

*Just as the individual is the foundation of our Society of Friends and Brothers, so is the Masonic Lodge the fundamental unit in our corporate organization. This basic unit of the organization is sometimes called the "Blue Lodge", sometimes, the Craft Lodge, but it always operates under standards prescribed by a Grand Lodge. There is no higher Masonic authority than a Grand Lodge, and each Grand Lodge is the sovereign authority within the State or Country over which it claims jurisdiction.*

The Elective Officers of individual Lodges in Texas are the Worshipful Master (the term worshipful being used in the old English manner, meaning "respected" or "honorable"), the Senior and Junior Wardens, the Treasurer, and the Secretary. The term Warden means "watcher" or supervisor, taken from the old English term as used by the stonemasons of the eighteenth century. The Treasurer is responsible for the Lodge accounts, and the Secretary maintains the records of the Lodge, and many administrative duties. Additional officers, who may be either elected by the Lodge, or appointed by the Master, are the Chaplain, charged with offering prayers and reading the Bible at certain times; Senior and Junior Deacons, who serve as messengers who carry messages at the direction of the Master or the Senior Warden, to other members in the Lodge room, as the occasion may require. These two officers also see to the preparation of Candidates for the Degrees of Freemasonry, and accommodate visitors when the Lodge is assembled. There are also Senior and Junior Stewards, who see to the preparation of food and its service at Lodge events, and perform other duties; a Master of Ceremonies who takes charge of, and introduces the Candidates at the beginning of the Degrees; a Marshal, who assists the Master in maintaining proper decorum in the Lodge room; and a Musician, who may provide appropriate music for the various activities of the Lodge, including the conferral of the Degrees. Finally, outside the door, is the Tiler, or Tyler, who guards the Lodge from intrusion, and announces visiting Brethren and visiting Dignitaries.

The Grand Lodge of Texas, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, is the supreme governing authority over every Lodge in Texas. The chief officer of the Grand Lodge has the title of "Grand Master", and he is known as the Grand Master of Masons in Texas, signifying his election by the Masons of Texas, whose votes are cast by their duly elected representatives, and the Past Masters of Texas Lodges, who are members of the Grand Lodge of Texas. The Grand Master acts for all of the Masons collectively who live within the State of Texas, and are members of its Lodges.