

The Trestle-Board



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



2014 Officers

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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,

The vote on our revised By-Laws has been postponed indefinitely to allow the Committee further time for review and/or revision of this important document. When work has been completed, a printed copy of the proposed By-Laws will be mailed to each member and established, proper procedure will be followed for the reading of, and vote on adoption thereof.

A couple of years ago the Bent Lodge Annual BBQ and Open House was very successfully reactivated, and what I have heard from more than a few Brethren is that we should continue this traditional event. It is just a few short months until August and we need to start the planning very soon. The funds for this event were included in our approved 2014 budget. Please let me know if you would be willing to work on this Lodge project.

We will be conferring the EA degree at our May meeting, which will be attended by the Deputy Grand Master, RW Jefferson Jordan; the Grand Lecturer, RW Dan Lucero, as well as other Brethren from Albuquerque, Los Alamos and Santa Fe. At the request of the DGM, we will be serving our meal at 5:30 pm and opening the Lodge at six o'clock. It would be very nice to have a big attendance of our own members. I believe that WB Noble is cooking this month, and we all know that means a good feast!

For quite some time, Bro. MacDonald has been very patiently waiting to be raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason. Rather than make him wait much longer than he has already, and to realistically make it happen within the next few weeks, I have been speaking with WB Miller, Master of Pajarito Lodge No. 66, which also has a Fellowcraft in waiting, of our two lodges combing available forces and raising both candidates on the same night. I'll bring you more information on this as I get it.

Thanks to the work of WB Noble and the Building Committee, our lodge property is in good condition. More necessary repairs and renovations are being identified and work will proceed as time, money, and manpower allow.

WB Burling, chairman of the Grounds Committee, is already planning the rejuvenation of the flowerbed at the base of the tree in the northwest corner of the courtyard, as well as other projects. The Committee did such a great job last year I can't wait to see what it comes up with this year!

Bro. Rutherford, chairman of the Flag Committee, is working on the plans and cost to remodel the flag pole, as was discussed in lodge about a year or so ago. You may recall that what was suggested, and what Bro. Rutherford is using as his guide, is that a crossbar be added to the flagpole, similar to a naval flag mast, so as to allow the simultaneous flying of the US, NM, Masonic and MIA flags.

This coming meeting will present us with a very busy evening, so I am asking all committee chairmen to keep your reports as brief as possible. If you have new business to bring before the Craft, Brethren, please, if at all possible, wait until our June meeting to do so.

Fraternally,

Noah Shapiro 32°
Master (2014)
Bent Lodge No. 42



...At Refreshment!

A little before Lodge is about to open an old man totters up to the Tyler and says, "I'm here to receive my 2nd degree."

Well, they all look at this guy, who really is older than dirt, and asked him to explain.

"I was entered on July 4, 1922. Now I'm ready for my 2nd degree."

So they go scurrying for the records, and sure enough, there was his name, entered on July 4, 1922.

"Where have you been all these years? What took you so long to be ready for your 2nd?" they ask.

He replied: "I was learning to subdue my passions!"

* * *

While visiting a newly initiated brother at home one day, the new brother's wife took me to one side and said her husband had started behaving very strange since joining.

I asked in what way?

She said that he locks himself in the toilet for hours on end mumbling to himself with his little blue book.

Later that evening I turned the talk to lodge & asked him how he was getting on.

Oh fine was his reply.

I asked him about his behavior and if there was anything wrong.

No, was his reply.

So why read the book there?

Well he said "It's the only TYLED room in the house."

* * *

It seems that another Mason, Master of his Lodge, went to Heaven and met with St. Peter.

He identified himself as a member of the Craft and St. Peter asked, "What Lodge?"

Proudly the Master replied, "Old Adage Lodge #1."

St. Peter immediately took him to the Masonic Clock Room. The Master, in puzzlement, looked around the room which was filled with clocks. Each clock had a Lodge's name on a brass plate and, strangely enough, each clock was at a different time.

He asked why and St. Peter informed him that the hands only moved when someone in that Lodge made a mistake in the Ritual.

The Master then asked where his Lodge's clock was as he couldn't see it.

St. Peter replied, "Why, it's in the kitchen, of course."

"The kitchen," said the Master?

"Yes, you see, we needed a new fan."

From the West

Dear Brethren,

The 2014 maintenance report is done and below is the preface to it; please take the time to read the 12 page report that is being emailed to the craft as well. WB Cordova and Bro Loomis contributed significantly in helping to identify the problems and filling out maintenance request forms. I wanted to thank them for the help.

Our Lodge is one of the most unique and beautiful Lodges in the state. Bent Lodge No. 42 was built in the 1960s by many devoted brethren including the Randalls and we are in debt to these fine Brothers. This debt is best paid forward in assuring that our buildings last another 50 years.

The Building Committee has come up with a list of some of the problems facing the Lodge. As a Lodge we can find the solutions. Also if you know of something that needs to be brought to the Building Committee's attention, fill out a Bent Lodge Maintenance Request Form and we will be able to log it and at least put it on a list of problems.

As we start to tackle some of the larger problems around the Lodge, specifically jobs over 500 dollars, we will be using the blue papers voted in while WB Jagers was in the East.

Feel free to get involved in finding and repairing the problems facing us in terms of maintenance at the Lodge; as a team we can accomplish so much more. Finally I would like to acknowledge WB Cordova for all of his hard work on the Past Masters Pictures; they look great. All of the pictures in Lodge are now up on our website. Check it by going to bentlodge42.org/PastMasters.html.

I would like to pay wages to the WM for all of his hard work on the first degree, WB Thayer for all of the work he does for the Lodge month after month, WB Jagers for his continuing efforts at the museum and to WB Wagner for handling the scholarships for all of us.

WB Jed Noble 32°

Senior Warden, Bent Lodge No. 42

A LIVING MASON:

A tale of how we would rather have a Brother in lodge as you are versus not having a Brother attend because he worked late or doesn't own "fancy" enough cloths. The man inside is more important.

His name is John. He has wild hair, wears a T-shirt with holes in it, jeans and no shoes. This was literally his wardrobe for his entire four years of college. He was the top of his class. Kind of esoteric and very, very bright. He became a Mason recently while attending college. After moving to his new town, he finds that down the street from his new apartment is a well-dressed, very conservative Lodge. One day John decides to go there after work. He walks in with shoes, jeans, his work shirt, and long hair. The Lodge has already started and so John starts looking for a seat.

The Lodge is completely packed and he can't find a seat. By now the Brethren are really looking a bit uncomfortable, but no one says anything. John gets closer and closer to the East and, when he realizes there are no seats, he squats down right on the carpet. (Although perfectly acceptable behavior at a college fellowship, trust me, this had never happened in this Lodge before!) By now the Brethren are really uptight, and the tension in the air is thick. About this time, the Secretary realizes that from way at the back of the Lodge, a Past Master is slowly making his way toward John.

(continued on next page)

From the South

As Laura and I move into being full time Foster Parents, I feel my world changing in radical ways. Times of contemplation and study have been replaced by activity, often frenetic activity. There is more of a challenge finding a balance between external and internal demands. The needs of these, God's, kids scream out as a constant barrage but the needs of continued growth, though quieter are no less important. As the great sage and poet, Bob Dylan, says: "He not busy being born is busy dying."

So, what does all that have to do with "From the South"? Well, in part it is a reflection on the reduced amount of time I can spend studying and participating in degree practices and other Lodge needs. In part, it is a reflection on the Craft's balance between looking at our internal needs and our external responsibilities.

Are we focusing too much on our internal challenges at the expense of reaching out to our community to aid in whatever way we can? With only 2 Pancake Breakfasts so far this year and only 3 more scheduled, one of our 2 major charitable efforts has suffered a decline. As the Breakfasts were part of my first introduction to Masonry in Taos, I find this very disappointing.

I became a Mason for two primary reasons:

- 1) To improve my character and
- 2) To participate in my community in an effective way.

WB Dave Cordova, WB Jed Noble and I completed our Royal Arch Degree in the York Rite this past month, so the growth in Masonry continues and, for that I am grateful to all my Brothers and Companions for all the effort that is put in to continue our Masonic education. But I must admit I really miss being the "Egg Man" on the second Saturday of each month.

As things do, changes have happened since I wrote the above. We have been requested to do a breakfast for the York Rite's charitable program to send a member of the clergy to the Holy Land. So, we have Breakfasts for June, August, September (possibly) and November. Bro. Jed is checking on one other organization for July, leaving only one opening in October for this year. Jed and I will also be lining up organizations for next year and would welcome suggestions for organizations who might want to participate in our Pancake Breakfast fundraisers. It feels like we are back on track with our charitable efforts or, perhaps, it was only my illusion that we had gone off track.

In Fellowship and Brotherly Love

Scot Loomis, JW

Bent Lodge No. 42

(A Living Mason: continued from previous page)

Now the Past Master is in his eighties, has silver-gray hair, and a three-piece suit. A good man, very elegant, very dignified, and very courtly. He walks with a cane and, as he starts walking toward this boy, everyone is saying to themselves that you can't blame him for what he's going to do. How can you expect a man of his age and of his background to understand some college kid in the Lodge? It takes a long time for the man to reach the boy.

The Lodge is utterly silent except for the clicking of the man's cane. All eyes are focused on him. You can't even hear anyone breathing. The Secretary can't even continue with the "Minutes" until the Past Master does what he has to do. And now the Lodge watches as this elderly man drops his cane on the floor. With great difficulty, he lowers himself and sits down next to John and welcomes him so he won't be alone.

When the Secretary gains control, he says, "What I'm about to say, you will never remember. What you have just seen, you will never forget."

Order of Business for

May 19, 2014

Lodge will open on

The 1st Degree in Masonry

1. Sickness and Distress
2. Reading of unapproved minutes.
3. Unfinished business.
4. Reports of Standing Committees.
 - a) Building
(WB Noble)
 - b) Grounds
(WB Bruce Burling)
 - c) Treasurer
(WB Greg Smith)
 - d) Flag
(Bro. Wayne Rutherford)
 - e) Investment
(Bro. Scot Loomis)
 - f) Masonic Education
(WB Scott Thayer)
 - g) Scholarship
(WB Carl Wagner)
 - h) Pancake Breakfast
(WB Jed Noble)
 - i) Publications/Web Site
(WB Dave Cordova)
 - j) Public Relations
(Bro. Chris Pieper)
 - k) Relief
(WB Noah Shapiro)
5. Reports of Special Committees.
 - a) Lodge Use Policy
(Bro. Scot Loomis)
 - b) Bylaws Revision
(WB Noah Shapiro)
8. Presentation of petitions for Degrees, and for Affiliation.
9. Report of Committees on Petitions and balloting thereon.
10. Communications and presentation of bills.
11. Motions and resolutions in writing.
- 12: Motions from the Floor and miscellaneous business.
- 13: Confer EA degree.
- 14: Closing remarks by WM.

Close Lodge

S:.M:.I:.B:.

The temperatures are warming up, the days are getting longer... no, no scratch that, it's getting colder, wind's blowing, and it snowed again. What does it all mean? Only that we live in Northern New Mexico, in the bosom of the Taos Valley, and that means erratic weather.

I've seen it snow in the valley as late as June 18th a few years ago. That it snowed a week or so ago is par for the course.

I think we can all agree that any moisture is a God-send and very welcome in this high-desert we live in. So we bow our heads, make the sign of the good shepherd and thank the G:.A:.O:..T:..U:.

S:.M:.I:.B:.

My Brethren... I am happy to be attending May's Regular Communication, which is in fact, more than regular. We gather to initiate Mr. John Verhaden, and judging by the Craft's latest practice, it is going to be a work of art. Everyone has been working very hard to learn lines and floor-work, which I am happy to say is very good. The Worshipful, Senior Deacon, and the support officers will do their utmost for a good performance. I would like to encourage every Brother within the length of their Cable Tow to attend and welcome our candidate.

Wages to WM Noah Shapiro, SD Jed Noble, Lecturers JW Carl Wagner and SS Scot Loomis; and to SW Mark Yule, JS Smith Clark, Chaplain Bruce Burling. I will reprise my role as Junior Deacon for this event. Special Wages to NM Grand Lecturer Dan Lucero and NM DGM Jeff Jordan who will attend this important Communication.


More wages to WB Burling for getting the courtyard looking as beautiful as he did last year, and for the work in getting the water hydrant replaced with the help of Bros. Keith McIntosh and Michael LeMoine and Mr. Verhaden. To WB Noble for the work on the Building Committee and the Lodge Usage Committee and Bro. Loomis for his work on the Breakfast Committee. We have four scheduled breakfast for June, August, September and November. Wages to WB Secretary Thayer for his diligence in getting the corporation issue resolved with the Secretary of State.

Fraternally,

WB Dave Cordova

If a man empties his purse into his head, no man can take it away from him. An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest.
Bro. Benjamin Franklin

I AM A FREEMASON



I am a member of one of the oldest and largest fraternities for men in the world. The square and compasses I wear on my lapel has for centuries been recognized throughout the world as a symbol of truth, morality and brotherly love; and are the virtues that we strive to exemplify throughout our lives.

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