



The New Mexico FREEMASON

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Supporting our Masonic Youth

The Future of Our Craft, Our World .



Thomas L. Schenk
Grand Master of Masons
in New Mexico

Last fall I was approached by one of our Masonic Youth advisors regarding an idea she had about teaching our young adults basic home maintenance skills, including minor repairs and remodeling. The scope of this project was to involve all stages, from planning, developing a budget, shopping skills and finally, learning and applying working skills to make it all happen. The only problem is that there was no actual project to be had. For years the Grand Lodge library and Grand Master's apartment have been used for extra classroom space aside from the use of Sandia Mountain No. 72, host to Sandia Mountain Assembly. It was always noted how "old and dingy" these areas were, and that's where the idea began, the young men and women of Rainbow and DeMolay were excited about working together and brightening up their workspace. What started out as just learning how to paint, and cut in walls, turned into removing wallpaper, repairing drywall, picking colors, and finally admiring their work.

After all of that, they noticed how old and worn the furniture looked compared to the freshly painted walls, and they asked if there was anything they could do about it. They were told yes, so they looked at their budget and saw that they had enough funds left to replace a few items. Rather than going to a large furniture store and paying retail prices, they decided that their money would go farther if they browsed the internet and found deals. Through Facebook Marketplace, thrift stores and yard sales, the group found everything needed to complete the project, and have the look that they were going for. In addition, all the removed items and old furniture were kept so that they could be sold later at their very own fundraiser to help finance other projects in the future. What a great learning project, working together, developing ideas, and being exposed to what so many adults of today have never even tried themselves.

Brethren, I can honestly tell you that the result is amazing. What once was an area that took you back to the early eighties is now as beautiful and comforting as any modern hotel. Everyone who has seen it or has stayed there is in awe of the work that these young people have done.

On behalf of the Grand Lodge of New Mexico, I would like to personally thank the young men and women of both the International Order of the Rainbow Girls and DeMolay International for all their hard work.

This great learning opportunity would not have been possible if it were not for the ideas and efforts put in by Mrs. Candy Rowe, Youth Advisor, and her husband, Charles Rowe of Hiram No. 13. Their dedication is to be commended, and the results will be enjoyed and appreciated by everyone for years to come.

Masonicon 2023 was held this past weekend, the overall feeling is that it was a great success, all the attendees expressed what a great time they had, and that they left having been part of a wonderful experience. Bro. Davin Teague, Chairman of the Masonic Education Committee and his team did an amazing job putting this event together. RWB. Sean Sullivan provided a delicious meal for the Table Lodge and lunch the following day. The Widows Sons Masonic Riders Association was on hand helping wherever needed.

Our guest speaker, Bro Zakary Wyatt, who is from Lubbock Texas, and a member of the Grand Lodge of Texas gave an incredible program on the usage of digital “working tools”. It was very engaging and enjoyed by all. The results and good times can be seen on all social media platforms.

Saturday was filled with a great variety of masonic topics, everything from service, history, ritual, esoterica and fraternity. A total of twenty-five classroom blocks were available, making it difficult to choose from as they were all interesting and informative.

Once again, the Ballut Abyad Shrine was our host facility, thank you Noble Potentate Tom Denslow, and your members for the use of the building. Very much appreciated!

A very special thank you to all the appendant masonic organizations for being on hand and participating in the event. Our Masonic Youth provided refreshments and car wash services to raise funds in addition to showcasing their ritual talents. Brethren, it would be very much appreciated if each of you could show support for these groups by attending just one Masonic Youth event/meeting during the year.

Especially if you are part of a host Lodge. We have approximately 3250 Masons in the state of New Mexico, what an incredible feat it would be if all 3250 made a visit. The results would be overwhelming.

Finally, I would like to apologize to WB Clayton Kuehn, Senior Grand Steward, for not recognizing him at the Table Lodge on Friday night. All of the Widows Sons were standing together, and I simply missed him in the crowd, if there is one, sometimes two Masons we should ALWAYS recognize are the stewards, they’re the ones who keep us fed and full. Thank you!



MWGM attends Route 66 Installation 7/1/23.

Craftsmanship

Lifelong Learning AND Doing to Become Better.



Robin Justice
Senior Grand Warden

Brethren,

A craftsman is defined as one who creates or performs with skill and dexterity. When we refer to ourselves as craftsmen, we are declaring that we are working to practice the principles of Freemasonry with skill and dexterity, and to make use of those tools we are given to improve ourselves as Masons.

A craftsman is one who understands the tools he makes use of. He knows how and when to use each one, and by doing so, provides the best result he can. He understands the qualities of the material he is working with, its strengths and weaknesses, and how to emphasize the strength while minimizing or removing any weakness.

A craftsman spends his life working to improve his skills, and to increase his knowledge. A true craftsman is willing to pass that knowledge on to those who are willing to learn, so that they can benefit from his experience.

As Masons, we have a duty to improve ourselves. We need to always improve our skill in using the tools of Freemasonry as we are taught in our degrees. We need to understand our own strengths and weaknesses, and to increase the former while eliminating the latter.

We owe it to our Brethren to assist them in their development as craftsmen. Remember those who gave of their time and knowledge to help make you a better Mason. Remember those qualities they exhibited that you found worth emulating. And my Brothers, remember that just as you are a better man today because of them, so do those who are newer to our Fraternity look to you as examples of what it means to be a Freemason. And those of you who are now starting your journey need to remember that those who come behind you will look to you the same way.

We are builders. We must always remember that. Everything we do should be to the edification of ourselves and those who are our Brothers, and to promote Freemasonry.

Take care my Brothers. I look forward to seeing you in Lodge. May the Supreme Architect of the Universe bless you and all you love.

The Mentor's Mentors

The Example, not the Performer, to Instill Confidence & Promote Accomplishment.



Jonathan Andrews, PGM
Grand Lecturer

New Mexico Freemasonry is an important part of all of our lives. Not just for the fraternal friendship, but community service and personal betterment are keystones in our personal edifices. Although there are other fraternal organizations that offer many of these benefits, masonry alone marries them with an expansive ritual aimed at teaching its lessons. As Grand Lecturer, my job is to help the District Deputy Grand Lecturers, and by extension, the Worshipful Masters, lodge officers and brethren improve and optimize their ritual to ensure we properly transmit our ritual from generation to generation.

Per the direction of Most Worshipful Grand Master Tom Schenk, and Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master Steve Almager, there have been some changes to roles and responsibilities of the Grand Lecturer and District Deputy Grand Lecturers and how they perform their duties. The Grand Lodge of New Mexico is moving to a model where the Grand Lecturer and District Deputy Grand Lecturers assist with education and coordination of ritual, but avoid performing ritual themselves. Many lodges have historically called on others to perform ritual rather than working on educating their own members. The goal is to establish local district ritual capabilities and competencies throughout the state so that lodges are not calling one or two brothers to perform their lectures for years without working to learn among themselves. The District Deputy Grand Lecturers are charged with helping the lodges in their district perform their ritual themselves. If any of the lodges in their district are not able to perform any part of the Masonic ritual it is their duty to find assistance for the lodge, or enlist the help of the Grand Lodge to accomplish those tasks.

New Mexico Freemasonry just went through a redistricting, so there are less District Deputies than in previous years. That means they each have a larger district to cover. As such, they each have an allocated travel budget, approved by the Craft, to help offset the mileage they are expected to encumber while performing their official duties.

I have asked the District Deputy Grand Lecturers to concentrate on three focus areas this year:

Lodges of Ritual Instruction

- Hold a Lodge of Ritual Instruction whenever a lodge requests it, preferably during a regular communication when there are more Masons present. Offer these educational opportunities to all lodges in your district. A Lodge of Instruction can serve as a lodge's Masonic Education or in the place of a monthly program.
- Monitor the progress of the lodges in your district and make sure that every lodge in your district can open and close on all three degrees and confer all three degrees using its own members and officers. Schedule refresher courses whenever necessary.

Lodge Officer Workshops and Training

- Give Lodge Officer Training presentations as often as necessary, preferably at least once a year. Oftentimes a new lodge officer finds himself elected to a position without a full understanding of his role. The Grand Lodge of New Mexico provides excellent training manuals for all three of the stationed officers.
- Lodge Officer Training Workshops can be held informally during a regular communication as Masonic Education or in the place of a monthly program. A districtwide Lodge Officer Training presentation can also be given at a designated time and place.
- Ensure that proper Masonic etiquette is observed at all times. When the lodge is closed or at refreshment, informality is encouraged; while the lodge is at labor, especially during the conferring of degrees, officers and members are always expected to adhere to proper Masonic decorum.

Mentorship

- Make sure that candidates are knowledgeable about Freemasonry and informed of the lodge's expectations before petitioning for admission. This will save the candidate, the lodge, and its members time and effort if the candidate is unsure, unwilling, or incapable of participating.
- Mentorship (not just coaching) is critical for establishing long-term Masonic relationships. New Masons are always looking for a way to do more, learn more, and experience more. Taking a new Mason under your wing will guarantee that he receives the best training possible and becomes the most knowledgeable Freemason he can be.

I hope that your lodges are working with the District Deputy Grand Lecturers to ensure these goals are met. As usual, the importance of frequent practice cannot be stressed enough. If you are observing issues with ritual, it is better to get those corrected during practice.

We all continually strive to break off our rough corners and perfect the highest standards of ritual, which separate us from other fraternal organizations. Thanks to each of you for your dedication to Freemasonry in New Mexico.



Masonry in New Mexico 101

A Short History of the Grand Historian.



Tyler Anderson
Grand Historian

The idea of appointing a Grand Historian for the Grand Lodge of New Mexico was first floated as a formal recommendation by MW Herbert S. Murdoch at his 1930 Annual Communication, held at Clayton. His idea was that the Historian would undertake to gather and safeguard the historical material and information which languished in all of the Lodge buildings across the state, to “compile and put on record” that archival material, “so that in the passing of time it may not become extinct.” (GLNM Proceedings, 1930, p.61)

The idea was that the office would not be a full-time job, but indeed be a paid position. The Committee on Grand Master’s Address supported the idea, and recommended a yearly salary not to exceed \$500, which in 1930 was no paltry sum. The Committee on Accounts, Ways, and Means suggested that the existing Education Committee be tasked with the work. Thus, at that time, nothing came of the idea. (GLNM Proceedings, 1930, p.202, 204)

Only two years later, another Grand Master, Wilbur Elser, revisited the idea broadly at the 1932 Communication at Las Cruces. Elser pivoted on the question, and instead of recommending a Grand Historian be created, pointed out that the Grand Lodge had been employing Brother H.L. Haywood, a published author and former driving force of the educational programs and publications of the Grand Lodge of New York. Haywood had moved to New Mexico for health reasons, and the Grand Lodge brought him on board to write educational pamphlets for use here. (GLNM Proceedings, 1932, p.41, 42)

Haywood did produce at least eleven pamphlets for New Mexico, of which one was a short history of Masonry in New Mexico. But there is no evidence that Haywood undertook the work of a Grand Historian, as Elser intimated (and probably hoped) he might.

Following those events, the idea largely subsided for over thirty years. But at the 1965 Communication in Albuquerque, the Special Committee on History and Grand Lodge Centennial laid out an expansive plan for the centennial (still twelve years away) which included the appointment of a Grand Historian to spearhead research, name committees, and develop a library of New Mexico Masonic history, among other functions. (GLNM Proceedings, 1965, pp.126-130)

The recommendation was not enacted immediately, but in the 1969-70 year William A. Henry was appointed by MW Merle C. Holmes as the “Grand Lodge Historian,” an apparently informal title and role. His appointment is actually not mentioned in the 1969 Proceedings. Henry submitted a report the following year at the 1970 Communication in Las Cruces, outlining the need to formalize the position, define its goals, and provide necessary financial support and archival access. The tone of his report frankly opens the question as to whether he

felt he was the man for the job. But at that 1970 Communication he was formally appointed as Grand Historian, and recorded as a Grand Lodge officer. (GLNM Proceedings, 1970, pp.42-44)

Henry filled the formalized office for two years, and was succeeded by LaMoine “Red” Langston, Past Grand Master, who undertook to research and compile the now-familiar blue hardcover, A History of Masonry in New Mexico 1877-1977. Langston died on March 15th of 1976 – the first day of the 1976 Grand Lodge Annual Communication – and the book was taken to completion, from manuscript to published copy, by one of the Centennial Committee members, Darrell A. Swayze. Swayze succeeded Langston as Grand Historian in 1977. (A History of Masonry in New Mexico, 1977, p.iv)

Perhaps oddly, the office was not added to the Grand Lodge Bylaws until 1990, and to the Grand Lodge Constitution until 1991, simultaneous to the appointment of the fifth holder of the seat, David Millis. (GLNM Proceedings, 1990, p.99; GLNM Proceedings, 1991, p.75)

After the 1977 Centennial and associated book, the office became less single-purpose-driven, and the work expanded toward more general historical research and compilation. Since then the Grand Historian has provided not only the background work of collecting and safeguarding histories of the Lodges and of Masonry in New Mexico, but has served as one of the primary drivers of Masonic education in the state.

As of 2023, there have been six Grand Historians in the Grand Lodge of New Mexico. William A. Henry (years appointed: 1970, 1971); LaMoine Langston (1972-1975); Darrell A. Swayze (1977-1983); Myndert M. Gilbert (1984-1990); David Millis (1991-2017); Tyler Anderson (2018-present).

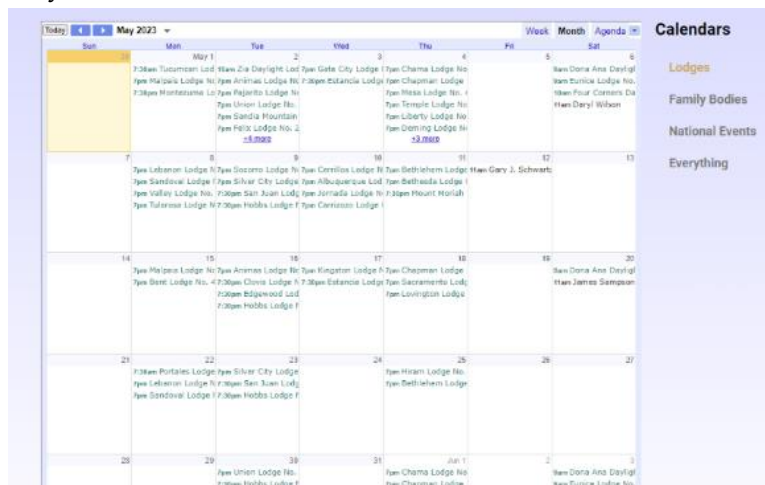
Keep It On Your Calendar

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

Please let the Grand Secretary know if you have:

- Degree Nights
- Practices
- Table Lodge
- Outdoor
- Communications
- Joint Communications
- Community Events
- ALL EVENTS

If we don't know about them, we can't support your efforts and help you to create a successful and inviting experience!



The image shows a screenshot of a web-based calendar for May 2023. The calendar is organized by days of the week, with each day containing a list of events. The events are categorized by lodge or organization, such as 'Lodge #1234', 'Lodge #5678', etc. The events include 'Degree Nights', 'Practices', 'Table Lodge', 'Outdoor Communications', 'Joint Communications', and 'Community Events'. The calendar also features a sidebar on the right with a 'Calendars' section containing links to 'Lodges', 'Family Bodies', 'National Events', and 'Everything'. The top of the calendar shows the current date as 'Today' and the month as 'May 2023'.

5th Masonic District District Deputy Grand Lecturer



James D. Combs
District Deputy Grand
Lecturer - District 5

Consisting of six lodges in Belen, Estancia, Edgewood, Fort Sumner, Santa Rosa, and Socorro.

District 5 consists of all small-town lodges, some of which have been around for many years, and others, such as Edgewood Lodge #82 being the newest lodge in the state. Yet all of them have the same basic ethic, that of being good men who want to do a good job. This year, like last year, I am visiting each lodge and enjoying the company of good brethren, and my focus is on the importance of Ritual. Not just because it is what we say, but the importance of what the ritual words truly mean. It is our Ritual that makes us Masons. Without it, we are simply the Rotary club on steroids.

Each Degree contains words and phrases that have significant, powerful meaning that brings forth an emotional response from each new Mason who hears these words. And, when the Master of the Lodge imparts these words to each new Mason, from memory, with enthusiasm, that is when the true magic of Masonry begins. For it is our words and lectures that forms the heart of our initiation experience. When you take a man who wants to be a Mason, and give to him his Entered Apprentice degree, all from memory without faltering, with the passion of true believer, it becomes not an event, but a life changing moment.

Masonic Ritual has a long and interesting history. In 1640, when Elias Ashmole became a Free Mason, he recorded it in his diary. He was a leading scientist of his day, and well respected in the Science community, including the Royal Society. Becoming a Mason was an important event for him, and it has been an important event for many leading members of our society since then. Scientists, Doctors, Kings and Presidents have all been proud of their Masonic membership. Masonry was so important it went to the moon. What makes it important, what makes it real, is our Ritual.

I encourage each Lodge to use our ritual to make your lodge meetings into interesting discussions, thus making each lodge meeting an interesting event. Discussions base around the lambskin lecture, the "G" lecture, all of the degree lectures, especially the fellowcraft lecture will give each member of the lodge an interesting event, rather than simply a meeting with minutes, a hasty dinner, and a hasty departure. Go out on the web and find interesting videos on masonry and spread the wealth within the lodge on who does the presentations.

Finally, I ask all of you to remember the words of Albert Mackey, who gave all of us the honorific of "Brethren of the Mystic Tie", that powerful essence that allows men of vastly different backgrounds, religion and passions to gather as one band of brothers and sit in lodge together. It is our Ritual that forms that bond, that "Mystic Tie".

8th Masonic District

District Deputy Grand Lecturer



Robert Parish
District Deputy Grand
Lecturer - District 8

The eighth district has been busy with five EA's and one FC in the Hobbs Lodge and Eddy Lodge has two EA's, two FC's. They will be doing two MM's on July 8 and another EA on the 15th. Lovington had an open house with some possibilities.

DDGM Glenn Connolly and I visited Eddy Lodge and I delivered a copy of the "The Lodge System of Masonic Education." These documents have also been delivered to Lovington and Eunice.

Hobbs is currently using this System for our EA's and follow up degrees and has found is most useful and informative to both the new member and his spouse.

I have given a brief program to Lovington and Hobbs on the "Most asked questions in Lodge." Since I am a member of Hobbs and Lovington, I attend these regularly. Visitations are planned for Eunice and Felix in July.

20 Years of Masonry!

Edgewood Lodge No. 82 turned 20, and we're Celebrating!



On July 22, 2023, we will be celebrating several things:

- 20 Years as a Lodge! - Rededication Ceremony
- Officially designating the Masonic Hall as the - Duane and Mary Ann Walker Masonic Center
- RWB Wesley D. Thornton, SGIG, PGT, and WM UD for Edgewood Lodge - 50 Years a Mason!

Join us at Edgewood Lodge for these GREAT celebrations starting at 10:00 AM!

The day will also include a picnic lunch and afternoon fraternity!

<https://edgewoodmasons.org>



This is YOURS...

Communication CAN (and Should) Be Our Best Asset!



Stephen Balke
Editor

THANK YOU, Most Worshipful Grand Master! AND, everyone who has contributed to our efforts in making this publication a reality!

You are leading the charge, being the example, and making it a habit to keep our Brethren informed.

PLEASE - Everyone in the Masonic Family - Let's get and keep the habit of good communication going by sharing what is coming soon, what has happened, or just good info for everyone to learn!

We look forward to helping you to share all the things you're doing to help Masonry and your Lodge or group grow!

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