



The New Mexico FREEMASON

Volume 2023 Issue 5

August 8, 2023

Brotherly Love

Just one of our tenants.



Thomas L. Schenk
Grand Master of Masons

These summer months are usually a very active time for Freemasonry, celebrations, cook-outs, camping and outdoor Lodge get togethers. Annually in the month of July, the Rocky Mountain Masonic Conference is held. This Conference consists of nine Masonic Jurisdictions in attendance and each year a different Grand Lodge hosts the event. This year it will be held in Las Vegas, Nevada under the direction of MWB Kevin McCanns, Grand Master of Nevada. Various topics will be discussed at this conference, and each Senior Grand Warden will give a presentation pre-assigned by the host. This usually starts great debates and discussions, and the answers are something of great value that each of us can bring back to our respective Grand Lodges.

Back in 2018 I attended my first RMMC in Salt Lake City, Utah. The following year it was held in Denver, Colorado. It was at the Denver conference that I experienced something truly masonic, and I will never forget how profound our masonic teachings really are.

Upon checking into the host hotel, I was told that my room was not ready and that there would be a short wait time. I immediately went to the lounge to have something to drink and waited for my room to be ready. I happened to sit next to this younger gentleman who was obviously working on something very important. He had his laptop in front of him and was talking to himself all the while waiving his hands around in a frenzy. When he noticed that I was looking at him, he apologized for his actions and proceeded to tell me that he was working on a presentation. I asked him how it was going, and he replied, "very well", and said that he had never given one so far west, and to a bunch of "cowboy" types! It was obvious that he was very nervous and anxious, so I introduced myself and asked if he would like some help.

When he started to recite his speech aloud, it was at that point I realized that he was a Mason. The words that he used, and the examples he gave were inspiring. Turns out that he was the guest speaker for the event. The Junior Grand Warden of Prince Hall Freemasonry of New York. We must have sat there for almost two hours, my room ready long ago, just enjoying each other's company.

All through the event we would talk. I remember giving him a thumbs up following his presentation as it was a remarkable success and he smiled back.

On my flight home I thought to myself what had brought the two of us together. Was it because we were at the same hotel in the same city at the same time? Or was it because he was just a friendly

man? Or could it have been because we were both masons, scheduled to be at the same conference. The latter would be the easiest answer.

I also thought to myself, would I have ever interacted with this man if the circumstances had been different. The honest answer is I don't know. I would have been cordial and respectful, but beyond that I don't know. Here we were, two individuals of different races, different backgrounds, and from opposite sides of the country. Everything from age, religion, political preference and probably basic interests and hobbies were as opposite as east and west.

While I was driving home from the airport, I started working on ritual as most of us do when we are behind the wheel and a thought came over me. It was like someone turned on a light switch. You could say that I was once again "Brought to Light", the answer was in front of me the whole time.

"By the exercise of Brotherly Love, we are taught to regard the whole human species as one family. The high, the low, the rich, the poor. Who as created by one Almighty Parent, and inhabitants of the same planet, are to aid, support and protect each other. On this principle, Freemasonry unites men of every country, sect and opinion, and conciliates true friendship among those who might otherwise have remained at a perpetual distance".

Brethren, everything that we do in life has a tie to Freemasonry, if we are open to it. I challenge each of you to be aware of all your own actions and identify when and where our teachings come into play in each of your lives, and together we will find that we live by our obligations automatically.

Back in January I was able to attend the Grand Lodge of Texas with then SGW RWB Steve Almager, and RWB Glenn Connolly, DDGM District 8. While coming in and out of the auditorium we noticed large stacks of old masonic publications dating back to the thirties, they must have been cleaning out the vault as they were there for everyone to take. We proceeded to look through the material and help ourselves to whatever caught our eye. The old pictures and stories seemed fascinating.

Recently I was cleaning out my apron case and one of these periodicals fell out. It was the April 1949 edition of the Texas Grand Lodge Magazine and in it was an article that said:

"A Mason is obliged by his tenure to obey the moral law, and if he rightly understands the art, he will never be a stupid atheist nor an irreligious libertine. But through ancient times, Masons were charged in every country to be the religion of that country or nation, whatever it was, yet it is now thought more expedient only to oblige them to that religion in which all men agree, leaving their particular opinions to themselves, that it is good to be men, and true, or men of honor and honesty by whatever denominations or persuasions they may be distinguished; whereby Masonry becomes the center of union, and the means of conciliating true friendship among persons that must have remained at a perpetual distance."

With that being said, the previous statement proves that our masonic teachings stand the test of time. Here it is almost seventy-five years later, and those words are still as true and meaningful today, as they were then.

The article went on to say that "This ancient charge, with the words changed, became in spirit that part of our Constitution known as the Bill of Rights. Let us remember, as we contemplate on the subject of tolerance, that it is not a virtue to sit idly by and see intolerance fostered upon the world. To do that is to admit to cowardice."

Perceptions of Freemasonry

Is the impact of Freemasonry: real or imagined?



James Bungard
Junior Grand Deacon

Perceptions: a definition

1. Use of our senses to acquire information about our surrounding world (factual perception)
2. an attitude or understanding of what is being observed or thought (interpretation)
3. Perception is nothing given, it is a dynamic interplay between observation and interpretation
4. Perceptions have per definition a constructed character.

Robert Fludd's depiction of perception in 1619 regarding perceptions of Freemasonry is as follows:

- (1) viewpoints taken outside the fraternity in the public domain, based upon real events and attributions (hetero-stereotypes)
- (2) viewpoints taken within the fraternity, based upon experience, self-attributions and reaction upon the outside perception, brought from inside to the outside public domain (auto-stereotypes)

A Good Story

A young man passed a pawnbroker's shop. The money lender was standing in front of his shop, and the young man noted that he was wearing a large and beautiful Masonic emblem. After going on a whole block, apparently lost in thought, the young man turned back, stepped up to the pawnbroker, and addressed him: I see you're wearing a Masonic emblem. I'm a Freemason too. It happens that I'm desperately in need of \$25 just now. I shall be able to repay it within ten days. You don't know me but I wonder whether the fact that you are a Freemason and that I am a Freemason is sufficient to induce you to lend me the money on my personal note.

The pawnbroker mentally appraised the young man, who was clean-cut, neat and well-dressed. After a moment's thought, he agreed to make the loan on the strength of the young man being a Freemason. Within a few days the young man repaid the loan as agreed and that ended the transaction.

About four months later the young man was in a Lodge receiving the Entered Apprentice Degree he had not really been a Mason when he borrowed the \$25. After he had been admitted for the second section of the degree, the young man looked across the Lodge room and saw the pawnbroker from whom he had borrowed the \$25. His face turned crimson and he became



nervous and jittery. He wondered whether he had been recognized by the pawnbroker. Apparently not, so he planned at the first opportunity to leave the Lodge room and avoid his benefactor. As soon as the Lodge was closed he moved quickly for the door, but the pawnbroker had recognized the young man, headed him off and, to the young man's astonishment, approached him and greeted him with a smile and outstretched hand.

Well, I see you weren't a Freemason after all when you borrowed that \$25 the pawnbroker commented.

The blood rushed to the young man's face as he stammered, No, I wasn't, but I wish you'd let me explain. I had always heard that Freemasons were charitable and ready to aid a Brother in distress. When I passed your shop that day, I didn't need that \$25. I had plenty of money in my wallet, but when I saw the Masonic emblem you were wearing, I decided to find out whether the things I'd heard about Freemasonry were true. You let me have the money on the strength of my being a Freemason, so I concluded that what I had heard about Masons was true, that they are charitable, that they do aid Brethren in distress. That made such a deep impression on me that I presented my petition to this Lodge and here I am. I trust that with this explanation you will forgive me for having lied to you.

The pawnbroker responded, don't let that worry you too much. I wasn't a Freemason when I let you have the money. I had no business wearing the Masonic emblem you saw. Another man had just borrowed some money on it, and it was so pretty that I put it on my lapel for a few minutes. I took it off the moment you left. I didn't want anyone else borrowing money on the strength of my being a Freemason. When you asked for that \$25, I remembered what I had heard about Masons, that they were honest, upright, and cared for their obligations promptly. It seemed to me that \$25 wouldn't be too much to lose to learn if what I'd heard was really true, so I lent you the money and you repaid it exactly as you said you would. That convinced me that what I'd heard about Masons was true so I presented my petition to this Lodge. I was the candidate just ahead of you.

We must always remember who we are and what we represent as Freemasons. Our apron is a badge so emblematical of purity and all perfection. It is an ever-present reminder of a of "purity of life and rectitude of conduct" a never-ending argument for nobler deeds, for higher thoughts and for greater achievements.

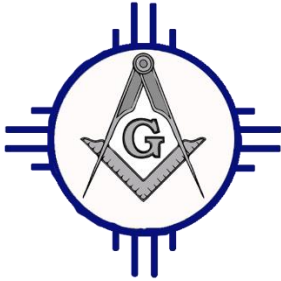
Brethren, society's perceptions surround us in some way, shape or form, always be mindful of this. Wear your apron as best you can. It was presented to you without spot or blemish in the hope that the record of your life and conduct would reflect back on this pure and fair emblem. Wear it with pleasure to yourself and honor to the fraternity.



The Outer Door

Proud to Guard Our Traditions.

Greetings Brethren,



Matt Stevenson
Grand Tyler

From outside the door, I would like to thank MWB Tom Schenk for the appointment to serve as the Grand Tyler for the Grand Lodge of New Mexico. It has been joked around that I make a good deterrent for the approach of cowans and eavesdroppers or cowhands depending on your Lodge.

A little bit about me and my Masonic walk. I was raised in Chama Lodge in 2005 by MWB Jess Martindale, for years I had no interest in being a Mason until I met Jess where he persuaded or railroaded me into joining Chama #17. He told me I had a long line of Masons in my family and that I should join and experience the same brotherhood of my dad and both of my grandfathers, My dad PeeWee was raised in Chama Lodge in 1976 and was the last Mason to be raised in the Lodge in Chama before it was moved to Cuba. Where he has been a member for the past 47 years.

Growing up he told me and my sister, as a Mason there is nowhere in the world that he couldn't get help for us as a son/daughter of a Mason that always impressed me. His father T.W. Stevenson was raised in Chama in 1951 and served for 35 years as a member of Chama and was a 32° degree Scottish Rite until his death in 1986. My other Grandfather was raised in Chama in 1965 and was a member until his death in 2014, 64 years as a Mason and was also a 32° degree Scottish rite.

Once I became a Mason, he told me stories of the old El Paso Natural Gas guys driving to Chama in snowstorms to attend lodge all on dirt roads 65 miles away. I have had the pleasure of serving as Grand Sword Bearer for RWB Ernie Shoop, and several tours as DDGL and DDGM for district 1 over the past few years. What being a Mason has taught me, is that we all meet on the level, we all come from different backgrounds, social, economic, cultural, political, but when we as brethren shake hands, our feet are on the same foundation and that we as brothers are level. That is how we all should meet all of our fellow man.

This coming year as you see me standing outside guarding the outer door, please feel free to stop and shoot the bull with me, I am always eager to hear about another Brother's walk in Masonry and build a friendship that can last a lifetime.

The 7th District

From the District Deputy Grand Master.



Chuck Bass
DDGM - 7th District

Greetings from the 7th District. Kingston #16, Sacramento #24, Carrizozo #41, Tularosa #49, Bethesda #64, Ruidoso #73

The District is doing well. Masons are progressing from EAs to Masters and the Lodges are performing Ritual work flawlessly. It has been rewarding to see and hear about the growth of Masonry.

On another subject, I have heard MW Brother Tom Schenk talk about having some sort of Masonic education at Lodge meetings. Since I am the Master of his home Lodge I figured I better come up with some Masonic education. This put me on a journey I could not believe. When I was looking for something to present, I came across an older article on the meaning of "a point within a circle embroidered by two perpendicular parallel lines ". I have said this many times presenting the EA Lecture. I never really totally understood the meaning of it. After sharing this program at Lodge,

Past Grand Master MW Brother Bill Beckett added even more information on this symbol. I have been a Master Mason for over 13 years and have found out that I do not know as much about Freemasonry as I thought. Just shows that Freemasonry is a progressive science and we have to continually seek light.

As I do more research I have come to the conclusion that we need to look to the past in order for Freemasonry to move forward in the future. We need to understand what our "symbols veiled in allegory" actually mean. This has given me a new vigor and excitement for Freemasonry. I now look forward to preparing for the Masonic Education programs. I challenge everyone to find out the meanings of our symbols either on your own or, so that you may improve in Masonic knowledge, converse with well informed Brethren.

I want to thank you for letting me jump on my soapbox. I also want to remind everyone about the Turn of the Century Lodge meeting on Saturday October 28th at Kingston Lodge #16. This is a must attend event, great food, exceptional fellowship, and dressing in 1800 attire is encouraged.

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
- Table Lodge
- Outdoor Communications
- Joint Communications
- Community Events
- Practices
- 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!

Masonic Membership Endowment Raffle

Sandia Mountain Lodge No. 72 is holding a Masonic Endowment Raffle Fundraiser

[Tickets on sale](#) through 12/1/2023

The drawing for the winner will take place at the Regular Communication on December 5, 2023. Sandia Mountain Lodge No. 72 will pay up to \$5000.00 toward the endowed membership of the Masonic Body of the winner's choice.

All Lodges and Appendant Bodies in amity with the Grand Lodge of New Mexico with endowed memberships are eligible. If the endowed membership costs more than \$5000, the winner is responsible for the difference. If the winner has a combination of two endowments that total less than \$5000 that is acceptable.

Any remainder of \$5000 after endowment purchase will remain with SM72. If total sales by 12/01/23 do not total \$10,000, then the payout will convert to a 50/50 style split. Tickets on sale through 12/1/23. Drawing will take place at SM72 December regular communication 12/5/23. SM72 proceeds to benefit our Building Fund.



TICKETS \$40 each or 3 FOR \$100

sandiamountainlodge2023.pledge-drive.net

Dedication and Rededication

Two of our most prominent Masons and a Lodge Celebrated!

On July 22, 2023, Edgewood Lodge celebrated the continuing contributions of two of our most prominent Masons and twenty years of service as a Lodge.

Duane and Mary Ann Walker Masonic Center

Lady Mary Ann and Worshipful Brother Duane E. Walker, 33rd Grand Cross, Kit Carson Recipient, continue to be pillars in New Mexico Masonry. Since 1975, Duane has been of service to his Lodges and Masonry in general. A Past Master of Estancia Lodge No. 33, he then was a founding member of Edgewood Lodge. From the beginning, their generous contributions of time, effort, work, and funding have helped to shape a Lodge that in just twenty years has made a consistent impact on the communities it serves as well as Masonry, having had four members who had been or would become Grand Master of Masons in New Mexico.



And then... Duane and Mary Ann built something special – the Scottish Rite Learning Centers. Several Lodges have extended their help to their communities by hosting one of these learning centers that directly affect an individual with Dyslexia. In Edgewood alone, our teacher, Wanda Fishburn has helped over 31 students (31 actually graduated) who have each gone on to do, and be able to do, bigger and better things. There are no words to describe the overall impact their contribution has made with Edgewood being only one of five that host the Learning Centers.

The Edgewood Lodge Hall is now the Duane and Mary Ann Masonic Center. In a rededication ceremony, the Lodge unveiled this small token of respect and appreciation on Saturday, July 22 with many Brethren and Masonic Family members present.



Wesley D. Thornton 50(+) Years of Service

The same day, we had the honor of recognizing Right Worshipful Brother Wesley D. Thornton for achieving fifty years as a Master Mason. The “(+)” is due to his service in DeMolay before and after becoming a Mason.

As a youth, he joined DeMolay in Farmington and never forgot his roots. He has worked with DeMolay consistently throughout his Masonic Career. He served local Chapters as a mentor to many of our Senior DeMolay. He then took the office of Executive Officer for DeMolay in New Mexico twice, and hosted the Executive Officer Conference in New Mexico. The culmination (but not completion, as he still serves) of his DeMolay service was being elected Grand Master of DeMolay International in 2010.

In our Lodges, he has also served in many capacities. A Past Master of Estancia Lodge No. 33 and the Charter Master of Edgewood Lodge No. 82, Wes was a part of Edgewood’s coming into being. He served as District Deputy Grand Master for the 5th Masonic District and was then elected Grand Treasurer of the Grand Lodge. In 2017, he was voted Grand Treasurer Emeritus.

Most of Illustrious Brother Wes’ Masonic time now is spent with the Scottish Rite. He was made a Master of the Royal Secret, 32^o on May 12, 1976, was honored as a Knight Commander of the Court of Honor on October 6, 1997, and Coroneted an Inspector General Honorary on December 6, 2003. On October 10, 2014, Illustrious Brother Wes was appointed the Deputy to the Supreme Council for New Mexico. Finally, on August 22, 2021, he was elected Sovereign Grand Inspector General for the Orient of New Mexico and continues to work for the betterment of all Masonry in New Mexico.

Congratulations and THANK YOU! to our Right Worshipful and Illustrious Brother Wes!



185 Years of Masonry

Mimbres Lodge and Steve Almager Celebrate and Honor Four Masons' Journeys

By David Fischer

DGM Steve Almager came to Mimbres Lodge No. 10 to present Bro. Gene Stailey with a 60 year certificate and pin and a certificate for 50 years as Secretary of the Lodge. Bro. Gene is now residing at Ft. Bayard Veterans Home.

After a great picnic meal at the Lodge Brother Steve also presented Brother Jason Hamilton a 25 year certificate and Brothers Joe Delk and David Fischer with their 50 year certificates.

Mimbres Lodge truly appreciates DGM Steve for going out of his way to make this event a success.





Service Celebrations August 2023

Journeys of a Lifetime Started the Same Way

Twenty-one of our Brothers have served twenty-five or more years, six have served over fifty – as of this month! Please make an opportunity to congratulate our Brethren and thank them for their service to Masonry!

Brother	Lodge	Years
Jeremy Clay Tarter	Sandia Mountain Lodge No. 72	5
Ron S. Betts Jr.	Edgewood Lodge No. 82	5
Alec E Reber	Sandia Mountain Lodge No. 72	10
Gregory C. Stihel	Edgewood Lodge No. 82	10
James F. Goodman	Tularosa Lodge No. 49	10
Charles Alan Emrick	Hobbs Lodge No. 63	15
Robert G. Hunt	Mount Moriah Lodge No. 54	15
Dominick P. Luchetti	Sandia Mountain Lodge No. 72	20
James William LaRue	Zia Daylight Lodge No. 77	20
Robert Lee Coslett	Tucumcari Lodge No. 27	20
Walter Gene Gunderson	Hobbs Lodge No. 63	20
Jeffery Dean Cohlmlia	Edgewood Lodge No. 82	25
Joe Edd Brown	Lovington Lodge No. 46	25
Larry Franklin Whitson	Tucumcari Lodge No. 27	25
Melvin Richard Sultemeier	Liberty Lodge No. 51	25
Russell Derwin Martin	Eunice Lodge No. 67	25
Michael Raymond Penrod	Sacramento Lodge No. 24	30
Steven Michael Kokora	Clovis Lodge No. 40	30
Thomas Anthony Monaco	Montezuma Lodge No. 1	30
Anthony Henry Umi	Cerrillos Lodge No. 19	35
GC Dean	Socorro Lodge No. 9	35
James LeRoy Jones	Mimbres Lodge No. 10	40
John T. Lynch	Animas Lodge No. 15	40
Billy Ray Holman	Tucumcari Lodge No. 27	45
Craig R. Stephens	Eddy Lodge No. 21	45
Larry K. Bishop	Hobbs Lodge No. 63	45
Bobby R. Ivy	San Juan Lodge No. 25	50
Kenneth B. Berry	Felix Lodge No. 29	50
David P. Wade	Socorro Lodge No. 9	55
John Willis Morris	Carrizozo Lodge No. 41	55
Lenard Charles Briscoe	San Juan Lodge No. 25	60
Walter C. Scott	Mesa Lodge No. 68	70



August 23 THINK

"Let Me Do It Now"

I expect to pass through this world but once,
any good thing therefore that I can do,
or any kindness that I can show to any fellow creature.

Let me do it now, let me not defer or neglect it – for I shall not pass this way again.

-Anonymous-

The Chapel – July 2023

Good and Faithful Servants Called Home

"To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven. A time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to pluck that which is planted. A time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance." -Ecclesiastes, Chapter 3



Our Dear Brothers who have laid aside their working tools and have Passed To The Grand Lodge Above. May it be their portion to hear from the Judge Supreme ...

"Well done my good and faithful servant, enter now to your reward"

Brother	Lodge	Deceased
Robert A. Blair	Hobbs Lodge No. 63	07/05/2023
Von W. Burba	Eddy Lodge No. 21	07/09/2023
Wayne Roy Conwell	Temple Lodge No. 06	07/09/2023
Billy L. Owens	Portales Lodge No. 26	07/19/2023
John Robinson Secrest Jr	Sacramento Lodge No. 24	07/15/2023

Please let us know if there are additions to the list above. We will add them in subsequent issues.

Please keep these Brother's families in your thoughts and prayers.

Lodge of Research of New Mexico

A resource and opportunity for the Masonic Family Members



Some quick things that you may not know about the Lodge of Research:

- Anyone can petition to join (but only Master Masons can be officers or be present when opening in form)
- The Lodge must meet four times each year, but often meets more often
- Clubs may be created in your local area!
- The current Master, RWB Harry Jenkins II is meeting in different areas this year

Scheduled Meetings for 2023

- September 2nd
- October 7th
- November 4th
- December 8th (Installation of Officers at Sandia Mountain Lodge No. 72)

Get in touch with WB Tyler Anderson, Grand Historian, Secretary of the Lodge of Research to find out more information about what the next meeting may hold in store for you!

Masonic Youth Groups

Rainbow, Jobs and DeMolay

Much like the prospects and candidates knocking at our doors, the youth of this (and previous) generation(s) are looking for things that have disappeared from our society and been replaced by electronics and AI. The voids of society: relationships, response ability, work ethic, and values, are being replaced by agendas, social media (engineering), and participation trophies. Our Youth Groups are growing and teach values, confidence, achievement and fraternity.



Be a part of growing our next generation and ensuring a better world. Introduce these groups to your community and help them become their best selves!



Those Moments

Help us to preserve our journeys and work! And, let others know about your work!



Stephen Balke
Editor

If you enjoyed the stories about the celebrations of service, please make sure that you share those from your Lodge! (or Chapter, Council, Assembly, etc.) These are inspiring for all of us and let our younger Masons and Family know a little about the contributions made by individuals and the work done by our organizations!

When I was Worshipful Master – I had a GREAT idea! A “Masters’ Master Mason Degree” – get all of the Stations and Places filled by sitting Masters of Lodges in the area. It went WELL! It was a fun time at an outdoor degree, and I thought I had done something new and unique... I found an previous issue of the NM Freemason that showed me that one of the Past Masters of my Lodge had done the same EXACT thing when he was Master. You may know him, it was Jimmie Berkey, PGM 2006.

This didn’t take away from the day, the idea, or the impact; it just gives us another reason to keep sharing our stories, ideas, and work. This was a great example of what I should have already known I could do. A year later, the ante was upped by Adam Hathaway, PGM 2018, when he was Master of Sandia Mountain Lodge – he did a Past GRAND Masters’ Master Mason Degree...

On your current work – did you catch the Sandia Mountain Lodge Raffle? Wow! What a great idea!

Recently, I have been going to degrees at other Lodges as well – twice, an EA came with me and was able to see great lectures by Greg Stihel of Edgewood Lodge No. 82, Bert Dalton of Montezuma Lodge No. 1 (given at Sandoval Lodge No. 76), and Keith MacRae of Temple Lodge No. 6. Each time a little different and each time, it got him more invested – what an opportunity! But if I didn’t know...

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

sbalke@nmmasons.org

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