



The New Mexico FREEMASON

Volume 2023 Issue 8

November 6, 2023

Celebrate the Work in Our Gentle Craft



The Grand Lodge
of
NEW MEXICO

Annual Budget Communication & Open Forum Long Range Planning November 18, 2023



A Memorable Experience
January 11, 2024
Temple Lodge, Albuquerque



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Living to Work or Working to Live

Your Masonic Payday.



Thomas L. Schenk
Grand Master of Masons

Ancient Masonic Wages

Ancient Masons were paid in Corn, Wine, and Oil.

In operative Freemasonry the Master was paid the highest wages, and he was paid in Corn, Wine and Oil and sometimes, Coin of the realm. Entered Apprentice and Fellowcraft wages were paid less than the Master and were usually paid with meat and drink.

Wages of a Speculative Freemason

We as speculative Freemasons are not paid in coins. Instead, we earn our rewards by helping others with our time, being kind, and being of service to our fellow man.

We visit the sick, and the widows of our departed Brothers, and offer our services in any manner that might be of help.

The Bible tells us to "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

Corn, Wine, and Oil

Corn, Wine, and Oil are Masonic elements of consecration. They are symbols, whose adoption has been supported by the highest antiquity. These three are the most important exports of some Eastern countries and have contributed to a lot of their wealth. They were seen as a significant support to their livelihood and as a source of sustenance and refreshment for the people.

Even King David spoke of Corn, Wine and Oil in the Bible. He regarded them among the greatest blessings a man could receive.

Psalm 104:15, "And Wine that maketh glad the heart of man, and oil to make his face shine, and bread which strengtheneth man's heart."

Corn

Corn is carried in a golden pitcher and wine and oil are placed in silver vessels as a reminder that corn is essential and that it is of more importance and worthy of more honor than wine and oil which are mere comforts.

Your white lambskin, or Masonic apron is a symbol reminding us that we must have a pure heart and upright conduct to earn our rightful masonic wages.

We earn our final wages after we leave this world and exist in that house not made with hands, and we will receive our due wages for a life well spent doing the will of the Great Architect of the Universe.

Wine

Wine is refreshment and is a reminder of the eternal refreshment that good people receive in future life after they have performed their godly duties while here on Earth.

Oil

Kings, High Priests and Prophets were anointed with oil in biblical times.

Before a man or other things were dedicated to religious use, they were anointed with oil. Anointing with oil was an important ceremony among the Israelites. To this day, Christians still believe in anointing with oil.

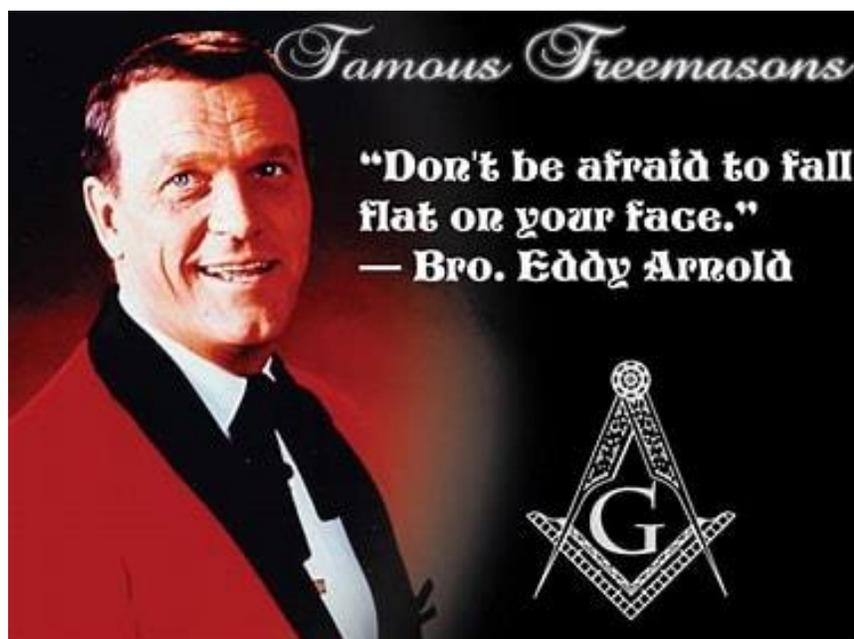
Aaron and his sons who became priests were anointed with oil as part of their ordination. The Kings of Israel and the prophets were also consecrated to their offices by anointing them with oil. The Tabernacle in the wilderness and every holy vessel were anointed with oil as commanded by God.

Lodge Wages

Freemason Lodges were also consecrated with Corn, Wine and Oil. Corn, Wine and Oil remind us that we should be refreshed with God's word and nourished with righteousness and start to rejoice with the unspeakable on the riches of divine grace.

In the pilgrimage of life, we feed the hungry ones with part of our bread and give sorrowful people a cup of wine to cheer them up. Also, we are to pour healing oil into the wounds that sickness has made in the bodies of our acquaintances and into their hearts.

With excerpts from Brick Masons UK



Travels Unbordered

Binational Masonic Conference Now a Reality!



Steve Almager
Deputy Grand Master

It gives me great joy to announce the Binational Masonic Conference for 2024, will be held in Las Cruces, NM on the 1st weekend of November.

In July of 2021, I traveled to Silao, Mexico, in the State of Guanajuato to the Confederation of Regular Grand Lodges of the United States of Mexico meeting. During this meeting, the incoming President of the Federation, hinted to me that we needed a Border Conference, between the USA and Mexico. That seed President Fernando Martinez planted, came to fruition this past weekend in Ciudad Juarez.

A board was elected, and some other details were hammered out. Out of 32 Grand Masters in Mexico, 29 were present at this meeting. Also in attendance was Brazil, Paraguay, Lebanon, Cuba and of course the United States. This conference will be the catalyst that tears down the walls between the US, Mexico, and other countries around the world.

It was an honor to represent our Great State and stand before the Binational Masonic Conference, a gathering that symbolizes the unity and brotherhood that defines our organization. Freemasonry has a rich history, spanning centuries, and it has played a vital role in shaping our societies. In this era of global challenges and uncertainties, the values we uphold become even more relevant. Our commitment to tolerance, diversity, and the support of one another must serve as a beacon of hope and a force for positive change in a world that often seems divided. Let us use this conference as an opportunity to exchange ideas, strengthen our bonds, and inspire each other to continue the important work of Freemasonry. Together, we can build a better world, one where the principles of our craft illuminate the path towards a brighter future for all.



I look forward to seeing more New Mexico Freemasons at this historic event in Las Cruces in November 2024.



Fernando Martinez, President
United States of Mexico Conf.



Raffy Timonian,
Grand Master of Lebanon



Jim Rumsey
Junior Grand Warden, TX



Dues Cards and Proxies

Ramping up for the New Year.



Tony Christophersen
 Grand Secretary

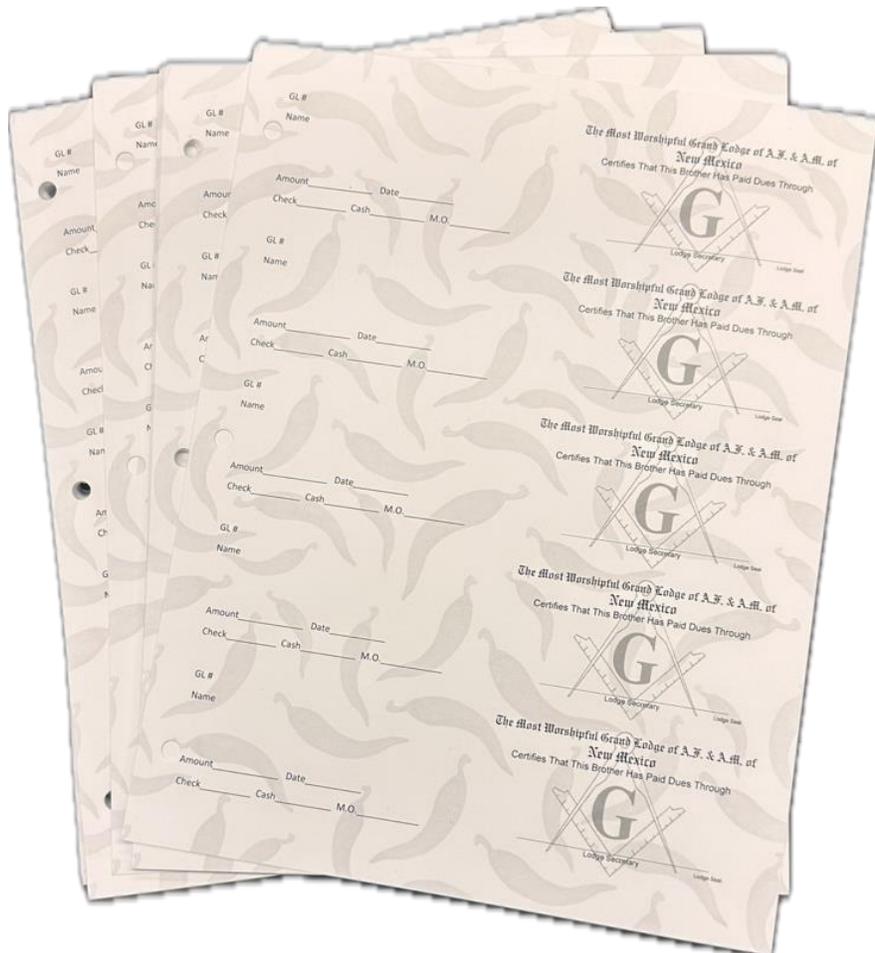
They've finally arrived... New Dues Cards.

These were created so that the records are easily kept by your Secretary and easy to get to you. In a 5-up layout, 3 hole punched with a stub on the left side of the sheet for payment and mailing info. You can expect to receive your lodge's supply shortly. Members, please pay your dues so you too can get yours.

The Grand Lodge Office is also working on getting your Proxies out for the upcoming Grand Lodge Budget meeting.

I'm going to keep this short as I need to get back to work so I can get these done.

See you at the Budget Meeting on the 18th.



Put a Pin on It

Our Ritual distinguishes us, here's a tool to remind and promote it.



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.

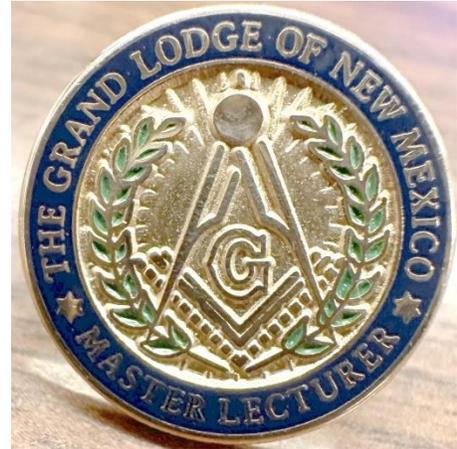
As an incentive to record ritual sections this year, and at the direction of Most Worshipful Grand Master Tom Schenk, and Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master Steve Almager, the Grand Lodge of New Mexico has revived the New Mexico Ritual Pin program. I am pleased to describe the details of this program in this edition of the New Mexico Freemason. You may have already seen some of these smart pins gracing brethren around the state. In addition to awarding Ritual Section cards, brethren are awarded lapel pins they can proudly wear as an outward show of their hard work and dedication to mastering New Mexico masonic ritual. There are four lapel pins available.

The first level is Proficient Mason, and is a pin awarded to those brethren that record the first three sections that we should record when joining Freemasonry: The Entered Apprentice Proficiency, Fellowcraft Proficiency, and Master Mason Proficiency. In order to receive credit for these sections, a brother must perform the section in front of the lodge ritual officer, a DDGL, or a current Deputy Lecturer. The brother must record questions and answers to receive credit for Proficiency sections. If you recorded these sections last year, record them again and you will receive your lapel pin.

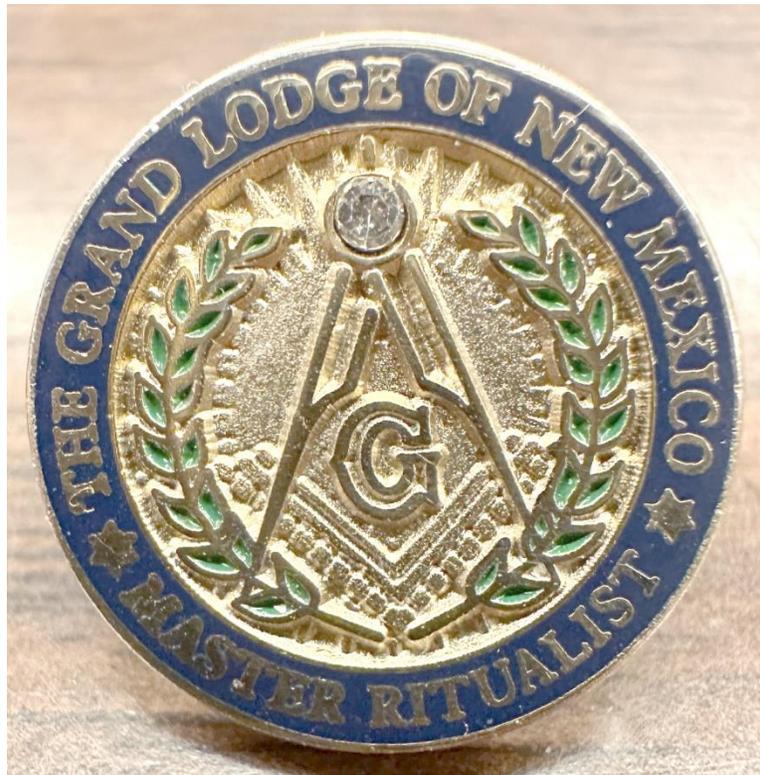


The second level of lapel pin is Craft Instructor and is awarded to those brethren that record any nine sections of our New Mexico ritual. This could be a combination of Proficiencies (questions and answers), Openings and Closing (all parts), Degree sections (all parts), Lectures (including charges), or even the Funeral or Installation. As with the Proficient Mason pin, the section must be performed in front of a lodge ritual office, a DDGL, or a current Deputy Lecturer.

The third level is Master Lecturer and is awarded to those brethren that record all 13 sections of New Mexico ritual. The 13 sections are: EA Opening/Closing, EA First Section, EA Lectures, EA Proficiency, FC Opening/Closing, FC First Section, FC Lectures, FC Proficiency, MM Opening/Closing, MM First Section, MM Second Section, MM Lecture, and MM Proficiency. This pin accompanies a Blue Card, which is a testament that a brother has recorded all 13 sections, and the brother is bestowed with the title Deputy Lecturer.



The fourth level is Master Ritualist and is awarded for recording 13 sections a total of 10 times. This is also called a Life Lecturer. This pin truly is a testament to a lifetime of perfect ritual in New Mexico Freemasonry.



My goal this year is to run out of lapel pins. Please help me spread the word about the value of our ritual. Record your sections, wear your pin, and proudly tell your brethren that they, too, can demonstrate excellence in masonic ritual.

Thank you all for what you do in masonry!

Kingston's Turn in 23

Turn of the Century at Kingston Lodge No. 16 – A Success!



James Bungard
Junior Grand Deacon

Masonic history comes to us from many different avenues, there is history of the several degrees, history of our beginnings, history of our buildings, history of our events and great undertakings, history of our deeper meanings, history of our artifacts, history of our Grand Lodges. But one history is sometimes overlooked and perhaps the most important of all our histories: the history of our lodges.

The lodge is the true history of Freemasonry. Remember when you took your degrees and a Worshipful Master presented and instructed you on the emblems of the third degree? One such emblem was The Beehive. It teaches us to give back to society, that we should be a useful member of society and to pass on knowledge and understanding. History is knowledge and further light, for light in Freemasonry comes in many different shapes and sizes.

Why are our lodge's histories so important?

It is important to ensure future generations of Freemasons know the people and events that gave shape to the character of each Masonic Lodge. The lodge is us, the lodge made our fraternity, which is the true history. A lodge is a certain number of Masons, and we as New Mexico Freemasons should be very proud of our lodges' rich history and those that made it for us. But does it stop there? No, for we today will be the history of tomorrow, what we do today in our lodge and in the Fraternity will be looked upon decades, centuries down the road. Nevertheless, we should not forget the rich history of our lodge and those that went before us.

Your Lodge may have a very interesting history to share but if it's not being properly preserved, it will be lost forever. Preserving Masonic History becomes an important duty for all of us. This is what happens every year on the last Saturday of October at Kingston's Lodge #16 in Hillsboro, New Mexico. It's called the "Turn of the Century" event, which started in the Spring of 2000 and has become an annual event. Everyone comes dressed in turn of the century attire (late 1800's) including firearms and other items dating back to the turn of the century. The event is a celebration of connecting the past to the future, which is absolutely paramount in maintaining and preserving the link from our past from whence we came. It's a great event with memorial services, presentations, entertainment, great food and brotherly love and friendship. There is no better way to spend the day guaranteed.





Kingston's historic lodge is filled with history and contain such men that have given back to society, but have we forgotten them? Kingston Lodge dates back to 1888 and housed local businesses through the years, the second floor was and still is the home of Kingston's Masonic Lodge. As you drive into town in Hillsboro it seems like you have gone through a time warp. The first thing you notice is the very old buildings, establishments, signs dating back to the period. Your first experience is when you look at the outside of the lodge and

view the porch which looks like something out of an old western movie. Once inside every step you take going up the stairs to the lodge room is like a taking a step back in time and when you finally arrive in the Lodge room you have arrived back in 1888 complete with Spittoons, Candle lighting, kerosene lamps, old-time photos, wooden ceiling, wooden chairs etc. Kingston Lodge is a meaningful piece of history. Its hard to believe this historic building has stood the test of time and it is in as good shape as it is. I'm very fortunate and proud to be a member of this historic lodge.

The event is all about preserving some of this fabric of Kingston lodge, because it just wasn't a structure but a piece of New Mexico History more importantly New Mexico Freemasonry history. This is our history, from our first charters from Missouri to Montezuma, Chapman, Aztec and to Lincoln and Kingston Lodge and every city and town in between. This history, we sometimes forget, is the true history of our fraternity, and the story continues today with the new generation of Freemasons joining our lodges. We should be preserving and celebrating this fragile fabric of ours so our future generations of Freemasons will know the history of this lodge.

History is one of the most important aspects to give knowledge of what has gone on before, to account for the spread of the Craft, and to know the contributions Freemasonry has made to our cities, states and country.





Budget and Planning

Help set the stage for a prosperous and great 2024.

Code 61. Annual Budget

At each Annual Budget Meeting of the Grand Lodge, held no later than November 30 in Albuquerque, the Committee on Accounts, Ways and Means shall present a budget to the Grand Lodge for consideration and approval. Any budget so adopted shall take effect on April 1 of the following year and remain in effect until the following March 31.

Greetings,

This years Annual Budget Meeting will be held on **Saturday November 18th, 2023**, at the University of New Mexico Continuing Education Center located next to The Grand Lodge of New Mexico's business office. ([Link to Google Map](#))

Refreshments will be on hand provided by the Masonic Youth Groups of New Mexico.

(Times are approximate and will be adjusted as needed.)

- 09:00 am – Registration begins.
- 10:00 am – Presentation of Colors followed by the National Anthem sung by the Masonic Youth Groups and a short presentation.
- 10:15 am – Opening of the Grand Lodge of New Mexico Annual Budget Meeting
- 11:45 am – Lunch
- 12:30 pm – Resume Annual Budget Meeting until approved.

Immediately begin Long Range Planning Committee meeting and have a presentation and discussion on the following items:

- Code 60. Revenue
- Code 62. Grand Lodge Funds
- The Following funds are hereby created:
- General Funds
- Administration Building Reserve Fund
- Investment Fund
- Endowment Fund
- Misc.
- Annual Per Capita and Individual Lodge Dues

All the above topics will be discussed in an open forum and have a great financial impact on both the present and future wellbeing of our Fraternity.

Your continued attention and cooperation are earnestly requested during this part of our meeting. Each of you is a vital part of the Grand Lodge of New Mexico and your opinion matters.

Hawaii Wildfire Relief Appeal

MCFNM November 2023

The Masonic Charity Foundation of New Mexico (MCF) Board Members recognized the needs of the Hawaii Wildfire Relief Appeal. Grand Master Dustin T. Verity of Hawaii has requested the Masonic Service Association of North America (MSA) to issue this Disaster Relief Appeal.



The MCF Board members approved a donation of \$20,000.00 to go to the Hawaii Wildfire Disaster Relief Appeal. The Board members also approved matching funds for Lodges (or brethren) of New Mexico making donations to aid the island of Maui. The Board members limited the matching funds donations to the first \$10,000.00.

The needs of the people on Maui caused by the Hawaii Wildfire still exist. Remember, many members lost some of their families, their homes, their jobs, their way of life. Brethren, we can still offer assistance.

The process of making donations to aid the Hawaii Wildfire Disaster Relief Appeal are:

- A lodge (or brethren) sends a donation to Masonic Charity Foundation of New Mexico.
- The MCF collects donations (restricted for the Hawaii Wildfire Relief Appeal.)
 - The donations do not affect the Lodge money available for MCF Matching Funds Requests in New Mexico. (\$5,000.00 limit)
 - A letter of thanks will be sent to the Lodge (or brethren) who have made a donation.
- The MCF will send the money collected from the donations to the MSA Disaster Relief Program to Hawaii, along with a letter listing the Lodges (or brethren) that donated and the amounts of their donations.

Please send your donations payable to Masonic Charities Foundation of New Mexico, PO Box 25004, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87125-0004. Any questions, call Dennis R. Detrow, Secretary at 505-350-3430. The MCF thanks the Lodges (or brethren) for their participation!



Dustin Verity
MWGM Hawaii

2024 Officer Installations

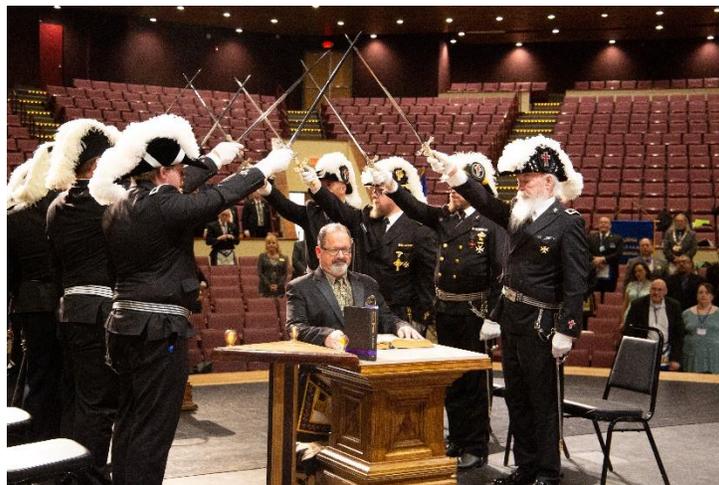
Join incoming leaders and meet new Brethren and Masonic Family!

December is packed with the installations of offices for Lodge, York Rite, Scottish Rite and more! Sharing your planned dates helps others to attend, and lets everyone know when the transition of authority is happening in your organization. Please consider emailing your date and time for installation to the Grand Secretary at your earliest opportunity so that he can post it and share it!

The following are in order by date and time.

Lodge/Organization	Date	Time	Notes
Albuquerque Lodge No. 60	12/1/2023	7:00 PM	Dinner 6:00 PM
Mesa Lodge No. 68	12/2/2023	10:00 AM	Open 9:30, Reception follows.
Dona Ana Daylight Lodge No. 78	12/2/2023	10:00 AM	
Lodge of Research	12/8/2023	6:00 PM	Open 5:30, Reception to follow.
Estancia Lodge No. 33	12/9/2023	10:00 AM	Open 9:30 AM, Lunch follows.
Jornada Lodge No. 70	12/9/2023	2:00 PM	Cake and Ice Cream follows.
Sandia Mountain Lodge No. 72	12/9/2023	6:00 PM	
Four Corners Daylight No. 80	12/10/2023	10:00 AM	Closed Installation
Bethesda Lodge No. 64	12/14/2023	7:00 PM	
Edgewood Lodge No. 82	12/16/2023	10:00 AM	Open 9:30, Lunch follows.
Hiram Lodge No. 13	12/16/2023	3:00 PM	Open 2:30, Reception follows.
Eddy Lodge No. 21	12/16/2023	7:00 PM	Dinner at 6:30 PM
Animas Lodge No. 15	12/16/2023	7:30 PM	Dinner at 6:00 PM
Hobbs Lodge No. 63	12/16/2023	TBD	
San Juan Lodge No. 25	12/19/2023	TBD	
Temple Lodge No. 6	12/27/2023	6:00 PM	Reception to follow.

Note – If you want a sword detail for installation please contact your local York Rite bodies, if in the Albuquerque area, please contact RWB Harry Jenkins, DDGM.



The Journey of a Fellowcraft Mason

Seeking Knowledge and Enlightenment.



Gabriel Gonzales FC
Sandoval Lodge No. 76

I stand before you today to share my personal insights into the tools of Freemasonry, particularly within the context of the Entered Apprentice Degree. These tools, both symbolic and practical, have played a pivotal role in shaping my journey within the Craft and have left an indelible mark on my life.

As a Fellowcraft Mason, one embarks on a profound and transformative journey within the craft. This stage of our Masonic journey is characterized by a deepening commitment to self-improvement, the pursuit of knowledge, and a quest for enlightenment.

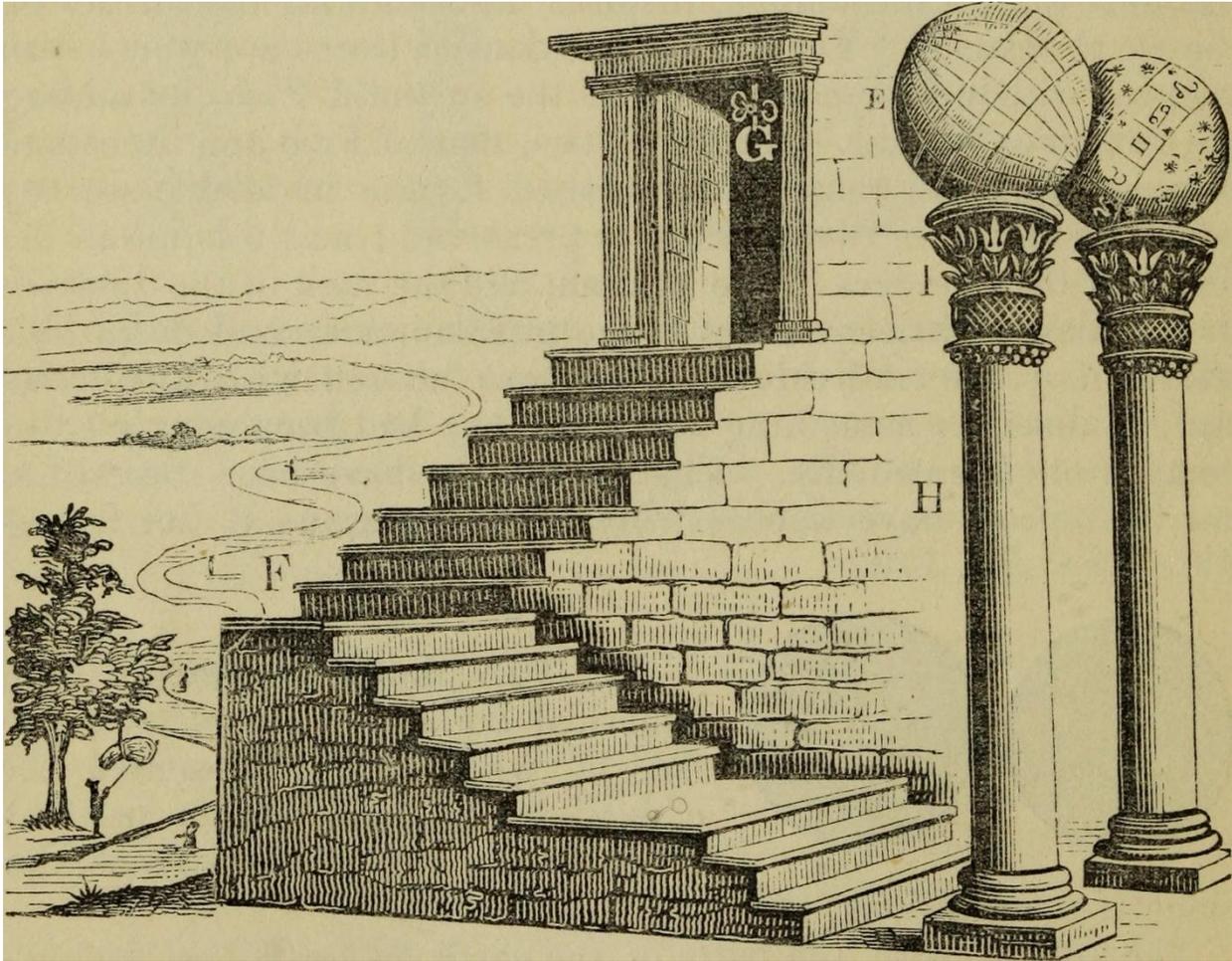
At the heart of being a Fellowcraft lies a dedication to the pursuit of knowledge. It is a journey marked by the relentless quest for truth, wisdom, and understanding. The working tools of the Fellowcraft, the square, and the compass, symbolize the balance between intellect and action. Through these tools, we learn to apply reason and logic to our thoughts and actions, ensuring that we shape our lives in harmony with our principles.

The Fellowcraft degree teaches us the importance of education and intellectual growth. It encourages us to explore various disciplines, not only those directly related to Freemasonry but also the broader spectrum of human knowledge. This expansion of knowledge broadens our perspectives, enabling us to better understand the world around us and our place within it.

The Fellowcraft degree calls upon us to reflect deeply on the symbolic teachings presented to us during our initiation. The symbolic journey from darkness to light takes on new dimensions as we progress through our journey as masons. We come to realize that the pursuit of light is not a static goal, but a continuous process of self-improvement and spiritual growth.

In addition, a Fellowcraft Mason is entrusted with a greater degree of responsibility within the lodge. This elevation in status is not only a recognition of one's commitment to the Craft but also a call to serve and guide others on their Masonic journeys. Mentorship and fraternal support become essential elements of this phase, as we strive to assist our brethren in their own pursuit of light.





The Fellowcraft degree also encourages us to seek a deeper understanding of the symbolism and allegory present in Masonic rituals. This understanding allows us to extract profound lessons that can be applied to our daily lives. We learn to view the world through the lens of Masonic teachings, recognizing the underlying principles that govern our interactions with others and the universe at large.

The Fellowcraft degree is a pivotal stage in the Masonic journey, signifying a commitment to knowledge, self-improvement, and the pursuit of enlightenment. It challenges us to continually seek wisdom, to mentor and support our brethren, and to live our lives by the principles of Freemasonry. As Fellowcraft Masons, we are entrusted with the responsibility of carrying the torch of knowledge, illuminating our path and that of our brethren toward greater light and understanding. /G\

Endowment Raffle

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

Masonic Endowment Raffle Fundraiser

Tickets on sale through 12/1/2023



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 blue lodges and appendant bodies in amity with the Grand Lodge of New Mexico with endowed memberships are eligible.

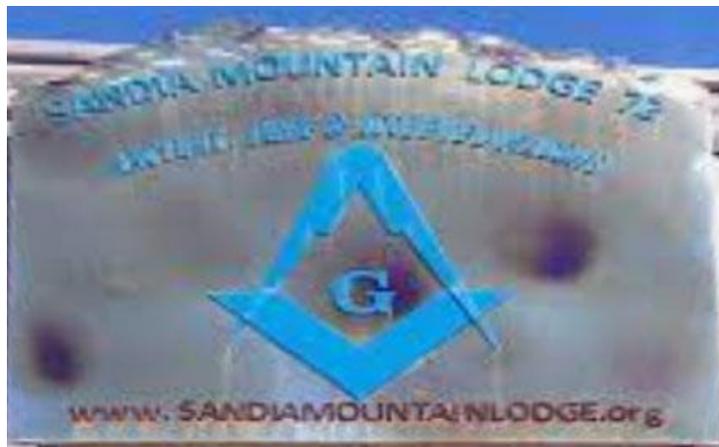
If the endowed membership costs more than \$5000, the winner is responsible for the difference. If the winner has a combination of two endowments that total less than \$5000 that is acceptable. Any remainder of \$5000 after endowment purchase will remain with SM72.

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 Sandia Mountain Lodge No. 72. Proceeds are for the SML Building Fund.

TICKETS \$40 each or 3 FOR \$100

sandiamountainlodge2023.pledge-drive.net





Silver City Salutes!

Silver City Lodge No. 8 erected an historic 40-foot-tall flagpole.

The flagpole was built at the Chino Mine Blacksmith shop when Kennecott built the company town of Hurley NM in 1911. It was at the Hurley Masonic Lodge which was above the town Post Office. Around the late 1970's the Post Office did some remodeling and installed an official government issue flagpole and this one was removed and hauled to Tyrone Lodge where it was erected and stayed there until Phelps Dodge Mining Co. sold the entire company town of Tyrone to a development company. Tyrone Lodge lost its land lease and had to move.

The flagpole was taken down and stored at Silver City Lodge until Bro Mark Ostler discovered it. Mark decided that the pole should not be lying on the ground, but erected and he headed up the project of erecting it and purchasing a huge 10' flag. With the help of Mark's brother and his boss a bucket truck was brought in, and the pole was hoisted onto the foundation that had been poured for it, and now flies a beautiful flag that is lighted at night along with the large Masonic emblem on the building. Thanks Bro. Mark for a job well done..



Colorado River Fall Festival 2023

Arizona, California, Nevada, New Mexico, and Utah come together annually.



James Lamb
Grand Commander
Grand Commandery of
Knights Templar of NM

Ninety miles south of Las Vegas, Nevada and along the Colorado River lies a resort town developed by Don Laughlin. The town is his namesake and is across the river from Bullhead city, Arizona. You can visit two states in minutes! For over a quarter century, every October, York Rite Masons from Arizona, California, Nevada, and New Mexico gather to confer the Degrees and Orders upon worthy Candidates, as a courtesy to their home Bodies. The first festival was held in 1991 in Bullhead City, Arizona and was strictly an Arizona festival. A number of Companions from California and Nevada were present and, after conferring the Degrees and Orders on 42 Candidates, expressed a desire to participate the following year. As it had quickly outgrown the facilities available, it was moved across the Colorado River to Laughlin, Nevada and has been there ever since. In later years, New Mexico and Utah joined in with the festival. This year, nine New Mexico York Rite masons attended the Colorado River Fall Festival (CRFF) to perform the rites.

The festival began on October 23, 2023, with an opening of the Chapter degrees. Arizona led the Mark Master and Past Master Degrees, the Most Excellent Master by Utah, and work was led by the New Mexico team for the most sublime degree of the Holy Royal Arch. Companions Kevin Fitzwater, Steve Balke, Richard Butterfield, Dennis Detrow, DW Winchester, Adam Hathaway, James Lamb, James Bungard and James Overfelt provided an excellent degree experience with parts well memorized and rehearsed.



Later that afternoon the Council degrees were opened. The degrees of Royal and Select Master were performed with the New Mexico Most Illustrious Grand Master, DW Winchester in attendance by Companions from Nevada.



On October 24, 2023, the orders of Christian knighthood were conferred on all the candidates. The Commandry consists of the following orders: Order of the Red Cross, led by Utah, the Order of Mediterranean Pass/Malta, and finally the noble Order of the Temple. I was honored to be present as Grand Commander and witness as well as participate as your New Mexico team performed the Order of the Mediterranean Pass along with selected members from the California and Arizona Commandries, then assist California Sir Knights to perform the crowning Order of the Temple.



Well over 1000 candidates from twelve jurisdictions, from both North and South America have received a reception into the York Rite at the CRFF. Attending the conferral of the Degrees is the "Masonic Motivation", but the Colorado River Fall Festival is really about camaraderie, fraternalism, education, and cooperation. You'll see some of the finest ritual work in the Southwest. The CRFF planning Committee from each jurisdiction is responsible for the ritualistic work assigned to them, coordinating with their Grand Bodies as well as the general publicity surrounding the event. Our own Dennis Detrow and Stephen Balke are members of that committee.

There are normally between 35 and 50 Candidates per class with between 100 and 150 Companions, Sir Knights and Ladies attending. In addition to the conferrals there is a Banquet and a Ladies program. There has always been a "Survivor's Party" on the last day and if there are any Ladies present who are eligible for the Royal Arch Widow's Degree - King Solomon makes an appearance. This year was no exception with the degrees and orders being conferred on 35 candidates! Even Grand Masters from the Southwest jurisdictions were in attendance.

The cooperation and level of professionalism of all the Companions and Sir Knights that worked hard to impress upon the new candidates the symbolism and meaning of the degrees and orders was very impressive. And as always, it was great to rekindle relationships with our friends from other states, break bread at the formal banquet and survive the long two days of the festival. Especially it was nice to see our Companions and Sir Knights from California and our brothers from western New Mexico (aka Arizona). The brothers from Arizona and New Mexico have a long-standing relationship. Arizona also calls New Mexico, eastern Arizona.

If you missed this historic event and have a desire to learn what the York Rite is all about, maybe even receive the long-lost Master's word, we have a place for you and an event you will not soon forget. Come with us next year on October 21st and 22nd, 2024. See you soon!

Photos courtesy of Ben Vik, AZ.

<https://crff.org>



Landmark 14th Opportunities

Over 120 dedicated Masons gathered from 13 Jurisdictions at the NW/SW Conference.



Stephen Balke
Past Grand High Priest
Grand Chapter of Royal
Arch Masons of NM

Every year there are conferences held for most of the Regions and Departments for the York Rite Bodies. This year, the Northwest and Southwest Conferences were combined in Salt Lake City, Utah on October 20th and 21st. Representatives from Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming gathered for a weekend of fraternal communications, education, and fun.

Landmark 14th in New Mexico is the Right of Visitation. These conferences bring this to a whole new level. Meeting with Brothers from so many different jurisdictions allows you to learn about differences in Masonry across Jurisdictions, meet with leaders of the State, National, and International Masonic Bodies, and “unites men from every country, sect, and opinion, and conciliates true friendship among those who might otherwise have remained at a perpetual distance.”

This conference is on a Friday and Saturday. Chapter (red coats) and Council (purple coats) split Friday at lunch for their programs, and Saturday is dedicated to Commandery (fluffy hats) and the York Rite Leadership Program (both running all day). Each body provides presenters and communications from the international officers present. There is a banquet on Friday night, and lunches to get together and break bread with Brethren.

New Mexico was well represented with eight Brothers, Companions, and Sir Knights present. We usually have more that attend, but this year was re-scheduled, and many were fulfilling their obligations at the Valley of Santa Fe Scottish Rite Reunion.

Several conferences happen each year affording the opportunity to meet new Brethren and establish relationships across ALL borders. Here are just a few of those regularly attended by NM Brethren:

- July [The Rocky Mountain Masonic Conference](#)
- October [Southwest York Rite Conference](#) (likely updated in the Spring)
- As Scheduled [Scottish Rite Leadership Conferences](#)
- February [Masonic Week in Washington D.C. \(Arlington, VA\)](#)

The World of Masonry is actually World-Wide! Keep this in mind when you travel. Many of our Brethren in New Mexico travel a lot and can help you get in touch with Lodges or appendant bodies where ever you go (or in some cases, let you know that it's not wise to advertise in that country). Using the [Amity application \(adopted by the Conference of Grand Secretaries of N.A.\)](#) lets you know who is in amity with New Mexico.

ABQ 60 is 100!

Join us for our Centennial Gala Celebration!



November 11, 2023

Vida Tattoo - 500 Fourth St SW, Albuquerque

Tickets are \$120

Please join Albuquerque Lodge No. 60 in celebrating our 100-Year Anniversary. Chartered February 21, 1923 by the Grand Lodge of New Mexico - we are hosting a Centennial Gala. This black-tie affair will feature good food, drinks, and music - for a good cause. We will be raising money to support a local non-profit that is helping young entrepreneurs get their feet off the ground by giving them a kitchen to practice their cooking skills, as well as teaching classes on how to operate and manage their businesses.

The event is on November 11, 2023, hosted by Brother John Sisneros at his local business Por Vida Tattoo located downtown at 500 Fourth St SW, Albuquerque, NM 87102. Cocktail hour will be from 5 pm - 6 pm, Dinner from 6 pm - 7 pm, and Dance from 7 pm - Midnight. All Masons, Friends, and Family are welcome to attend!

Tickets are \$120 each and are limited to 200. We will be raffling off art by Brothers Andrew Montoya and John Sisneros, and many more items.

Please contact us to purchase tickets by email abqmasons@gmail.com or by call/text: Brothers Tristian Ortiz (505-515-9106), Matt Rader (505-400-0092), Andrew Montoya (505-681-4105), or John Sisneros (505-377-2369).



Memorization in Freemasonry

Guest WB Brian Ragain, OK and a Masonic night for Fellows of the Craft.

SAVE THE DATE

On Thursday, January 11, 2024 Temple Lodge will host an event open to all Fellow Craft Masons.

- 5:30 PM – Lodge preparations will commence.
- 6:00 PM – Dinner will be served.
- 7:00 PM – Program will start.

All about memory work and the Craft, the program will include:

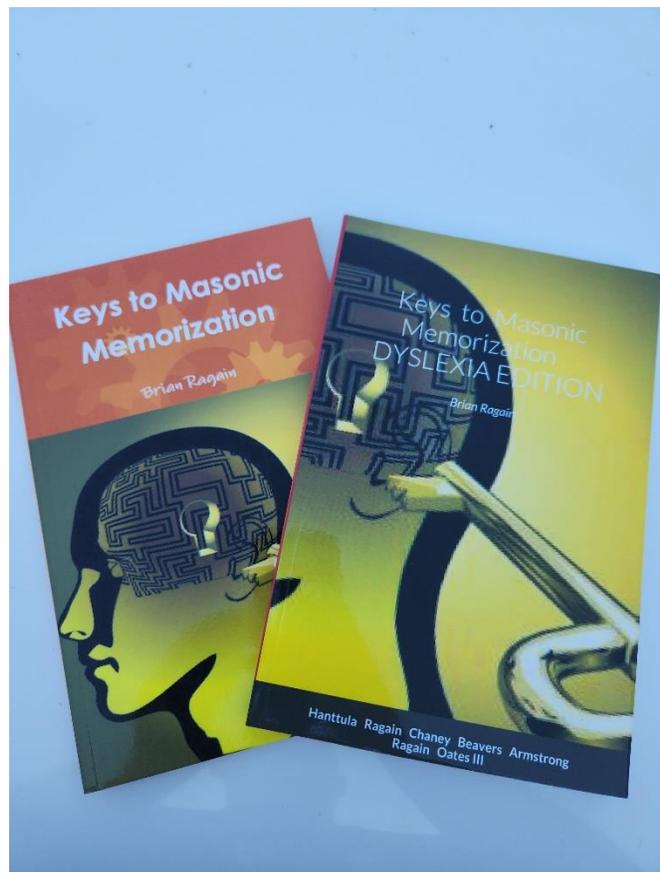
- An Exemplification of the Fellowcraft Degree.
- A presentation by Masonic author Worshipful Brother Brian Ragain of Oklahoma.
- Discussion about the two versions of the book *Keys to Masonic Memorization*, both the regular version and the second edition dedicated to readability by those with Dyslexia.

A fee for attending will be charged, and registration for the event will open in November. We look forward to sharing this outstanding experience with you!

Save the date to start off 2024 with new tools and knowledge for your successful Masonic Journey!



Brian Ragain
Oklahoma Mason and Author





Ruidoso or Bust!

A great destination and Fraternal Experience!



SAVE THE DATE

Grand Lodge of New Mexico Annual Communication

MARCH 14th, 15th, & 16th, 2024

Be A Part of Creating the Future History of Masonry in New Mexico!

Special room rates will be available Wednesday through Saturday Nights with event code.

Registration & Hotel Reservations will begin mid-November.

The Chapel – October 2023

Good and Faithful Servants Called Home

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 him who sitteth as Judge Supreme ...

“Well done thou good and faithful servant, thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things. Enter thou into the joys of thy Lord.”



Brother

William Craig Crow

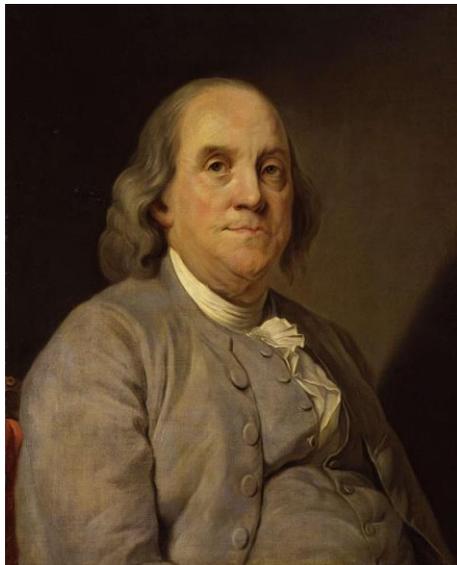
Lodge

Bethlehem Lodge No. 56

Deceased

10/06/2023

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.



“Remember not only to say the right thing in the right place, but far more difficult still, to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment.”

Traditions Prevailing?

Some quick ways we might design better results.



Stephen Balke
Editor

Leaders in Masonry often face some questions that they may not have previously considered:

- Can we get more members?
- How can I juggle the events I would like to attend?
- What will encourage more of our members to come to our meetings?

We are in organizations where the average age of our members is well into (or after) the working years. We live in a society that has all members of a household working, often just to meet the cost of living. We compete for peoples' time with media and other organizations that spend millions on how to psychologically attract people and some that give them further opportunities for better jobs, etc. Avoiding proper planning for one of the few positive (generally available to the) public events may be in direct opposition to answering these questions.

Estancia Lodge did not and does not have a "large" membership, nor is it the most accessible place to visit. When I was installed Master for 2009, I was determined that we should have more reasons for the Brethren (both in our Lodge and from others) to attend and more often. So, for my installation, I did what I could to make sure to start off well...

- I made and delivered or sent invitations to the officers in the District, Grand Lodge officers and leaders in bodies in which I was a member.
 - These were intentionally notable – linen parchment with envelopes and sealed with wax.
- I planned the 23 Regular Communications of the Lodge and the Installation for the next year.
 - Highlights (12 programs and dates) were made a part of my Installation Program that was handed out to those who attended and sent to those who were unable.
- I asked mentors well in advance of my Installation to be members of my Installation Team.
 - This gave them time to prepare and avoided conflicts on the Masonic calendar.

How can you plan when you're not elected!?!? Well, the simple answer is, it's the Lodge's Installation, not a particular Brother's.





Two Lodges have their Installation date already – St. John’s Day. For any Lodge where the date is a Special Communication, the Master sets the date (as it IS one of his meetings). This can be done as a part of his year’s planning (before he is installed). The Lodge sends the invitations under the authority of the Sitting Master. And you ask people privately to reserve the date and if they are familiar with the Installation Team role you have in mind for them. While it has been used quite a bit, prefacing any questions can also be done ... “Traditions prevailing, would you be willing to...” This also works while speaking with prospective appointments.

My general response to the first question (more members) is that we need to become better leaders so that better members will be attracted to our events and Lodges. One of the most impacting duties of leadership, and the direct answer to the second two questions, is effective planning. If you (as a team of officers) plan an active program for the year and give people an opportunity to save dates and know what to expect, they are more likely to attend. As a bonus, you are more likely to get people who must travel to attend not only the Installation, but also events throughout the year!



Please consider sharing what you do with all of us – it may inspire greater and more activity in Masonry in NM!

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

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Many thanks to MWB Jeff Johnson and Michele Balke. Both for review of the issue, and contribution of photography by Michele. Other photos provided by the contributors, with the exception of the photos of Brian Ragain and his books, which were provided by him.

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