

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>



December 2020

### Lodge Officers 2020 - 2021

WM: **Troy J. Shugart, PM**  
 SW: **Orlando Perez**  
 JW: **Richard Alonso**  
 Treas: **Curtis A. Gilgan, PM**  
 Sec: **Raul J. Scully, PM**  
 Chap: **William L. Lewis, PM**  
 SD: **Abram R. Wallace**  
 JD: **Jeromy W. Odom**  
 SS: **Bobby D. Clakley**  
 JS: **Franklin "Ed" Merica**  
 Mar: **Dennis J. Ross, PM**  
 MC: **Ben B. Rauschke, PM**  
 Mus: **Wilfredo "JR" Vera**  
 Tiler: **Anthoney T. Farmer-Guerra**

### 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  
 Ernest Owey  
 Troy J. Shugart  
 James C. Wells



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



### December Birthdays

Javier R. Gonzalez, Paul S. Hinchliffe, Scott L. Lehman 2; Christopher A. Preece 3; Sidney Q. Strength 5; Jerry T. Jarmon 6; Jacob A. Carroll, Wilfredo "J.R." Vera 8; John E. Waggoner, Ronald L. Angell, Thomas S. Estes 9; Tommie J. Conner, Marvin G. Gammage 10; Ronald B. Norwood, Jr. 11; Samuel T. Hill 14; Everet J. Sharp III 15; John N. McFarling 17; Sidney L. Ellis, Mack Gerald 18; Michael M. Zombola 25; Kenneth O. Shiga 28; Michael W. Carter 30; Harley M. Fisher, and Randall J. Storm 31.

*Happy Birthday, Brothers!*

*May the Supreme Architect bless you with many more!*

### Masonic Birthdays; raised in December (year)

Arnold J. Holden, Edward L. Weeren 57; Wayne V. Frye 60; Howard D. Hall 70; Bobby J. Doherty 72; Matias S. Ruiz 77; William L. Weathers 79; Melvin E. Johnson 83; Robert F. Park, Jr. 85; Gerald T. Dawson, Dennis J. Ross 89; Terry L. Sharp 94; Charles E. Gray, Jr. 96; Howard K. Kimball 98; Hamilton B. Carter 01; William "Bill" Lewis, Jr., Charles W. Pickering 10; Jason C. Shoumaker 11; Ernest Owey 14.

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

### Stated Meeting

**Second Thursday  
 December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

### Master Mason's Lodge

**No Meal Served  
 Meeting at 7:30 p.m.**

### Onion Creek Lodge Committee Chairmen:

**Activities:** Chris Dawson, PM  
**Arbitration:** Orlando Perez  
**Audit:** Richard Alonso  
**Beacon Editor:** David Karhi  
**Breakfast Socials:** Jeromy Odom  
**Building:** Abram Wallace  
**Cemetery:** Dale Flatt, PM  
**Communications:** Raul Scully, PM  
**Community Builder:** H. Max Fisher  
**Fantastic Teeth:** Dennis Ross, PM  
**Finance:** Curtis Gilgan, PM  
**Fraternal Assistance:** Troy Shugart, PM  
**Funeral:** Troy Shugart, PM  
**Golden Trowel:** Tide Williams, PM  
**Grand Lodge Business:** Curtis Gilgan, PM  
**Historian:** H. Max Fisher  
**Hospital:** David Karhi  
**Lodge Education:** Abram Wallace  
**Members in Arrears:** Orlando Perez  
**Past Masters' Night:** Dennis Ross, PM  
**Pleasant Hill Advisory:** H. Max Fisher  
**Raffle:** David Hoke  
**Scholarship:** H. Max Fisher  
**Sick and Distressed:** Troy Shugart, PM  
**Vanguard:** Richard Alonso

## From the East

Greetings all,

I trust everyone had a nice Thanksgiving with your friends and families and were able to meet without spreading or contracting the ever-present COVID!

We are finally at the end of 2020 and it could not come soon enough! This year has definitely been trying for all of us, but she is coming to a close.

Although the lodge has been limited in its activities, we were able to accomplish a few things. We recently raised two brothers to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason. Congratulations to Michael D. Aufdenkamp and Jamie S. Marlow. They both received exceptional degrees thanks to the dedicated brothers who showed up to practice and work in the degrees.

The lift in the lodge is finally repaired. I would like to thank brothers Robert Eschenburg, PM; Tide Williams, PM; and Mike Aufdenkamp for assisting in getting the lift motor out in the parlor so we could identify the problems and locate the manufacturer. It was manufactured in New Jersey, and the closest service representative is out of Houston. They had to make two trips, but they were able to get us up and running. Our less mobile friends and brothers once again have access to the second floor! I would also like to thank the members of the Austin and Creedmoor Chapters of the Order of Eastern Star for their monetary donations to help off-set the cost of the repairs.

We still have not fully addressed the "bee" issue, but thankfully they are going into hibernation mode! We should be able to resolve this by the spring.

Our normal Christmas raffle has been changed to an online auction that will be available for all to see very soon. It will run until our Stated Meeting on February 4, 2021. Thank you to all that made this happen and to the folks who donated items to be auctioned. This will most likely be our only fundraising event for this Masonic year, so dig deep and bid, bid, bid!

This Christmas season will also prove to be a little different this year as well. I pray that we all have God's traveling grace upon us as we hit the highway to be with our families and we all return safely to our homes.

The 2021 Grand Annual Communication will be convening on January 14-16, 2021. It will also be a

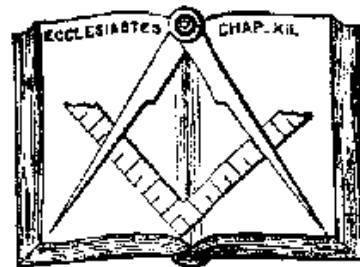
little different this year. This link will get you to the registration page if you plan on attending: <https://grandlodgeoftexas.org/2021registration/>, and here is a short message from the Grand Secretary:

2021 GRAND ANNUAL COMMUNICATION UPDATE Voting is planned to be conducted using an application that will be installed on smartphones or devices. Be sure your phone is fully charged before coming to Grand Lodge each morning. There is a very limited number of electrical outlets where a phone might be recharged. Because of the potential of exposure to COVID-19, cloth aprons will not be on the tables outside of the Auditorium. We will provide a paper apron inside of the registration packet for personal use by the attendee. Optionally, you are encouraged to bring a personal apron with you.

The Lodge will be dark from December 10<sup>th</sup> through January the 7<sup>th</sup>, so go be with your families and enjoy what remains of this historic year!

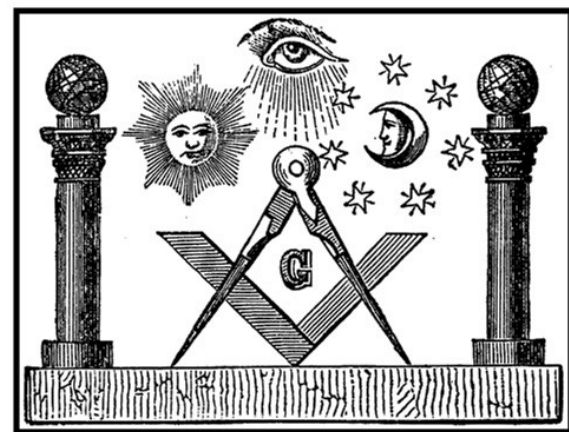
I reckon that is all for now. I look forward to seeing everyone in the new year. Merry Christmas to all, and here is to a very new year! I love you all.

*Troy J. Shugart, Worshipful Master*



*Called to the  
Celestial Lodge*

**Richard Wayne Johnson**  
November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020



## From the Secretary

Brethren,

You should be expecting your dues notices in the mail shortly, and the Grand Secretary's Office has sent notification that our dues card are in the mail and on the way. Once they arrive, I'll start sending out 2021 dues cards to Service Exempt Members and Endowed Members. For the dues paying members, dues are due in by December 31<sup>st</sup> and are \$200. You are welcome to pay by cash, check, credit/debit card, or Paypal. If you go to the Onion Creek Website and click on the "Store" button, you will be taken to the Lodge Square account where you can pay securely by Credit/Debit Card. If you login to your Member Portal from the Grand Lodge Website, you will be able to pay securely using the Lodge PayPal account. If you need any help with one of these methods, please feel free to reach out to me and I will be happy to guide you through the process.

May you all have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

*Raul J. Scully, Secretary*

## This Month in Masonic History

- December 4<sup>th</sup>, 1807, Most Worshipful Brother Prince Hall, the first African American known to have received the Masonic degrees in America, died.
- December 9<sup>th</sup>, 1999, the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of D.C. voted to recognize the Grand Lodge of D.C.
- December 14<sup>th</sup>, 1994, the United Grand Lodge of England issued a statement that it found the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, the source of all Prince Hall Masonry in the United States, to be regular and deserving of recognition.
- December 18<sup>th</sup>, 1799, George Washington's funeral was conducted in Masonic fashion at Mount Vernon, Virginia.
- December 26<sup>th</sup>, 1972, Harry S. Truman, former President of the United States and Past Grand Master of Missouri, died.
- December 30<sup>th</sup>, the Grand Lodge of Texas was formed.

*David Karhi, Editor*

## 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: Tanya Besch (Bobby Clakley's niece), Walter Boyd, Jack Brassil, Glenn & Wanda Brodderick, Roland Brown, Scott Brown (Roland's son), Johnny Camarillo, Johnnie G. Camarillo, Sr. (Johnny's father), Billy Capps, Madeline Carter (Richard Alonso's mother-in-law), Brett Chandler-Finch, Doris Cruse (Forest's wife), Zoey Curry (Gerald's widow), Elouise Duckworth (Roland Brown's sister), Linda Dyess, Sidney Ellis, James Farmer (Anthony's grandfather), Lily Forman (Troy Shugart's niece), Curtis Gilgan, Jimmy Gower (RW Mike Gower's son), 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), Eva Jean Kestner, Don & Johnnie Long, Jamie and Glendene Marlow, Patricia McGinnis, Ann Merica (Ed's mom), Nicole Mersiovsky (Curtis Gilgan's sister-in-law), Orlando Perez, Joe Pickering, Ellen Pietrzak (David Hoke's mother-in-law), Angela Ross (Dennis' wife), Linda Russel, Jeanine Robinson (Carl's wife), Jay Sharp, Theresa Shugart (Troy's mother), Kenneth Smith, Mike Smith (Curtis Gilgan's sister-in-law's husband), Melissa Springer (Ben Rauschke's mother), 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 Troy  
Shugart, PM or Chaplain Bill Lewis, PM*



## SAMC Hospital Volunteers

Due to COVID-19, we haven't been volunteering at St. David's South Austin Medical Center recently, but we hope to see our friends at St. David's again soon!

*Thank you folks for a job well done!*