

DAVID ELLIOTT LODGE # 364 MONTHLY UPDATE

94 CR 1440

MT. PLEASANT, TEXAS 75455

Issue # 24 ---August 05, 2025

<http://www.davidelliott364.org/>



W.H. "Bill" Guy

Worshipful Master

2025/2026



David Elliott Lodge # 364

Chartered June 09, 1873



Most Worshipful

Raborn L. Reader, Jr

2025/2026

Office	Name	Phone Number	email
WM	Bill Guy	903/434-3759	roosterioof@yahoo.com
SW	Rusty Hughes	903/806-5071	RustyHughes1983@gmail.com
JW	Joe Reynolds	903/717-1009	joe@larryjoereynolds.com
TREAS	Garrett Lyons	903/563-3126	lyons_garrett20@yahoo.com
SEC	Rex McGee	903/235-7931	alvinrexmcee@hotmail.com

NEXT STATED MEETING: September 02, 2025, 7:00 PM MEAL AT 6:00 PM due to program presentation

1. The Stated Meeting meal for August 2025, was provided by WM Bill Guy. Brother McGee will provide the meal for the September 02, 2025, stated meeting. Brother Holland will provide the dessert.
2. Please remember your sick brothers and their families and pray for them.
3. The next LEO Training scheduled for **August 19, 2025 @ 6:30 pm**. **The training will focus on the reception of the DDGM, Investigation of Petitioners and the duties of Tyler, JD & SD.**
4. Brother Betts discussed the Lodge sign that is located on the road (Hwy.67) in front of the Rear of the Steer Restaurant and his recommendation for fixing it. The Lodge voted to build a new sign design. Four Brothers donated \$100.00 each to pay for the sign. The four benefactors were WM Bill Guy, JW Joe Reynolds, JD Rick Holland & member, Cole Smith.

5. The Golden Trowel Committee was activated. David Davey, Chair-Rick Holland & Garrett Lyons Members. The deadline for nominations is August 31, 2025. Nominations should be sent to the Lodge Secretary at 94 CR 1440, Mt. Pleasant, Texas 75455 and be postmarked by 08/31/2025 or email him at alvinrexmccgee@hotmail.com by the same date. The nominations should list the qualifications and accomplishments of the brother being nominated. The committee will meet immediately afterward and have a nomination ready for the September 02, 2025, stated meeting.
6. Plans for the September Stated Meeting will also be the Service Award program for the Masonic year. Right Worshipful Wally Martin will present the awards.
7. The Lodge will begin planning for the Fundraisers for Masonic Year 2025/2026. The first Fundraiser will be on Saturday, October 11, 2025, from 8:00 am until 11:00 am.
8. The Stewards Rods have been painted to be in compliance with Form 75 requirements.
9. The Lodge budget was discussed along with projected programs and charitable activities for Masonic Year 2025/2026. The budget was approved. The Secretary discussed the impact of Endowments on maintaining current cash flow. He stated that current dues and endowment dividends do not cover lodge expenses. He said we need to discuss fundraiser projects to breach the short fall. As the number of endowments increases, we have a corresponding loss of dues paid by members. Increasing dues will not solve the problem and according to historical data will increase the downward spiral of dues paying members. This necessitates a program of growing membership, dues maintenance, decreasing suspension of nonpayment of dues and developing a sustainable fund-raising program for the future. Further, the Lodge needs to look at developing & offering programs to maintain membership and attract new members. To put this in perspective the Lodge dues are \$100.00 per year. The dividend on the endowment is \$25.00 or LESS per year and the endowment dividend is \$27.50 per year historically which means that Lodges loses current maintenance funds of \$100.00 minus \$27.50 or \$72.50 per year. Endowments are great when they are used for long term sustainability, but they drain the coffers and ability of the Lodge to meet its current commitments as a Lodge. For a David Elliot Lodge endowment to meet the current earnings of a year of dues the endowment would have to cost \$2000.00 at the current dividend rate.
10. The Worshipful Master discussed the Blood Drive that has been held in Naples at the Watermelon festival and whether the Lodge will participate in future years. He said he would come back to this issue later in the year and determine if we have members that are able to assist in this endeavor.
11. The Dues notices for the upcoming year will have an enclosed letter, accompanied by a self-addressed stamped envelope for the return, asking the endowed members to; (A) pay their per capita of \$27.50 per member and (B) to furnish their current & accurate phone number, address, & email address and return the information to the Lodge secretary.

LEO TRAINING

Danny Thomas, Founder of St. Jude's
Children's Research Hospital

Edited & taken from St. Jude Hospital History articles.
by Rex McGee

The following is a story of a man with a passion and a dream. He took a lofty dream to its fruition, and this is the story of that magnificent man and his dream.

More than 70 years ago, Danny Thomas, then a struggling young entertainer with a baby, visited a Detroit church and was so moved during Mass, he placed his last \$7 in the collection box. When he realized what he had done, Danny prayed for a way to pay the looming hospital bills. The next day, he was offered a small part that would pay ten times the amount he had given to the church. Danny had experienced the power of prayer.

Two years later, Danny had achieved moderate acting success in Detroit, but he was struggling to take his career to the next level. Once again, he turned to the church. Praying to St. Jude Thaddeus, the patron saint of hopeless causes, Danny asked the saint to “help me find my way in life, and I will build you a shrine.”

His career took a turn for the better, and soon he moved his family to Chicago to pursue career offers. A few years later, at another turning point in his life, Danny visited a church and remembered his pledge to St. Jude. Again, he prayed to St. Jude and repeated his pledge to build a shrine to the saint if he would show him the way.

In the years that followed, Danny's career flourished through films and television, and he became an internationally known entertainer. He remembered his pledge to build a shrine to St. Jude.

In the early 1950s, Danny began discussing with friends what concrete form his vow might take. Gradually, the idea of a children's hospital, in Memphis, Tennessee, took shape. In 1955, Danny Thomas and a group of Memphis businessmen who had agreed to help support his dream seized on the idea of creating a unique research hospital devoted to curing catastrophic [diseases](#) in children. More than just a treatment [facility](#), this would be a research center for the children of the world.

Danny started raising money for his vision of St. Jude in the early 1950s. To solve this problem, Danny, of Lebanese descent, turned to his fellow Americans of Arabic-speaking heritage. Danny's request struck a responsive chord. Since that time, with national headquarters in Memphis and regional offices throughout the United States, ALSAC has assumed full responsibility for all the hospital's fundraising efforts, raising hundreds of millions annually through benefits and solicitation drives among Americans of all ethnic, religious, and racial backgrounds. Today, ALSAC is the nation's second largest health-care charity and is supported by the efforts of more than one million volunteers nationwide.

He was laid to rest in a family crypt at the Danny Thomas/ALSAC Pavilion on the grounds of the hospital.

One of Danny Thomas's favorite quotes is ***“Success has nothing to do with what you gain in life or accomplish for yourself. It is what you do for others.”***

Thomas was initiated, passed, and raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason Freemasonry at Gothic Lodge #270 F&AM located at Hamilton Square, NJ on March 15, 1984, by special dispensation of the NJ Grand Master. During May 1985, he was made a 32° Mason and a Noble in Al Malaikah Shrine located at Los Angeles, CA.

FURTHER EDIFICATION

(not always the policy of this jurisdiction, but offered for discussion only)

Senior and Junior Wardens

The Senior Warden represents the pillar Jachin, symbolizing wisdom, and strength, while the Junior Warden represents the pillar Boaz, symbolizing establishment, and strength. These pillars are associated with the two Wardens, who are responsible for guiding the lodge during labor and refreshment, respectively. The raising and lowering of the Wardens' columns are a ritualistic practice that signifies the transition between these two states of the lodge. The Senior Warden's column is raised during labor and lowered during refreshment, while the Junior Warden's column is raised during refreshment and lowered during labor. This practice serves as a visible sign to all present in the lodge, indicating the current state of the lodge and the duties of Wardens.

The Tiler's Sword in Freemasonry

The Tiler's sword in Freemasonry is a symbol of authority, protection, and the unwavering commitment to the lodge's principles. It is a tangible connection to the history and values of Freemasonry, reminiscent of the swords carried by medieval Knights. The sword's shape is interpreted as symbolizing certain Masonic tenets, such as guardianship, purity, and divine order. It serves as a physical manifestation of Mason's commitment to protect and uphold the integrity of the lodge, reminding all Masons of their shared duties and the importance of safeguarding Masonic secrets. The Tiler's sword is not just for ceremonies but extends to all Masons, symbolizing the duty to protect and maintain the privacy, security, and exclusivity of the lodge. In Masonic tradition, the **tiler's sword is kept out of the scabbard** to symbolize vigilance and readiness for defense. This practice reflects the duty of the tiler to always be prepared, akin to the flaming sword guarding the way to the Tree of Life in the Garden of Eden. The sword's absence from the scabbard signifies that the tiler is always ready to defend his position and protect the Craft.

**SUPPORT THE SHRINERS CHILDREN HOSPITAL SYSTEM, THE
SCOTTISH RITE HOSPITAL, AND THE ST. JUDE CHILDREN'S
HOSPITAL SYSTEM WITH A MONTHLY CONTRIBUTION.**

David Elliott Lodge website:

<http://www.davidelliott364.org/>

