

**PROCLAMATION  
2017 LODGE OPEN HOUSE PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, a Statewide Open House program has been established to be held in every Texas Masonic Lodge at 10:00 am till 2:00 p.m. Saturday, May 27, 2017.

WHEREAS, it is extremely important to the future progress of Texas Masonry that the citizens of our great State become better acquainted with our Lodges, our philosophy, our many charities and community service activities; and

WHEREAS, your Grand Master considers it absolutely vital that all Texas Masons stand shoulder to shoulder, without a gap in the line, in complete mutual support and cooperation;

I, THEREFORE, PROCLAIM AND DIRECT:

1. That every Texas Masonic Lodge shall host an open house for all citizens in its own Lodge Room, in accordance with previously distributed guidelines, beginning at 10:00 a.m. on May 27, 2017, for at least four hours.
2. That, where two or more Lodges meet in the same Lodge Room, and only under that condition, Lodges may conduct joint open houses. Each Lodge must stand on its own.
3. Where Lodges meet in buildings with several Lodge Rooms and share mutual lounges and dining areas (such as Scottish Rite buildings), each Lodge shall conduct its own open House in its own Lodge Room, but may jointly host refreshments in banquet halls or lounges.
4. All Appendant Bodies and affiliated organizations are encouraged to provide at least one member appropriately dressed in that organization's regalia, uniform or costume; and appropriate headgear such as fesses, chapeaus and Scottish Rite caps may be worn in the Lodge Room during the open house (provided no mixture of Blue Lodge and other regalia or headgear is worn). Further, Appendant Bodies and affiliated organizations may provide tables with handouts and/or promotional materials in lounge or dining room areas, but NOT in Lodge Rooms.

I, FURTHER REQUEST AND DIRECT:

1. That each District Service Team, headed by the District Deputy Grand Master, give maximum support and encouragement to every Lodge in its efforts to plan and conduct its Open House; and
2. That District Deputy Grand Masters immediately report to me any planned or probable variations to the directives of this Proclamation by any Texas Lodge, wherever situated, and for whatever reason; and
3. That this Proclamation shall be read in open Lodge at the February, March, and May Stated Meeting prior to May 27, 2017.

This Proclamation shall expire and be of no further force or effect at midnight,  
January 20, 2018.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL THIS TWENTY FIRST DAY OF January,  
2017.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jerry N. Kirby".

Jerry N. Kirby  
Grand Master  
Grand Lodge of Texas, A.F.&A.M.

ATTEST



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Orville L. O'Neill".

Orville L. O'Neill  
Grand Secretary  
Grand Lodge of Texas