

The Trestle-Board



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



2014 Officers

WM Noah Shapiro

worshipmaster@bentlodge42.org
(575) 751-4268

SW Jed Noble

seniorwarden@bentlodge42.org
(575) 770-5589

JW Scot Loomis

juniorwarden@bentlodge42.org
(575) 770-5589

Treasurer Greg Smith

treasurer@bentlodge42.org

Secretary Scott Thayer

secretary@bentlodge42.org

SD Dan Stouffer

seniordeacon@bentlodge42.org

JD Wayne Rutherford

juniordeacon@bentlodge42.org

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,

If you were unable to attend our May 19 meeting, you missed a great night in Bent Lodge. Congratulations to each one on the team for a magnificent job, and to (our newly made) Brother Jean Verheyden —the most enthusiastic candidate I have ever seen, or heard!

Visiting us that night was the Deputy Grand Master, RWB Jefferson Jordan; the Grand Lecturer, RWB Dan Lucero; Masters, Past Masters and members of every lodge in District 2. There were, in fact, about twelve lodges represented in all, and the lodge room was filled with Masonic fellowship.

As you know, I had requested the Grand Lodge Jurisprudence Committee to provide clarification of the procedure for presenting, and voting on our proposed set of new bylaws. Here is what I asked, and the responses I received:

What does 'due notice' actually mean?

Standard procedure is:

Meeting 1. Motion to amend the bylaws, in writing that specifies EXACTLY what is to be struck, inserted or added, is read in lodge and given to the Secretary.

Meeting 2. Motion comes to the floor to be discussed, possibly amended (within scope of notice), sent to committee, postponed, failed, or passed. If passed by a 2/3 vote, then it goes to the Grand Master (Grand Secretary) for approval

Would the dissemination of the document to the Craft by email satisfy the 'due notice' requirement of Code 129 and the 'previous notice' requirement of Mackey, or must it be sent via US Postal Service, or does it just mean that we must inform the Craft assembled in lodge that the document is going to be presented at a given future date?

Due notice is satisfied by following the steps above with meetings 1 and 2 unless your bylaws require publication or mail outs. (Note: Our current bylaws contain nothing at all relating to amending or changing them.)

Does 'readings' actually mean that, in our case, the entire fourteen article, eight-page document must be read aloud, at least twice in open lodge?

Generally, and if the WM desires, reading is unnecessary IF everyone in the room has a copy. (Note: We will send every member a copy of the proposed bylaws and have additional copies available in the lodge. Actual reading in the lodge, therefore, will not be necessary.)

Is an affirmative vote required to be a two-thirds majority?

Bylaw amendments require a two-thirds vote. While on the floor for discussion, [a particular] amendment can be amended by a majority vote, if within the scope of notice.

This, then, is the procedure will follow for presenting and voting on the proposed bylaws.

An Open Letter to George "Fritz" Hahn TOT Council Member

Sir:

It has come to my attention that you are leading a coalition of people to disparage Kit Carson in his own home town.

I am a 75 year old ex history prof, and I must tell you that you certainly DO NOT KNOW YOUR HISTORY. Next to Thomas Fitzpatrick, no one in the early American west did more for ALL the people, White, hispanic, Indian, of New Mexico than Kit Carson.

What a tragedy that you have been brainwashed by "activist liars", and worse, you have abruptly denigrated one THE most honorable frontiersmen in the history of this nation by removing his name from the historic park in Taos, a town where I once lived.

You are a ding bat sir, a moron and a jerk. I challenge you to a full live public debate on the real character of Kit Carson.

I have a dozen documents to back up what I say, and all you have is ...what? Some ludicrous modern opinion that you decided was sufficient to smear Kit Carson?

If you have anything approaching a spine, call me and let's set up that debate. I'm just a few hours north of Taos in Colorado.

"Those who don't know their history, have no past, and no future."

Camille Cazedessus
Pagosa Springs, CO

Next week, on Tuesday, June 24, St. John's Day, we will be combining forces with Pajarito Lodge No. 66 (Los Alamos) to raise a candidate from each lodge to the sublime degree of Master Mason. The Master of Pajarito Lodge, WB Scott Miller, and I will be opening both lodges and both of us will confer the degree(s). If you want to carpool to Pajarito Lodge (about 60 miles each way), let me know and I'll try to make arrangements for you. The pre-meeting meal will be served at 5:30 pm and the lodge will open at 6:30 pm. I have spoken with many in the Craft in various parts of the state and none can remember this ever being done but, perhaps, once before in New Mexico. You won't want to miss this almost-unique event!

As you undoubtedly know by now, the Taos Town Council voted 3-to-1 to change the name of Kit Carson Park to Red Willow Park. As far as I know, there was no public discussion, there was no opportunity for dissenting voices to be heard, there was nothing but the decision of three politicians. As reported by The Taos News, this action was taken as "a gesture of reconciliation."

One councilor, Fritz Hahn, is quoted by the News as saying, "[Kit Carson] was atrocious, an Indian killer. This is about reaching out to our *vecinos* and righting past wrongs." This, in my opinion, shows a complete and utter lack of knowledge of the historical fact of Bro Carson, then a serving US Army officer, refusing three times to obey an order to attack the Navajo before being threatened with Court Martial and forced to comply. It also totally ignores the actions of Bro. Carson and his wife, Josefa, in adopting several Navajo orphans and raising them side-by-side with their own children.

I made my opposition to this action clear, as did many of you, in emails and in open lodge. We members of the Craft are admonished to be good citizens and, as such, I would remind you, Brethren, that politicians 'serve at the will of the people' and, sooner or later, they must, seek re-election to office. As we Masons say, "Take due notice, and govern yourself accordingly."

Fraternally,

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



MASONIC CURIOSITIES: ORIGIN OF THE WORD FREEMASONS

The first-known use of the word Freemasons - in the form Free Masons - occurs in City of London Letter-book H of 9 August 1376, though the word is in fact deleted in favour of Mason. Masons and Freemasons were interchangeable during the 15th and 16th centuries and Freemasons were generally meant to denote hewers or setters of freestone, Masons being used to embrace all stoneworkers. Ashmole in his diary wrote that he was made a Free Mason and referred in 1686 to the "Fellowship of Free Masons". James Anderson when writing his 1723 Constitutions did not use the single word - Freemasons - once. Whatever the reasons, the 1723 Constitutions contain approximately 126 references to Masons, 12 to Free Masons, 10 to Free and Accepted Masons, 9 to Free-Masons, one to Accepted Free Masons and none to Freemasons. And such is the tenacity of tradition that to this day the most of the Constitutions are addressed to Free and Accepted Masons and not to Accepted Freemasons. The earliest-known anti-masonic leaflet, of 1698, warns the public against "those called Free Masons" - almost certainly what we now know as speculative Freemasons.

Brother Kit Carson

When faced with the question of whether to rename a park that had been named after him, what would Kit Carson do?

That is the question that came to my mind when I first read that there is currently a movement to do just that. The brothers of Bent Lodge have a vested interest in this issue because of the high regard in which they hold Brother Kit, a fellow Mason, and because his history and that of our community is a shared common one.

First of all, Brother Kit was a humble man with compassion for all people, who did not aggrandize himself or his importance. But it is not his person, his community or his times we are dealing with in this issue before us today. What we have today is a community that is more divided, and a time when people are more outspoken about their beliefs than in the past.

Some many years ago, someone decided to call the park Kit Carson Park, most likely because he is buried there and they wanted to glorify his name. That in itself is not a bad thing, because we know for a fact that Brother Kit was a good man. But a lot of misinformation has garnered ground, and many people think of him as an "Indian Fighter" when, in fact, we know that he did what he could to prevent atrocities against native people. He tried to stop the Navajo from being destroyed as a people, and saved Navajo children from being sold as slaves at the Taos Pueblo slave market. Certain writers have twisted history to make it look like Carson was a racist and a killer, when the truth is just the opposite. When he found out what people were writing about him he was horrified.

However, these sensational writings became history, revisionist history, and formed the opinions of a great many people. Some years back the American Indian Movement came to Taos and some of their members wanted to dig up Carson's grave and denigrate his memory, without knowing the true story, just because he was a famous white man at the time the native people were being systematically destroyed.

Since then this incorrect version of his true nature has become the general public view of our beloved Kit. It seems to me that changing the name of the park becomes a way of agreeing with this revisionist history and saying that, yes, he was a racist and a killer, so lets obliterate his memory.

Perhaps a better way to proceed would be to use this issue as a way to educate the public as to his true nature and redress this false persona that has been assigned to him by the sensationalists and others who hope to get something out of it. He would be shocked to hear that people felt that way about him a hundred years after he lived. We, as Masons, have obligated ourselves to morality and truth, as did Brother Kit Carson. If something needs to be done, it is to clear his name of the cruelty and bigotry of which he has been unjustly accused. What would he do indeed?

Brother Tracy McCallum



Order of Business for

June 16, 2014

Lodge will open on The 3rd 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) Outreach
(Bro. Michael LeMoine)
 - k) Public Relations
(Bro. Chris Pieper)
 - l) 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: Discussion on the action of the Taos City Commission in renaming Kit Carson Park as Red Willow Park.
- 14: Closing remarks by WM.

Close Lodge

The True Mason

“The true Mason is not creed-bound. He realizes with the divine illumination of his lodge that as Mason his religion must be universal: Christ, Buddha or Mohammed, the name means little, for he recognizes only the light and not the bearer. He worships at every shrine, bows before every altar, whether in temple, mosque or cathedral, realizing with his truer understanding the oneness of all spiritual truth. All true Masons know that they only are heathen who, having great ideals, do not live up to them. They know that all religions are but one story told in divers ways for peoples whose ideals differ but whose great purpose is in harmony with Masonic ideals. North, east, south and west stretch the diversities of human thought, and while the ideals of man apparently differ, when all is said and the crystallization of form with its false concepts is swept away, one basic truth remains: all existing things are Temple Builders, laboring for a single end. No true Mason can be narrow, for his Lodge is the divine expression of all broadness. There is no place for little minds in a great work.”



- Manly P. Hall

Image by Jim Gogarty

Reposted from International Order of Freemasonry for Men and Women, Le Droit Humain - Ma'at Lodge 1686, Denver, CO

REMEMBER YOU'RE A MASON

When the pressures of recession make us concentrate on greed, take heed, a worthy Mason cares about another's needs;

Don't let pressures of the moment make your obligation sway, stop and help a fallen brother or another by the way;

What you give is like a bubble whenever you assist, what it costs in time and trouble is, soon after, never missed;

Brother, bear that obligation you accepted on your knee, it's in direct relation to your own security;

Never hesitate, my brother square your actions now and say, "I'll remember I'm a Mason, and behave like that today;"

"With regard to human kindness and the 'Golden Rule', I pray, I'll remember I'm a Mason... And behave like that today."

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5660 NDCBU • Taos, NM 87571