



# The New Mexico FREEMASON

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## A Strong Foundation

Our Masonic Family Relies on Your Continued Lodge Participation.



Thomas L. Schenk  
Grand Master of Masons  
in New Mexico

Brethren All,

This year is well underway, so many things to do, and so little time to do it. Recently I've had the great opportunity to spend time with our Lodges, Masonic appendant bodies and youth groups. What an amazing family we have. The level of dedication to each craft is truly remarkable and is to be complimented. A question has been asked of the participants at each event, "Wt cm u hr t d?" And of course, the common answer has been "T lrn t sbdu m psns & t imprv mslf I M". That statement is so true, to improve oneself in Masonic knowledge is to improve oneself in life.

As a builder, I like to put things into building terms. By taking part in the appendant bodies, we are essentially "adding on" to our masonic house with more knowledge and material, material which can add a lot of additional weight or stress to our masonic foundation. That foundation of course is the blue lodge. As craftsmen we must be able to build a structure that can support its own weight and stand the test of time. Adding on to our masonic structure comes with great responsibility. As we build higher and higher, we must always take into consideration the foundation and remember that is the most important part, and always support it. For without it, the building might collapse.

While attending the 200th anniversary of the Grand Lodge of Missouri, from which we received our charter, I heard something meaningful that I would like to share with you,

"As individuals, we are destined to be the ghosts of the future, but our efforts will be remembered long after our names are forgotten. It is through Masonic Ritual that we are able to connect with the past, present, and future. This transcendence is made possible because we have the knowledge and assurance of being recognized as Masons through all the ages of mankind, and all our efforts are to BUILD upon those who came before us".

I would like to thank the following for all their hospitality and support during my visits in May:

Felix No. 29, Temple No. 6, Valley of Scottish Rite Santa Fe, Tularosa No. 49, Carrizozo No. 41, Sacramento No. 24, Ballut Abyad Shrine, and Sandoval No. 76.

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## Ensuring It's Right

It's a process to ensure that we are moving forward correctly.



Steve Almager  
Deputy Grand Master

Brethren,

I wanted to provide you with an update on GrandView. We are currently moving forward but have run into some issues that are taking more time than we expected.

It seems that the coding Groupable used is causing issues importing our data. GrandView is working feverishly to correct this issue. As I stated in the beginning, what you are using is a "Test", just so you will get used to the format of the system. You can go in and play with the data, but remember, it will NOT save the data. It is necessary to put all data into Groupable. We are currently working on configuration of nomenclatures and workflows to suit our needs in New Mexico.

We will continue to make sure that when GrandView is rolled out, it will be as smooth as possible. Please keep in mind, any time there is a data base change, there will always be issues that will need to be resolved in the future. That's an inevitable process. I want to personally thank everyone who has provided me with feedback. It has made this process cleaner and easier to manage.

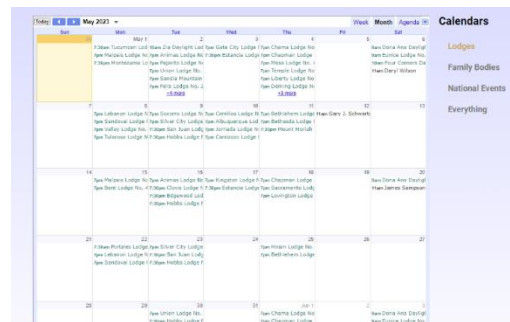
If you have any questions, do not hesitate to reach out.

## Keep It On Your Calendar

Check out the calendar on <https://nmfreemason.org>

Submissions should go to the Grand Secretary for inclusion.

We're testing it now and hope that it will help to avoid those Masonic Calendar overlaps that happen - not prevent, just help out a little.



## Grand Lodge Apartment

Rainbow and DeMolay bring colors, usability, and value to our officer's travel resource.



P. Tony Christophersen  
Grand Secretary

Greetings,

It's been some time since the Grand Master's apartment at the Grand Lodge has had anything done to make it more comfortable for the officers that use it in their travels around the state. The Rainbow Girls and DeMolay decided that for a project they would spruce up the apartment with some fresh paint and different furniture and appointments. It is still a work in progress but they are making good headway and the apartment is much cheerier and welcoming. Candy Bennett and her husband, Charles, have been overseeing and spearheading the project. Good job, I'm sure the results will be enjoyed.



## Grace and Brotherly Love

The Internal Journey that May Help Us Help Our Brother.



Alex Cosby  
Senior Grand Deacon

Brethren of the State of New Mexico, thank you for taking the time to read this, or at least papering cat litter boxes with it. In either case, I feel like we've bettered the world in some small way by our interaction. Nominally, this is an introduction or a bio; but I'm bad at talking about myself, and if we haven't met yet, I'll save the disappointment until we can be face to face.

Instead, I'd like to take this opportunity to juxtapose a quote that I love with a behavior that I loathe. The quote is from Friedrich Nietzsche: "The great periods of our life occur when we gain the courage to rechristen what is bad about us as what is best." It's a fun little quote. Each of us has weaknesses, faults, flaws: things we are ashamed of, embarrassed about, or that we hate in ourselves.

These little private shames are things we take great care to hide from the world, often only hinting at their existence when we see something resembling them in others. Instead of hiding, we should get to know ourselves; warts and all. Learn to love your faults, find the grace to forgive yourself. There is great power in embracing vulnerability.

On to the behavior: each of us has sat in lodge and watched some brother, usually a well-respected pillar of their lodge, publicly embarrass another brother due to their performance of ritual. Many evenings, in many lodges, the same scene unfolds: a brother misses a step, carries a rod wrong, skips a sentence; and immediately someone points it out for the whole lodge to know. I've never seen it result in a positive outcome, just bitterness and shame.

I can't help but feel that the quote and the behavior are somehow related. It seems to me that, perhaps, the brethren so eager to announce the failing of their brothers in lodge must see a shadow of their own weakness and frailties. The shame they hide lashes out to avoid the awkward inward gaze of their own conscious mind. Perhaps I'm reading too much into it, perhaps those brothers, learned and self-righteous, are just unaware that their behavior doesn't correct; that it mocks when their brother most needs aid, that it chases fine men off, that it destroys lodges. Perhaps, rather than a complex psychological game, all I am observing is petty nastiness that delights in the look of stooped shoulders and stung pride.



I hope not. I'd like to think better of our learned brethren. *(continued next page)*



*Grace and Brotherly Love, continued.*

In any case, I'd like to invite all of you reading this to take a good, gentle look inside yourself. Get to know those parts of you that hide inside, that feel weak or ashamed. We all have them; if you think you don't, I'll loan you some of mine. Getting to know them is the first step to making peace with them. Making peace with our own weakness is a wonderful practice that, at least in my own experience, leads to making peace with the things I want to judge in others. I'm still working at it, but I encourage any brother who feels the need to call attention to another man's failings in lodge to bite your tongue and instead use that urge as a cue to look at yourself. Then, after lodge, when the shame has passed, counsel the brother in private.

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## **Masonicon 2023**

### **It's THIS MONTH!**

It is my pleasure to announce Masonicon 2023 is almost here! The Education Committee of the Grand Lodge has been working hard to bring an enlightening event for our Craft this year.

Davin Teague Grand Sword Bearer Education Committee Chairman
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The festivities kick off Friday night June 23rd at the Shrine with the return of the Grand Master's Table Lodge. This well loved event will have adult beverages and custom cannons available, as well as a great dinner from our own RW Brother Sean Sullivan and his catering company.

Saturday morning will begin our day of education with presentations from your current Grand Lodge line and continue into the day with a variety of educational presentations from our well known knowledgeable brethren, plus a few new faces with some exciting new information. Lunch will be provided by the Shrine Azayim so prepare to fill your bellies.

Masonicon is open to all Masons, and if a talk is tyled it will let you know on the schedule. There will be 5 differ classrooms offering a variety of talks which you can choose from. Presentations will average about 45 minutes with a q&a session at the end. Some talks will also be streamed live for our Brethren who can't travel to Albuquerque.

Masonicon is special to New Mexico as it was started several years ago by our very own Past Grand Master of Masons MWB Adam Hathaway as a way to provide education for the Freemasons of New Mexico. The idea and concept was so well received that it has been copied by almost every Masonic Jurisdiction in North America!

We will also have our Lodge of Research of New Mexico present with books and material for sale, and a few vendors with Masonic items to sell.

Final schedule will be released soon, and if you have questions please reach out to your Lodge secretaries and be on the look out for emails. Thank you and look forward to seeing you all at the Ballut Abyad Shrine in Albuquerque on June 23rd and 24th.

## 4<sup>th</sup> Masonic District District Deputy Grand Master



Harry W. Jenkins II  
District Deputy Grand  
Master - District 4

Most are used to it being the “6<sup>th</sup> District” or “District 6” - the Albuquerque Lodges are together as their own district. District 4 consists of the following Lodges:

- Temple Lodge No. 6, meets on first Thursday of the month at 7pm with dinner at 6pm.
- Hiram Lodge No. 13, meets on fourth Thursday of the month at 7pm with dinner at 6pm.
- Albuquerque Lodge No. 60, meets on second Wednesday of the month at 7pm with dinner at 6pm.
- Mesa Lodge No. 68, meets on first Thursday of the month at 7pm with dinner at 6pm.
- Sandia Mt Lodge No. 72, meets on first Tuesday of the month at 7pm with dinner at 6pm.
- Daylight Lodge No. 77, meets on first Tuesday of the month at 10am with donuts and coffee at 9am.

I have completed my first round of visitation, and all is well. Each Lodge has been doing degree work along with some great education programs. Some of our upcoming events include:

- 5 June Allied Masonic Degrees (AMD) 7pm Lodge room of Ballut Abyad Shrine
- 23 June Table Lodge at the Ballut Abyad Shrine
- 24 MASONICon Ballut Abyad Shrine

We hope to see you there!

## 7<sup>th</sup> Masonic District District Deputy Grand Master



Charles "Chuck" Bass  
District Deputy Grand  
Master - District 7

Brothers,

The 7th District is comprised of:

- Sacramento #24,
- Tularosa #49,
- Carrizozo #41,
- Ruidoso #73,
- Kingston #16
- Bethesda #64.

I have made visits at Sacramento, Tularosa, Carrizozo, and Ruidoso of course as it is my home Lodge. I am looking forward to visiting Bethesda and Kingston in the upcoming months. With these 2 lodges being added to District 7, I am excited to meet and get to know these Brothers.

The 7th District has some upcoming events that we would like to let everyone know about:

- On Saturday June 10th, Carrizozo Lodge is having the annual Lincoln Lodge at Lincoln N.M. The great cowboy meal prepared by Carrizozo Lodge will be at 5:00pm and the Lodge will be Opened after that. This year the Lodge will be opened and closed by Albuquerque #60. If you have not attended this Lodge, you are in for a treat. It is what an 1800 era Lodge would look like, right down to the furniture.
- An upcoming event is the Turn of the century Lodge in October at Kingston Lodge. This is another 1800 era Lodge, with great food, and dressing up in in period clothing is encouraged. More information on this event will be forthcoming.

I have attended both events, and they are like stepping back in a time machine.

The 7th District Lodges are some of the most inviting and friendly Lodges I've attended, of course I may be biased. I personally invite you to attend any of our Lodges if in the area. Most of the Lodges in the District are performing degrees and making Masons.

Of course, the other event happening in this District is MWB Tom's Grand Lodge in March 2024. It will be at the Inn of The Mountain Gods. The name says it all. You cannot afford to miss this Grand Lodge. I thank you for taking the time to learn about the 7th District. If you have any questions or are in this area, please contact me.

## 4<sup>th</sup> Masonic District District Deputy Grand Lecturer



Stephen Bell  
District Deputy Grand  
Lecturer - District 4

Fraternal greetings from District 4. Thus far in 2023, the Lodges in this district have initiated 15, passed 7, and raised 3 Brothers to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason. There are at least two Brothers who have learned new lectures this year. There have also been 39 Ritual Sections reported so far in 2023. By turning in sections, Brethren in the Craft demonstrate their commitment to the integrity of the ritual and the impression on the candidate. Through the efforts of the Brethren involved in our beautiful ritual work, good men are introduced to our excellent principles, and Freemasonry lives and grows.

Lodges in District 4 have been holding regular ritual practices not just for degree work, but for other work as well, such as proper introductions, duties of Lodge Officers, and examining and receiving visiting Brethren. This is exemplary conduct. By doing this, these Brothers render their Lodges more prepared for those

little things that don't come up often but can become big things when they do present themselves.

Learning new ritual parts is good for you your Lodge, and the Craft as a whole. If you study our ritual closely, you may find that there is treasure in it that you were not aware of. It is common in most Lodges to have only a few Brothers who can do a particular part, notably the lectures. Consider learning a new part yourself or working with a Brother to split a lecture between yourselves, potentially giving an overworked Brother with a night off, and assuming his role as a pillar of your Lodge for that night. It will feel good.

A sincere thank you to all the Masons who work to bring others to Light through our most unique and fascinating ritual. Brethren, when we were going through the Degrees, there were Brothers there to do the work for us. It now becomes our duty to do the same for the next men who will be the future of our great fraternity.



## Our Future History

Share Your Stories So that We May All Benefit!



Stephen Balke  
Editor

Communication is the key. The Grand Lodge and District Officers are making time to try and keep everyone updated on what is being worked on and what they know of in Masonry in New Mexico – there are only so many of them, and we have a big state! Your contributions will help us all to be more aware and more involved! We all have busy schedules, and many of us juggle many things both inside and outside of our Masonic work, I believe the keys are working together and making the most of the time we spend – being “in the moment” ... with purpose. This will make your time investment in Lodge and Masonic Family events better for you as well as let others know of opportunities or history that was made.

### What We Should Communicate

- Planned Events ... AND the attractions (speakers, food, activities, etc.)
- Magic Memories ... a 25- or 50-year pin, rededication, community event, etc.
- Understanding ... your take on our values, principles, and teachings helps others!

### Where We Can Communicate:

- Go to Lodge
- Go to our Masonic Family meetings and support them.
- Attend Grand Lodge events (shameless plug for Masonicon)
- Facebook Group (Brethren Only) <https://www.facebook.com/groups/524635074578286>
- NM Freemason – Write and submit an article.

### How We Can [BEST] Communicate:

- Attending events – always best.
- For posts and articles:
  - Include Pictures! – They say a thousand words (thank you, RWB Tony), enhance the story, and keep people reading.
  - Write like you’re talking with your Brethren – then you might be.
- Plan for it – most of us have a phone that will take a picture, all of us can jot down a quick message. If you do it at or right after it happens, you will remember more of what makes things special, both for you and for your post.

*We look forward to helping you to share your future history or understanding!*

sbalke@nmmasons.org

NM Freemason  
Grand Lodge of New Mexico  
PO Box 25004  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87125-0004