

The Trestle-Board



Bent Lodge No. 42 - AF&AM
Taos, NM
January 2014 - 6014 A.L.



2014 Officers

WM Noah Shapiro

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JW Scot Loomis

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Secretary Scott Thayer

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SD Dan Stouffer

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JD Wayne Rutherford

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SS - - -

JS Smith Clark

Marshal Keva Levin

Chaplain Bruce Burling

Tyler Chris Pieper

From the East

2014 — A year of renewed dedication Freemasonry!

Brethren all,

My focus for the year will be to return to the basics of Freemasonry; to fine-tune our Ritual work, most especially our conferring of degrees; to inculcate transparency in the official conduct and actions of our officers and committees; to implement programs that include our families; to reach out to the other civic organizations, here in Taos; to reach out to the military veterans in our community; to invite the 'Profane' to get to know us better; to increase the rental of our facility so as to enhance our income; and, last but not least, to bring back to the fellowship of Bent Lodge the many Brothers who have not attended a Communication in a long time.

That is, I know, an ambitious program, my Brothers, none of which can be accomplished without your support and participation.

Here's how I believe that we can get it all done or, at least, make a good attempt at doing so:

1: Return to the Basics.

We, each of us, should re-read the Grand Lodge Constitution and By Laws as well as the Monitor. We should recall why we joined the Craft in the first place and refresh our memories of the three Obligations that, of our own free will and accord, we each swore to keep steadfast in the due performance of the same.

By our diligent and proper practice of Masonic protocol, etiquette, and other of our usages, we will enhance the Lodge experience for all who now do, and who may attend in the future.

I am hopeful that our Stewards, under the guidance and supervision of the Junior Warden, will continue to provide the Craft with meals that both nourish our bodies as well as our fellowship.

There will be, for each Regular Communication, an agenda that will include reports from each of the chairmen of the Standing, as well as Special Committees, where such is appropriate and timely; an educational talk or other presentation; there will also be time allocated for all other necessary business of the Lodge. I am confident that all of this, with the cooperation of the Craft, can be accomplished without extending any meeting beyond a reasonable and enjoyable amount of time.

2: Fine-tune our Ritual work.

The only way to accomplish this is by practice, practice, practice! I will be asking all of you, Officers and side-liners, to make the effort to come to our regularly scheduled Lodge of Instruction (first and third Wednesday of each month, 6-7 pm) to learn or practice Ritual, degree work, memory or floor-work, or whatever you may feel to be in need of some polishing.

(continued on page 4)



INTRODUCTION PROTOCOLS IN LODGE

OFFICIAL Visitation

The Worshipful Master should call up his Lodge when a Grand Lodge Officer or a permanent member of the Grand Lodge enters the Lodge room.

DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER

The District Deputy Grand Master, when making an official visitation unaccompanied by the Grand Master, should be given the same reception and honors as the Grand Master. The introduction should be, "Right Worshipful Brother A. B., District Deputy Grand Master of the _____ District." He should be seated to the immediate right of the Worshipful Master and should be tendered the gavel and station.

OTHER GRAND OFFICERS

Grand Officers, when not accompanied by the Grand Master, are entitled to receive the Grand Honors and are seated to the right of the Worshipful Master, but are not tendered the gavel and station unless commissioned by and acting for the Grand Master. The title of the Deputy Grand Master, Grand Wardens, Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary, and Grand Deacons is "Right Worshipful," of all other Grand Lodge officers, if they are Past Masters of a Lodge, it is "Worshipful".

Any visitor, or even any member of your own Lodge, may be honored by being conducted to the East. Such action, however, must never take precedence over, or detract in any way from, the Grand Master, the District Deputy Grand Master on his official visit, or any other Grand Lodge officer on official business.

(From the NM Monitor and Ceremonies, pps. 100-164)

From the West



Dear Brethren,

As the year 2014 begins, I look forward to seeing what we can accomplish as a Lodge this year.

I would like to report on three subjects at this point. First, the Lodge Usage Committee was disbanded at the Installation and reestablished at a meeting with the Worshipful Master. Scott Loomis was elevated to the chairman and I agreed to stay on as a member so I may still help. I am very pleased with this change and am sure of the Junior Warden's abilities as the chairperson of such an important committee. Second, the maintenance committee is going to be performing an inspection of the interior of the Lodge and the Kit Carson Shop's to be followed up with by an email report being sent out to the Craft on the state of our properties. Please email me (NoblePlumb@gmail.com) or contact me or any other member of the committee (listed below) to let us know which problems you would like us to look into. Finally, the kitchen is filled with life-safety code issues. As the maintenance committee has been charged with reporting on those issues specifically, I think we should avoid scheduling anymore breakfasts until we conclude our inspection and report in late February.

I would like to pay the wages that I know about, so:

Thanks Past Master Thayer for your continuing contributions to the Lodge.

Thanks Past Master Cordova for the past year and the cool Masonic pin.

Thanks Worshipful Master for passing a budget in December.

Thanks to Michele Beuttel and Lora Loomis for the help with the installation.

Thanks Brother Loomis for taking on the chairman role on the usage committee.

Thank to the brethren whom have taken on the challenge of the maintenance committee with me they are as follow Dave Cordova, Scot Loomis, Keith McIntosh and Daniel Stouffer.

Fraternaly

WB Jed Noble, Senior Warden

MASONIC ETIQUETTE

Freely adapted from an article written by RW Alfonso Serrano
Aurora Grata-Day Star Lodge No. 647, New York

The one thing that sets us [Freemasons] apart from most if not all of other organizations is our Ritual and our traditions, both written and spoken. One of the most important aspects of our traditional history is our Masonic Etiquette... a form of courtesy to the individual members and a manifestation of respect to the Craft. The most [disrespectful] thing for me to see is a Lodge member address the Worshipful Master while he remains seated. The following are what I consider some of the important rule of etiquette: The rules of order in Freemasonry do not permit discussion, during a communication, among the Brethren. A Brother who [wishes to speak], whether it be to enter discussion, to make or second a motion, must rise to his feet, give the sign, wait to be recognized by the Master, and [then only] speak directly to the Master. [He must receive permission from the Master before speaking to any other Brother in particular, or to the Craft in general.]

When wearing clothing that would conceal the apron, always wear the apron on the outside of the garment, except when wearing a formal cut-away (tails).

'Brother' is a title, and must always be used as such. A man does not attend a Lodge Communication in his capacity as a private individual; [but] is there in his capacity as Master Mason, and should be referred to as 'John Doe' or 'Brother Doe' [and not as 'Brother John'].

From the South

First of all I want to, once again, acknowledge Worshipful Brother Dave Cordova for the inspired leadership he provided this Lodge during a challenging year. His dedication to providing whatever was needed for the Craft to move forward, overcoming some serious challenges and paving the way for a brighter future for Bent Lodge No. 42. On a personal note I also want to thank Dave for the friendship he extended to me during my first year as a Mason.

On another note, to all my brothers, what prompted you to become a Mason? This is a question that is asked in differing forms in two of our three degrees. But now I would like to ask this question in a non-ritualistic way. And an equally important question for my Brothers who no longer participate in Lodge: What is missing from our Fellowship that originally brought you to us? As for me, I became a Mason because I saw it as a path that might help me improve myself as a man and to help me help others. Although I am still a toddler in Masonic knowledge, I think the process has already begun for me, and I am very grateful.

I had heard that Masonry is declining in numbers, and that we need to attract new Masons to our organization. And while I think that is important, I also think we need to ask those who no longer come to Lodge what is missing? What are we not doing that we could do to fulfill the purpose that prompted these Brothers to petition to join us.

Becoming a Master Mason (or even an Entered Apprentice) is not a trivial undertaking. It requires purposeful intent and some dedication to even get through the Western gate. So I suspect that it takes a serious impediment to withdraw from our circle. There certainly are many reasons beyond the capability of the Craft to adjust: sickness, moving out of state, to name just a couple, but there may be some reasons that we, as a Band of Brothers CAN do something about.

So, if you are no longer involved with the lodge but receive this Trestle Board, I would greatly appreciate an email to datagurulll@gmail.com to tell me what you believe is missing.

In Fellowship
Scot Loomis, JW
Bent Lodge No. 42.

PROVERBS

To think bad thoughts is really the easiest thing in the world. If you leave your mind to itself it will spiral down into ever increasing unhappiness. To think good thoughts, however, requires effort. This is one of the things that discipline —training— is about. *Shogun, James Clavell*

If we are facing in the right direction, all we have to do is keep on walking. *Buddhist proverb*

God of all beings, of all worlds, and of all times, We pray, that The little differences in our clothes, in our inadequate languages, in our ridiculous customs, in our imperfect laws, in our illogical opinions, in our ranks and conditions which are so disproportionately important to us and so meaningless to you, that these small variations that distinguish those atoms that we call men, one from another, may not be signals of hatred and persecution! *Voltaire*

Standard Agenda

1. Sickness and Distress
2. Reading of unapproved minutes.
3. Unfinished business.
4. Reports of Standing Committees.
5. Reports of Special Committees.
6. Presentation of petitions for Degrees, and for Affiliation.
7. Report of Committees on Petitions and balloting thereon.
8. Communications and presentation of bills.
9. Motions and resolutions in writing.
- 10: Educational Presentation.
- 11: Motions from the Floor and miscellaneous business.

Theodore Roosevelt



“It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat.”

Brother Theodore Roosevelt

3: Inculcate transparency.

It is my intent to keep the Craft as fully advised as possible of the deliberations and decision-making processes of our officers and, wherever possible to make use of Standing and special-purpose, short-lived special committees to examine issues, suggestions, problems and et cetera, and have them bring recommendations to the Craft for deliberation and, where necessary, a vote; quarterly, at least, financial reports.

4: Implement programs that include our families.

It was WB Cordova's plan to hold a periodic Family Night at the Lodge but, unfortunately we just didn't have the funds to do that last year. Thanks to the hard work done by him and others of the Craft, we are now in much better financial condition and, in fact, have money allocated in the approved 2014 budget for just such events. I plan to schedule at least three family events and ask you for suggestions as to dates, activities and so on.

5: Reach out to the other civic organizations.

I plan to constitute a Standing Committee to liaise and organize joint events with such organizations as the Lions, Rotary, American Legion, VFW, and the like. My hope is that by enlarging our exposure to these good people, some may seek the light and fellowship that Masonry provides.

6: Invite the 'Profane' to get to know us better.

Our approved budget contains allocated funds for a Quarterly Open House. With proper and adequate advertising and word-of-mouth promotion to encourage them, folks will come to the Lodge, eat with us, get to know us, and discover that Freemasonry is not, after all, a 'secret' organization plotting to take over the world; that we of the Craft are just like them, except we are Masons.

7: Increase the rental of our facility.

Following the approval of an official Lodge Rental Policy, a rental agreement contract and, perhaps, a little renovation, we can begin to aggressively market our facility through print/radio media.

8: Bring back to the fellowship of Bent Lodge the many Brothers who have not attended a Communication in a long time.

I began this process a few weeks ago by mailing a letter to every Brother on our membership roll, with the exception of those who commonly attend our Regular Communication. I would also like to put in place a 'phone tree' so that we may reach out to every Brother, every month, to remind them of the meeting, to find out if they need transportation to/from the Lodge, ensure that we have current and correct contact information for them, including their email address. It is important, I believe, that our Brothers know that they are

not 'out of sight, out of mind' and that we want to enjoy their Masonic fellowship at Bent Lodge. There are sufficient funds allocated to the Relief Committee in our approved 2014 budget that we will be able to ensure that the dues of needy Brethren are paid and that they are not dropped from our rolls.

My Brothers, as I said at the beginning of this letter, this is an ambitious program, none of which can be accomplished without your support and participation. I ask you for that support and participation not for my sake, not that I may have a so-called 'good' year, but that we may lay additional foundation upon the work of those who preceded us that we, all of us, may enjoy a renewed, strengthened fellowship and commitment to Freemasonry.

Fraternally,

Noah Shapiro 32°
Master, Bent Lodge No. 42

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