



The Servante

Official Newsletter of the Bruce Chadwick SAM Assembly 138 Alliance of Illusionists

Volume 2026 - Number 1 - January 2026
Monthly Club Meeting - Thursday January 15, 2026 - 7:00 pm
Illusion Warehouse, 3917 McCart Ave, Fort Worth, Texas
Three blocks north of Seminary Drive/Across from the Public School

The January Monthly Club Meeting of the Fort Worth SAM Assembly 138 and Alliance of Illusionists will be the club's annual Installation Banquet. Entertainment for the event will be Ian Richards, one of the most dynamic comedy magicians in the DFW area!

All members, families, and their guests are invited to attend the 7:00 pm event at the East Gourmet Buffet located near Granbury Road and Hulen Street in south Fort Worth (6080 S Hulen Street). In return for the use of the restaurant's meeting room facility, the restaurant asks that everyone purchase a meal. The clubs also ask



that everyone in attendance, adults and children, pay \$5 cash per person to the club Treasurer to help offset entertainment cost.

Please note that the Executive Committee will not meet on January 15. It will be up to the new President to call for the Annual Business and Planning Meeting at an alternate date, time, and place before the February Monthly Club Meeting. All officers will be in attendance and all members in good standing (2026 dues-paid-up members) may attend. Visitors may not attend the meeting.



ANNUAL DUES ARE DUE

Annual dues for club members are due and payable in full before January 1, 2026. Members pay their dues online by clicking the "Dues" tab on the home page of our www.SAM138.com website. Members have the option to be a member of the national SAM organization, which gives them membership in both the SAM Assembly 138 and the Alliance of Illusionists, or individuals can join just the Alliance of Illusionists without national SAM membership. Either way the dues are just \$25 per person per year. Please note that the Assembly no longer collects national SAM dues from Assembly 138 members. SAM members in our Assembly are fully responsible for paying their own national dues direct to the SAM as the national SAM office sends statements.

WELCOME 2026 OFFICERS!

At the December Christmas party, the clubs elected the following slate of officers to serve for the 2026 club year. Hare Evison for President, Gary Poe for Vice President, Bruce Chadwick for Secretary, Lonnie Olander for Treasurer, William Weebo Beaty for Sergeant at Arms, Jack McCoy for Historian, and Caleb Westeen for Member at Large. Officers will be installed at the third Thursday January 15, 2026 Installation Banquet.

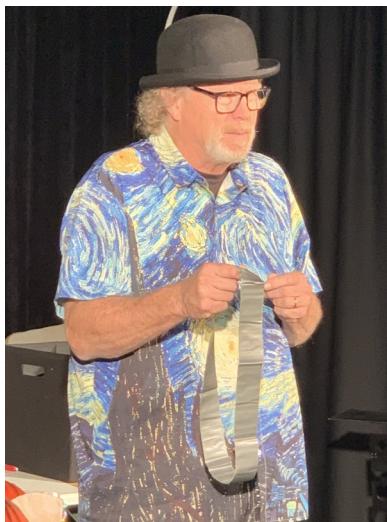
THE
OFFICER'S

MINUTES FROM THE DECEMBER CHRISTMAS PARTY

The December 18, 2025 third Thursday Monthly Club Meeting of the Fort Worth SAM Assembly 138 and Alliance of Illusionists featured the club's annual Christmas party. As usual, the meeting started promptly at 7:00 pm in the party room of the Illusion Warehouse magic shop, 3917 McCart Avenue, Fort Worth. The meeting was well attended with twenty magicians and guests present.

The club provided a spiral honey ham and free drinks. Club members and guests brought a wide array of pot luck dishes and deserts to augment a meal. Following the feast, 2026 club officers were elected. Hare Evison will serve as President, Gary Poe Vice as President, Bruce Chadwick as Secretary, Lonnie Olander as Treasurer, William Weebo Beaty as Sergeant at Arms, Jack McCoy as Historian, and Caleb Westeen as Member at Large. Officers will be installed at the third Thursday January 15, 2026 Installation Banquet.

For those who wanted to participate, a gift exchange followed. Magicians were asked to bring a new or gently used magic trick of at least a \$20-\$25 value for the exchange. Entertainment for the event was none other than the incredible magic of Jeff Martin, Production Manager of the Gaylord Ice exposition at the Gaylord Texan Resort and Convention Center in Grapevine, Texas. Accompanied by his wife Pam, the duo are renowned as a leading fair and exposition entertainers. Jeff performed an array of very original card effects, productions, Afghan bands using duct tape, predictions and other mentalism feats. There was lots of audience participation as he climaxed his act by producing a Christmas tree from his gift bags. It was a fun evening and a meeting that club members look forward to each year!



MINUTES FROM THE DECEMBER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

President Gary Poe called to order the December 18, 2025, Executive Committee meeting of the SAM Assembly 138 and the Alliance of Illusionists at about 6:05 pm in the Illusion Warehouse museum room. A quorum of officers were in attendance including President Gary Poe, Vice President Joey Byers, Secretary Bruce Chadwick, Treasurer Lonnie Olander, Sergeant at Arms Jack McCoy, and Historian Hare Evison. Absent was Member at Large William Weebo Beaty.

The minutes of the November Executive Committee Meeting as printed in the December issue of the SERVANTE were approved by acclamation. Treasurer Lonnie Olander presented the December club financial report. The club's previous report Operating Account balance was \$2368. The clubs had disbursements of \$13.86 for Mail-Chimp, flowers for Kathryn Olander in the amount of \$64.95, and \$200 as remuneration to December Christmas Party magician Jeff Martin. This leaves the club with a current working balance of \$2314.44.

The committee also discussed the January Installation Banquet. The banquet and ceremony will be held once again at East Gourmet Buffet on Hulen Street in south Fort Worth, with members paying the restaurant directly for their individual meals. All attendees will pay five dollars per person cash to the club Treasurer (Olander) toward entertainment. Secretary Chadwick contacted Will Baffle to determine his availability to perform for the banquet. Baffle declined the offer. Subsequently Gary Poe and Bruce Chadwick conversed and decided to check Ian Richards' availability. Ian has agreed to the challenge. The committee has agreed to give Ian \$300 as remuneration for his services.

The committee agreed that someone needs to be assigned as the central moderator for the club's Facebook pages. It was agreed that the club needs only two Facebook pages, one that is public and the other that is internal. It was decided that the Historian (probably Jack McCoy for 2026) will become the administrator of the club's two Facebook pages.

The Executive Committee assigned itself as the Nominating Committee to seek officers for the new club year. The committee still suggests Hare Evison for President, Gary Poe for Vice President, Bruce Chadwick for Secretary, Lonnie Olander for Treasurer, William Weebo Beaty for Sergeant at Arms, Jack McCoy for Historian, and Caleb Westeen for Member at Large. Further nominations from the floor and the election of officers will take place at the December monthly club meeting Christmas Party, and the officers will be installed at the January Installation Banquet.

With no further business, the meeting concluded to start the club's annual Christmas Party in the party room of the Illusion Warehouse.

Respectfully submitted,
Bruce Chadwick, Secretary





THE MAUI MAGICIAN

You know what they say—*out with the old and in with the new*. As I embark on this new journey as President of the Bruce Chadwick SAM Assembly 138 and Alliance of Illusionists magic clubs, I plan to approach the role much like an umpire or referee: present, fair, and ready to help keep the game running smoothly. While some say it's good to be king, we all know that true greatness is achieved through teamwork.

As we honor our past president and welcome a new chapter of leadership, we also welcome new officers—alongside some familiar faces who continue to serve. Together, we are stepping into a new year and a new era for the club, one focused on growth, connection, and raising the level of magic we share.

With great power comes great responsibility... so here we go! While my presidential credentials may be limited on paper, I bring with me something just as important: a strong belief in ethical magic, community, and mutual support. I was raised by a magician who taught me to believe in magic—and to help all who believe in me. That foundation has led me here, and I'm honored to serve as your new president.

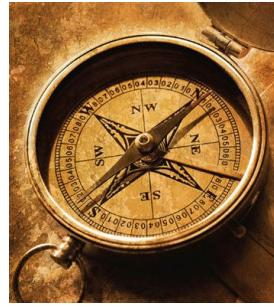
So dust off your glasses, adjust your binoculars, ready your cameras, and get comfortable—the show is just beginning. My hope is that magicians will come from near and far to experience this year's club lectures, magic shows, and meetings. I want new members to feel welcome, to learn, to shine—and yes, to pitch in. Whether that means helping set up, break down, or even sweeping the floor once in a while, every contribution matters.

I'll be here all year doing my best to help "clean up the act." If you ever need me—or if you'd like to help in any way—please don't hesitate to reach out. And while tips are always appreciated (in spirit, of course!), your participation, enthusiasm, and support are what truly keep this club magical.

Thank you again for electing me as your president. I promise to do my best to amaze you—with my good looks, corny magic tricks, and, of course, my magnificent wardrobe.

Here's to a magical year ahead!

Hare Evison, President



Just My Perspective

Bruce Chadwick MA, M.Div.

BAD AUDIENCES

I perform several shows each month. Recently I hit a stride. It seemed I was on an unstoppable roll with a string of shows that were simply great. My timing, flow, continuity, and audience rapport was simply fantastic. All the theatrical elements that go into performance, such as audience's reaction, aesthetics, routining, and presentations were just incredible. I walked away from each show with great satisfaction. I was proud of myself. I felt like a true performing professional. Then I hit a bump.

I was up in Oklahoma performing for a church student banquet. I gave it 110% as usual. The lighting, sound, stage, distance between me and the audience, and all the other theatrical elements that go into making for a great show were all just perfect. I was on my game and had my time tested routines to win over the audience. I expected a great show. Unfortunately that was not the case.

When I told a joke, the students sat there with little to no reaction. When I did my best magic effects, they gave a "ho hum" response. My audience was numb and I felt inadequate. I finished the show with all kinds of negative emotions running through my mind. I tried to remind myself that I had done my best. Still, I wanted to go home and hide. Frankly, I was almost embarrassed to take my payment. Certainly I concluded that teenagers suck.

Honestly, winning over an audience is a type of game. It's akin to a cowboy riding a wild bronco. The only way to learn how to win and not to get bucked off comes only with experience. A rider must learn how the horse will move, anticipate how it will buck and attempt to throw. As riders get thrown off, they learn what to do and not do to improve. There is no secret formula regarding how it works. Experience is the teacher. Likewise connecting with an audience takes determination and experience. It is something that all performers must learn from experience. Trials teach performers how to establish audience rapport, build positive audience-performer relationships, grow the bonds as shows are performed, and climax their shows leaving audiences satisfied.

The late Charles W. Dodson of Midland, Texas was my principle mentor in magic. He always said that there is no such thing as a bad audience. While I admired and respected Charlie, he was wrong. All performers occasionally have bad audiences. Sometimes the core of audiences cannot be won or entertained despite best efforts. Sometimes it is a particular situation, circumstances, or only a small portion of individuals that demean and influence the overall group. Whatever the cause, occasional bad audiences are a reality for all entertainment endeavors. Performers must simply do their best, take their licks, and look forward to their next performances.

I recall a Sunday evening show at a church one time. The fellowship hall was huge. Audience members were seated at tables and had just finished a meal. I was about to start my show when a deacon came up to me and told me some disturbing news. He said the church had been at great odds with their pastor and that morning they had finally voted to fire him. This was good to know, but it put me on edge. What was I to do? What would I say?

I opted to just perform my standard show. As always for church shows, I concluded my presentation by sharing my personal testimony and walk with Christ while incorporating some of my more refined magic routines. At the end of my show, and as I held the props high in the air and looked upward for the climax, the audience leaped to their feet and gave a standing ovation! I couldn't help but break a tear. It was obvious they were hungry, desired to be spiritually fed, entertained, and needed my ministry. It reminded me of the fact that sometimes there are really good audiences. And of course that moment wasn't really about me anyway. It was about Him.



LET'S GET PERSONAL

Let's get personal. I mean with our magic. Certainly, we can't always do it but many of us don't do many larger performances, and the bulk of our performing is for family and friends. My son-in-law brought up over the holidays how fondly he remembered a trick I did for him and my daughter a year ago. In fairness, it was a very good trick. I didn't create it but I bought it with them in mind to deliver a personal message I wanted to say with it.

I view magic as the music, and I provide the lyrics for the story I feel it wants to tell. Also I have never performed that trick for anyone else. Perhaps someday I will if I expand my performing opportunities, but I know it will never hit like it did that day. How could I ever deliver the "trick" again, which was really just a vehicle for me to express how I feel about them finding each other?

To be clear, I mostly do forgettable magic. However once in a great while I strike gold with those close to me. What was the secret to that performance and a few similar performances ?

I think the first thing is that for special pieces, I will work on them much longer. I know that I will only get one shot at it, unlike the pro who performs an effect repeatedly to polish it to perfection. Such personal pieces will only ever exist in that one moment. However, I will put much effort into perfection before that one and only performance. I know it will be as beautiful (or perhaps ugly) as it will ever be because it is a shared gift I am giving to my favorite people in the world.

Those of us that do not have new people to perform for regularly need to work extra hard and resist the urge to perform something that isn't ready. I have done it and kicked myself. Magicians need to treat magic the way it deserves to be treated. It can be powerful. That means "amateur" should not be a dirty word. Some of our greatest magicians have been amateurs.

The other secret for those most special performances is that they are personal, because I know their anniversaries, dreams, fears, struggles, and just about everything. Time is on my side. In six months, my daughter will celebrate her son's first birthday. I can spend six months dreaming up a piece of magic that I can do for them that is specifically about a special day and the memories that I share with them. If I do magic for them on that day and it touches those emotions, I will not need to rely on my poor acting. I just have to keep it together because I genuinely share their emotions. I will need to be practiced enough to be present, and experience it with them instead of worrying if I will mess it up.

I am not saying all of a person's magic can be like that unless you are Eugene Burger. However for those close to a magician, they should think about getting personal and give a gift. If I could write my daughter a beautiful song for her birthday, I would do it. However I am not a musician. I am a magician, and never more so than in those personal moments.

Gary Poe, Vice-President
SAM Assembly 138
Alliance of Illusionists



Happy 2026! In my usual tradition I've adjusted the method for rapidly, in your head, determining the day of the week for any date in 2026, which can be handy at times. The mnemonic key shown is credited to Martin Gardner & Lee Earle and described in Martin's book, 'Mathematical Carnival' (Vintage Books, 1977, pg. 83) . I reduced and simplified the math for this year (2026). I'll quickly remind myself the week's number order using the simple fact that 'Wednesday' and 'One' have the same phonetic beginning (lip form and sound identical).

To quickly determine the day of the week for 2026, add the month value (shown below) and the day together, divide by 7 if the total is equal to or greater than 7, and use the remainder to determine what day of the week it falls on, referring to the 7 day key shown below (Wednesday through Tuesday, 1 to 0 concurrently).

Wednesday—1 Thursday—2 Friday—3 Saturday—4 Sunday—5 Monday—6 Tuesday—0

MONTH	MONTH VALUE	MNEMONIC FOR REMEMBERING VALUE
JANUARY	1	THE FIRST (1) MONTH
FEBRUARY	4	A C-O-L-D (4 LETTERS) MONTH
MARCH	4	WINDY MONTH TO FLY A K-I-T-E (4 LETTERS)
APRIL	0	ON APRIL FOOL'S DAY I FOOLED NOBODY (0)
MAY	2	MAYDAY! (2 SYLLABLES)
JUNE	5	THE B-R-I-D-E (5 LETTERS) MONTH
JULY	0	I SHOT ZERO (0) FIREWORKS
AUGUST	3	THE H-O-T (3 LETTERS) MONTH
SEPTEMBER	6	THE START OF A-U-T-U-M-N (6 LETTERS)
OCTOBER	1	A WITCH RIDES ONE (1) BROOM
NOVEMBER	4	A C-O-O-L (4 LETTERS) MONTH
DECEMBER	6	BIRTH OF C-H-R-I-S-T (6 LETTERS)

EXAMPLES

What day of the week is the 4th of July in 2026? July (0) + 4 = 4 Saturday

What day will Christmas be on in 2026?
December (6)+25 =31, 31÷7=4 with a remainder of 3 Friday

What day is your birthday this year?

1. Add birthday month value + day, use total to determine day.
2. If total is 7 or greater, divide by 7 and use the remainder to determine day.

Quarter Con: This is an impromptu mini-version of Terri Rogers' clever trick / puzzle , called 'Dollar Con'. This can even be done over the phone. I'd posted other versions in previous Servantes.

Supplies Needed: 3 opaque small items, such as coins, pieces of paper, etc., and something to write on them (permanent marker works best for coins). I'll explain it as if 3 quarters.

- Look away and request a volunteer to draw an eyeball on 1 quarter, then flip all over. Next, request they write the letters A, B, & C on the tops of the coins, any letter on any coin, then line the quarters next to each other.
- Explain they'll be swapping the places of 2 coins, **if possible** which means if a coin is at an end and there's no coin to swap the direction given, nothing can be done, so explain they not to do anything should that case arise.
- Tell them to swap 'A' with the coin to its immediate right, if possible.
- Tell them to swap 'B' with the coin to its immediate left, if possible.
- Tell them to swap 'C' with the coin to its immediate right, if possible.
- Tell them to swap the places of the 2 coins that don't have the eye, leaving the eye coin unmoved.
- Tell them to swap 'B' with the coin to its immediate right, if possible.
- Say, "Now, where's that psychic eye hiding at?", Turn over the middle (will always be) coin and say, "Eye (I) found it!"

OVER THE TOP IN TEXAS TAOM 2026 CONVENTION

Hilton Post Oak, Houston - Labor Day Weekend 2026

Hosted by Gene Protas TAOM President 2026 & The Houston Magic Clubs

FEATURING THE MAGICAL TALENTS OF

John Bannon - Caesar - Eric DeCamps

Jared Kopf - Armando Lucero - Mike Pisciotta

Jake & David Rangel - Chip Romero

Jamie Salinas - Garrett Thomas

Paul Vigil - Geoff Williams

The Illusions of John Shryock & Mari Lynn

**2026 Guests of Honor - The Great Scotts:
Scott Hollingsworth & Scott Wells**



September 4-7 2026

visit TAOM.org for info & to register

2026 OFFICERS

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4. TREASURER:	Lonnie Olander	lonnie.olander@gmail.com	254-749-0124
5. SERGEANT AT ARMS:	William Weebo Beaty	weeboentertainment@yahoo.com	972-824-9614
6. HISTORIAN:	Jack McCoy	magicjack@charter.net	682-560-8569
7. MEMBER AT LARGE:	Caleb Westeen	calebw827@gmail.com	682-222-3959

DFW AREA MAGIC HAPPENINGS

FORT WORTH SAM ASSEMBLY 138 ALLIANCE OF ILLUSIONISTS

Meets on the third Thursday of each month, 7:00 pm at the Illusion Warehouse party room and magic shop located at 3917 McCart Avenue, Fort Worth, Texas 76110. Contact chadwickillusionist@yahoo.com or go to www.sam138.com. Also Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/162025544420781/>



FORT WORTH MAGICIANS CLUB INC AND REN CLARK IBM RING 15

Meets on the first Thursday of each month, 7:00 pm. See <https://fortworthmagiciansclub.org/>

MID-CITIES MAGIC CIRCLE

See the Mid-Cities Magic Circle Facebook group.



DALLAS MAGIC CLUB, SAM ASSEMBLY 13 AND IBM RING 174

See www.DallasMagic.org for meeting information.

IMPROV COMEDY CLUBS IN ADDISON AND ARLINGTON

Both comedy clubs periodically host weekend comedy magic shows. For more details go to either www.ImprovArlington.com or www.ImprovAddison.com.

MAGIC IN THE LIVING ROOM

Periodic magic shows every 1st Tuesday at 7:00 pm at The Line Public House, 940 E Beltline in Richardson. See www.MagicLivingRoom.com for more information.

