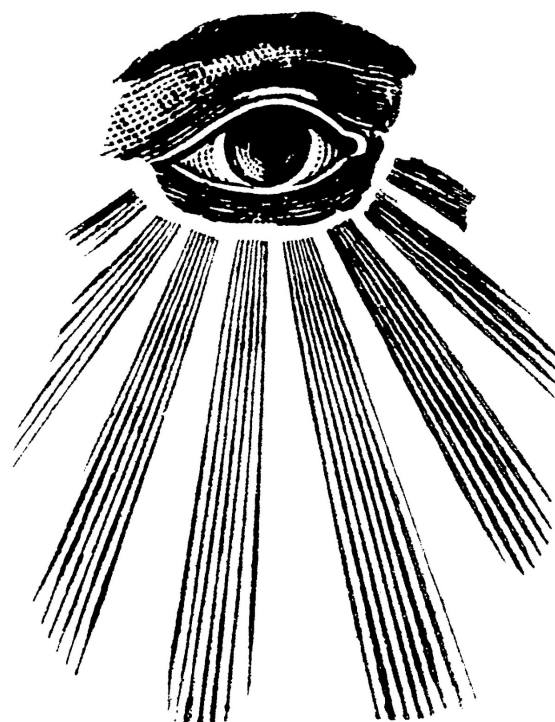
brethren. There are over 300 members belonging to our lodge, and we need volunteers to reach out (via phone) at least once per week to a specified set of brothers, and then report back on their status. Not only is it a good way to catch up with friends you may not talk to often enough, but it does help us identify those in need of assistance. The report would simply be either a phone call or an email back to a central location where we can track the health and well being of our members, and dispatch assistance if needed. If you are interested in participating, please call me (512-502-4399) or email (OCL220.Safe@gmail.com).

Secondly, there will be opportunities for us to assist higher risk brethren by performing simple errands as mentioned above. This of course is geared purely to your availability. If you're willing to participate in this endeavor, please call me (512-502-4399) or email (OCL220.Safe@gmail.com).

My heart goes out to all those impacted. Our thoughts are especially with those who are sick, we wish you a full recovery. We are also inspired by the healthcare workers who are the first responders and working the front lines to provide need and care to those affected.

I will close hoping and praying that all of you stay safe and healthy, and that this chaos is short lived.

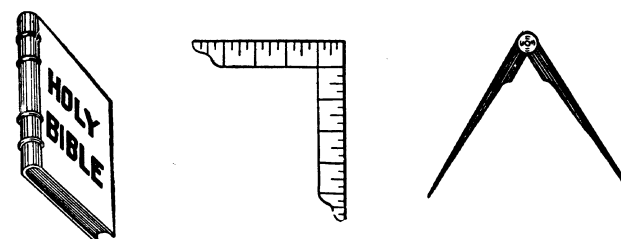
Tide Williams, Worshipful Master



This Month in Masonic History

- April 4th, 1778, Voltaire was initiated in "Les Neuf Soeurs" Lodge in Paris. His conductors were Benjamin Franklin and Count Gebelin
- April 5th, 1886, Rudyard Kipling received his 1st degree
- April 8th, 1790, the Grand Lodge of New Hampshire was formed
- April 19th, 1787, the Grand Lodge of Maryland was formed
- April 19th, 1850, the Grand Lodge of California was formed
- April 20th, 1884, Pope Leo XIII issued a famous Papal Bull against Freemasonry, titled Humanum Genus
- April 21st, 1821, the Grand Lodge of Missouri was founded
- April 22nd, 1785, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart received his 3rd degree
- April 24th, 1901, President Theodore Roosevelt received his 3rd degree
- April 28th, 1738, Pope Clement XII issued the first Papal Bull attacking Freemasonry
- April 28th, 1840, the Grand Lodge of Illinois was formed

David Karhi, Editor



SAMC Hospital Volunteers

During the month of February, 4 Masons and 1 wife contributed over 40 hours assisting our friends and neighbors over at St. David's South Austin Medical Center.

The outstanding volunteers who made this possible are (in alphabetical order): Linda Boyd with 4 hours, Max Fisher with 5 hours, David Karhi with 3 hours, Dennis Ross with 3 hours, and Bobby Tiner with 25 hours.

Thank you folks for a job well done!

Prayer List

Please remember the following people in your prayers as they seek comfort and healing. They are or have been ill, recovering from medical procedures or have limited mobility: Walter Boyd, Jack Brassil, Glenn & Wanda Brodderick, Scott Brown (Roland's son), Johnny Camarillo, Johnnie G. Camarillo, Sr. (Johnny's father), Billy Capps, Thomas Carroll (Jeff's father), Madeline Carter (Richard Alonso's mother-in-law), Brett Chandler-Finch, Doris Cruse (Forest's wife), Zoey Curry (Gerald's widow), Linda Dyess, Sidney Ellis, James Farmer (Anthoney's grandfather), Lily Forman (Troy Shugart's niece), Curtis & Lauren Gilgan, RW Mike Gower, Reagan Hammett, Sam Hill, Arnold Holden, Ethel Johnson (Roland Brown's stepdaughter), Amy Karotkin (Alan's daughter), Fred Khoury (Jeff's father-in-law), Elaine Kenna (Chris Dawson's mother-in-law), Eva Jean Kestner & Dennis Kestner's family, Larry Korts, Don & Johnnie Long, Glendene Marlow, Patricia McGinnis & Thurman McGinnis' family, Liz Mersiovsky (Curtis Gilgan's mother-in-law), Nicole Mersiovsky (Curtis Gilgan's sister-in-law), Wes Mersiovsky (Curtis Gilgan's father-in-law), PGM Orville L. O'Neill's family, Orlando Perez, Ellen Pietrzak (David Hoke's mother-in-law), Steve Rye, Jeanine Robinson (Carl's wife), Jay Sharp, JT Shugart (Troy's father), Theresa Shugart (Troy's mother), Melissa Springer (Ben Rauschke's mother), April Tinajero (Larry Haney's daughter), Henry Tindell (Ricky's father), Willis Woods (Michael's father), and Louis Ugarte (SW Orlando Perez's cousin).

If you know of others who should be on this list, please contact WM Tide Williams or Chaplain Jim Wells, PM

