



# The Servante

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

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Next Monthly Assembly Meeting Thursday July 21, 2016, 6:30 pm  
Illusion Warehouse - 3917 McCart Ave - Fort Worth, Texas 76110  
Three Blocks North of Seminary Drive - Across Street from School

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## TIME FOR RENEWAL!

### A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE BRUCE CHADWICK SAM ASSEMBLY 138 ALLIANCE OF ILLUSIONISTS

Assembly 138 was originally chartered in Hurst, Texas by the Society of American Magicians as the Mid-Cities United Magicians Club (abbreviated as MUM). Seven members appear on the March 12, 1977 charter and include Robin Clay, James Eaton, William Ridge, Paul Shaffer, Darren Walker, Randy Yates and William Yates. Unfortunately due to inactivity primarily due to the demise the "Magic and More" store that promoted the club's formation, the SAM recalled the club's charter on October 14, 1981.

During the mid 1980's, a chapter of the Fellowship of Christian Magicians was established in the Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas area. Led primarily through the efforts of a minister by the name of Cameron Ainsworth, the group named itself the DFW/FCM (Dallas/Fort Worth chapter of the Fellowship of Christian Magicians). After several years of continuous meetings, Cameron moved from Fort Worth to pastor a church in another state. Subsequently club meetings became infrequent, membership dwindled, and ultimately the club also became inactive.

Early in 2001, a seminary student by the name of Darren Smith approached Bruce Chadwick, owner of the Illusion Warehouse retail magic shop ([www.IllusionWarehouse.com](http://www.IllusionWarehouse.com)), about once again starting a Christian-based magic group. Chadwick's store provided a good meeting location due to the fact that it was located only about three blocks north of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, at 3917 McCart Avenue, Fort Worth, Texas. Subsequently a small group of individuals began to meet at the Illusion Warehouse. Within a matter of months the group grew to over sixty members. As emphasis of the club shifted towards general magic and illusion, it named itself the Alliance of Illusionists (AOI).

On Tuesday evening October 9, 2001, the Alliance of Illusionists members voted to become the Bruce Chadwick SAM Assembly 138 Alliance of Illusionists. The National Council of the Society of American Magicians then renewed the Assembly 138 charter on April 20, 2002. Renewed charter members include Edgardo Ferrer, Bob Miner, Grady W. Patterson, Wilford D. Lewis, Jo Ann Lewis, Mark Jones, Raymond L. Landy, Martin Lee Patterson, Stephen C. Hires, H. Craig Davis, and Larry J. Brown, Jr., and Bruce Chadwick.

### MEETING CONCURRENTLY

Early in 2006, The Fort Worth Magicians Club Inc, the Ren Clark IBM Ring 15, and the SAM Assembly 138 Alliance of Illusionists began discussing the idea of meeting together on a monthly basis. After surveying its membership and determining there was an overwhelming interest among Assembly members for the SAM Assembly 138, the IBM Ring 15, and The Fort Worth Magicians Club to become one, SAM Assembly 138 President Larry Brown sent a letter to the FWMC and Ring suggesting that the clubs merge into one entity.

The Fort Worth Magicians Club and the Ren Clark IBM Ring 15 rejected the idea however. At that time the FWMC and Ring had recently split so The Fort 'Worth Magicians Club could become a non-profit corporation. At that point the Fort Worth Magicians Club and IBM Ring were separate clubs that met concurrently.

However the Fort Worth Magicians Club and the IBM Ring 15 did extend the invitation to the SAM Assembly 138 Alliance of Illusionists to start meeting with them concurrently. On Thursday June 1, 2006 the three clubs voted to start meeting at the same date, time, and place to promote and seek the advancement of the art of magic, while at the same time retaining their independence as separate clubs.

It is interesting that the agreement for the three clubs to meet together and yet remain separate is often misunderstood. It has always been necessary for the clubs to remain separate from one another so that the IBM Ring and SAM Assembly can maintain proper alignment with their respective national magic organizations, and The Fort Worth Magicians Club Inc can remain independent from the Ring and Assembly for liability concerns and the obligations its non-profit legal status.

This also means that as separate clubs, only IBM Ring 15 members can vote on Ring business, only SAM Assembly 138 members can vote on Assembly business, and only Fort Worth Magicians Club members can vote on FWMC business.

However with the concurrent monthly club meetings usually referred to as Fort Worth Magicians Club meetings (and not also the meeting of Ring 15 and Assembly 138) and the three clubs appearing to function as a single club, it is easy to understand how some mistakenly think the IBM Ring, SAM Assembly, and the FWMC are the same club.

## **RENEWAL**

As an independent non-profit corporation, The Fort Worth Magicians Club does not require its members to also be members of the IBM or SAM. Also with the Ring and Assembly rarely recognized at monthly club meetings and the benefits of joining the IBM and SAM seldom emphasized, over the past decade Ring 15 and Assembly 138 growth has been minimal.

SAM Assemblies must maintain a minimum of ten national dues-paid-up SAM members to sustain their charters. With the SAM Assembly 138 membership critical, the Assembly Executive Committee called a special meeting on Tuesday evening July 5, 2016.

Meeting at the Illusion Warehouse magic shop where the assembly began fourteen years earlier, the committee renewed its commitment to continue meeting concurrently with the IBM Ring 15 and the FWMC on the first Thursday of each month. At the same time to help rebuild its membership and restore its identity, SAM Assembly 138 also voted to reinstate its own Monthly Assembly Meetings on the third Thursday of each month, beginning with the Thursday evening July 21, 2016 meeting.

Updating its bylaws, reaffirming its officers, and revising its membership application process, the renewed mission of the Bruce Chadwick SAM Assembly 138 Alliance of Illusionists is to bolster its membership to maintain its charter, encourage area magicians to join the Society of American Magicians, and do its part to promote the art of magic in the Fort Worth community.



## **CONCURRENT MEETINGS**

In addition to having its Monthly Assembly Meeting on the third Thursday of each month, the Assembly also meets concurrently with the Ren Clark IBM Ring 15 and The Fort Worth Magicians Club Inc on the first Thursday of each month. The three clubs are independent from each other so that the IBM Ring and SAM Assembly can maintain proper alignment with their respective IBM and SAM national magic organizations, and The Fort Worth Magicians Club Inc can remain independent from the Ring and Assembly for liability concerns and the obligations of its non-profit legal status. For information on the combined meeting, see the Facebook page of The Fort Worth Magicians Club or the website at [www.fortworthmagiciansclub.org](http://www.fortworthmagiciansclub.org).

## **MEMBERSHIP**

To apply for membership in the Bruce Chadwick SAM Assembly 138 Alliance of Illusionists, simply fill out the online membership application ("Apply" button on the homepage of [www.allianceofillusionists.com](http://www.allianceofillusionists.com)). Applicants will be asked to pay a \$20 application fee, which also covers the applicant's membership dues through December 31 of the application year. Applicants may then attend Monthly Assembly Meetings until their membership is either ratified or denied.

Within three months of applying for membership, applicants will be asked to present themselves before the club at one of the Monthly Assembly Meetings and perform a short magic presentation or otherwise demonstrate their interest in magic. The assembly will then vote to ratify or deny the application. If an application is denied, all monies will be returned to the applicant.

If an Active (age 18 and above) or Junior (age 12 through 17) application is ratified, applicants who are already members of the national SAM organization immediately become either Active or Junior members of Assembly 138. Applicants who are not already members of the national SAM organization become Tentative Members of Assembly 138 until they join the national SAM organization.

Note that application to join the national SAM organization is separate from joining the SAM Assembly 138 Alliance of Illusionists. Application to join the national SAM organization is done through the [www.magicsam.com](http://www.magicsam.com) website.

Since national SAM membership is not required for individuals joining the Assembly as Associate members (usually reserved for the spouse or magician's assistant of an Active Assembly member), after presenting their Qualification Demonstration and being voted into the membership by the Assembly, Associate Assembly membership is immediate.

Note that visitors are welcome and may attend up to three regular Monthly Assembly Meetings. Thereafter visitors must apply for membership to attend additional meetings.

## **PURPOSE**

The Bruce Chadwick SAM Assembly 138 Alliance of Illusionists (AOI) is a Fort Worth, Texas based magic club that organizes activities for individuals who are interested in the practice and promotion of the art of magic illusion and sleight-of-hand.

Operating as an "Assembly" of the national Society of American Magicians organization, the AOI is bound to the directives and mandates of the SAM. Also each Active and Junior member of the local SAM Assembly 138 Alliance of Illusionists must maintain membership in the national SAM organization.

The Assembly hosts Monthly Assembly Meetings (Fort Worth magic club meetings), cooperates with other magician's clubs to further the art of magic, and seeks to produce harmony in the magical arts. The Assembly also promotes educational programs and activities to benefit Assembly members and increase their skills and knowledge regarding the art of magic.