



The New Mexico FREEMASON

Volume 2023 Issue 12

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Our Opportunities in Masonry

Every Relationship In Masonry Is a Part of a Greater Whole – It Helps Us to Define Ourselves.



Thomas L. Schenk
Grand Master of Masons

To the Brethren of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of New Mexico,

The following is just a part of the Grand Masters Address that will be given at the 2024 Annual Communication March 14th – 16th, 2024. I wanted to share it with those who will not be able to make the journey.

Good morning,

I want to welcome you to the 147th Annual Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of New Mexico, here in the beautiful village of Ruidoso, New Mexico. I hope that each of you and your families are having a great and memorable time. Our host, The Inn of the Mountain Gods wish the same. Thank you for making the trip and taking part in our annual celebration and supporting our Fraternity.

I would especially like to thank our visiting Brethren from other Jurisdictions for being here, you are truly Travelers of the Craft. Finally, let us offer a special thanks to all our spouses, families and friends who stand by us and support all that we do. If not for them, it would not be possible.

So please sit back, relax and enjoy what Ruidoso, The Inn of the Mountain Gods and the Sacramento Mountains of Lincoln County New Mexico have to offer. Rekindle old friendships and feel the warmth of new ones... most of all, rest and relax.

On April 14th, 2000, I knocked, and the door of Freemasonry was opened unto me. During the eventful ceremony of initiation, I was told that one day “even the purple of our Fraternity may rest upon your honored shoulders”. I can honestly say that thought has always been the furthest thing from my mind. I just wanted to get through that evening, gather my belongings, and go home. Throughout the next day, all I could think of is “what have I got myself into?”

As time went on, I found myself being drawn to my Lodge, and wanting to be around those in attendance. The Masons who took me in seemed so knowledgeable and were always as ready to give as much as I was willing to receive. One man stood out, and not only did he become my idol if but he also became my mentor, my masonic idol, if you will. I would be remised if I did not mention him in this, my Grand Masters Address. WB Warren Wheeler of Bandera Lodge No. 1123 in Bandera, Texas, not only taught me the ritual, but he also taught me all the how’s and why’s of Freemasonry.

Brother Warren and his wife Doreen were ranchers, and between their two families they had thousands of Texas hill country acres. The two of us would climb into his pickup every other afternoon and drive the various pastures and I would learn the ritual. Most Saturdays Doreen

would pack us lunch and we would head out early, at times it would take hours to cross that ranch, idling along in that old green Ford, going over our masonic work. On occasion another brother would ride with us, and we would take turns practicing. He would learn a part in a degree, or go over a conferral, then I would recite my proficiencies. This practice would go on for months, one Degree at a time. Every trip we would return to the house and Doreen would ask, "how did it go?", and Warren would say "good, but he is not quite there yet, needs a little more practice".

One Sunday after driving the ranch, we returned to the Wheeler house, dinner was ready, and Doreen invited me to stay just as she had always done before. Warren went to wash up, then step outside to have a quick smoke. It was then that Doreen let me in on a hidden secret. She told me that she heard that I was ready to turn in my Master Mason proficiency months ago, and that the only reason Warren was taking his time was because he wanted somebody else to have to open all those gates at the ranch, instead of him, and that it didn't look like he was going to have another candidate for quite a while! Regardless of what she said, I never told him, I just enjoyed our rides.

Warren is long gone, and so are all those other brothers who rode with us, but their memory, and the times we had live on in my thoughts. It is through those kinds of close fraternal relationships we build the ties that last a lifetime.

Since moving to New Mexico, I have been able to build those very same relationships. Freemasonry is a universal language and a way of life. Over the past twenty years the Masons of New Mexico have given me the same knowledge and opportunities that I received in the front seat of that old pickup. In fact, more. In Texas, with a membership so large, I felt like a number. In New Mexico, here, we all have a name. Since the first time I walked through the door of Ruidoso No. 73, the first time I attended a New Mexico Annual Communication, and to this very date, it has felt like home, and I am forever grateful.



I stand here before you as Grand Master, not because of my accomplishments, but because of yours. Each one of you has taken the time to shed light to a brother who was simply seeking it. You have taught me what it is to be a Freemason and I hope I have lived up to your expectations. This past year, and the years before having been the most rewarding challenge I have ever faced. I will always carry those rewards with me, even if I am called to that Spiritual Building above.

Thank you all for giving me that opportunity.

This entire Annual Communication will be held here, at the Inn of the Mountain Gods. A Grand Masters Reception will be on Thursday night, a Public Opening Ceremony with introductions Friday morning, lunches Friday afternoon for both the men and our ladies, followed by a banquet with an awards ceremony that evening. And don't forget the Hospitality Room in the Cochise Presidential Suite on the sixth floor, just another way to enjoy each other's fellowship and say thank you too all.

The Ladies luncheon scheduled for Friday is sure to be a great time. My wife Shirley has food, fun and refreshments planned for all the attendees. The ladies have been told to bring a favorite photo or screenshot of their favorite Mason. A contest will be had with prizes awarded and sure to draw a lot of attention!

There will be a Silent Auction at the Banquet Friday night featuring wonderful items donated by Brethren and businesses of the community to help benefit our Annual Communication Fund.

The past six years have been incredible, words alone can't even begin to explain the journey you have allowed me to take as an officer, and most recently Grand Master. There is also not enough space in one paragraph to even begin to tell this amazing story. Each year has been a tremendous learning experience, you have given me the opportunity to travel from Lodge to Lodge, year after year, and meet each one of you. Every time I left a Lodge, I was able to take a little bit of it with me, not only in knowledge, but also a little bit of its spirit. Each Lodge brought something new to my journey. Every Brother taught me something along the way.

You have shown me that our Grand Lodge truly meets on the Level and treats all its members equally with both love and respect. There is an opportunity out there for all of us to succeed and lead, all that is required is to stand up and take charge. I encourage everyone to do it, especially if you have the desire deep inside.

In closing, all I can say is thank you for making it happen. I am forever indebted to this Grand Lodge and will spend the rest of my days serving it in every capacity that I am able.

2023's Lessons Lead to 2024 Wins

Our Abilities to Come Together to Best Work, Agree, and Care to Make a Better Future.



Steve Almager
Deputy Grand Master

Wow, what a whirlwind year this has been. All of the duties are at times overwhelming. But I would not have it any other way. Being able to serve each and every one of you is an honor and a pleasure.

New Mexico Freemasonry is doing well. To think, 4 years ago we were completely shut down and little, if any, work being done. The Leads for information in the last year has picked up and I hope that each and every one of the potential candidates is being spoken with. The current system of Leads is not the best, but it is what we have to work with. Grandview will soon take over this and will provide us with some accountability.

Throughout my travels I have had the opportunity to visit with many of you. I have listened and heard your ideas and concerns. I can assure you that we are working to include all of them.

Continued input is essential to all of our success.

In September of 2023, we made a switch to Grandview from Groupable. I am pleased to say that the transition has been better than expected. This is accredited to the Brethren that are using the system that the Grand Lodge has put in place. While we are not 100% on users, our numbers are better than the previous system. I have heard the good and the bad about Grandview and it always seems the good out ways the bad. We still have a way to go, but I am certain with your help, we will make this an enormous success.

In November 2023, I was elected President of the Binational Border Conference. This year's conference will be held in Las Cruces, NM in November. This will allow New Mexico Freemasonry to shine and show our Brothers from the South what we have to offer and that we are willing to help them in any manner possible. At the first Conference we had many countries and states represented. Ideas, thoughts, and Fellowship flowed abundantly. I urge each of you, to make plans to attend the Conference in Las Cruces.

Brethren, here are our numbers for 2023:

Degree - Initiated - EA	88
Degree - Passed - FC	49
Degree - Raised - MM	32
Deceased	79
SNPD	84

While the numbers from EA to FC (57%), I like to look at the numbers from FC to MM (65%). The EA degree is our last line of defense. It is almost impossible to prepare a petitioner for the experience of the EA degree. This is when we will naturally lose the most candidates.

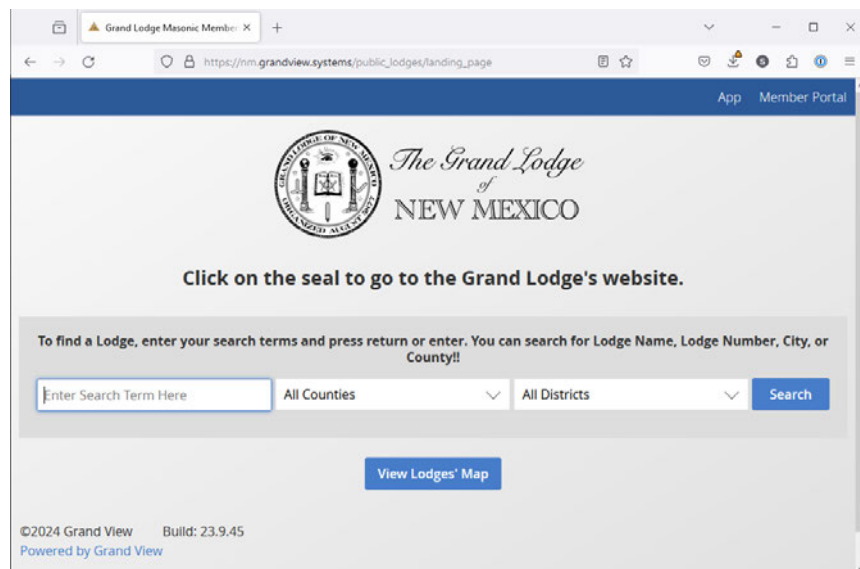
The numbers we really need to be looking at and producing a solution for are the SNPD's. These are our Brothers who have completed the degrees and, for one reason or another, no longer come to Lodge. I believe these numbers can be solved, by providing an experience when you go to Lodge. No more reading the minutes, paying bills, and then closing. Why would anyone leave the comforts of their homes to come to that?? Bring in speakers, always provide education, and allow Brothers to interact on topics of discussion. Brothers, you know these men that are not coming back to Lodge. Reach out to each of them and see why. Some of our members can no longer drive at night. We should be providing them with transportation if needed. Look after and cherish each of your Brothers, this is one of your three Jewels, Brotherly Love.

I hope this message serves as a beacon of leadership, urging all members to embody the principle that we are indeed our brother's keeper. This is an invitation to actively participate in the fraternity's growth, to innovate, and to care for one another with renewed commitment.

GrandView

Information is now available to all Members. What is Joe's phone number? Where is that Lodge located? When do they meet? Who is the Secretary?

It takes having your dues card handy and about five minutes to have 24/7 access to the information we often look for about our Lodges and Members.



[Lodge info? Map? App? Member Portal? Start Here.](#)

[Watch a video about the registration process.](#)

[Have your dues card handy? Start the registration process.](#)

Building Beyond Ourselves

We CAN Build a Legacy that Spans Generations and Centuries.



Robin Justice
Senior Grand Warden

This is my last contribution to The New Mexico Freemason as your Senior Grand Warden. It stirs thoughts of the year past, and hopes for the coming year.

This year has been very fulfilling for me. I appreciate all of the brotherhood I have experienced when sitting in Lodge with you.

I remember standing in the theater of the Scottish Rite Temple in Santa Fe one reunion with MWB Adam Hathaway, looking at the concrete wall that our Brothers built over 100 years ago. I noticed the individual layers from each succeeding pour, and a thought came to me. This building was not just an example of how to build a structure to stand for a while. It was a work of faith.

They built it to withstand the assaults of wind, of hail, of blizzard and rain, of gravity and age. They adorned it so that it was a thing of beauty as well as of strength. Every detail communicated the message – this is a place where Masons meet and work together.

They did it because they knew in their hearts that one day over 100 years later I and others would be standing there appreciating their work. They built it to last beyond themselves, beyond years and years because they knew Masonry would still be alive in New Mexico and that their Brothers would still have need of such a place. And so, they built it. Not just for themselves, but for every one of us and those who will come after us.

Those same principles apply to each one of us. Our lives are not lived only for ourselves. They are there for all to see. Our characters are what the world sees. If they are built on a strong foundation, with the strongest materials, and built with the working tools of a Mason, they will last beyond us. If we work to be the best men we can be, living the fundamental tenets of Freemasonry - Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth - we adorn our lives making them things of beauty as well as strength. And so, like the Scottish Rite Temple, we build ourselves into something that will inspire those who follow us to do the same.

I want to encourage each of you to reflect on how you can help your Lodge and Brethren to flourish in the years to come. I want you to have faith that what you build will still be here to help those who will come after you to be better Masons, and so, to be better men. Your Brothers need you. Freemasonry needs you.

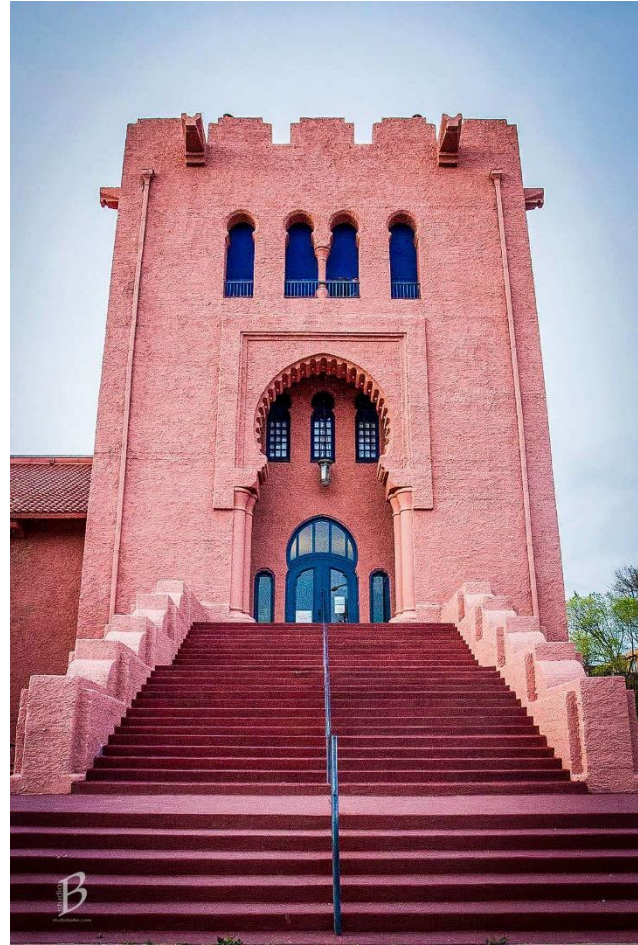
This coming year can be one of opportunity for Masonry in New Mexico. We have challenges, but when we overcome them our Fraternity will be stronger for it.

We need to continue to work on our endowed membership program so that it will not be a financial burden to our Lodges and Grand Lodge. I have received input from several Brothers



on our program and will continue to work on them. I need help from all of you to make this program better. This is your endowed fund.

Now, more than ever, our country and the world need what our Fraternity has to offer. The Supreme Council of the Northern Jurisdiction of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite appointed Linda Patch as their Senior Director of Marketing and Communications and the editor of the Northern Light. She has enormous experience in marketing and passion for helping our Craft. Her research proves that Freemasonry is exactly what young men are looking for. They want to be part of an organization that stands for what we do. They want to be involved in their communities, to improve themselves, and to bond with men who want the same things. Linda will be presenting the findings of her research via Zoom at our upcoming Masonicon in June in Albuquerque. It is a powerful presentation of how our Fraternity more than any other organization can offer these men what they need. I want to encourage all of you who can be there to attend and listen to what she



has to say. If you can't, we'll make the Zoom link available to you. Her findings are based on more than two years of research and are based on real data. They show that now more than ever we have an opportunity to grow Masonry in New Mexico with young men who appreciate what we stand for and who we are.

I also want to work on bringing those Brothers who have not attended Lodge for months or longer back and to help them to feel valued. To do that, we need to ensure that our Lodges are working and including them by design, not just as an afterthought or because no one else wants to do something. We need to concentrate on making Craftsmen, not just members. We need to think about doing more than putting backsides in chairs. We need to concentrate on giving them a reason to attend Lodge. Please contact them and ask what the Lodge can do to make being there enjoyable for them.

If we embrace these opportunities, we can fulfill the faith those before us had in us, and will endure into the future.

Thank you Brothers and may the Great Architect of the Universe keep and bless you.

2024 Grand Lodge Program

For Your Preview or Review.



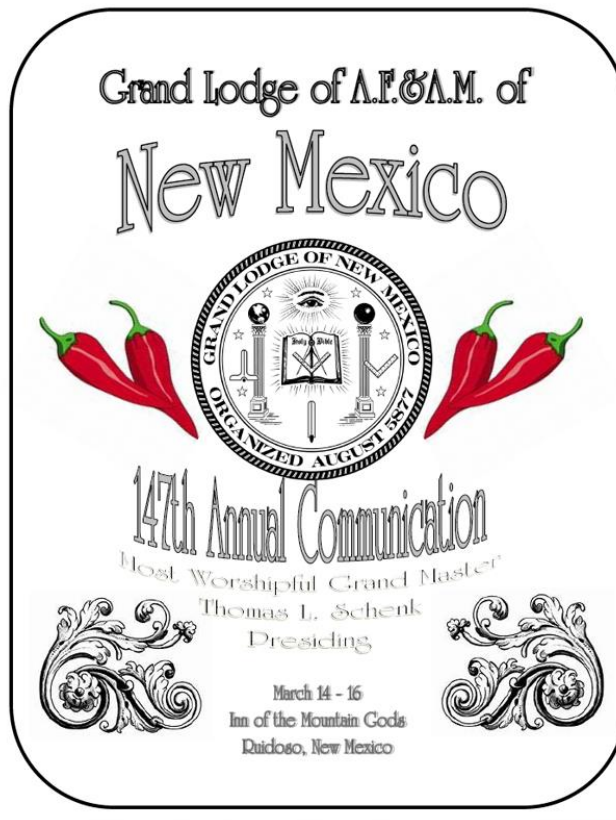
P. Tony Christophersen
Grand Secretary

Each year, we get together at our Annual Communication with A LOT to do! In preparation, we create a program that contains a great deal of information regarding the work that has been done over the previous year. To give you an idea - the draft posted will be over 70 pages, and we're still receiving reports!

We are posting it so that those who are able to attend might get a better chance to read it, and for those that are unable to be there, here is what we'll be reviewing and discussing.

The document has been added as an addendum to this edition of the NM Freemason, but is also available separately by clicking on the picture below.

Thank you for all the work and help that has made a great year!



Music for Your Lodge

Sing and Play to Provide a More Complete Experience.



Bert Dalton
Grand Musician

I recently participated in a Master Mason degree in a really good lodge. The degree was going very well until we reached the Dirge in the second section. In this lodge, the brethren marched around silently while the secretary read the words of the song aloud. Since I was there, I played it on the piano as he read, but sometimes there is no music at all. This might be the practice in other lodges as well.

Admittedly, few lodges have a pianist or organist who can accompany the hymn. But there is nothing wrong with the brethren singing it in unison, with or without accompaniment, and even if it's a little out of tune and not perfect. There is something about the sound of voices singing together that touches us, and especially the candidate. It's the humanity of it that gives expression to our connection as brothers. I have yet to hear a great live vocal performance of Pleyel's Hymn in any lodge. Think of a church

congregation singing hymns of praise together. Not everyone is a great singer – it's the message and the feeling, not the musical perfection. I strongly doubt the guys who built King Solomon's Temple were great singers.

In my previous position of Music Director of a state-wide children's dance program, we always included a cast song for all the children to sing together. The majority of the voices were pretty much on key, but there were always a handful of musical strays. It really didn't matter because just the sound of all those voices singing together always hit the audience right in the heart.

If we are resistant to singing the dirge, it's probably our egos getting in the way. Let's remember that it's about the candidate and not about us. The song itself is really easy to sing, only eight notes, and all within an octave in a very singable range for most voices.

In an effort to encourage the brethren to sing Pleyel's Hymn, I have put together an accompaniment recording for you to use. All it requires is a CD or MP3 player and one brother to push the start button – easy. There is also a lead sheet with just the melody and chords, perfect for guitar. I bet most lodges have a brother with a guitar!

So c' mon, fellas, let's put this song back in the degree!

Recordings & Recommendations of Some Music for Your Lodge

There are no set rules about the use of music during lodge meetings. In general, music should not interfere with spoken words. One brother should oversee selecting the music and fading out the selection at the appropriate time. These selections have been used effectively in New Mexico lodges and are recommended for your use. Except for *Amazing Grace* and Samuel Barber's *Adagio For Strings*, these pieces were composed by Brothers.



Before Opening

Any selection 1-7. While this is often a time for conviviality, final preparations, and finding a seat, having dignified music playing in the background can set a proper tone of the opening. Consider processing into the Lodge with soft lighting and music.

Attending at the Altar

Finlandia, *Amazing Grace*, *Ave Verum Corpus* (use different selections for opening and closing) *Amazing Grace* (#10) and the instrumental version of *Finlandia* (#8) should be the right length for the Senior Deacon to complete his duties and return to his station

Preparation Room

Samuel Barber's *Adagio For Strings* (#11) - this selection runs 8 minutes and is followed by Sibelius *Andante Festivo* (#12) for an additional 4 minutes. If the candidate hasn't knocked at this point, any selection 1-6 is appropriate. Don't go to *Pleyel's Hymn* (#13).

Processionals, Collecting the Word

Any selection 1-6.

The Dirge (Pleyel's Hymn)

This is an accompaniment track to be played as the brethren are in funeral procession in the second section of the third degree. There is a brief piano introduction followed by four verses. Also in this folder are pdf files of both the original choral arrangement and a simple lead sheet (melody and chords). There are two on each page so that it can be copied and cut in half. Each brother should have a copy for the procession.

[How to Use these Recordings](#)

[Pleyel's Hymn](#)

[Pleyel's Hymn Lead Sheet](#)

1. [Mozart Serenade 13 in G K 525 Eine Kleine Nachtmusik](#)
2. [Mozart Clarinet Concerto in A K 622 Eine Kleine Nachtmusik](#)
3. [Mozart Adagio in E for Violin Orchestra K 261](#)
4. [Mozart Divertimento in B Flat K 137](#)
5. [Mozart Piano Concerto 26 in D K-537](#)
6. [Mozart Horn Concerto #3 In E Flat, K 447](#)
7. [Ave Verum Corpus-Mozart](#)
8. [Finlandia -piano](#)
9. [Finlandia Hymn- Helsinki University Chorus](#)
10. [Amazing Grace](#)
11. [Samuel Barber - Adagio for Strings](#)
12. [Sibelius-Andante Festivo 1](#)
13. [Pleyel's Hymn](#)

Our Next Chapter Is Together

Looking Forward to Serving in a Different Capacity.



Chuck Bass
District Deputy
Grand Master
District 7

As another Grand Lodge Communication approaches I started thinking of my Masonic journey. I was raised in Ruidoso Lodge #73 in March 2010, at that time I didn't have a clue what a Mason was, as I went through the chairs I went to Grand Lodge Communication as a Junior and Senior Warden. I do not remember a lot about these two Grand Lodges as I did not attend all of the festivities.

I was graciously elected Master of Ruidoso Lodge #73 for 2015. This is the year that changed my Masonic journey. In March of 2015 I attended Grand Lodge with RWB Walt Argal and RWB Art Wright. We went to everything Grand Lodge offered, this full experience showed me what I had missed out by not attending everything in the two past years. These two mentors as well MWB Bill Beckett, MWB Shem Peachey, and all of the other Grand Masters I have worked with as DDGL and DDGM have shown me what a Mason is. These men have loved me through my journey as well as kicked me in the pants when I needed it.

I am now starting on another chapter in this journey, RWB Steve Almager has appointed me to become his Junior Grand Deacon. I am humbled and honored that he has chosen me to be appointed to this position. I am excited and looking forward to this next chapter. As I have gotten to know the other officers of the Grand Lodge, I know that New Mexico Masonry is in good hands.

I am also excited to travel the State and meet the Masons who are working in our Lodges, and get your thoughts on how we can be of service to Freemasonry. It has been great to see how many young men are being initiated, passed, and raised in the last few years. This shows me that we have a great future ahead. I am also pleased to see how Lodges are working on Ritual and floorwork as this is a very important part of Freemasonry. As I go through this next phase in Freemasonry if I can be of service or if you have any questions let me know and together we can get it done.

2024 ANCOM Is Knocking on the Door

In less than two weeks, we hope to see you!

Inn of The Mountain Gods Resort and Casino

287 Carrizo Canyon Road

Mescalero, New Mexico 88340 (located in Ruidoso, New Mexico)

If you are not able to make it you will be missed! If you are coming, please remember the things that will contribute to a more complete event for all:

- Lodge Banners and Bases.
- Proxies for your voting.
- Stories and experiences to share and your love of our gentle Craft.

For further information, and or questions please contact:

RWB Chuck Bass
575-808-0706
cbass60@gmail.com

RWB Jim Bungard
575-635-5606
jbungard@zianet.com



SAVE THE DATE

**Grand Lodge of New Mexico Annual
Communication**

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



0 (&) 55 in One Night in Rio Rancho

A Fellow Craft Degree and a 55 Year Courtesy Investiture for the Grand Lodge of Florida.



Sandoval Lodge

On February 26, a significant event unfolded at Sandoval Lodge – a 55-year pinning and Fellowcraft Degree. Despite anticipating a bustling evening with the FC Degree, EA Proficiency return, Nico’s Food Truck, and the usual lodge activities, WM Davin Teague received an unexpected call from the Grand Lodge of Florida. They requested a courtesy 55-Year Pining for a member, Brother Warren, residing in New Mexico.

Though our Visitor initially intended to collect the pin and certificate and head home, the Lodge persuaded Bro. Warren to stay for our Stated Communications. MWB Dan Irick conducted a touching ceremony, bringing tears to the Brother's eyes.

Freemasonry had been a cherished family tradition, with his father and grandfather being Masons before him.

The ceremony concluded with WM Davin pinning the 55-Year Pin on the Brother, escorted out by Junior Deacon Bro. Jonathan Muniz to take his wife home. This marked the beginning of Bro. Benjamin Cote's return of the Entered Apprentice Proficiency. His interest in Freemasonry's esoteric aspects, rooted in his family's tradition of being members of the Rosicrucians and similar esoteric societies, made his conversations delve into profound philosophical dimensions.

Following the satisfactory return of Bro. Benjamin's proficiency, which received Lodge approval, we proceeded to confer a Fellowcraft Degree. The evening involved not one, not two, but three hats: WM Davin Teague as the Master, Bro. Burx Norrod conferring the Degree, and WB Leon Alderette delivering the G Lecture. MWB Dan Irick provided the Staircase Lecture, while WB Eric Moses delivered the FC Charge. Keeping members engaged in each Degree contributes to the Lodge's remarkable activity, hosting two Stated Communications a month and giving our members, visitors, guests, and sponsored bodies good and true work to enjoy.





Adding to the eventful evening, the Lodge voted on Fellowcraft Bro. Cesario Alvillar's proficiency which he returned the evening before during the FC Degree practice. Sandoval Lodge members plan to travel to Union Lodge No. 4 in Wagon Mound on March 19 to confer his Third Degree, aiming to make it a truly memorable experience. Bro. Cesario has himself been a very active member of the Lodge, having had an article of his published in the Grand Lodge Trestleboard as an Entered Apprentice, and will be the Instructor for the 'sold out' CPR/AED Training being given at Sandoval Lodge on March 3rd.

These memorable events were captured by RWB Steve Balke with his stunning photography skills.

Sandoval Lodge No. 76 meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month at 7pm with a Festive board beforehand at 6pm. To visit - email SW Bro. Burx at BurxNorrod@gmail.com.



Editor's Note: You might recognize Brother Ben, he – as an Entered Apprentice – has already contributed to this newsletter. “The Mystery of Memory” ([Click here to read it](#)) shows that his journey is well started.

What a warm welcome I received from Sandoval Lodge – as usual! Thank you! Great Fraternity, great Work, great time!

Exploring the Depths of the 24 Inch Gauge

Fructus facilius cum tempus exstructa est.



Burx Norrod
Senior Warden
Sandoval Lodge

What sets Freemasonry apart as a mystery school is its provision of tools that offer allegorical insights for contemplation and personal enhancement. This article delves into the significance of the 24 Inch Gauge and how it aids in managing my daily life.

From our initial Masonic teachings, we learn the importance of wisely dividing our time, acknowledging the universal constraint of 24 hours in a day. Emphasizing life balance, the concept of splitting it into three equal parts appears to be a recipe for success, allocating time not only for work but also for rejuvenation and aiding others. In a more practical sense, one might question the applicability of this 8 x 8 x 8 breakdown in the face of the stresses of modern-day living.

Reflecting on my personal life as a Mortgage Broker, the conventional 9-5 work structure doesn't apply, as my schedule extends beyond standard hours, encompassing evenings, early mornings, and weekends. Moreover, being a parent to a highly active 15-year-old involved in tennis – participating in matches nationwide and part of the high school Varsity Team – requires a significant portion of my time, shuttling between various locations to support her. Any parent familiar with the demands of children engaged in sports or school activities can relate, particularly those with more than one child.

Amidst this bustling life, it becomes crucial to find moments for self-refreshment. I dedicate time to learning new tunes on the guitar, engaging in recreational activities like the shooting range, or other pursuits that alleviate the challenges of daily life. Additionally, as the Senior Warden of the Lodge with a passion for ritual work and esoteric exploration, I find myself assisting fellow brethren in their proficiencies or delving into the intricacies of New Mexico Ritual Work.

Yet, whenever the risk of burnout looms, the engraved wisdom of the 24 Inch Gauge surfaces in my consciousness. I pause to remind myself that I retain control over the situation because I control myself. In moments of overwhelm, I take a breath and affirm that I possess the will to navigate through challenges. It is the science and art of effecting change in conformity with my will /G\

A Super Degree and Excellent Companionship!

A Traveling Man's Report Volume IV



John Keel
Junior Warden, Sandoval
Lodge w/ Jeff Russ

Fraternal Greetings Brethren! This volume of A Traveling Man Report comes from Phoenix, Arizona where fellow New Mexico Brother Jeffrey Russ (Sandia Mountain Lodge) and I, had the honor of receiving the Super Excellent Master Mason Degree from the Grand Council of Super Excellent Masters of Arizona on Saturday February 24th.

The SEM degree is the third of the Cryptic Mason degrees in York Rite, which is rare in most Jurisdictions and is very difficult to put on since it requires 25 performers and about 2 hours. The first two degrees of Cryptic Masonry, which follow the Royal Arch Mason degrees, are the Royal Master and Select Master, which tell a continuation of the story of King Solomon's Temple. They are fascinating degrees and I highly recommend them to anyone who enjoys the stories and lessons of Masonry.



The Arizona York Rite Masons also performed the preceding two Council degrees on the same morning with about 20 candidates so, it was a pleasure to see how Arizona performs these degrees. Previously, I have only seen them perform one of the Royal Arch Degrees at the Annual Four Corners Royal Arch Festival, where New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, and Colorado all meet to perform the four Royal Arch degrees. The Arizona York Rite Masons did a great job and it was thrilling to see the minor differences in the way they perform, especially with 31 of us candidates for the SEM.



The degrees were held at the Grand Lodge of Arizona building in downtown Phoenix, which houses several lodges and appendant bodies of Arizona Masonry. Though the building is aging, the lodge rooms are beautiful and reminded me in many ways, of the massive lodge rooms I toured in the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts. I attended Arizona Grand York Rite last year in Phoenix, but we did not get a chance to see the Grand Lodge since the event was held at another location so, this was a fun experience. We had a great time with our Arizona Brethren and I look forward to going to the Arizona Grand York Rite sessions again this year!



Days of Light and Tables of Fraternity

Leadership Education Opportunity in Las Cruces.



Joseph L. Beckham
Worshipful Master
Dona Ana Daylight
Lodge

On April 20th and May 25th, Las Cruces Lodges are working together to bring you a great opportunity for fellowship and learning! We are inviting Brothers from other jurisdictions to join us as we host the Personal Effectiveness in person training from the York Rite Leadership Program. It is intended to be a great opportunity to learn from both an established program and from our Brothers in other states and countries.

We split the course into two parts to make it convenient for travelers and allow us to also focus on a fantastic breaking bread experience for everyone. This will also allow for everyone in attendance to take some of the lessons learned and apply them between the two sessions, thereby giving some active feedback and a further opportunity for learning!

We hope you will join us for this first of three sets of events. We intend that the entire program will be available through this year and give us all some great experiences and good memories.

First Course: 102 Application of Personal Effectiveness

Two four-hour learning segments, each with an opportunity for breaking bread with Masonic Family Members:

- Part 1 - April 20, 2024
- Part 2 - May 25, 2024

\$80 registration fee includes coffee/donuts breakfast and lunch for both sessions

- Register by March 20, 2024 for Early Bird Discount (\$60 registration)

First step in the program

- Courses MUST be taken in order; you must complete this course to progress through the program



Dinner Celebrations

Each event day will conclude with a separate and optional dinner celebration (additional \$30/person).

For more information and registration:

<https://nmfreemason.org/events/dona-ana-daylight-leadership-series/>

<https://yorkriteleadership.org>

2024 NM York Rite Grand Sessions

April 11, 12, 13, 2024



H.C. Sky Olsen
Grand
Secretary/Recorder
Grand York Rite

The Grand Chapter, Grand Council, and Grand Commandery, as well as the “Side Bodies” – The Order of the High Priesthood, The Order of the Silver Trowel, and the Past Commander’s Association, and the Knights of York Cross of Honour (KYCH) are celebrating another successful year. You are invited to join us in our transition from 2023-2024 to 2024 -2025. Below is the invitation from our Heads of Bodies that also describes the events in April, not six weeks from now. Wow, time flies.

Please accept our invitation for you and your lady to attend the 2024 New Mexico Grand York Rite Sessions. We will conduct the Annual Business of the Grand York Rite Bodies of New Mexico and enjoy the fellowship of Companions, Sir Knights and ladies from New Mexico, the Southwest Conference, and jurisdictions beyond. Our formal activities will take place at the Ballut Abyad Shrine Center, located at 6600 Zuni Road SE, in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

The 75th Annual Assembly of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of New Mexico will be on Thursday, April 11th. Most Illustrious Companion D. W. Winchester, Grand Master will declare the Grand Council open at 9:00am followed by the reception of distinguished members, guests, and visitors to our Grand Council. Lunch will be at 12:00pm. The remaining business session will resume at 1:00pm. Installation of the Grand Council Officers for the ensuing year will take place at 2:00pm.

Knights of York Cross of Honor, KYCH, will meet on Thursday afternoon at 3:00pm.

A Holy Land Pilgrimage Dinner will be held Thursday evening at the Ballut Abyad Shrine Center Ballroom, with all the revenues exceeding expenses generated going directly to help send ministers from New Mexico on the trip of a lifetime to the Holy Land. A Social Hour before dinner will start at 6:00pm followed by dinner at 7:00pm. Appropriate dress for the Holy Land Pilgrimage Dinner is business casual or Commandery uniform.

The 124th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of New Mexico will convene on Friday April 12th. Sir Knight James D. Lamb, Grand Commander, will reconvene the Grand Commandery at 9:00am followed by the reception of distinguished members, guests, and visitors to our Grand Commandery. Lunch will be at 12:00pm. The afternoon session to finish all remaining business will start at 1:00pm. Installation of the Grand Commandery Officers elected and appointed to serve for the ensuing year will take place at 2:00pm.

The Memorial / Vesper Service will start at 5:45p on Friday evening (just prior to the Social Hour).

On Friday evening, Social Hour will start at 6:00pm and be followed by the Grand Banquet at 7:00pm. The appropriate dress for the Grand Banquet is a coat and tie or York Rite Uniform.

The 127th Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of New Mexico will be on Saturday, April 13th. Most Excellent Companion Jeffrey A. Lee, Grand High Priest will open the Grand Chapter at 9:00am followed by the reception of distinguished members, guests, and visitors to our Grand Chapter. Lunch starts at 12:00pm. The afternoon session to finish all remaining business will start at 1:00pm. Installation of the Grand Chapter Officers for the ensuing year will take place at 2:00pm.

The Order of the Silver Trowel (Thursday), the Past Commander's Association (Friday), and the Order of the High Priesthood (Saturday), will be held on their respective days starting at 7:00am. All current members of each of these bodies are encouraged to attend. All who have served (or are currently serving) their respective York Rite bodies as Eminent Commander, Excellent High Priest, or Illustrious Master (respectively) are welcome to join these Side Orders.

Proxy forms for the New Mexico Dais Officers will be sent to the constituent Secretary/Recorder. If you are not able to attend and carry a vote, please execute the proxy in favor of someone who will be at the sessions. All Companions and Sir Knights attending must register. To guarantee your meal, please register by April 01, 2024.

We hope that you will enjoy your attendance at these Annual Grand Sessions and look forward to seeing you there.

Fraternally and Sincerely,



Jeffrey A. Lee
Most Excellent Grand High Priest
Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons in New Mexico



D.W. Winchester
Most Illustrious Grand Master
Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of New Mexico



James D. Lamb
Right Eminent Grand Commander
Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of New Mexico

For more information, please visit: <https://nmyorkrite.org/annual-sessions/>

To register and join us, please visit: <https://nmyorkrite.org/annual-sessions/sessions-registration/>

Have any questions or something not available, please call me at 505-269-2039 or email me by using the form found here: <https://nmyorkrite.org/welcome/contact-us/>

Master Mason Patents Now Available

A Memorial that You Have Been Raised to the Sublime Degree.

Proudly display a token of your journey through the Lodge degrees. The New Mexico Master Mason's patent is designed to be a record and reference for you to keep and display. Both a reminder of the lessons of our gentle craft and an art piece suitable for framing and displaying, it will add to your home or office.

The 11 x 14 image contains your name and date of birth, the dates of your initiation, passing, and raising, and is signed by the Grand Master and the Grand Secretary and sealed. It may be ordered on white linen or antique beige parchment. Order yours today for only \$49.00 plus shipping and handling.

Please allow for up to two weeks to process if you were raised in a NM Lodge, four weeks if in another jurisdiction.



[To Order click here.](#)

Three Common Sayings Born From Masonry

From Whence They Came

3 Common Sayings Born From Freemasonry

“On the Level” Today, when someone refers to someone as “on the level” they probably mean they are trustworthy, sincere and balanced. ...

“Third Degree” Today, when someone is “getting the third degree” it means they are being thoroughly questioned about something. ...

“Cornerstone”

Read More in this Northern Jurisdiction article: [\(Click Here\)](#)

The Chapel – January 2024

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 now into the joys of thy Lord.”



Brother	Lodge	Deceased
Reynaldo Miguel Herrera	Chapman Lodge	2/12/2024
Vaughn Dean Robinson II	Felix Lodge	2/13/2024
Donald L. Troublefield	Felix Lodge	2/13/2024
Louis G. Sleeper	Montezuma Lodge	2/14/2024
Richard M. Reich	Hiram Lodge	2/16/2024
Ronnie L. Morris	Clovis Lodge	2/22/2024
Philip Stephen Doonan	Sandoval Lodge	2/23/2024
John B. Dunlap	Bethesda Lodge	2/24/2024
David Lance Baker	Bethlehem Lodge	3/2/2024

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.

From the Book of Common Prayer, Church of England

- *Man that is born of a woman hath but a short time to live, and is full of misery. He cometh up, and is cut down, like a flower; he fleeth as it were a shadow, and never continueth in one stay.*
- *In the midst of life we are in death: of whom may we seek for succour, but of thee, O Lord, who for our sins art justly displeased?*

Yet, O Lord God most holy, O Lord most mighty, O holy and most merciful Saviour, deliver us not into the bitter pains of eternal death.

Thou knowest, Lord, the secrets of our hearts; shut not thy merciful ears to our prayer; but spare us, Lord most holy, O God most mighty, O holy and merciful Saviour, thou most worthy judge eternal, suffer us not, at our last hour, for any pains of death, to fall from thee.

[Read more on the history.](#)

David Lance Baker

Past Grand Master of Masons in New Mexico 2009, Senior Warden, Bethlehem Lodge



David Lance Baker

Past Grand Master of Masons in New Mexico 2009

September 13, 1944 – March 2, 2024

**Grand Master's Announcement Including Notice and
Service Information Is Attached.**

Ready As We Are to Receive

Communication and Perspective are the Keys to Understanding.



Stephen Balke
Editor

I have the privilege of being one of the instructors in a Masonic leadership program. Last night I heard that someone commented that they were disappointed that the references used in our curriculum were dated (circa late 20th, early 21st Centuries). My response in the conversation was that I usually start off each class with something very like “our references are meant to relate your training to authors and publications that are found in corporate training, but you can find everything we teach within our ritual and the scriptures.” An unfortunate circumstance is that our society is focused on instant gratification, the latest trends, and being fed what to “understand” rather than finding out for themselves what they can about a topic and coming to their own conclusions.

Relating to others is an art, but there is some science. We should always keep in mind that what is communicated is what can be taken by the person to whom we are speaking. They may have a filter in the form of a belief, argument, or lack of interest. They may hear, but they might not be listening; further, they could be listening for something that can be argued. This is ok. You don’t have to convince everyone of everything, and you may not have the benefit of their experience – which could change your understanding.

Where you can take the helm is how you receive. This doesn’t mean that we should change our mind every time someone else is speaking, but rather that we can always learn something either about the topic, the person, or the circumstance. More to the point, it means that we example respect for the person regardless of whether we agree with an opinion, already know what they are conveying, or have no real interest in the topic.

Think of it this way, when you were a kid and told someone that $2+2=4$, did you like the response “of course it is” or the one that said “hey, I think you’re right, good job!” This doesn’t change, we always like encouragement.

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 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

The Grand Lodge of A.F.A.M. of New Mexico



P. O. Box 25004, Albuquerque, NM 87125-0004
Email: GndSec@NMMasons.org

Phone - Ofc: 505-243-4931
Fax: 505-242-8723

March 4th, 2024

To the Brethren of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of New Mexico,

It is with great sadness to that I announce the passing of Most Worshipful Brother David Lance Baker, Past Grand Master 2009.

Brother David went to be with our Lord on Saturday, March 2nd, 2024, at his home with his wife Barbara, by his side.

Masonic services will be held Saturday, March 9th, 2024, at Bethlehem Lodge No. 56 in Belen, New Mexico with MWB Jefferson Jordan officiating. Please come and celebrate the life of our Brother as he travels upon the Level of Time, to that undiscovered country, from who's born, no Traveler returns.

Time to be announced.



MWB David Lance Baker was born in Washington DC on September 13, 1944. He began his Masonic journey in 1958 when he joined DeMolay Chapter 834 in Patterson, NJ and was awarded the Legion of Honor in 2007 in Santa Fe, NM. MWB David served in the U.S. Air Force and was Honorably discharged in 1962 with the rank of Sergeant. He married his high school sweetheart, Barbara in 1968. "The best decision I ever made" to quote him.

MWB David was initiated in January of 1969, passed to the degree of Fellow Craft in March of 1969, and Raised to the Sublime Degree o Master Mason on April 9, 1969, in Hawthorne Lodge No. 212 in Hawthorne, NJ. He was serving as Junior Warden when they moved to New Mexico in 1979. At Barbara's urging he joined Bethlehem, Lodge No. 56 in 1990 and served his first term as Worshipful Master in 1995. After serving several appointments in the Grand Lodge he was appointed Junior Grand Deacon by MWB Joe O. Chrisman in 2004 and served as Grand Master of Masons in New Mexico in 2009.

In Honor of our kind and gentle Brother, all Lodges within the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of New Mexico will drape their Charter for a period of one month at their next regular communication.

Given under my signature, and the seal of the Grand Lodge of New Mexico.

Respectfully submitted,

MWB Thomas L. Schenk / Grand Master

Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of New Mexico



147th Annual Communication
Most Worshipful Grand Master

Thomas L. Schenk
Presiding

March 14 - 16
Inn of the Mountain Gods
Ruidoso, New Mexico



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

All Activities to be held on the main casino floor level

Hospitality / Presidential Suite to be open through event for snacks and beverages

Daytime Host - Sierra Blanca Court No. 5 - Order of Amaranth

Evening Host - RWB Harry Jenkins / District Deputy Grand Master - District 4



THURSDAY - MARCH 14TH, 2024



(Breakfast & Lunch on your own)

10:00 am - 4:00 pm Registration & Credentials / Exhibition Hall Lobby

12:00 pm - 12:30 pm Treasurers Meeting / Mescalero B

12:30 pm - 1:30 pm Secretaries Meeting / Mescalero B

1:30 pm - 3:00 pm GL Officers, DDGMs & DDGLs Meeting / Mescalero B

3:00 pm - 5:00 pm Masonic Charities Foundation Annual Meeting / Mescalero B
(Open to all members, only 2024 Worshipful Masters may vote)

6:00 pm - 7:00 pm No Host Happy Hour / Exhibition Pre-Function Area

7:00 pm - 9:00 pm Grand Masters Reception / Exhibition BDF & Pre-Function Area

(Business Casual Attire)

Introduction of Appendant Bodies

9:00 pm - 11:00 pm Hospitality / Cochise Presidential Suite - Main Level



Grand Lodge of A.F.&A.M. of New Mexico



147th Annual Communication

March 14 - 16

Inn of the Mountain Gods
Ruidoso, New Mexico





MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND MASTER

THOMAS LEE SCHENK

GRAND MASTER OF MASONS IN NEW MEXICO

2023 — 2024



Biography of M.:W.:B.: Thomas Lee Schenk

Born March 28th, 1966, in San Antonio Texas, to parents Robert and Andriette Schenk, he has one younger sibling, a brother named Robert Schenk II.

Growing up in San Antonio, Thomas attended Theodore Roosevelt High School, where he graduated in 1984, after a short stint in the Navy, he immediately began a career in the construction industry as a heavy equipment operator, and then gravitated towards high-work framing, which he enjoyed most. This began the passion for house design, lay-out and then the total construction process.

In 1983, at the age of 17 he met a young lady named Shirley Dallas Smith (15), whom he later married in 1986, they are still together today after 41 years. They planted their roots in the Texas Hill Country where they began to build the first of many houses that they would call home.

The couple had three children, Justin 22 (who passed away in 2009), Wesley 34 and Kayleen 27, and two amazing grandchildren.

In April of 2000, Thomas knocked on the door of Freemasonry, and it was opened unto him, having been Entered, Passed and Raised in Bandera Lodge No. 1123, Bandera Texas, and eventually served as Worshipful Master in 2007.

In 2004, the couple moved their family to Ruidoso, New Mexico, where they established Arquette Construction, a company named after Thomas' grandfather who taught him all the basic skills needed for home building, he immediately went to work, acquiring residential lots, and building spec houses to sell, and custom homes for clients. During his first three years in New Mexico, with Bandera Lodge backing him, Thomas travelled monthly, sometimes twice, back to Bandera, Texas to meet his obligations as an officer in the Lodge, and eventually Worshipful Master in the East. During that time, he also visited Ruidoso Lodge No. 73, and ultimately joined because it felt like home. The Lodge immediately put him to work by appointing him Senior Deacon, and through the years there, he would serve as Worshipful Master in 2010, 2014 and 2017.

In 2011 he was appointed District Deputy Grand Master by Most Worshipful Grand Master, Bobby Arther, and served in 2012 under Most Worshipful Brother Josh Lightle in the same capacity.

2013 saw him appointed District Deputy Grand Lecturer by Most Worshipful Bill Childers, who would eventually become his masonic grandfather by appointing Right Worshipful Brother Adam L. Hathaway Junior Grand Deacon that same year.

Five years later in 2018, RWB Adam L. Hathaway would be elected Grand Master of masons of New Mexico, earning him the title of Most Worshipful Brother, and in doing so, appointed Thomas L. Schenk to the Grand Lodge line as his Junior Grand Deacon.

Over the next five years Thomas was appointed to Senior Grand Deacon by Most Worshipful Grand Master Ralph A. Easley, and then would eventually stand elections for both the Junior Grand Warden and Senior Grand Warden positions, and ultimately Deputy Grand Master, serving under Most Worshipful Brother Bill J. Pogue, Grand Master 2022.

One of the first duties as Grand Master, Thomas appointed Right Worshipful Brother James Bungard of Dona Ana Daylight Lodge No. 78 as Junior Grand Deacon, carrying on that time honored tradition of adding to

In 2023, Thomas was Installed as Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of New Mexico and serves in that capacity to this very day.

One of the first duties as Grand Master, Thomas appointed Right Worshipful Brother James Bungard of Dona Ana Daylight Lodge No. 78 as Junior Grand Deacon, carrying on that time honored tradition of adding to their masonic family lineage.

To travel as a Grand Lodge Officer and have the time for family, Thomas has stopped building homes, and now maintains the properties of all his customers over the past 20 years. He says that it is like having an unlimited supply of “Honey Do’s” that will keep him busy for eternity. However, he states that there are still a few houses left in him that he would like to build before he retires and hangs up his tool bags!

This Successive Line of Living Past Grand Masters and their Appointments,

They are as follows:

MWB B. Mac Page PGM – 1992

MWB Dan F. Irick PGM - 1998

MWB Jeffery D. Johnson PGM - 2003

MWB Jay G. Harris PGM - 2008

MWB William R.J. Childers PGM - 2013

MWB Adam L. Hathaway PGM - 2018

MWB Thomas L. Schenk - 2023

RWB James Bungard - *2028* Future*

(6 Living Past Grand Masters – 1 Grand Master – 1 Future Grand Master)

8 Total

Thomas L. Schenk is also a proud member of:

Bandera Chapter No. 643 - Order of the Eastern Star – Bandera, Texas.

Alamo Chapter No. 11 - Order of the Eastern Star – Alamogordo, New Mexico.

Ballut Abyad Shrine Temple / Shriners International – Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Valley of Scottish Rite Las Cruces Southern Jurisdiction – Las Cruces, New Mexico.

Grand York Rite of New Mexico – Las Cruces, New Mexico.

Sierra Blanca Chapter No. 5 - Order of Amaranth – Alamogordo, New Mexico.

And a member of DeMolay International, having been initiated in the 2023 DeMolay Grand Masters Class – Albuquerque, New Mexico.



Grand Masters Address

M.:W.:B.: Thomas Lee Schenk

To the Brethren of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of New Mexico,
Good morning,

I want to welcome you to the 147th Annual Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of New Mexico, here in the beautiful village of Ruidoso, New Mexico. I hope that each of you and your families are having a great and memorable time. Our host, The Inn of the Mountain Gods wish the same. Thank you for making the trip and taking part in our annual celebration and supporting our Fraternity.

I would especially like to thank our visiting Brethren from other Jurisdictions for being here, you are truly Travelers of the Craft. Finally, let us offer a special thanks to all our spouses, families and friends who stand by us and support all that we do. If not for them, it would not be possible.

So please sit back, relax and enjoy what Ruidoso, The Inn of the Mountain Gods and the Sacramento Mountains of Lincoln County New Mexico have to offer. Rekindle old friendships and feel the warmth of new ones... most of all, rest and relax.

On April 14th, 2000, I knocked, and the door of Freemasonry was opened unto me. During the eventful ceremony of initiation, I was told that one day “even the purple of our Fraternity may rest upon your honored shoulders”. I can honestly say that thought has always been the furthest thing from my mind. I just wanted to get through that evening, gather my belongings, and go home. Throughout the next day, all I could think of is what have I got myself into.

As time went on, I found myself being drawn to my Lodge, and wanting to be around those in attendance. The Masons who took me in seemed so knowledgeable and were always as ready to give as much as I was willing to receive. One man stood out, and not only did he become my coach, but he also became my mentor, my masonic idol if you will. I would be remised if I did not mention him in this, my Grand Masters Address. WB Warren Wheeler of Bandera Lodge No. 1123 in Bandera, Texas, not only taught me the ritual, but he also taught me all the how’s and why’s of Freemasonry.

Brother Warren and his wife Doreen were ranchers, and between their two families they had thousands of Texas hill country acres. The two of us would climb into his pickup every other afternoon and drive the various pastures and I would learn the ritual. Most Saturdays Doreen would pack us lunch and we would head out early, at times it would take hours to cross that ranch, idling along in that old green Ford, going over our masonic work. On occasion another brother would ride with us, and we would take turns practicing. He would learn a part in a degree, or go over a conferral, then I would recite my proficiencies. This practice would go on for months, one Degree at a time. Every trip we would return to the house and Doreen would ask, “how did it go?”, and Warren would say “good, but he is not quite there yet, needs a little more practice”.

One Sunday after driving the ranch, we returned to the Wheeler house, dinner was ready, and Doreen invited me to stay just as she had always done before. Warren went to wash up, then stepped outside to have a quick smoke. It was then that Doreen let me in on a hidden secret. She told me that she heard that I was ready to turn in my Master Mason proficiency months ago, and that the only reason Warren was taking his time was because he wanted somebody else to have to open all those gates at the ranch, instead of him, and that it didn’t look like he was going to have another candidate for quite a while! Regardless of what she said, I never told him, I just enjoyed our rides.

Warren is long gone, and so are all those other brothers who rode with us, but their memory, and the times we had live on in my thoughts. It is through those kinds of close fraternal relationships we build the ties that last a lifetime.

Since moving to New Mexico, I have been able to build those very same relationships. Freemasonry is a universal language and a way of life. Over the past twenty years the Masons of New Mexico have given me the same knowledge and opportunities that I received in the front seat of that old pickup. In fact, more. In Texas, with a membership so large, I felt like a number. In New Mexico, here, we all have a name. Since the first time I walked through the door of Ruidoso No. 73, the first time I attended a New Mexico Annual Communication, and to this very date, it has felt like home, and I am forever grateful.

I stand here before you as Grand Master, not because of my accomplishments, but because of yours. Each one of you has taken the time to shed light to a brother who was simply seeking it. You have taught me what it is to be a Freemason and I hope I have lived up to your expectations. This past year, and the years before having been the most rewarding challenge I have ever faced. I will always carry those rewards with me, even if I am called to that Spiritual Building above.

Thank you all for giving me that opportunity.

This entire Annual Communication will be held here, at the Inn of the Mountain Gods. A Grand Masters Reception will be on Thursday night, a Public Opening Ceremony with introductions Friday morning, lunches Friday afternoon for both the men and our ladies, followed by our annual installation of officers and a banquet with an awards ceremony that evening. And don't forget the Hospitality Room in the Cochise Presidential Suite on the sixth floor, just another way to enjoy each other's fellowship and say thank you too all.

The Ladies luncheon scheduled for Friday is sure to be a great time. My wife Shirley has food, fun and refreshments planned for all the attendees. The ladies have been told to bring a favorite photo or screenshot of their favorite Mason. A contest will be had with prizes awarded and sure to draw a lot of attention!

There will be a Silent Auction at the Banquet Friday night featuring wonderful items donated by Brethren and businesses of the community to help benefit our Annual Communication Fund.

Necrology

One by one Brothers of our adoption are called to that spiritual building above. This year it is my solemn duty to report that (83) workers of the Temple have laid down their working tools and are eternally resting.

We will honor our departed Brethren at a Memorial Service held at 8:00 am Saturday morning March 16th, 2024. May they all rest in peace within the House of the Lord.

I am also saddened to report the loss of MWB David Lance Baker, Past Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of New Mexico, 2009.

Brother David passed peacefully at his home in Belen, New Mexico on Saturday March 2nd, 2024.

His gentle soul and presence will be greatly missed.

Ritual

This past year more emphasis was put on the duties of the District Deputy Grand Lecturers. It was determined early on that they play a vital role within their respective districts. Each of them was tasked with the responsibility of collecting as many ritual sections as possible to help build a database of qualified Ritualist within each of the (8) eight districts thus providing both leadership and a wealth of ritual knowledge that all Lodges of the new District layout can draw from. With the result of Lodges being able to better perform their own ritual work, and utilizing their own members, and not having to rely as much on the Grand Lecturer for continual support.

274 Masonic Ritual Sections were turned in during the 2023-2024 masonic year. Please see the Grand Lecturers Annual Report for a detailed accounting for each District and Lodge.

Two of our brothers received their first Blue Cards while another received his ninth, one more and this man will be a Life Lecturer.

At the time of this report, these are the Candidate statistics for the 2023-2024 masonic year:

Initiated Entered Apprentices: 88

Passed Fellowcraft: 49

Raised Master Masons: 32

36.36% of initiates were raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason while the other 63.64% are still in que waiting to progress.

With the addition of the Grandview Data System, the Candidate Leads Sheet, and the Education Programs that are associated within the Grandview Data System, both our candidate and retention numbers are already showing improvement and are predicted to steadily increase once the system is completely up and running. Lodges are encouraged to take complete advantage of what is now being offered and use it to the point of considering these just more “working tools” at their disposal.

State of the Craft

Almost two years have gone by since having to endure all the trials and tribulations of that dreaded “C” word.

I’m talking about Covid-19, something that I hope we never have to experience or talk about again. At first it was thought that there would be a negative lasting effect on our Fraternity, especially here in a Jurisdiction the size of New Mexico. But, in fact, here at home it has been just the opposite. During that time, we were all encouraged to get the “shot” to better prepare ourselves for what may lie ahead. Turns out that virus invariably was the shot in the arm that freemasonry needed. In New Mexico it was like hitting the “Reset” button. The enthusiasm with which our brothers returned to their Lodges was miraculous. The current state of morale, participation and the eagerness to step up and serve is to be commended. Every mason here in New Mexico is solely responsible for that happening. Thank you for all your efforts, we are here because of you.

Covid also gave us the opportunity to look within. Not just through personal reflection, but the chance to look at all aspects of our organization while we were idle. The leadership during that time began the process of turning over every stone to help identify our weaknesses, our strengths, and where we can make improvements.

It has become the incumbent duty of today's officers to carry on that tradition. Those before us prioritized their battles and were victorious in their siege. Our hope is to conquer as well.

During the 2023-2024 masonic year our battles were taking on the task of implementing a new data storage system, re-districting an entire state and most importantly, addressing the continual financial hardships that we have experienced over the past few years. It was noted early on that there were shortcomings within our various investment funds. This too was one of those challenges we faced this year. The Investment Advisory Committee, the Grand Treasurer and I continually met with our investment broker, Charles Schwab, to keep up with today's market. All the while feeling confident that we were making money, and not losing it. This was the case; we just weren't getting the higher yields needed to fund certain items such as the Endowment Fund. The officers of the Long-Range Planning Committee immediately went into action to see what options were available to remedy this situation and develop a better financial plan. It was discovered that we have been working from a financial strategy that was put in place years ago to protect the Endowment Fund and keep the principal whole. This is a mid to low-risk investment coupled with having a broker who works off a flat rate fee rather than a percentage commission. There is really no incentive to try and do better. Currently we are looking into overhauling the entire investment plan. Our portfolio is being shopped around and several brokers have been discovered that can provide more of what we are looking for. One of which already handles several Lodges, an Appendant body and Masonic Charities. All having great returns. Just keep in mind that with greater returns come higher risks. Long Range Planning will be presenting all the information gathered and together we will all decide what is best for our financial future.

And finally, as of March 1, 2024, (84) of our Brothers are in the suspension for non-payment of dues column and are still considered active until the June 30th deadline. Let's all try to reach out to these men and see why, perhaps all they need is some encouraging words or maybe just a little help.

Actions

Removed Worshipful Master from Office.

In August of 2023, a situation presented itself in which the Grand Lodge of New Mexico started receiving information regarding material posted on social media that was not inline with traditional Masonic beliefs. The subject of this material was perceived as religious/anti-religious in nature and was found by some to be offensive. The author of this material clearly stated publicly and online that this was of his own opinion and was not that of his Lodge or Grand Lodge.

However, once it was posted the subject matter was then public knowledge. It quickly became the duty of the Grand Master and Grand Secretary to answer these calls and diffuse the situation. To have acted rash or hurriedly in our decisions could have caused further damage or embarrassment to the name and reputation of the Grand Lodge of New Mexico, and to those involved.

Rather, a calm, systematic approach was initiated. One that involved careful investigative efforts, one that took all the factual evidence into consideration, and one that followed our masonic law including our obligations as Master Masons.

First it was established that even though this information could be perceived as offensive, it was in fact the "author's" - 1st Amendment Right under Freedom of Religion and Freedom of the Press to publicly state his own views and opinions.

Through our own investigations we found that there was in fact information on the brother's own "personal" social media Page/Account regarding his views of religions that he and others follow, and if practiced, there could be an accepted individual belief within our Fraternity that one could consider their own choice of deity as their "supreme being". Of course, this caused an uproar within the masonic world... it does go against the very grain of our masonic principles and teachings, or does it?

Even though I don't personally agree with this, I had to look at the situation through our brothers' eyes to try to understand it. As Grandmaster, I had to remain neutral to allow the scales of justice to work.

As Grand Master my first duty was to answer all the concerns and protect the name and reputation of the Grand Lodge of New Mexico. Secondly, I felt that we needed to distance ourselves from the situation and remove all public likenesses relating to the subject by removing this brother from our website to allow things to settle.

As things started to calm down, I met with the Officers of the brother's home Lodge and began discussions on how they wanted to proceed to remedy the problem.

The Lodge stated that they wanted to have a meeting with the brother in question to discuss their options and come up with a solution that would not bring further embarrassment and harassment to the Lodge.

Their main objective was to maintain peace and harmony amongst its members and do what they felt was best for Freemasonry.

After offering counseling to the brother, and pointing out the magnitude of what had happened, the brother then realized what had transpired from his post on social media and offered to step down as Worshipful Master, stating that he never intended to harm the Lodge, and felt it was in the Lodges best interest in moving forward. The Lodge agreed, however our bylaws under Code. 180, do not allow an officer to resign or demit while in office.

Code. 181 states that for good cause shown, the Grand Master may remove any officer of a constituent Lodge. In the event of removal, dispensation may be granted, without charge, for the election or appointment of a successor to fill vacancies thus created. And that is exactly what happened.

The Lodge felt that it would be in their best interest to have the Senior Warden move to the East and have a Past Master pro-tem the Senior Warden position so as not to disturb the order of the progressive line, and I agreed.

Although there were legitimate complaints logged with the Grand Secretaries office, it was later determined that a vast majority of the complaints were bogus and submitted by impostors.

Through cross referencing our evidence it was discovered that many of the callers didn't even exist in the jurisdictions they were calling from, and even fake social media accounts using false aliases were being set up on Facebook to post to the home pages of New Mexico Lodges to spread negativity. These men simply did not exist. It was also discovered that all the attention focused on this individual was made to have him kicked out of Freemasonry and removed as a social media influencer due to him having such a high number of followers. Social media pays influencers monetarily based off the number of subscribers and followers one has. Well, the plan partially worked, and now the very same thing is happening to other Masons across the country all because of varied opinions on subject matter, and out of pure jealousy.

Moving forward, this brother has been reminded in the most tender manner of his failings by his Lodge, and they have aided in his reformation, and since then he has since done everything possible to maintain peace and harmony not only for his Lodge, but for Freemasonry as a whole.

2. Notified Brother of possible Masonic Charges and procedures pending the outcome of his Civil Trial. (assault & battery).
3. Received Surrendered Charter from Feliz No. 29. (lodge closed).
4. Referred Masonic Trial Decision to Appeals and Grievances Committee. (Dona Ana Daylight No. 78 in the case of Bro Chris Kelley MM, which is to be brought before this Annual Communication).

Dispensations Granted: 27

Dona Ana Daylight No. 78 – Dispense with Stated Meeting (conflict) / **Approved**

Carrizozo No. 41 – Change Meeting Date (plan for Annual Lincoln Lodge) / **Approved**

Eddy No. 21 – Change Meeting Date (conflict) / **Approved**

Ruidoso No. 73 – Special Election & Installation / **Approved**

Pajarito No. 66 – Change Meeting Date (holiday conflict) / **Approved**

Feliz No. 29 – Change Meeting Date (holiday conflict) / **Approved**

Mesa No. 68 – Meeting Location (building issue) / **Approved**

Estancia No. 33 – Change Meeting Time (degree) / **Approved**

Lovington No. 46 – Extend Proficiency Time / **Approved**

Dona Ana Daylight No. 78 – Dispense with Stated Meeting (conflict) / **Approved**

Four Corners Daylight No. 80 – Change Meeting Date (conflict) / **Approved**

Eddy No. 21 – Outdoor Degree / **Approved**

Temple No. 6 – Change Meeting Time & Date (degrees) / **Approved**

Union No. 4 – Postpone Officer Elections (must comply with Code, 172) / **Approved**

Temple No. 6 – Change Meeting Time (added ceremony) / **Approved**

Sacramento No. 24 – Waive Proficiencies for EA & FC Degree for Active Duty Brother to receive MM Degree before deployment / **Approved.**

Temple No. 6 – Postpone Stated Meeting (covid) / **Approved**

Albuquerque No. 60 – Change Meeting Date (holiday conflict) / **Approved**

Roswell No. 18 – Joint FC Degree with other Lodge / **Approved**

Temple No. 6 – Change Meeting Time (public presentations) / **Approved**

Jornada No. 70 – Change Meeting Date (holiday conflict) / **Approved**

Mount Moriah No. 54 – Change Meeting Date (conflict) / **Approved**

Bylaws Change Request: 8

Hobbs No. 63 - Raise Degree Fee / **Approved**

Sandia Mountain No. 72 – Raise Dues, Provide Travel Funds / **Approved**

Bethesda No. 64 – Raise Degree Fee, Raise Dues, Provide Travel Funds, Master Shall Appoint Finance & Audit Committee / **Approved**

Sandoval No. 76 – Audit Committee, Special Committee, Use of Facility Donation Agreement, Miscellaneous, Keys to Lodge, Candidate Advancement / **Approved**

Temple No. 6 – Accounts Payable, Annual Dues / **Declined**

Requests are not in line with the duties and responsibilities of the Secretary and Treasurer as listed in the Monitor and Bylaws of the Grand Lodge of New Mexico, and do not accommodate the will and consent of the brethren for each monetary action brought before the Lodge.

San Juan No. 25 – Trustees, Long Range Planning, Scholarships, Fees, Balloting, San Juan Scottish Rite Learning Center / **Approved**

Zia Daylight No. 77 – Meeting Day & Number Per Year, Location (optional for event), Re-word Definition of Quorum to align with Grand Lodge of New Mexico Bylaws / **Approved**

Chapman No. 2 – Raise Degree Fee / **Approved**

Travel

March 2023

16-18 - Grand Lodge of New Mexico, Farmington

23 – Sacramento No. 24 o/v

April 2023

4 - Ruidoso No. 73 o/v

6 – Roswell No. 18 o/v

10 – Ballut Abyad Shrine – Grand Masters Day

12 – Albuquerque No. 60 o/v

13-15 – Grand York Rite Sessions – Albuquerque

22 – Scottish Rite Reunion – Las Cruces

May 2023

2 - Felix No. 29 o/v

4 – Temple No. 6 o/v

5-7 – Scottish Rite Reunion – Santa Fe

8 – Tularosa No. 49 o/v

- 10 – Carrizozo No. 41 o/v
- 18 – Sacramento No. 24
- 19 – Ballut Abyad Shrine Spring Ceremonial – Albuquerque
- 20 – Ruidoso No. 73 Aleda Wright Celebration of Life
- 22 – Sandoval No. 76 o/v

June 2023

- 1-3 – Grand Lodge of Arizona - Phoenix
- 6 – Ruidoso No. 73
- 10 – Lincoln Lodge – Lincoln, New Mexico
- 17 – Ballut Abyad Shrine Masonic Family Picnic – Albuquerque
- 23-24 – Masonicon – Albuquerque
- 29 – International Order of Rainbow Grand Assembly – Albuquerque

July 2023

- 1 – Route 66 International Order of DeMolay Installation – Edgewood
- 5 – Ruidoso No. 73
- 7-8 – International Order of DeMolay State Conclave – Albuquerque
- 20-22 – Rocky Mountain Masonic Conference – Las Vegas, Nevada

August 2023

- 5 – Rendezvous 2023 – Chapman No. 2
- 14 – Tularosa No. 72 OES
- 18-22 – York Rite Supreme Council of the 33rd Degree – Arlington, Virginia
- 28 – Portales No. 26 o/v

September 2023

- 2 – Dona Ana Daylight No. 80 o/v
- 5 – Ruidoso No. 73
- 7 – Eddy No. 21 o/v
- 9 – Hobbs No. 63 Past Masters Night – o/v
- 23 – Scottish Rite Reunion – Las Cruces
- 30 – Eddy No. 21 Black River Master Mason Outdoor Degree

October 2023

- 2 – Malpais No. 71 o/v – unable to make quorum
- 3 – Animas No. 15 o/v
- 4 – Chama No. 17 o/v
- 6-7 – Four Corners Royal Arch York Rite Festival – San Juan Shrine Park
- 9 – Lebanon No. 22 o/v
- 11 – San Juan No. 25 o/v
- 20-22 – Scottish Rite Fall Festival – Santa Fe
- 24 – Silver City No. 8 o/v
- 25-27 – New Mexico Order of the Eastern Star Grand Chapter – Silver City
- 28 – Kingston No. 16 Turn of the Century o/v

November 2023

- 2 – New Mexico Order of the Amaranth Grand Assembly – Albuquerque
- 4 – Ballut Abyad Shrine Fall Ceremonial – Albuquerque
- 6 – Montezuma No. 1 o/v
- 7 – Zia Daylight No. 78 o/v
- 8 – Cerrillos No. 19 o/v
- 11 – International Order of DeMolay Grand Masters Class – Albuquerque
- 11-15 – Grand Lodge of Nevada – Las Vegas, Nevada
- 16 – Hiram No. 13 o/v
- 18 – Grand Lodge of New Mexico Annual Budget Meeting – Albuquerque
- 20 – Bent No. 42 o/v

December 2023

- 2 – Mesa No. 68 o/v
- 5 – Pajarito No. 66 o/v
- 7 – Gate City No. 11 o/v
- 11 – Valley No. 69 o/v
- 13 – Jornada No. 70 o/v
- 14 – Aztec No. 3 o/v
- 16 – Tularosa No. 49 Installation of Officers
- 30 – Ballut Abyad Annual Election of Officers – Albuquerque

January 2024

2 - Ruidoso No. 73

4 – Liberty No. 51 o/v

6 – Four Corners Daylight No. 80 o/v

6 – Ballut Abyad Shrine Installation of Officers – Albuquerque

9 – Socorro No. 9 o/v

11 – Mount Moriah No. 54 o/v – cancelled due to weather

11 – A Memorable Experience Fellowcraft Degree – Albuquerque

13 – Sandia Rainbow Chapter Installation of Officers – Albuquerque

13 – Martin Luther King March with Ballut Abyad Shrine and Prince Hall of New Mexico – Albuquerque

13 – Ashlar Rainbow Chapter Installation of Officers – Albuquerque

16 – Clovis No. 40 o/v

18-20 – Grand Lodge of Texas – Waco

23 – Union No. 4 o/v – unable to make quorum

February 2024

1-4 – Grand Lodge of Utah – Salt Lake City

6 – Edgewood No. 82 o/v

7 – Estancia No. 33 o/v

8 – Bethesda No. 64 o/v

9 – Ballut Abyad Shrine Circus – Albuquerque

15 – Lovington No. 46 o/v

17-21 – Conference of Grand Masters – Seattle

22 – Bethlehem No. 56 o/v

24 – Mimbres No. 10 o/v

March 2024

2 - Eunice No. 67 o/v

2 – Roswell No. 18 Table Lodge

4 – Tucumcari No. 27 o/v

7 – Deming No. 12 o/v

9 – Bethlehem No. 56 / Masonic Services for MWB David L. Baker PGM

14-16 – Grand Lodge of New Mexico - Ruidoso

Conclusion

Gentlemen,

The past six years have been incredible, words alone can't even begin to explain the journey you have allowed me to take as an officer, and most recently Grand Master. There is also not enough space in one paragraph to even begin to tell this amazing story. Each year has been a tremendous learning experience, you have given me the opportunity to travel from Lodge to Lodge, year after year, and meet each one of you. Every time I left a Lodge, I was able to take a little bit of it with me, not only in knowledge, but also a little bit of its spirit. Each Lodge brought something new to my journey. Every Brother taught me something along the way.

You have shown me that our Grand Lodge truly meets on the Level and treats all its members equally with both love and respect. There is an opportunity out there for all of us to not only succeed, but to also lead, all that is required is to stand up and take charge. I encourage everyone to do so, especially if you have the desire deep inside.

In closing, all I can say is thank you for making it happen. I am forever indebted to this Grand Lodge and will spend the rest of my days serving it in every capacity that I am able.

Respectfully and fraternally submitted,



MWB Thomas L. Schenk – Grand Master

Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of New Mexico



2023 - 2024 Grand Lodge Officers

Elected Officers



M.:W.:B.: Thomas L. Schenk
Grand Master
Member of
Quidoso Lodge No. 73 - Quidoso, NM
Raised a Master Mason 9/13/2000



D.:W.:B.: Steve A. Almager
Deputy Grand Master
Member of
Eunice Lodge No 67 - Eunice, NM
Hobbs Lodge No 63 - Hobbs, NM
Kingston Lodge No. 16, - Hillsboro, NM
Raised a Master Mason 12/1/2007



D.:W.:B.: Robin K. Justice
Senior Grand Warden
Member of
Pajarito Lodge No. 66 - Los Alamos, NM
Raised a Master Mason 3/4/1989



D.:W.:B.: Kevin L. Fitzwater
Junior Grand Warden
Member of
Sandia Mountain Lodge No 72 - Albuquerque, NM
Temple Lodge No 6 - Albuquerque, NM
Raised a Master Mason 4-19-2011



D.:W.:B.: David L. Baker
Grand Treasurer
Member of
Aztec Lodge No 3 - Las Cruces, NM
Roswell Lodge No 18 - Roswell, NM
San Juan Lodge No. 25 - Aztec, NM
Raised a Master Mason 6/29/1972



D.:W.:B.: Tony Christophersen
Grand Secretary
Member of
Temple Lodge No.6 - Albuquerque, NM
Raised a Master Mason 4/29/1999

2023 - 2024 Grand Lodge Officers

Appointed Officers



R::W::B:: Alex M. Cosby
Senior Grand Deacon



R::W::B:: James E. Bungard
Junior Grand Deacon



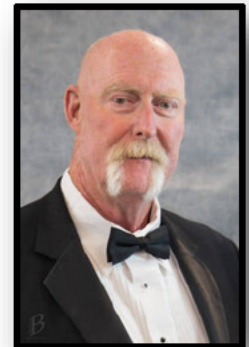
M::W::B:: Jonathan R. Andrews
Grand Lecturer



W::B:: Clayton M. Kuchin
Senior Grand Steward



R::W::B:: David B. Cordova
Junior Grand Steward



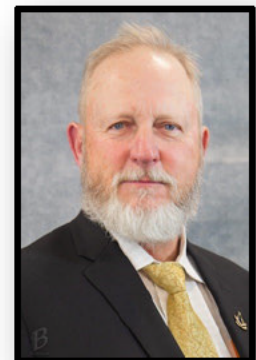
R::W::B:: Patrick Moroney
Grand Marshal



W::B:: Donald G. Schossow
Grand Chaplin



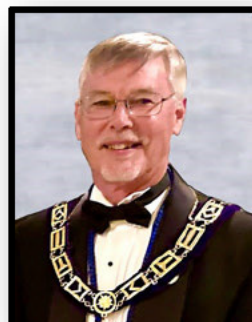
W::B:: Davin B. Teague
Grand Sword Bearer



M::W::B:: Ralph A. Fasley
Grand Orator



R::W::B:: Matt D. Stevenson
Junior Grand Steward



W::B:: Bert D. Dalton
Grand Musician



W::B:: Tyler R. Anderson
Grand Historian

Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of New Mexico

Living Past Grand Masters



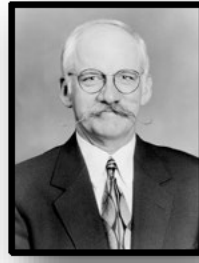
B. Mac Page
1992



Tom E. Daine
1994



Larry R. Packwood
1995



Leslie L. Morrow
1997



Dan F. Irick
1998



Shem T. Peachey
2001



William T. Beckett
2002



Jeffery D. Johnson
2003



G. Wayne Morrison
2005



Jimmie A. Berkey
2006



Arthur D. Tunnell
2007



Jay G. Harris
2008



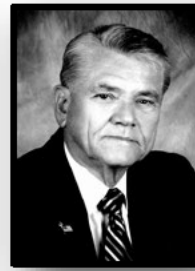
Cary M. Deck
2010



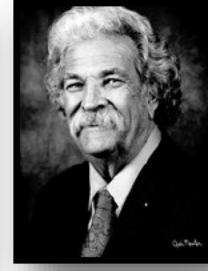
Bobby M. Arther
2011



Joshua B. Lightle
2012



William R.J. Childers
2013



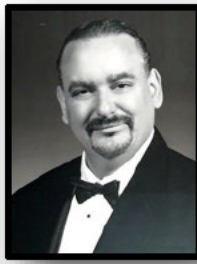
Jefferson H. Jordan
2015



Dennis D. Anderson
2016



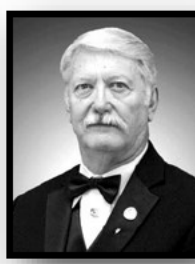
Ernie D. Shoup
2017



Adam L. Hathaway
2018



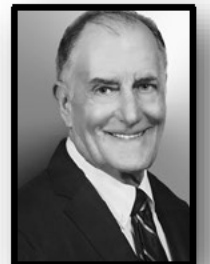
Ralph A. Easley
2019



Cary J. Baker
2020



Jonathan R. Andrews
2021



William J. "Bill" Dogue
2022



Thomas L. Schenk
2023



Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of New Mexico

Past Grand Masters (Deceased)

Name	Elected Grand Master	Date of Death
William W. Griffin	August 7, 1877	Dec 8, 1889
William L. Rynerson	January 7, 1880	Sep 25, 1893
Simon B. Newcomb	January 18, 1881	May 23, 1901
Henry L. Waldo	December 20, 1881	July 10, 1915
John B. Wootten	December 21, 1882	Mar 28, 1910
William B. Childers	December 12, 1883	Mar 3, 1908
Cornelius Bennett	November 19, 1884	Oct 8, 1911
Maximillian Frost	November 11, 1885	Oct 13, 1909
C. N. Blackwell	November 10, 1886	Apr 7, 1934
William S. Harroun	November 15, 1887	May 24, 1920
A. H. Morehead	January 15, 1889	Mar 17, 1905
Frederick H. Kent	January 28, 1890	Nov 2, 1918
Charles H. Dane	January 28, 1891	Feb 26, 1904
Richard English	November 17, 1891	Apr 12, 1932
Joseph H. Kuhns	October 4, 1892	Nov 18, 1916
Charles H. Sporleder	October 3, 1893	Jun 20, 1927
John J. Kelly	October 2, 1894	Apr 6, 1933
James H. Wroth	October 8, 1895	May 6, 1924
Charles H. Bowmer	October 6, 1896	Nov 10, 1916
John W. Poe	October 5, 1897	July 17, 1923
Robert C. Stewart	October 4, 1898	Mar 22, 1922
Elias E. Day	October 3, 1899	May 31, 1908
Elias S. Stover	October 16, 1900	Feb 3, 1927
Arthur H. Harllee	October 22, 1901	Mar 28, 1911
Edward A. Cahoon	October 21, 1902	Dec 23, 1934
John C. Slack	October 20, 1903	Jan 14, 1917
George W. Ward	October 18, 1904	Jun 13, 1913
James G. Fitch	October 17, 1905	Oct 22, 1933
Abram N. Pratt	October 16, 1906	May 6, 1934
James W. Willson	October 22, 1907	Aug 1, 1922
Chester D. Stevens	October 20, 1908	Jan 12, 1929
Frank Johnson	October 19, 1909	Dec 21, 1935
Edward L. Medler	October 18, 1910	Jan 21, 1944
William B. Walton	October 17, 1911	Apr 14, 1939
Marine R. Williams	October 22, 1912	Apr 3, 1926
Nathan Jaffa	October 21, 1913	Sep 12, 1945
Raleigh F. Hare	October 20, 1914	Oct 19, 1934
Amos W. Pollard	October 12, 1915	Mar 5, 1960
Alonzo B. McMillen	October 10, 1916	Aug 12, 1927
Richard M. Thorne	October 8, 1917	Dec 29, 1960
Alex D. Goldenberg	December 10, 1918	Apr 6, 1936
Richard H. Hanna	March 16, 1920	Aug 17, 1946
Francis E. Lester	February 22, 1921	Dec 6, 1945
Lucius Dills	February 21, 1922	Nov 29, 1944
Joseph Gill	February 20, 1923	Mar 22, 1937
John W. Turner	February 20, 1924	May 12, 1953
Jaffa Miller	February 17, 1925	Aug 24, 1968
Herbert B. Holt	February 16, 1926	Apr 22, 1957
John S. Mactavish	February 21, 1927	Jun 6, 1947
Samuel E. Wood	February 20, 1928	Dec 30, 1937
Herbert S. Murdoch	February 19, 1929	Jun 30, 1953
Victor L. Minter, Sr.	March 18, 1930	Sep 5, 1958
Wilbur L. Elser	March 16, 1931	Jun 24, 1947
Thomas J. Hall	March 21, 1932	Aug 15, 1955

Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of New Mexico

Past Grand Masters (Deceased) cont.

John Milne	March 20, 1933	Sep 5, 1956
William H. Duckworth	March 19, 1934	May 21, 1970
Reuben Perry	March 18, 1935	Dec 13, 1954
Edward R. Paul	March 18, 1936	May 31, 1949
Raymond E. Drolet	March 17, 1937	Mar 25, 1945
Alva L. Hamilton	October 20, 1937	Aug 27, 1964
William M. Bickel	October 17, 1938	Dec 15, 1967
Lous C. Rockett	October 16, 1939	Apr 13, 1943
Adolph S. Walter	October 21, 1940	Dec 15, 1963
James A. Elrod	October 20, 1941	Jun 8, 1975
Eric S. Kintsel	October 19, 1942	Dec 19, 1974
Edwin L. Holt	October 18, 1943	Apr 19, 1965
Lynn B. Mitchell	October 16, 1944	July 5, 1973
Bert A. Robbins	October 15, 1945	Jan 20, 1984
Frank J. Fitch	October 21, 1946	July 19, 1983
Rupert F. Asplund	May 21, 1947	Dec 7, 1952
Walter F. Edwards	March 22, 1948	Feb 1, 1962
John W. Hall	March 21, 1949	Apr 6, 1956
Charles A. Stevens, Jr.	March 20, 1950	Nov 22, 1986
E. Turner Hensley, Jr.	March 19, 1951	Nov 22, 1967
Richard W. Thorne	March 17, 1952	Feb 1, 1976
Rhea M. DeOliviera	March 16, 1953	Nov 2, 1958
C. Roy Smith	March 22, 1954	Jan 13, 1975
F. Wayne Laws	March 21, 1955	Dec 16, 1977
Herbert C. Denny	March 20, 1956	Feb 25, 1975
Harvey A. Thiele	March 18, 1957	Oct 19, 1985
Russell G. Bird, Sr.	March 17, 1958	Jun 18, 1975
H. Stanley Dennis, Sr.	March 16, 1959	Nov 22, 1983
William L. Ranville	March 21, 1960	Jun 22, 1973
Ray J. Lofton	March 20, 1961	May 31, 1993
LaMoine Langston	March 19, 1962	Mar 15, 1976
Howard M. Sleeper	March 18, 1963	Feb 21, 1989
George O. Thorne	March 17, 1964	Dec 25, 2003
Frederick W. Blocksom	March 22, 1965	Mar 9, 1985
Hubert O. Robertson	March 21, 1966	Apr 1, 1991
Oscar E.L. Newman	March 20, 1967	July 18, 1979
James H. Gibson	March 18, 1968	Mar 24, 1988
Merle C. Holmes	March 17, 1969	Aug 4, 1973
B. Mell Grissom	March 16, 1970	Sep 17, 1981
W. Carlos Powell	March 22, 1971	Oct 19, 1980
Travis B. Watkins	March 20, 1972	Nov 3, 2011
Fred E. Provost	March 20, 1973	Jan 30, 2010
Stuart B. Tracy	March 15, 1974	May 3, 2000
John R. Mendius	March 17, 1975	Jun 27, 1997
Warren A. Ackerman	March 15, 1976	Mar 17, 1990
James C. Abbott	March 21, 1977	Jun 2, 2003
George F. Wright, Jr.	March 18, 1978	Dec. 7, 2012
John F. Wortman	March 20, 1979	Aug. 8, 2017
Herman A. Roser	March 17, 1980	Dec 16, 1990
Thomas A. Case	March 16, 1981	Dec 6, 1992
Alvin R. Johnson	March 15, 1982	Feb 22, 2012
Russell H. McNeace	March 22, 1983	May 14, 2001
B. Ray Bonar	March 19, 1984	Mar 17, 2010
Merlin C. Black	March 18, 1985	Feb 29, 2008
John P. Hoice	March 18, 1986	Mar 2, 1995

Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of New Mexico

Past Grand Masters (Deceased) cont.

Ray D. Carpenter	March 21, 1987	Aug 10, 2019
Jesse O. Martindale	March 17, 1988	May 22, 2012
Ernest R. Hazlewood	March 21, 1989	October 21, 2016
John D. Allen	March 19, 1990	Feb 9, 2006
Kenneth K. Klentschy	January 15, 1993	Apr 8, 2000
Omer E. Horn	March 16, 1996	Dec 16, 2020
Fred C. Webb	March 19, 1998	Dec 30, 2005
Mark V. Vander Vere	March 18, 2000	Feb 8, 2002
Joe O. Chrisman	March 19, 2004	Mar 25, 2007
Kevin K. Schwebel	March 15, 2014	July 6, 2020
Danny Ray Calloway	March 16, 1991	July 14, 2021
David Lance Baker	March 21, 2009	March





Deputy Grand Master Report R.:W.:B.: Steve A. Almager

Brethren,

Wow, what a whirlwind year this has been. All the travel and duties are at times overwhelming. But I would not have it any other way. Being able to serve each and every one of you has been an honor and a pleasure.

New Mexico Freemasonry is doing well. To think, 4 years ago we were completely shut down and little, if any, work being done. The Leads for information in the last year has picked up and I hope that each and every one of the potential candidates is being spoken with. The current system of Leads is not the best, but it is what we have to work with. Grandview will soon take over this and will provide us with some accountability.

Throughout my travels I have had the opportunity to visit with many of you. I have listened and heard your concerns. I can assure you that we will address these concerns in a timely manner. If it concerns you, it will concern many.

In September of 2023 we made a switch to Grandview, from Groupable. I am pleased to say that the transition has been better than expected. This is accredited to the Brethren that is using the system, the Grand Lodge has put in place. While we are not 100 % on users, our #s are better than the previous system. I have heard the good and the bad about Grandview and it always seems the good out ways the bad. We still have a way to go, but I am certain with your help, we will make this an enormous success.

In November 2023, I was elected President of the Binational Border Conference. In November 2024, this conference will be held in Las Cruces, NM. This will allow New Mexico Freemasonry to shine. Show our Brothers from the South, what we have to offer, and we are willing to help them in any manner possible. At the first Conference we had many countries and states represented. Ideas, thoughts, and Fellowship flowed abundantly. I urge each of you, to make plans to attend the Conference in Las Cruces.

Brethren, here is our numbers for 2023.

Degree - Initiated - EA	88
Degree - Passed - FC	49
Degree - Raised - MM	32
Deceased	79
SNPD	84

While the numbers from EA to FC (57%), I like to look at the numbers from FC to MM (65%). The EA degree is out last line of defense. It is almost impossible to prepare a petitioner for the experience of the EA degree. This, is when we will naturally lose the most candidates.

The numbers we really need to be looking at and producing a solution is the SNPD's. These are out Brothers

Deputy Grand Master Report

Continued



The numbers we really need to be looking at and producing a solution is the SNPD's. These are out Brothers who has completed the degrees and for one reason or another, no longer comes to Lodge. I believe these numbers can be solved, by providing an experience when you go to Lodge. No more reading the minutes, paying bills, and then closing. Why would anyone leave the comforts of their homes to come to that?? Bring in speakers, always provide education, and allow Brothers to interact on topics of discussion. Brothers, you know these men that are not coming back to Lodge. Reach out to each of them and see why they are not returning. Some of our members can no longer drive at night. We should be providing them with transportation if needed. Look after and cherish each of your Brothers, this is one of your 3 Jewels, Brotherly Love.

I hope this message serves as a beacon of leadership, urging all members to embody the principle that we are indeed our brother's keeper. This is an invitation to actively participate in the fraternity's growth, to innovate, and to care for one another with renewed commitment.

Fraternally,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve A. Almager". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Steve A Almager
Deputy Grand Master





Senior Grand Warden Report R.:W.:B.: Robin K. Justice

Greetings Brethren.

2023 has been an enjoyable and busy year. I have been visiting Lodges (San Juan #25, Pajarito #66, Chapman #2, Portales #26, Edgewood #82, and Sandia Mountain #72 so far) as official visits. I enjoyed the warmth and Brotherhood I received at all of them and appreciate the work they are doing for the good of our Craft.

In July I attended the Rocky Mountain Masonic Conference in Las Vegas Nevada. I made a presentation on what things made Masonic events we host great and memorable., It was a very enjoyable and educational experience. Our Brethren in the Conference all did presentations on various topics, and they were all well thought out and well received.

February 16th through the 20th I will be attending the Conference of Grand Masters in Seattle, WA I hope to again meet with my counterparts there to learn what they are doing to grow our Fraternity in their jurisdictions.

In August I attended the Grand Lodge of Wyoming in Sheridan. I had an enjoyable visit representing New Mexico and carried greetings from MWGM Tom Schenk and all of New Mexico Masonry to our Brothers in Wyoming.

In January I attended the Grand Lodge of Colorado in Grand Junction. I received an extremely warm reception from the Grand Master and Grand Lodge officers and all of the Brethren I met with, including the Grand Master of Prince Hall Masons of Colorado, Wyoming, and Utah (all three states share a single Grand Lodge). I look forward to building a great working relationship with Colorado, and the SGW of that state and I have started working on ideas for some joint communications to be held in both our states.

This year I have chaired the Long Range Planning committee and served on the Grand Lodge Board of Directors. The LRP has been working on how we can make our Endowed Membership program work better.

Again, I am thankful for the opportunity to serve this institution which has given me so much. Thank you for your friendship and Brotherhood. Take care of yourselves and each other Brethren. I look forward to sitting in Lodge with you.



Sincerely & Fraternaly,

Robin K. Justice
Senior Grand Warden



Long Range Planning Committee Report

R.:W.:B.: Robin K. Justice Chairman

Most Worshipful Grand Master, Grand Lodge Officers, Worshipful Master, Lodge Officers, and Brethren.

The following is the report for the Long Range Planning Committee for the year 2023.

The committee members are RW James E. Bungard, RW Philip A. Christophersen, RW Robin K. Justice (Committee Chairman), RW David L. Baker, RW Alexander M. Cosby, RW Kevin L. Fitzwater, and MWGM Thomas L. Schenk.

The committees focus this year has been on the Grand Lodge Endowed Membership fund and issues that continue to prevent it from adequately meeting the needs of constituent Lodges and their members. Discussions with Lodges and the membership have raised concerns about the performance of the fund and its impact on Lodges.

As it is structured now, the Endowed Fund cannot meet the financial needs of the Lodges of the State of New Mexico. Many Lodges are heavily dependent on the payouts for their operating budgets. The payouts are frozen at the dues and Grand Lodge per capita in effect at the time the endowed membership was purchased. They will always be behind the rising costs of maintaining our Lodges. The cost of running the Grand Lodge is also going up. If Lodges raise their dues, an inordinate portion of the operations falls on the non-endowed members of the Lodge. The same occurs if the Grand Lodge raises the per capita to meet rising expenses.

At the annual November Grand Lodge budget meeting the committee presented its findings and recommendations to the membership. It was a well attended meeting and a very informative discussion took place with input from many attendees.

There were many ideas for what can be done to correct the situation we continue to find ourselves in. One was to do nothing, wait for the market to recover, and basically hope that the situation will not occur again in the future. This option is “kicking the can down the road”. It does not address current shortcomings in the program and will only make things worse in the future.

Other options were presented. All of them will require changes to the Constitution and by-laws of the Grand Lodge. Many are short term fixes, and some basically propose ending the program in a way that will return the monies to the purchasers. All options have plusses and minuses.

A long term solution is what is required. We cannot continue to operate as we are now. It is hurting the Lodges and is too unreliable to provide for the Lodges needs. Analysis of how the current program structure is unable to effectively meet its requirements, and proposals for modifications or outright replacement need to be done. Also, analysis of the current investment strategy for the fund needs to be done, and recommendations by Brothers who are knowledgeable in investing and the stock market is essential. The Long Range Planning Committee believes that continued work on the Endowed Membership program is essential to restore financial health to the Lodges. There is no “magic bullet” that will fix the program. Some hard decisions will need to be made.

The Long Range Planning Committee believes that it is extremely important for continued work to be done to develop a real solution to this problem. I personally want to thank the members of the Committee for their contributions to the work we have done.

Fraternally,

Robin Justice, Senior Grand Warden
Chairman, Long Range Planning Committee.



Junior Grand Warden's Report

R.:W.:B.: Kevin L. Fitzwater

Brethren,

Another year of Masonry has passed. Grand Lodge Officer reports often are lists of lodges visited and events attended. I would like to approach this report a little differently.

In my travels about in the state I have come to appreciate the state of Freemasonry even better. I was welcomed warmly everywhere and, even when discussions involved issues of dispute or disagreement, it was never less than brotherly. I have seen a revival in some lodges that have recently languished, and I commend the brethren and their leadership for that. Although there will inevitably be the closure of some lodges and the surrendering of charters in the future, and the consolidation of others, my impression is that Freemasonry in New Mexico is strong. And I have reason to believe it!

In my travels to other grand lodges at their annual communications, I have on occasion sadly witnessed incidents of disharmony and tense conversation concerning conduct and responses to that. I need to be clear that the brotherhood in these jurisdictions is very brotherly, please do not get me wrong. But I have developed an appreciation for how our jurisdiction has approached the inevitable conflicts that arise. Our fraternity is a great one, the best mankind has produced, but it is still a human one. My respect for the leadership of the lodges and their wise and sensible governance has only grown. I am so blessed to be a brother in this great state!

The leadership of your Grand Lodge is strong. They have been tasked with many tough decisions, and I have been privileged to observe how every issue is discussed, pondered, debated, and decisions issued. I can attest that there has NEVER been a flippant answer considered. And NEVER one where the best interest of the craft and the welfare of the brethren have not been the sincere pursuit of every one of these men.

Lastly, I have spent a great deal of time visiting and working with the appendant bodies. I have been pleased to be reassured that the heart, home, and future of the Fraternity is the Blue Lodge. Let us never stray from that. Thank you for the privilege to serve this last year and I am content in knowing my future years being your brother will always be rewarding and a blessing.

Junior Grand Warden





Grand Secretary's Report

R.:W.:B.: Tony Christophersen

Brethren,

WOW, what a ride! First, I want to thank the lodge secretaries for their support and understanding as I waded into this new job. I also want to thank MWB Tom Schenk and the other Grand Lodge officers for their patience and the encouragement they gave me this year. I would like to also thank WB Len Roughgarden for all his help with the “technology” involved with this position. He has been invaluable in getting and sometimes keeping me out of trouble with computers, printers, and all manner of technology-related issues. I knew this was a tough job when I agreed to run for the position, but it has proven far more diverse and complicated than I had ever imagined. I’ve equated it as being like “trying to count the leaves on a willow tree in a windstorm”. There are so darn many moving parts and they are always in constant flux.

To start off I had a goal to put out a “Proceedings” for the 146th Annual Communication in Farmington. It hadn’t been done for a few years and I remembered receiving them during the years that I was a lodge secretary at Temple Lodge No. 6... and promptly putting them on the shelf with all the others from years gone by. I didn’t know just what went into producing one. I finally got one (my version of one) out in about November... better late than never.

I was also informed after my installation that I would be responsible for doing the 990s for most of the lodges in the state. Being unsure just what a 990 was and having no idea how to do or file one I started this task. As with many of the parts of this job, it’s figuring out how as opposed to actual doing that is the hardest part of the job. Once I found the file of postings from the previous year and tracked down the password to the state website it went pretty smoothly.

Of course, the big event, for all of us, was the anticipated transition to Grand View Systems. After many anticipated “Go Live” dates came and went we finally pulled the band-aid off and jumped in with both feet on August 1st. I was optimistic about the new database program and while it came with its own bumps in the road, the transition has gone very well and even the most skeptical users are adapting nicely to the features that it offers... and there are more of those to come. We are now out of the “Background Check” business and the lodge secretaries can order their own background checks and not have to collect payment for them and send it to the Grand Lodge. Online dues payments are now up and running and that opens options for our members.

We’ve had our first experience with doing the “Annual Return” online and I’m amazed at just how easy it is. We still have a few lodges that have not filed them yet but we’re getting there, and even the most tech-challenged in our ranks are doing a great job with the new system. It has been a learning curve but I’m more impressed with the Grand View System every day.

We went back to a “5-up” dues card system and while, due to time pressures to get them out to the lodges the final edit was skipped, the new cards do require the members to brush up on their scissor’s skills to make them more conducive to your wallet I think they came out pretty well. In the future hopefully we will have the option of changing to a digital dues card that will live on your cell phone.

As many of you know I’m big on photos and have been pushing for everyone to get their photo uploaded to the new database. It’s very easy and may add additional security to our dues card system in the future. Dealing with member’s names day in and day out, it’s nice to have faces to go along with the names.

My travels this year have included the Rocky Mountain Masonic Conference which was held in Las Vegas this year. It was very interesting and a great chance to meet the officers from our neighboring jurisdictions and hear their victories, concerns, ideas, and solutions to many of the same challenges that we face here in the “Land of Enchantment”. I also attended the Grand View Conference in Shreveport, LA just as we “went live” with the new system with the hopes that I could get a head start with the learning curve. The other attendees were already using the system, many of them for several years, so my learning was somewhat limited but the contacts I made and the ideas that were exchanged were invaluable, and as well, the energy and enthusiasm they all showed for the Grand View System were inspiring. If you don’t have the knowledge, at least seek out the people that do! Finally, I attended the Conference of Grand Masters and Grand Secretaries, this year held in Seattle, WA... they should really pay their “Sun” bill as it was very cloudy and rainy at this time of year, but again the information discussed, and the contacts made were well worth the trip. We’re facing many new trials in our lodges, but it was enlightening to find that they are everywhere, and solutions are not as out of reach as we may think.

I have enjoyed working with the fine men of our fraternity over the last year and just wish I was younger and able to devote more years to this job. Again, I want to thank the lodge secretaries for their support and assistance, they are the backbone of our lodges and they deserve your help and understanding. Finally, I want to thank MWB Thomas L. Schenk and RWB Steve Almager for their confidence in me and my ability to muddle through the “Tech” challenges that I face daily. It has been a pleasure being associated with these fine men and Masons.

Sincerely & fraternally,



Tony Christophersen



Committee on Foreign Correspondence



2024 Annual Report

March 16, 2024

Most Worshipful Grand Master:

Your committee is responsible to verify that the Grand Lodge requesting recognition is, in fact, operating in a regular manner, per our Basic Principles, which are as follows:

Ancient Landmarks

Monotheism (i.e., a belief in the G.A.O.T.U. [Grand Architect of the Universe]).

All Initiates in lodges under a Grand Lodge take Obligations on or in full view of the Volume of the Sacred Law (Bible, Tanakh, Qur'an, etc.).

Furniture of the Lodge—The three great Lights of Freemasonry (namely the Volume of the Sacred Law, Square, and Compasses) are always exhibited when a Grand Lodge or its subordinate Lodges are at work—the chief of these being the Volume of the Sacred Law.

Prohibition of the discussion of Religion and Politics—A Grand Lodge recognizes and believes that the dominant purposes of Freemasonry are charitable, benevolent, and educational. Discussion of sectarian religion and partisan politics is strictly prohibited from all activities under its auspices.

The membership of a Grand Lodge and individual Lodges is composed exclusively of men (i.e., a fraternity); no Masonic relations are had with mixed lodges or bodies, which admit women to membership.

Legitimacy of Origin—All Regular Grand Lodges, must be chartered by a regular superior Grand Lodge (e.g., the Grand Lodge of New Mexico was chartered on 06 August 1877 by four Craft Lodges under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Missouri).

Territorial Sovereignty—A Grand Lodge has sovereign jurisdiction over the Lodges under its control. It is a responsible, independent, self-governing organization, with sole, undisputed, and exclusive authority over the Craft or Symbolic Degrees (i.e., Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft, and Master Mason). It is not in any way subject to, or divides such authority with a Supreme Council or other Power claiming any control or supervision over these degrees; and it does not extend its authority into, or establish lodges in a territory occupied by another lawful Grand Lodge, without expressed consent of said Grand Lodge.

Committee on Foreign Correspondence

Continued



The Committee has endeavored to ascertain that the foregoing principles have been strictly adhered to in recommending recognition. In addition, your Committee has independently researched and compared the following Grand jurisdictions to the judgements decided by the following entities:

Commission on Information for Recognition—organized in 1951 as a facility to gather, collate, and revise information on Grand Lodges in other lands, as a service to the Conference of Grand Masters of North America; the Commission neither advises nor recommends that recognition be given to any Grand Lodge, but merely indicates whether or not it considers that a Grand Lodge in question satisfies the conditions of regularity.

United Grand Lodge of England

Grand Lodge of Scotland

Grand Lodge of Ireland

Grand Lodge of British Columbia and Yukon

Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania

Grand Lodge of Massachusetts

Recognition Requests

The Committee's decision for each request for recognition is as follows:

Grande Oriente do Estado de Mato Grosso (Brazil) Favorable

This Committee finds the Grande Oriente do Estado de Mato Grosso (Brazil) meets our Basic Principles of Regularity. Also, it is a member of the Inter-American Masonic Confederation (CMI), which this Committee and the Commission on Information for Recognition of the Conference of Grand Masters of Masons in North America trust and rely upon for accurate Masonic information of our Brethren in Brazil.

It is this Committee's opinion for the Brethren of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of New Mexico to **RECOGNIZE** the Grande Oriente do Estado de Mato Grosso (Brazil).

Grande Oriente do Rio Grande do Norte Favorable

This Committee finds the Grande Oriente do Rio Grande do Norte (Brazil) meets our Basic Principles of Regularity. Also, it is a member of the Confederación Masónica Interamericana (CMI—"Inter-American Masonic Confederation"), which this Committee and the Commission on Information for Recognition of the Conference of Grand Masters of Masons in North America trust and rely upon for accurate Masonic information of our Brethren in Brazil.

It is this Committee's opinion for the Brethren of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of New Mexico to **RECOGNIZE** the Grande Oriente do Rio Grande do Norte (Brazil).

Committee on Foreign Correspondence

Continued



Muy Respectable Gran Logia “Benito Juárez Garcia” Favorable del Estado de Oaxaca de LL. y AA. MM. (Mexico)

This Committee finds the Muy Respectable Gran Logia “Benito Juárez Garcia” del Estado de Oaxaca de LL. y AA. MM. (Mexico—Most Worshipful Grand Lodge “Benito Juárez Garcia” of the State of Oaxaca F. & AM.) meets our Basic Principles of Regularity. Also, it is a member of the Confederación Masónica Interamericana (CMI—“Inter-American Masonic Confederation”) and Confederación de Grandes Logias Regulares de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos “Directory of Confederation of Mexican Grand Lodges,” which this Committee and the Commission on Information for Recognition of the Conference of Grand Masters of Masons in North America trust and rely upon for accurate Masonic information of our Brethren in Mexico.

It is this Committee’s opinion for the Brethren of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of New Mexico to **RECOGNIZE** the Muy Respectable Gran Logia “Benito Juárez Garcia” del Estado de Oaxaca de LL. y AA. MM. the “Most Worshipful Grand Lodge “Benito Juárez Garcia” of the State of Oaxaca F. & AM.” (Mexico).

Grand Lodge of Kazakhstan Favorable

Committee on Foreign Correspondence has researched the petition for recognition and finds the GL of Kazakhstan as FAVORABLE based on our Basic Principles:

Ancient Landmarks—the GL of Kazakhstan was proven Regular by the following witness at its consecration (Regular, i.e., whom we recognize):

GL of Austria

GL of Moldova

GL of Turkey

GL of Greece

GL of Russia

Legitimacy of Origin—the GL of Kazakhstan was chartered by the Regular GL of Russia on 12 Nov 2016.

Territorial Sovereignty—the GL of Kazakhstan has sovereign jurisdiction over the Lodges under its control; it is a responsible, independent, self-governing organization, with sole, undisputed, and exclusive authority over the Craft or Symbolic Degrees.

The Commission on Information for Recognition for the Conference of Grand Masters of Masons in North America at its annual meeting in 2016 found the GL of Kazakhstan to meet the requirements of recognition.

Committee on Foreign Correspondence

Continued



Muy Respetable Gran Logia “Benemérito Ejército de Oriente” Favorable

de LL.: y AA.: MM.: del Estado de Puebla (Mexico)

This Committee finds the Muy Respetable Gran Logia “Benemérito Ejército de Oriente” de LL.: y AA.: MM.: del Estado de Puebla (Mexico—Most Worshipful Grand Lodge “Benemérito Ejército de Oriente” F. & A. M. of the State of Puebla) meets our Basic Principles of Regularity. Also, it is a member of the Confederación de Grandes Logias Regulares de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos “Directory of Confederation of Mexican Grand Lodges,” which this Committee and the Commission on Information for Recognition of the Conference of Grand Masters of Masons in North America trust and rely upon for accurate Masonic information of our Brethren in Mexico.

It is this Committee’s opinion for the Brethren of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of New Mexico to **RECOGNIZE** the Muy Respetable Gran Logia “Benemérito Ejército de Oriente” de LL.: y AA.: MM.: del Estado de Puebla the “Most Worshipful Grand Lodge “Benemérito Ejército de Oriente” F. & A. M. of the State of Puebla” (Mexico).

Muy Respetable Gran Logia del Estado de México (Mexico) Favorable

This Committee finds the Muy Respetable Gran Logia del Estado de México (Mexico—Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of the State of Mexico) meets our Basic Principles of Regularity. Also, it is a member of the Confederación de Grandes Logias Regulares de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos “Directory of Confederation of Mexican Grand Lodges,” which this Committee and the Commission on Information for Recognition of the Conference of Grand Masters of Masons in North America trust and rely upon for accurate Masonic information of our Brethren in Mexico.

It is this Committee’s opinion for the Brethren of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of New Mexico to **RECOGNIZE** the Muy Respetable Gran Logia del Estado de México the “Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of the State of Mexico” (Mexico).

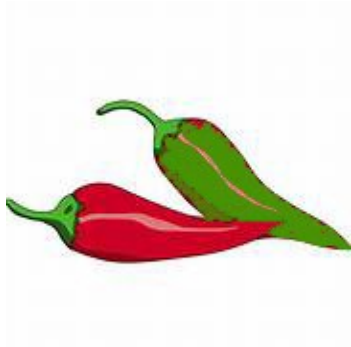
Conclusion

Most Worshipful Grand Master, your committee wishes to express its appreciation in serving you and the Brethren. May it please you that this report will be submitted with the records in the archives of the Grand Lodge.

Thank you.

Fraternally,

WB Jay S. Williams (72), Chair
WB Scott Ozment (72)



Investment Advisory Committee

Annual Report

Robert McNiel - Chairman

Members: David I. Baker, Tony Christophersen , Ernest T. Cummins,
Mark W. Daniels, Norman C. Ribble Jr. Boyd D. Wood

Grand Lodge Investment Advisory Committee

To the Grand Master, Grand Wardens, Officers and members of the Grand Lodge.

Your committee files the following report:

Overall the Grand Lodge's current position falls well within the Investment Policy established in 2018. That Policy stated that the position should be one of a moderately aggressive strategy.

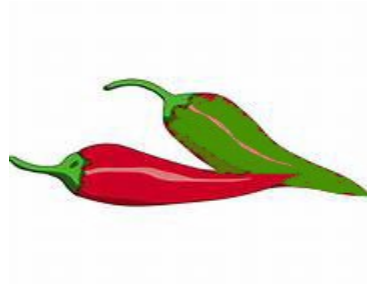
At the close of 2023 the overall position saw a gain of 14.21%. With a balance of Stocks and Bonds the portfolio should remain less volatile with market swings in 2024. Our portfolio advisor with Charles Schwab advises that there is expectation within the market that the Feds with a look to adjust rates downward in the late 3rd quarter.

Your Committee will continue to work with our advisor to ensure the Grand Lodge's investments are maintaining the Grand Lodge's investment goals and grow the account.

Fraternally Submitted;

Robert McNiel

Chairman, Grand Lodge Investment Advisory Committee



Approved Budget for
 April 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025
 Approved at November Annual Budget Meeting

Approved Budget 2024 - 2025

Ordinary Income/Expense

Income

4010.1 · Donations		1,000
4020.1 · Fees		130
EA Fees		4,000
Late Fee		150
Reinstatement Fee		2,420
Total 4020.1 · Fees		7,700
4049.1 · Member Donations		425
4050.1 · Per Capita Dues		
From Lodges		109,835
From Endowed Fund		0
Total 4050.1 · Per Capita Dues		109,835
4055.1 Assessments		
4057.1 Dues Cards		575
4060.1 · Reimbursements Revenue		
Background Check Reimbursements		7,275
Liability Insurance		23,452
Reimbursements Postage and over payments to GL		2,571
Travel Reimbursement		0
Utility Reimbursement - Sandia Mountain 72, GYR, MCF		6,000
Total 4060.1 · Reimbursements Revenue		39,298
4070.1 · Sale - Supplies		
25 & 50 Year Pins		580
Book Sales : Chipers & Monitors		1,572
4070.1 · Sale		0
Total 4070.1 · Sale - Supplies		2,152
4080.1 · Grand Lodge Communication		
Registration		0
· Grand Lodge Communication		5,000
Deposit money		0
Total 4080.1 Grand Lodge Communication		5,000
4089.1 · Uncategorized Income (Carpenter)		11,124
Endowed and Memorial Purchase		2,940
Total Income		179,049
Gross Profit		179,049



Approved Budget for
 April 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025
 Approved at November Annual Budget Meeting

Expense

5010.1 · Assistance to Organizations		
Committee on Masonic Youth		3,000
Veterans Hospital Visitation		0
Total 5010.1 · Assistance to Organizations		3,000
5020.1 · Benefits Paid to/for Members		
Payroll Taxes		
FICA		2,439
FUTA		88
Medicare		570
SUTA		127
6560 · Payroll Expenses		30
Total Payroll Taxes		3,254
Retirement distributions		
Carpenter		11,124
Retirement distributions - Other		
Total Retirement distributions		11,124
Salaries Gr Secretary & Dep		
Salaries Grand Secretary		40,533
Total Salaries Gr Secretary & Dep		40,533
Total 5020.1 · Benefits Paid to/for Members		57,911
5030.1 · Fees for Services		
5080.1 · Program Services		
Conferences and Meetings		
Annual Communication Deposit money		5,000
Conference Membership		410
Conferences and Meetings - Other		
Masonicon		2,500
Masonic Education		
Total Conferences and Meetings		7,910
Information Technology		
Computer Expense		
Web Hosting		
Information Technology - Other (Mori)		
Total Information Technology		8,444
Insurance		
Directors and Officers		862
Insurance - Liability and more		25,597
Workers Compensation		796
Total Insurance		27,255



Approved Budget for
 April 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025
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Occupancy			
	Bldg. Maintenance		
	Building Maintenance	417	
	Bldg. Maintenance - Other		
	Total Bldg. Maintenance	417	
	Janitorial Utilities	46	
	Gas & Electric	11911	
	Telephone	1500	
	Water	2389	
	Total Utilities	15846	
	Total Occupancy	16263	
	Office Expenses		
	Equipment rental	3,669	
	Office	874	
	Total Office Expenses	4,543	
	Other Program Services		
	Awards and presentations	500	
	Awards Presentation	0	
	Kit Carson Award	20	
	Awards and presentations - Other		
	Total Awards and presentations	520	
	Background Check	7,275	
	Bank Charge	59	
	Dues		
	G. Washington Fund	2706	
	GM & GS Conference	250	
	Masonic Relief Association	300	
	Dues - Other		
	Total Dues	3,256	
	GL Historian	600	
	Taxes		
	State	32	
	Total Taxes	32	
	Total Other Program Services	11,742	
	Printing Publications & Postage		
	Annual Proceedings		
	Postage	847	
	PR Committee	439	
	Printing	1,659	
	Total Printing Publications & Postage	2,981	



Approved Budget for
 April 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025
 Approved at November Annual Budget Meeting

Travel	
Grand Lodge Officers	
Deputy Grand Master	5,700
Grand Lecturer	900
Grand Master	10,700
Grand Secretary	4,800
Junior Grand Deacon	1,200
Junior Grand Warden	4,600
Senior Grand Deacon	2,300
Senior Grand Warden	5,300
Grand Treasurer	500
Committee Chairs & Board	0
Total Grand Lodge Officers	36,000
DDGM Officers paid by Grand Lodge Line	3,000
DDGL Officers paid by Grand Lecturer	3,000
Total Travel	42,000
Total 5080.1 Program Services	121,138
Total 5020.1 Benefits paid to/for Members	57,911
Total Income	179,049
Total Expense	179,049
Net Ordinary Income	0

Account Ways & Means Committee Annual Report

The Grand Lodge of New Mexico produced a balanced Budget for April 1, 2024 through March 31, 2025. I want to thank the committee members for all of their input and patience. They were MWB Tom Schenk, RWB Steve Almager, RWB Tony Christophersen, RWB David L Baker, RWB Alex Cosby, and RWB James Bungard. After numerous meetings and phone calls we came up with a proposed budget. It was sent out to the Lodges of New Mexico. This is where I want to thank the brothers of the Blue Lodges for doing their due diligence and going over it with a fine toothed comb. After all of our hard work and decisions on cuts I had a \$9,200 income mistake that should not have been there. This oversight was not noticed by me or the committee. This is where the brothers of the Blue Lodges found it and brought it to my attention. The Grand Lodge Officers cut their upcoming travel budget to make the budget balance. I do want to thank the Brothers for not running me out on a rail. It just shows that mistakes can be made and that if we work together we can solve any problem.

Thank you

Accounts Ways and Means Committee Chairman



Grand Historian Report

W.:B.: Tyler R. Anderson

Most Worshipful Grand Master,

Events within my family required that I take a step back from many of my activities as Grand Historian this year, and so my productivity was perhaps somewhat lower than I would have liked. However, some good work was still achieved and I feel a way is paved for some ongoing projects which will be of great benefit to this Jurisdiction and its members.

Most of my work in the latter portion of the year has focused on the historical Lodge records. One by one the folders are being opened and organized. Documents and objects of particular interest are being scanned into digital format, and transcriptions of handwritten documents are being made. Many of our most fascinating documents, particularly before the First World War, are in old cursive— beautiful and appealing, but also very difficult to read! By transcribing these old pages, we can make significant tranches of our history available and approachable for the curious membership.

The transcriptions are also being annotated with interpretive information, and a short narrative commentary or history is planned to accompany the digitized files from each Lodge, to help tie documents, events, personalities, and details together. The final product will be a small archive, Lodge by Lodge, which will offer a series of snapshots of our direct Masonic predecessors, their work and history. These can be loaded into Grand View and be instantly and easily available. In many cases, it means that for the first time in over a century, members will be able to see the real thing (or at least good images!) and get a feel for where their own Lodge really started. I am currently working on half a dozen files, and every single one has really interesting stuff in it.

I must point out that the idea for this came from RW Robin Justice, who several months ago suggested that I prepare histories for every Lodge. I smiled and nodded, but in my head I was saying, “That’s insane. You have no idea what you’re asking.” But in late 2023 I decided I might as well play with the idea. What an incredible idea it is. This is going to take a long time, but the work will continue to move forward. (Don’t call me, I’ll call you.)

As a value-added bonus, as I work through these folders, aging and delicate pages are also being moved into archival enclosures, folders, and supports, which will extend their lives almost immeasurably. These supplies can be a bit costly in the moment, and so I thank the Brothers of New Mexico for continuing to support the budget for my work.

Grand Master Schenk, I offer you my thanks for the opportunity to continue in this work and office. It is, in my mind, the best job in New Mexico Masonry.

Fraternally submitted,

WB Tyler Anderson

Grand Historian



Grand Lodge of New Mexico AF&AM Information Technology Committee 2023 Annual Report

Most Worshipful Grand Master:

The Information Technology (IT) Committee is responsible for identifying, evaluating, and implementing information technology solutions and supporting the constituent Lodges and individual users who access these technologies. In the calendar year 2023 your IT committee made significant progress in implementing a cohesive framework for technology provided and used by the Grand Lodge.

The 2023 committee consisted of DGM S Almager (Chair), RWB A Cosby, WB L Roughgarden, WB J Huang, WB A Reber, and RWB T Christophersen. Additional technical assistance and support to the committee was provided by RWB D Newhouse, WB S Balke, and WB J Overfelt.

Activities and accomplishments for the committee in 2023

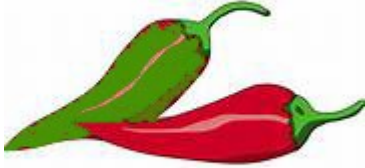
1. **Grandview**

- a. Migration to the new membership management system Grandview, was begun in the first quarter of 2023 and was rolled out to the Brethren in Q3. The committee estimates that more than 50% of the constituent Lodges are now actively using Grandview as of the date of this report.
 - i. During the migration phase MORI/Groupable was contractually maintained to ensure capture of pertinent events while the Grandview system was being customized and tested.
 - ii. Data was transferred (imported) from MORI/Groupable and the local Paradox database for the final time in December 2023. Grand View is now the single membership database in use by the Grand Secretary.
 - iii. MORI/Groupable and Our Lodge Page (OLP) are no longer active.

Information Technology Committee

2023 Annual Report

(Continued)



The data uploads resulted in a successful printing of the 2024 Dues cards with minimal Grand Secretary “rework”.

The annual returns report was successfully enabled in January 2024.

Grand Lodge Internal Network

The current MS-Windows file server role was paralleled with an eight (8) terabyte Network Attached Storage (NAS) unit. This unit will backup and maintain copies of all files currently stored on the existing server and replace it completely at the end-of-life of the server.

External access accounts have been reduced to administrative access/actions only to further safeguard the network from hacking and malicious intrusions.

Cost reductions

Acting on recommendations for reducing expenditures the committee reduced the number of individual Grand Lodge Google eBusiness accounts (...@nmmasons.org) and replaced them with a distribution list which resulted in an annual savings of \$576.

Event based technical support

The Grand Lodge IT Committee has provided support to several bodies and events in the form of Zoom meeting scheduling, recording, and streaming (ex: 2023/2024 budget meeting).

When requested the committee has also provided technical support and equipment when required for in-person meetings (ex: 2023 Grand Communications).

Most Worshipful Grand Master, your committee wishes to express its appreciation and gratitude for serving you and the brethren in the performance of these important duties.



Deputy Grand Master Reports Masonic District 1 - Virgil Brumbelow



RWB Virgil Brumbelow made official visits to Chama Lodge 17, Animas 15, San Juan and has an upcoming visit to Four Corners Daylight on February 3, 2024.

Freemasonry in Chama Lodge 17 is thriving as they demonstrate the monthly ability to meet and contribute to their local charities. Every meeting that I have attended at Chama demonstrated the strength and harmony existent in Freemasonry. I am impressed by the support that is present at Chama Lodge.

Freemasonry in San Juan Lodge continues to stay strong. They are financially fit and meet regularly. The Lodge at the time of my visit was preparing a summer appreciation party for the local first responders. It is a great way to keep Freemasons in the eye of their community and I applaud them.

Animas Lodge has held a car show, and brought the public to see their place. They are in good standing with membership and financially. They are providing the invaluable service that will change lives of our future generation through the Scottish Rite Learning Centers.

Lebanon Lodge and Malpais Lodge are in a serious situation. They are not able to meet in quorum and they are losing senior members. Their communities show no interest in Freemasonry. Their numbers have dwindled as have their finances. Malpais has chosen to go dark in 2023. Lebanon expects to follow in a year. The most unfortunate factor is that these communities may have good men that would make Masons, but that avenue is no longer available within their community.

Sincerely and Fraternally

Virgil Brumbelow

DDGM Masonic District 1



Masonic District 2 - Michael Freitas

The Lodges of District 2 are Masonically healthy and sound. The fraternalism is excellent, the Brethren routinely meet for dinner even if there are too few to Open Lodge.

Valley Lodge No. 69 has been particularly impressive in this regard, and has been able to increase attendance as well as ritual proficiency over the last few years.

The Ritual across the district is very good, with some variation from Lodge to Lodge. Several of the Lodges demonstrate an earnest desire to always improve, setting practice sessions regularly, even when there is not a Degree to Confer. The attention to detail clearly indicates the universal use of the Ritual Books during these practices. This might not directly translate to Ritual Sections being returned, but the overall level of competency has steadily risen throughout the district. This can be seen particularly in the younger or newer Officers who constantly try their best to learn and improve. The Deacons of both Montezuma Lodge No. 1 and Sandoval Lodge No. 76 are good examples of this.

While the district has lost several Brothers this year through death or non-payment of dues, the Lodges have Initiated as many new Brothers, with a few others being Passed or Raised, and a number of Petitioners currently under investigation. Most of these Degrees have been conferred without assistance from other Lodges, indicating the solid level of proficiency in the Ritual by the respective brethren.

Fraternally,

Michael Freitas DDGM Masonic District 2



Masonic District 4 - Harry W. Jenkins II

Hiram Lodge No. 13, 25 May 2023

Dinner was at 6 pm
Before Lodge we reviewed the DDGM Checklist
Lodge opened on time at 7 pm
Introduced and taken to the East and given Grand Honors
Normal business was conducted.

Temple Lodge No. 6, 1 June 2023

Dinner was at 6 pm
Before Lodge we reviewed the DDGM Checklist
Lodge opened on time at 7:00 pm
Introduced and taken to the East and given Grand Honors
Normal business was conducted.

Zia Daylight Lodge No. 77, 6 June 2023

Donuts and coffee at 9:30 am
Before Lodge we reviewed the DDGM Checklist
Due to my work schedule, I could not stay for Lodge.

Sandia Mountain Lodge No. 72, 6 June 2023

Dinner was at 6 pm
Before Lodge we reviewed the DDGM Checklist
Lodge opened on time at 7:00 pm
Introduced and taken to the East and given Grand Honors
Normal business was conducted.

Albuquerque Lodge No. 60, 12 April 2023

Dinner was at 6 pm
Before Lodge we reviewed the DDGM Checklist
Lodge opened on time at 7:00 pm
Introduced and taken to the East and given Grand Honors
Normal business was conducted.

Mesa Lodge No. 68, 3 August 2023

Dinner was at 6 pm
Before Lodge we reviewed the DDGM Checklist
Lodge opened on time at 7:12 pm
Introduced and taken to the East and given Grand Honors
Normal business was conducted.

At each Lodge I spoke about:

Grandview

Social Media Requirements

Asst. Secretaries

Membership

Upcoming events: Grand Lodge 2024 and MASONICon 24 June.

In addition to my assigned visitations **I attended the following Installations:**

Albuquerque No. 60 December 1st.
Mesa No. 68 December 2nd
Lodge of Research December 8th
Sandoval No. 76 December 9th
Sandia Mt. No. 72 December 9th
Bethel No. 2 December 10th
Scottish Rite Valley of Santa Fe December 11th
Edgewood No. 82 December 16th
Hiram No. 13 December 16th
Albuquerque York Rite Christmas Observance and
Installation December 18th
Temple No. 6 December 27th
DeMolay Route 66 January 6th
Shrine Installation January 6th
Rainbow Assembly Ashlar No. 58 January 13th
Rainbow Assembly Sandia Mountain No. 63 January 13th

Fraternally submitted,

Harry W. Jenkins II DDGM Masonic District 4

Masonic District 6 - William H. Herron



MWB Tom, Thank you for your guidance regarding the responsibilities and duties of the DDGM's .

I appreciate you encouraging me to provide the report that was required even though it was late and not yet prepared . I hope that this report will provide an idea on how the lodges in District 6 is doing . It has been a honor serving you and the craft during your year as Grand Master . Thank you for allowing me to serve and grow in Freemasonry .

With reference to the tenets of Freemasonry , I have found that all six lodges in District 6 thoroughly understand what they are and are striving to incorporate them in all their doings . With regards to relief , the lodges have assisted individual brethren and their charity recipients with the greatest love and concern .

The degree of assistance will vary , however it is apparent that this assistance is in the forefront of their work and mission .

Speaking of growing the craft , all the lodges with the exception of maybe one have had the opportunity to initiate , pass or raise a good amount of initiates and brethren this past year . . I do not have the exact amount of degrees conferred at this time but having had the opportunity to assist in most of the degrees , I can tell you that the work was very good and most enjoyable .

While visiting the lodges , the welcome and brotherly love was the best and greatly appreciated . It is essential to have good fellowship so that masonic education and focus on the work to be done can be met with good success and a benefit for all . I offer my sincere thanks to the Masters and Brethren of District 6 and Disrtrict 7 .

Speaking to the importance of truth , this tenet is understood and apparent in the communications of the lodges . Great attention to this matter is evident by how the officers and brethren communicate and share information . That being said , we all understand the importance of following these basics of Freemasonry and not only adhering to them , but also to incorporating them in our daily lives , but also in our masonic endeavors .

I look forward to working with all of you this coming year .Congratulations to Most Worshipful Tom Schenk on a great year .

Fraternally

William H. Herron DDGM Masonic District 6

Masonic District 7 - Charles W. Bass



Year end report of District Deputy Grand Master 7th District

The 7th District is doing well, there are 321 Master Masons, 2 Fellowcrafts, 4 Entered Apprentices, and 1 Candidate throughout the District. The Lodges in this District are

Bethesda Lodge #64, Carrizozo Lodge #41, Kingston Lodge #16, Ruidoso Lodge #73, Sacramento Lodge #24, and Tularosa Lodge #49. The one thing that might give me some concern is that the average age of the Master Mason in this District is 72.2 but the average age of the EA is 41.4 and the FC is 27.2. This shows me that younger men are looking for what Masons are offering. It is also nice to know that there are well experienced Masons to guide and mentor these young Masons, which can only make Freemasonry stronger.

I have attended approximately 40 functions scattered throughout the District what

with stated meetings, degrees, and other special meetings. Granted most of this was in the Tularosa Basin area, but the times I have been to Kingston and Bethesda have been a pleasure for me. In all the visits the ritual and floor work has been very good.

Carrizozo Lodge is having some difficulties as a lot of their members are not able to make it to the meetings stated, so it makes it hard to open every time. The fellowship and meal are top notch though.

It has been a pleasure and an honor to be a DDGL and DDGM for this area over the last few years. I'm excited to see what happens in the 7th District in the future. I have seen a lot of new Masons going through the chairs in the Lodges which always seems to invigorate Lodges. I want to thank all the Most Worshipful Past Grand Masters who appointed me and allowed me to serve the District and Grand Lodge.

Fraternally,

Charles (Chuck) Bass DDGM Masonic District 7



Masonic District 8 - Charles W. Bass

Most Worshipful Grand Master Thomas Schenk, Grand Master Masons of New Mexico

It has been my honor to be a part of your team as DDGM of the 8th Masonic District for 2023-24. On the following pages, I submit my report and my thanks for the opportunity.

Best Regards,

Glenn R. Connolly

DI, RWB Glenn Connolly completed official visits to Roswell Lodge #18, Carlsbad Lodge #21, Felix Lodge #29, Lovington Lodge #46, Hobbs Lodge #63, and Eunice Lodge #67, as reported below:

Roswell Lodge #18

Carlsbad Lodge #21

Lovington Lodge #47

Felix Lodge

Visits

I performed two official visits, nine total visits

Activities

The Lodge hosted an open house to promote Free Masonry, a booth at the Lea County Courthouse, a booth and raffle at the Lea County Fair, as well as a pinewood derby. Seven petitions for degrees were completed, and scholarships were awarded.

Hobbs Lodge #63

Visits

performed visitation on 29 occasions.

Activities

The Lodge hosted Kindles for Kids, sponsored coffee and donuts with Lea County Sheriff's deputies, an open house to promote Free Masonry, and a booth and raffle at the Lea County Fair.

Eunice Lodge #67

I performed two official visits and 10 total visits.

Activities

The Lodge hosted a pancake breakfast fundraiser, an open house to promote Free Masonry, and a booth and affle at the Lea County Fair.

Additional visits and activities:

Seminole, TX

4 visits

Toured lodge in Boston, MA

Parade/Llano, TX

Lea County Fair Parade 8/9

July 4 Parade Eunice NM

Denver City, TX

1 visit

Post

1 visit, outdoor degree.

Roswell

1 visit = Texas Fellowcraft and table lodge.

Other visits and activities:

Attended MasonicCon

Participated in State Fair Parade

Attended budget meeting

Attended Nobility ball

Silver City lodge#8 attended with Grand Master.

Attended Eastern Star in Albuquerque.

Texas and Utah GL

Attended past Master's dinners at Hobbs and Eunice where Masonic widows were in attendance

Assessment and Recommendations for District #8

Lovington Lodge #47

STRENGTHS:

Despite the confusion of multiple departures, the current leadership is working through its challenges.

WEAKNESSES

The current leadership is a state of flux and the loss of officers and committed members due to recent departures creates confusion: Master moved to Ruidoso mid-term and mid-term SW became Mayor of Lovington and was unable to advance or fulfill his duties. JW moved to Maryland. Ritual is mediocre.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Implement district workshops on ritual, protocol, and officer development to help improve current and future leadership.

Hobbs Lodge #63

STRENGTHS:

Ritual is strong and leadership is currently improving. Active membership is dedicated and loyal. Five petitions are currently before the investigation committee and new members seem interested in advancement.

WEAKNESSES

Current member pool is limited and creates the need to recycle officers, and those members currently in attendance don't wish to advance.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Host District workshops in Hobbs to showcase and share best practices with other lodges. Workshops would serve to set a positive example for other lodges, improve leadership skills, and brainstorm community projects to create awareness for Free Masonry.

Eunice Lodge #67

STRENGTHS:

Members are younger than other District 8 lodges and possibly open to advancement. A new Master recently elected and leadership is evolving. Prospective member leads are managed effectively. Attendance is good at Saturday morning breakfast – a possible opportunity for future community projects. Ritual is fair.

WEAKNESSES:

Membership is small, which forces officers to serve multiple terms.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Attend District workshop(s) and identify community projects for improved visibility and connection.

Report Summary

In general, District 8 lodges share common areas of opportunity:

Where leadership is new and evolving, implement opportunities to improve (workshops).
Where members are younger, leverage their youth and ability to attract other members.
Educate members and leadership about community project opportunities: how to identify, where to participate and best practices for visible community project opportunities.
Ritual is an area of opportunity for improvement in all three lodges.
Membership is limited, which forces officers to serve multiple terms.

Felix lodge 2 official visits, closed lodge
Lovington lodge 3 (1 tba)
Eunice Lodge 4 (Check this!)
Eddy Lodge 2 (1 tba)
Roswell Lodge 2 (1 tba)
Hobbs Lodge 29 visits

Fraternally,

Glenn R. Connolly DDGM Masonic District 8

Holdover Legislation from Annual Communication

146 Farmington, NM

DECLARATION

We, The Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of New Mexico, in order to ~~for a~~ perfect fraternal union, establish order, ~~insure~~ (ensure) tranquility, provide for and promote the general welfare of the Craft and secure to the Fraternity in New Mexico the blessings of Masonic Privileges, do ordain and establish this Constitution; and provided further, that all resources of the Grand Lodge, both principal and income, may be used for Masonic Relief.

Code 43. RITUAL BOOKS AND CIPHERS.

(a) Only Grand Lodge Ritual Books and ciphers produced under the control and approval of the Grand Lodge shall be used. They shall not be reproduced without expressed approval of the Grand Lodge. Any such cipher shall not contain any Due Forms, Due Guards, Penal Signs, Grips, Words or Passwords. **2012, 2018, 2019, 2020**

(b) Any Mason who is a member in good standing of a constituent Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction shall be able to obtain a cipher in printed or downloadable digital format for the highest degree which he has received from the Grand Lodge at his own expense. **2018, 2019, 2020**

(c) Ritual Books or Ciphers may not be used in open Lodge or during examination of candidates, however ciphers may be used for instruction of candidates. **2020 2020**

Code 44. RESPONSIBILITY IN LODGES.

Excluding the New Mexico Monitor and Ceremonies, ritual material in the possession of each constituent Lodge shall be the direct responsibility of the Master for its use, safeguarding, accounting requirements and all related administrative details. The Master shall also have the direct responsibility for ensuring that only approved ciphers are used and only in accordance with ~~Code 43 (e).~~ **Code 43 (c).** **2012**

The newly elected Master of each lodge shall sign and submit in the Annual ~~Returns~~ (Returns) Packet each year (~~Code 132~~) (**Code 132**) the Annual Inventory and Receipt of Lodge Ritual Books. Failure to do so shall subject the delinquent lodge to a fine of One Hundred Fifty (\$150) dollars. The Grand Master may waive this fine, at the Lodge's request, for cause. Missing or lost booklets (13 total) shall subject the delinquent lodge to a replacement fine of Fifty (\$50) per booklet and/or Six Hundred Fifty (\$650) dollars for the complete set. The Grand Master may waive this fine, at the Lodge's request, for cause. **2017**

Code 62. GRAND LODGE FUNDS.

The following funds are hereby created:

General Fund	
Administration Building Reserve Fund	
Investment Fund	
Grand Lodge Communication Fund	2020 2020
Endowment Fund	2013

(6) The fund will be invested with the other GL Invested funds to help preserve the fund.
Section (d) added 2020 **Section (d) added 2020**

Delete page 30, it is blank

Code 161. MASTER ~~MAY~~ (SHALL) EXCLUDE.

The Master shall require any Mason to leave the Lodge whose conduct therein disturbs its harmony and may subsequently prefer charges of un-Masonic conduct. **2018**

Code 172. ELECTIONS AND INSTALLATIONS.

Officers shall be elected by ballot at a regular communication in November or December as specified in the Lodge By-Laws. All officers shall be installed in December at one communication, if possible, preferably on the anniversary of St. John the Evangelist but in no case, no later than January 31. Officers not installed by the time reports are due in the Grand Secretary's office shall be listed on the Annual Returns and shown as not installed. Vacancies resulting from the failure to install by January 31st shall be ~~filled~~ (appointed) by the Master, except in the case of elected officers, who must be elected and installed at the next regular communication following January 31st. **2019**

Code 191. ADVANCEMENT.

(b) Examination committees shall consist of at least three (3) ~~members~~ (Eligible Master Masons) of the examining Lodge.

~~Code 205. WAIVER OF JURISDICTION~~ **Code 205. WAIVER OF JURISDICTION**

By unanimous ballot of all members present, determined by black and white balls, a Lodge may waive its jurisdiction over any of its material in favor of any recognized lodge. Should unanimous consent of all members present not be given, the Lodge may not consider a new request to waive jurisdiction until after the expiration of thirty (30) days.

- (a) If the waiver is in favor of another recognized Grand Jurisdiction, all correspondence with respect to such waivers, either granted or requested, must be conducted through the office of the Grand Secretary but it shall not be necessary to obtain the approval of the Grand Master for any such waiver.
- (b) A Waiver of Jurisdiction may be granted to an Entered Apprentice or a Fellow Craft who shall have failed to present himself for advancement as prescribed by our Grand Lodge By-Laws.
- (c) An Entered Apprentice or a Fellow Craft coming from another recognized Grand Jurisdiction, by waiver, must present himself for advancement within the time prescribed by these By-Laws, otherwise he must petition and be elected for the remaining degree or degrees.
- (d) Unearned fees shall be returned to the Brother in the case of a waiver granted to an Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft to another lodge. ~~2020~~ **2020**

Code 369. DEFINITIONS

- (a) Lodge Dues are defined as the amount set by the Lodge and paid by a Brother to that Lodge ~~annual~~ **(annually)** for Lodge operations.

Code 370. WHEN PAYABLE.

Dues shall be payable on January 1st of each year, in advance, and any Brother who fails to pay the same within six (6) months from that date shall be dealt with in accordance with Masonic Law. **(Code 374) add.**

Code. 408 EVIDENCE.

- (a) Trial shall be conducted upon the highest degree to which the accused has attained. Testimony of all Masons shall be taken orally in open Lodge.
- (b) Testimony of non-Masons, or of Masons unable to attend the trial, shall be taken in writing by a committee designated for such purpose by the Master or submitted in the form of affidavits. The accused shall be given reasonable notice of the time and place fixed for the taking of any such evidence and have the right to be present and propound questions relevant to the charge.
- (c) The record of a court of competent jurisdiction showing conviction of the accused for the offense specified in the charge shall constitute competent evidence in support of charge. The record of such a court showing acquittal of such charge shall likewise be competent evidence ~~in~~ **(on)** behalf of the accused.

Submitted by

Cerrillos Lodge No. 19 Approved 1-11-23

Hobbs Lodge No. 63 Approved 1-10-23

Eunice Lodge No. 67 Approved 1-7-23

Ruidoso Lodge No. 73 Approved 1-3-23

Purpose of Proposal

Due to some grammatical errors and some needed clarifications. Basic housekeeping.

Presented by: Eunice Lodge No 67 Eunice, NM WB Carlton G. Jenkins

Seconded by: Cerrillos Lodge No 19 Santa Fe, NM RWB Michael Freitas

Hobbs Lodge No 63 Hobbs, NM WB Walter G. Gunderson

Ruidoso Lodge No 73 Ruidoso, NM RWB Charles W. Bass

X *Walter G. Gunderson*
Walter G. Gunderson, WM
Hobbs Lodge No. 63

X *Carlton G. Jenkins*
Carlton G. Jenkins, WM
Eunice Lodge No. 67

X *Charles W. Bass*
RWB Charles W. Bass, WM
Ruidoso Lodge No. 73

X *Michael Freitas*
RWB Michael Freitas, WM
Cerrillos Lodge No. 19

Legislation of the 2024 Annual Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of New Mexico AF & AM

March 14th thru 16th, 2024

Legislation:

1. Revisit grammatical errors and needed clarifications (Basic Housekeeping) to our Code that were submitted at the 2023 Annual Communication.

This item was withdrawn due to lack of printed information and no audio / visual presentation capabilities. (Please see attached information for review).

Presented by Eunice Lodge No. 67 - WB Carlton Jenkins

Seconded by Cerrillos Lodge No. 19 – RWB Michael Freitas

Hobbs Lodge No. 63 – WB Walter G. Gunderson

Ruidoso Lodge No. 73 – RWB Charles Bass

Resolutions:

1. 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.

The budget shall include allowances for all:

- (a) Salaries
- (b) Travel
- (c) Compensation for clerical assistants appointed by the Grand Secretary.
- (d) Necessary expenses of the Grand Secretaries office.
- (e) Necessary travel and subsistence expenses of the Board of Directors and of standing or special committees.
- (f) Annual one dollar per capita contribution to the George Washington Masonic National Memorial. Such per capita contribution shall be based on the total Master Masons borne on its roll as regular members subject to per capita dues on January 1 of each year.
- (g) Library acquisitions as determined by the Grand Secretary.
- (h) Premiums on official bonds and,
- (i) Any other necessary expenses for the efficient operation of the Grand Lodge activities.

Any Grand Lodge committee requesting funds, other than routinely budgeted amounts, shall submit such requests to the office of the Grand Secretary on or before July 1 preceding the Budget Meeting. 2013

Rationale: The George Washington Masonic National Memorial celebrates the values and integrity of a man who continues to exemplify Freemasonry. Please join 38 other Grand Lodges in honoring his life and symbolizing Freemasonry.

Resolution No. 1 presented by MWB Bill Pogue PGM

Seconded by Hobbs Lodge No. 63 - WB Walter G. Gunderson

Lovington Lodge No. 46 – WB Roy E. Manly

Eunice Lodge No. 67 – WB Carlton Jenkins

Grand Masters Recommendations:

1. CHAPTER V – STANDING COMMITTEES

Code 50. APPOINTMENT

At or before each Annual Communication the Grand Master shall appoint:

- (a) A Committee on Accounts, Ways and Means etc.
- (b) A Committee on Audit etc.
- (c) A Committee on Credentials etc.
- (d) A Committee on Foreign Correspondence etc.
- (e) A Committee on Grand Masters Address etc.
- (f) A Committee on Investment Advisory etc.
- (g) A Committee on Legal Advisement composed of not less than five (5) Brethren all of whom are experienced in appraisal, beneficiaries, bequests, donations, gifts, environment, life insurance, litigation, real estate and wills, to advise and facilitate when needed, to the Board of Directors on such matters as they pertain to the Grand Lodge.
- (h) A Committee on Jurisprudence etc.
- (i) A Committee on Long Range Planning etc.
- (j) A Committee on Masonic Education etc.
- (k) A Committee on Publications etc.
- (l) A Committee on Reference etc.
- (m) A Committee on Ritual etc.
- (n) A Committee on Youth (Masonic) etc.
- (o) A Committee on Annual Communication etc.

Rationale: There is an ever-growing need for such a committee to provide both knowledge and service to the Grand Lodge, as well as to the Constituent Lodges of this Grand Jurisdiction regarding the matters listed in proposed recommendation (g). For decades, Brethren have wanted to leave their Lodges, as well as the Grand Lodge of New Mexico certain “Gifts” to help benefit and perpetuate their existence. Having a legal “Mechanism” in place would allow them to do that, as well as allow their Lodges and Grand Lodge to receive them.

2. CHAPTER 1 – ANNUAL COMMUNICATION

Code 1. Time and Place.

The Annual Communication of this Grand Lodge shall be held in the City of Albuquerque **State of New Mexico** commencing on the third Friday of March of each year at 9:30 am, but the place of the meeting may be changed whenever a majority of the Grand Lodge shall deem such change expedient.

Rationale: Annually at the closing Grand Lodge, a motion, second and vote must be had to determine the location of where next year's Annual Communication is to be held. This recommendation would streamline the legislative process and eliminate the need for such action. The outgoing Grand Masters residence, or Annual Communication preference varies from year to year.

3. Code. 365. REQUIREMENT TO VISIT.

Subject to the prerogatives of a Master in regard to the admission of visitors, it shall be the duty of the Tyler, when a visitor has been vouched for by him, or any other member to require the applicant to show a receipt for current dues before the Tyler may admit him into the Lodge Hall. The Tyler shall admit, with the permission of the Master, a qualified visitor hailing from another Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction at any time during the period he is eligible to enjoy the privileges of membership in his own Lodge. A visitor hailing from another Grand Jurisdiction may be admitted only up to the date of expiration of good standing as applied to Masons in this Grand Jurisdiction. **Digital Dues Cards will be accepted from this Grand Jurisdiction, and all other recognized Grand**

Jurisdictions.

Rationale: While the Grand Lodge will continue to distribute annual dues cards, this will allow those who have lost/misplaced their dues cards, to attend Lodge in this Jurisdiction or in others where recognized.

4. Code 393. DUES CARDS.

All categories of members (Regular, Life, Endowed, Primary and Plural) shall be issued an annual dues receipt in accordance with **Code 373**. Lodges desiring to grant a life membership in accordance with **Code 391** shall certify such fact to the Grand Secretary, setting forth the date of birth, date raised a Master Mason, date of affiliation and proof of aggregate total years of membership. Life membership shall become effective upon certification by the Grand Secretary who shall issue a Membership card. **Digital Dues Cards will be accepted from this, and all other recognized Jurisdictions.**

Rationale: While the Grand Lodge will continue to distribute annual dues cards, this will allow those who have lost/misplaced their dues cards to attend Lodge in this Jurisdiction or in others where recognized. This will also allow visiting Brethren to attend our Lodges with a digital dues card. Many other Jurisdictions accept digital dues cards, and this puts the Grand Lodge of New Mexico in line with other Grand Lodges.

5. Code 320. PROFICIENCY OF A MASTER MASON.

Add Paragraph (d).

(d). All Master Masons Entered, Passed and Raised after March 16th, 2024, will be required to pass suitable proficiency on the Master Mason Degree. Suitable proficiency must be completed.

by Committee, or in Open Lodge, then approved by the vote of the Brethren. The timeline for completion of the proficiency will be (1) one year after receiving his Master Mason Degree. If not completed within the allotted timeframe, the Brother will have to repetition the Lodge as in the preceding degrees. All Master Masons Entered, Passed and Raised prior to March 16th, 2024, will be exempt, and not required to pass suitable proficiency. Master Mason proficiencies from other recognized jurisdictions will be accepted. The Grand Master may waive this requirement with proper justification, such as relocation due to active military service etc.

Rationale: Once was the standard within the Grand Lodge of New Mexico to hold a Master Mason Certificate of Proficiency to hold the Office of Warden or Master of a Lodge, in addition to having experienced and accounted for the most sacred, solemn and spiritual vow any Mason can take. The MASTER MASONS OBLIGATION. This recommendation if passed would provide some level of proficiency requirement needed before he is elected to the Office of Warden or Master of a Lodge, this also provides completion of the Master Mason Degree before potentially petitioning membership within the Appendant Bodies of Freemasonry. This requirement would not affect the status of any current Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft or Master Mason. The Grand Master would still retain the ability to waive this requirement with proper justification for special circumstances, Active Military, First Responders or through dispensation.

As long as we are willing to accept mediocracy, then mediocre is all we will ever be.

Prior Precedence of Master Mason Proficiency Requirement:

1899 Constitution and Bylaws of the Grand Lodge of New Mexico – Article IX – Section 12.

Proficiency of Master Masons. All newly raised Master Masons shall stand examination in open Lodge on the first section of the Master Masons Degree within six months after their raising, which shall be recorded in the minutes.

1922 - Constitution and Bylaws of the Grand Lodge of New Mexico - Section 12. Proficiency of Master Masons

Within six months after being raised, every Master Mason shall stand examination in open Lodge upon the first section of the Master Mason Degree as embodied in the Ritual of this Grand Jurisdiction, following which a vote shall be taken as to the proficiency of the brother being examined. Record of such examination and the action thereon shall be made in the minutes. If such examination shall be declared satisfactory, certificate to that effect shall be transmitted by the Secretary, under the seal of his Lodge, to the Grand Secretary, by whom a Master Masons diploma shall thereupon be issued at the expense of the Grand Lodge, to the brother thus passing such examination, embodying a certificate of his proficiency as a Master Mason.

1930 – Constitution and Bylaws of the Grand Lodge of New Mexico – Article XI Petitions Section 12.

Same requirement as above.

1965 – Constitution and Bylaws of the Grand Lodge of New Mexico – Miscellaneous Article XXIII – Section 12.

Proficiency of Master Masons. Within seventy days after being raised or for Master Masons affiliating, within seventy days after completion of transfer of his membership by the filing of demit, every Master Mason shall stand examination in open Lodge, or before committee appointed by the Worshipful Master, as provided in Article XV, Section 3, upon the first section of the Master Mason Degree as embodied in the Ritual of this Grand Jurisdiction, following which a vote shall be taken as to the proficiency of the Brother being examined. Record of such examination and the action taken thereon shall be made in the minutes.

2007 – Constitution and Bylaws of the Grand Lodge of New Mexico – Code 191. Advancement.

- (a) No Candidate shall receive more than one degree at the same communication. Before advancing from one Degree to another the Candidate must, at a regular or special communication, pass satisfactory proficiency examination on the proficiency lecture covering the preceding degree or pass a satisfactory examination covering the steps, signs, tokens and obligation of the preceding

degree, to be determined by the majority vote of the members present. This examination may be conducted by a committee appointed by the Master.

Brethren, in 1877, this Jurisdiction received its Charter issued by the Grand Lodge of Missouri, since then, and even before, The Grand Lodge of New Mexico has operated by the Landmarks, Rules and Regulations set forth by the Founders of our Fraternity. For almost 150 years we have operated in a manner that distinguishes us from all other Institutions. Sadly, within the past two decades we have relaxed those qualifications that separate us from others, those qualifications that obligate us to each other, and those qualifications that bind us to the Fraternity we cherish so much. So now, while there is a gaining demand for Freemasonry, let us return those essential qualifications and provide Freemasonry as it was meant to be for future generations.

6. Grand Lodge of New Mexico Social Media Policy

Paragraph 1. **(add the following)** (If needed, please see the attached social media Policy in its entirety).

This policy governs the publication of and commentary on social media by officers, members and representatives of the Grand Lodge of New Mexico and its constituent Lodges and Organizations, (hereinafter referred to collectively as “Grand Lodge of New Mexico) for the purpose of this policy, social media means any facility for online publication and commentary, including without limitation blogs, wikis, social networking sites such as Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, Reddit, YouTube, **TikTok, Instagram and any other social media platform now, or in the future.** This policy is in addition to and compliments any existing or future policies regarding the use of technology, computers, e-mail and the internet.

Rationale: To update the existing Social Media policy to account for new and future social media platforms used for posting content to the internet.

Question: Is the social media policy of the Grand Lodge of New Mexico just an addendum to our Constitution and Bylaws or is it an established Code.?

If it is not in our official Code, I would move for its official adoption, as it would have greater meaning and it is then enforceable.

For placement possibilities, please Refer to **Code. 231. & 311. Masonic Offences.**

Code. 50. Publications.

Code. 405. through 430. Trials

Necrology Report

Date	First Name	Middle	Last Name	Home Lodge	Lodge #
2024-02-24	John	B.	Dunlap	Bethesda Lodge	64
2024-02-23	Philip	Stephen	Doonan	Sandoval Lodge	76
2024-02-22	Ronnie	L.	Morris	Clovis Lodge	40
2024-02-16	Richard	M.	Reich	Hiram Lodge	13
2024-02-14	Louis	G.	Sleeper	Montezuma Lodge	1
2024-02-13	Donald	L.	Troublefield	Felix Lodge	29
2024-02-13	Vaughn	Dean	Robinson II	Felix Lodge	29
2024-02-12	Reynaldo	Miguel	Herrera	Chapman Lodge	2
2024-01-31	George	Parnell	Kellum	Eunice Lodge	67
2024-01-17	Paul	W.	Gettinger	Sacramento Lodge	24
2024-01-17	Robert	J.	Kemp	Bethlehem Lodge	56
2024-01-15	Thomas	L.	Williams	Animas Lodge	15
2024-01-14	Earl	Wayne	Allison	Ruidoso Lodge	73
2024-01-14	George	Ray	Culp	Bethlehem Lodge	56
2024-01-11	Charles	David	Warner	Tularosa Lodge	49
2024-01-11	Franz	J.	Lehmkuhler	Temple Lodge	6
2024-01-08	Donald	Franklin	Pruitt	Tucumcari Lodge	27
2024-01-07	Lerry	D.	Bond	Carrizozo Lodge	41
2024-01-06	Thomas	J.	Williams	Temple Lodge	6
2024-01-05	Donald	Ray	Balkcom	Temple Lodge	6
2024-01-01	George	Edward	Moss	Hiram Lodge	13
2023-12-29	John	Gilbert	Marrs	Eddy Lodge	21
2023-12-24	Carroll	Jay	Wysong	Mimbres Lodge	10
2023-12-23	Roy	Erwin	Patton	Temple Lodge	6
2023-12-23	Roy	Erwin	Patton	Temple Lodge	6
2023-12-23	William	S.	Krum	Hiram Lodge	13
2023-12-21	Harold	N.	McNichols	Temple Lodge	6
2023-12-20	Robert	J.	Harris	Eddy Lodge	21
2023-12-18	Samuel	G.	Jack	Temple Lodge	6
2023-12-15	Leonard	Ray	Schaffer	Mimbres Lodge	10
2023-12-13	James	T.	Cassan	Portales Lodge	26
2023-12-12	Huburn	P	Benjamin	Temple Lodge	6
2023-12-09	Larry	S.	O'Neal	Mesa Lodge	68
2023-12-08	John	C.	Huffman	Animas Lodge	15
2023-12-03	Oscar	W.	Hillman	Valley Lodge	69
2023-11-23	Ronald	R.	Ball	Montezuma Lodge	1
2023-11-10	Carl	Allen	Price	Union Lodge	4
2023-11-08	Carl	R.	Allen	Albuquerque Lodge	60
2023-11-08	Robert	Dale	Harris	Union Lodge	4
2023-11-06	Gary		Weber	Animas Lodge	15
2023-11-06	Ted	Sneed	Lucas	Temple Lodge	6
2023-11-04	James	Theodore	Miller	Felix Lodge	29

2023-11-02	Kimerick	F.	Hayner	Felix Lodge	29
2023-10-06	William	Craig	Crow	Bethlehem Lodge	56
2023-09-24	James	Leonard	Cruz	Temple Lodge	6
2023-09-15	James	Francis	Brewer	Mesa Lodge	68
2023-09-15	Robert	P.	LeMarr	Montezuma Lodge	1
2023-09-14	Dale	E.	Hart	Felix Lodge	29
2023-09-12	Edward	Thomas	Crawley	Sandia Mtn Lodge	72
2023-09-09	Anthony	Leon	Sanford	Temple Lodge	6
2023-09-09	Anthony	Leon	Sanford	Temple Lodge	6
2023-09-08	Thomas	Anthony	Monaco	Montezuma Lodge	1
2023-09-06	James	W.	Barnett Sr	Temple Lodge	6
2023-09-03	George	Derle	Keith	Clovis Lodge	40
2023-08-31	William	O.	Collier	Temple Lodge	6
2023-08-27	John	J	Cummings Jr	Mesa Lodge	68
2023-08-22	Kenneth	Leroy	Johnson	Edgewood Lodge	82
2023-08-17	Billy	R.	Williams	Temple Lodge	6
2023-08-11	Duane	Erwin	Walker	Edgewood Lodge	82
2023-08-07	Stanley	Arthur	Dickerson	Jornada Lodge	70
2023-07-15	John	Robinson	Secrest Jr.	Sacramento Lodge	24
2023-07-05	Robert	A.	Blair	Hobbs Lodge	63
2023-07-04	Darwin	K.	Bleak	Mimbres Lodge	10
2023-07-04	Darwin	K.	Bleak	Mimbres Lodge	10
2023-07-01	Carl	B.	Berghofer	Bent Lodge	42
2023-06-29	Larry	Charles	Stiles Jr.	Felix Lodge	29
2023-06-20	Gayle	Dean	Hennigan	Socorro Lodge	9
2023-06-15	Leroy	F.	Chappell	Mimbres Lodge	10
2023-06-15	Tedd	C.	Walters	Silver City Lodge	8
2023-06-14	James	Leonard	Cruz	Temple Lodge	6
2023-06-13	Tracy	Stephen	McCallum	Bent Lodge	42
2023-06-12	David	Roland	Myers	Portales Lodge	26
2023-06-06	George	Karl	Hay	Portales Lodge	26
2023-05-30	George	H.	Martin	Clovis Lodge	40
2023-05-27	Richard	J.	Forrest	Eddy Lodge	21
2023-05-25	Bobby	Gene	Dixon	Felix Lodge	29
2023-05-24	Marvin	F.	West	Felix Lodge	29
2023-05-20	John	B.	Harter Jr	Silver City Lodge	8
2023-05-16	William	C.	Hobart	Clovis Lodge	40
2023-05-11	Edwin	L.	Dunagan	Eddy Lodge	21
2023-04-28	Dallas	Brown	Jones	Portales Lodge	26
2023-03-28	Chester	H.	Phelps	San Juan Lodge	25
2023-03-23	Gary	Joseph	Schwartzman	Temple Lodge	6
2023-03-20	James	M.	Coslin	Bethesda Lodge	64
2023-03-13	Carlton	Louis	Ferris	Sandia Mtn Lodge	72
2023-03-13	Carlton	Louis	Ferris	Sandia Mtn Lodge	72
2023-03-12	Douglas	Terrence	Boothroyd	Deming Lodge	12

MASONIC CHARITY FOUNDATION OF NEW MEXICO

Board of Directors March 16, 2023

MWB Adam L. Hathaway	Chief Executive Officer				
Lodge #72					
WB Dennis R. Detrow	Secretary				
Lodge #17, 77					
WB David L. Lawson	Chairman	District 1	2021.03 – 2024.03	2 Term	
Lodge #17, 77	PO				
RWB Michael J. Freitas		District 2	2021.03 – 2024.03	1 Term	
Lodge #17, 77					
RWB Sam A. Kelley		District 3	2023.03 – 2026.03	2 Term	
Lodge #40	1916				
RWB James R. Overfelt		District 4	2023.03 – 2026.03	1 Term	
Lodge #13, 68					
WB James D. Combs		District 5	2023.03 – 2026.03	2 Term	
Lodge #82					
WB Rockford A. Wyrembelski		District 6	2022.03 – 2025.03	2 Term	
Lodge #12					
RWB Patrick Moroney		District 7	2022.03 – 2025.03	2 Term	
Lodge #49, 73					
RWB Kerry 'K.T.' Manis		District 8	2022.03 – 2025.03	1 Term	
Lodge #63					

MASONIC CHARITY FOUNDATION

Chairman Report

WB David L. Lawson
Chairman, MCF Board of Directors
Board of Director – District 1

Greetings Brethren,

“How good and how pleasant it is for Brethren to dwell together in unity”.

It has been my pleasure to have been the Chairman of the Masonic Charity Foundation (MCF) for the past several years. The Board of Directors (BOD) have accomplished a great deal of work. The purpose of the Masonic Charity Foundation is to receive and accept contributions to be applied to charitable, scientific, and educational purposes and scholarships.

The BOD works to do just that, The Blue Lodges, Widow’s Sons Chapters, Eastern Stars Chapters and Amaranth Courts ask the MCF for matching funds for their donations for Charity, thus increasing the amount of charity that they use. The MCF does more than that.

The MCF makes donations to those that need a variety of reasons within New Mexico and all other states. The MCF makes donations to aid and assist losses, such as the Fire at Ruidoso and the Fire at Las Vegas. Additional donation aid and assistance was sent to Maui Hawaii to help from their fire. Altogether, the MCF has made over \$350,000.00 to do just that, aid and assist those that are in need of all kinds.

I thank all of the Board of Directors members for all the work they have given this past year.

I am proud to have worked as the BOD for District #1, being the Chairman of the BOD and in my opinion, I have been proud to have worked with a great group of brothers elected by the Class A. Members of this jurisdiction, especially WB Dennis R. Detrow, MCF Secretary, MWB Adam L. Hathaway, CEO.

Fraternally,

WB David Lawson, Chairman

MASONIC CHARITY FOUNDATION OF NEW MEXICO

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Albuquerque, New Mexico Saturday, March 16 2023

The meeting was called to order at 3:10p by WB Lawson Chairman. MWB Hathaway gave the invocation.

MWB Hathaway explained that the Grand Master Elect has the authority to approve items before Grand Lodge Sessions, thus changing from 11 Districts to 8 Districts is legal. This requires the current 11 BOD members being reduced down to 8 BOD members. BOD members have terms of three years. They can have a second term. BOD members have time to continue their terms. WB Lawson is the District 1 BOD members and that will continue. The other BOD members will have to be elected, District by District, by the Class A members. A map of the 8 Districts is available.

WB Lawson introduced himself as Chairman, WB Wyrembelsky Vice-Chairman (not attending), MWB Hathaway CEO, RWB Newhouse, Treasurer and WB Detrow Secretary.

Roll Call: A roll call was made of all members of the MCF BOD: (Note: black – present; ** - excused; red – absent.)

MWB Adam L. Hathaway	CEO	WB Dennis R. Detrow	Secretary
WB David L. Lawson	District 1 Chair	RWB Gary L. Scott	District 7
RWB Michael J. Freitas	District 2	RWB Kerry 'KT' Manis	District 8
RWB Rudolph E. Laumbach	District 3	WB James E. Bungard	District 9
RWB Sam A. Kelley	District 4	<u>WB Rockford A. Wyrembelski</u>	
WB James D. Combs	District 5		District 10 V-Chair
RWB Dion A. Newhouse	District 6 Treas	RWB Patrick Moroney	District 11

A roll call was taken of all Class A Members: Grand Lodge Officers (GM – GSW) attending, sixteen Lodge Masters attended and two Lodge Master's Proxies attended, for a total of twenty one (21) attended.

The list of Board of Directors 2021-22, the MCF Annual Meeting Agenda, the MCF Meeting minutes (Annual Meeting Minutes 2021.03.20, BOD's MCF Meeting (2021.03.20, 2021.06.19, 2021.09.11, 2022.01.15), the Chairman's Report (WB Lawson), the CEO's Report (MWB Hathaway), the Treasurer's Report (WB Newhouse) and the 2021 MCF Matching Funds Distributions Report was distributed to all Class A members.

MW Lawson added some thanks to his report. He was thankful of being able to work with the BOD members, the CEO Hathaway and the Secretary WB Detrow.

MWB Hathaway read his report. He was thankful of being elected the CEO. He reported about the work that the BOD does. He reported of the LPL investment. The investment started at \$1,600,000.00 at 2018 and has now grown up to \$2,600,000.00. The BOD 'stays the course'. He reminded all about the Charity Walk on Friday. The MCF thanks the donations and the money they use for charity. He thanked all for allowing him to be the MCF CEO for the last four years.

The reading of the 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes. The Minutes were distributed. If there is no chaining to the minutes, the 2022 Annual Sessions are approved.

WB Combs gave the treasurer report. He reported that the LPL Investment Account Strategic Wealth Management II was today, \$2,700,000.00; Higgins Memorial Fund was \$975,000.00; NMB&T account was \$29,600.00.

There was no questions of the Lodge Requests and approval Matching Funds.

Nominations / Elected of Board of Directors. Per the rules of the MCF, each District will have a Board of Director for each new 8 District.

District 1	D. Lanson	Carry of for one more year.
District 2	Nomination: M. Freitas	Elected: Michael J. Freitas
District 3	Nomination: G. Maestas	Elected: Sam A. Kelley
District 4	Nomination: D. Newhouse	Elected: James R. Overfelt
District 5	Nomination: J. Combs	Elected: James D. Combs
District 6	Nomination: J. Bungard	Elected: Rockford A. Wyrembelski
District 7:	Nomination: G. Williamson	Elected: Patrick Moroney
District 8:	Nomination: S.	Elected: Kerry 'KT' Manis

RWB T. Schenk talked to the brethren about the 8 Districts change. He explained some of the reasons for the changes was made. MWB W. Pogue spoke to the brethren about his year.

MWB Adam L Hathaway gave the benediction. With no further business, WB Lawson closed the meeting at 4:08p, peace and harmony prevailing.

BOARD MEETING

Albuquerque, New Mexico

Saturday, July 1, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 8:032a by WB Lawson Chairman.

MWB Adam L Hathaway gave the invocation.

Roll Call: A roll call was made of all members of the MCF BOD: (Note: black – present; ** - excused; red – absent.)

MWB Adam L. Hathaway	CEO	WB Dennis R. Detrow	Secretary
WB David L. Lawson	District 1 Chair	WB James D. Combs	District 5 Tres
RWB Michael J. Freitas	District 2	WB Rockford A. Wyrembelski	District 6 V-Chair
RWB Sam A. Kelly	District 3		
RWB James R. Overfelt	District 4	RWB Patrick Moroney	District 7
		RWB Kerry 'KT' Manus	District 8

Minutes of the MCF Meeting, March 16, 2023 were distributed. RWB Moroney made a motion to accept the minutes as distributed. WB Combs seconded the motion. Discuss: None. Motion passed.

Report of Officers:

Chairman: WB Lawson advised that he was happy the way the BOD members work getting things done.

Vice-Chairman: None

CEO: MWB Hathaway was: Investment March 19, 2018 \$1,671,902.19; March 16, 2021 \$2,611,642.78; March 16, 2022 \$2,845,059.78; January 31, 2023 \$2,709,996.27; March 16, 2023 \$2,615,418.62; as of today, \$2,820,913.07; +\$20,685.84. He reported that the BOD members did good by following what Ms. Toone suggested.

Treasurer: WB Combs reported that the Higgins Memorial Fund was \$964,439.24; LPL Investment Account was \$2,588,374.29; and Checking account \$11,450.00.

Secretary: He thought the new BOD members will work out well and it was the 1st time all BOD members attended the BOD meeting.

Miscellaneous: WB Detrow reminded the BOD members that they should give their districts the happening information. WB Combs offered that the information can be distributed to the Lodges on line. There was some discussion about doing just that. MWB Hathaway said he would talk to WB Roughgarden about this item. WB Detrow informed the BOD that Higgins Memorial Fund is reducing the amount of the quarterly monies given to the MCF.

New Business: WB Detrow that the BOD members need to give current Conflict of Interest Forms to the Secretary. They can send them to me online.

MWB Adam L Hathaway gave the benediction. With no further business, WB Lawson closed the meeting at 8:38a, peace and harmony prevailing.

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

Albuquerque, New Mexico

Friday, July 28, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 5:00p by WB Lawson Chairman.

RWB Patrick Moroney gave the invocation.

Roll Call: A roll call was made of all members of the MCF BOD: (Note: black – present; ** - excused; red – absent.)

Secretary

WB David L. Lawson

District 1 Chair

MWB Adam L. Hathaway **	CEO	WB Dennis R. Detrow	Secretary
WB David L. Lawson	District 1 Chair	WB James D. Combs	District 5 Treas
RWB Michael J. Freitas **	District 2	WB Rockford A. Wyrembelski **	District 6
RWB Sam A. Kelly	District 3		
RWB James R. Overfelt	District 4	RWB Patrick Moroney	District 7
		RWB Kerry 'KT' Manus **	District 8

Miscellaneous: There was a discussion MCF and The New Mexico Freemason, Special Notice, First Responder Opportunity. The New Mexico Freemason listed on the Registration Form that the MCF would match funds from the Lodges.

With talking to the Grand Master, he stated that he has no authority over the MCF. He did not mean to give any ideas for Lodges to get Matching Funds for the First Responder Opportunity.

The MCF BOD discussed the 'do or not do' any matching funds on this item. There was a lot of discussion. They talked about the pros and the cons of using MCF funds on this item.

After the discussions, a **Motion was made to not allow matching funds for this item. Motion was 2nded. Further Discussion: None. Motion pasted.**

The MCF will not approve any requests for Matching Funds for this item.

RWB Patrick Moroney gave the benediction. The Special Meeting ended at 6"10pm

BOARD MEETING

Albuquerque, New Mexico

Saturday, September 16, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 8:03a by WB Lawson Chairman.

RWB Patrick Moroney gave the invocation.

Roll Call: A roll call was made of all members of the MCF BOD: (Note: black – present; ** - excused; red – absent.)

Minutes of the MCF Meeting, July 1, 2023 and MCF Meeting July 28, 2023 were distributed.

RWB Moroney made a motion to accept the minutes of the Meeting of July 1, 2023. WB Combs seconded the the motion. Discussion: None. Motion was passed.

WB Combs made a motion to accept the minutes of the Meeting of July 28, 2023. RWB Kelly seconded the motion. Discussion: Correction: "... he has no authority"... instead of "... he has now authority ..." **The corrected Motion passed.**

Report of Officers:

Chairman: **WB Lawson** reviewed the business to be addressed during the meeting.

Vice-Chairman: None

CEO: None

Treasurer: **WB Combs** reported that the Higgins Memorial Fund was \$968,191.01 (Aug 31.2023); LPL Investment Account was \$2,822,194.12 (Sep 15, 2023); and Checking account \$17,183.89 (Sep 15, 2023).

Secretary: **WB Detrow** stated that the \$30,000.00 from LPL covers the \$20,000.00 that will be sent to Hawaii and \$10,000.00 for the coming requests for Matching Funds. MCF BOD approved (for up to) \$10,000.00 for matching funds for Hawaii by the Lodges without the regular requests for Matching Funds (\$5,000.00 limit).

Unfinished Business: None

New Business: **WB Detrow** talked to the Grand Master of Hawaii. He reported on how bad Maui was and all the aid that they will need for everything. I talked to the Mason that runs Masonic Service Association (MSA) and he assured me that all the aid, money and all assistance will be given to Hawaii to the penny. He also reported on the process for the Lodges who will ask for matching funds for Hawaii.

It is like the aid that the MCA assistances with the North and South Carolinas, California and Florida. There was some discussion about the MCA BOD of NM giving aid to Maui Hawaii, and other times when giving aid as needed will happen.

Miscellaneous: **WB Detrow** talked about the process of Masonic Charity Foundation Application for Matching Funds and Completions Forms and all that goes with them. There was a discussion about how all the parts come to gather of Matching Funds.

RWB Patrick Moroney gave a benediction. The meeting ended at 8:50.

BOARD MEETING

Albuquerque, New Mexico

Saturday, January 20, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 8:13a by WB Lawson Chairman.

MWB Adam L. Hathaway gave the invocation.

Roll Call: A roll call was made of all members of the MCF BOD: (Note: black – present; ** - excused; red – absent.)

MWB Adam L. Hathaway	CEO	WB Dennis R. Detrow	Secretary
WB David L. Lawson	District 1 Chair	WB James D. Combs	District 5 Treas
RWB Michael J. Freitas	District 2	WB Rockford A. Wyrembelski	District 6 Vice-Chair
RWB Sam A. Kelly	District 3		
RWB James R. Overfelt	District 4	RWB Patrick Moroney	District 7
		RWB Kerry 'KT' Manus	District

Minutes of the MCF Meeting, September 16, 2023 was distributed. **RWB Freitas made a motion to accept the minutes of the Meeting of September 16 2023. WB Kelly seconded the motion. Discussion: New Business was not needed it twice. Corrected. Motion was passed.**

Report of Officers:

Chairman: **WB Lawson** thought the business of the BOD and MCF was going well.

Vice-Chairman: None

CEO: **MWB Hathaway** spoke about the finance of LPL. March 2018 - \$1,600,000.00; March 2021 - \$2,600,000.00; 2022 - \$2,800,000.00; 2023 - (a dip) \$2,600,000.00; to day - \$2,900,000.00. The BOD was doing good with the LPL.

MWB Adam reminded the BOD that they needed to make sure each district had a BOD member. Also, they need to deal with the BOD members and their terms as a BOD member.

Treasurer: None **Secretary:** **WB Detrow** reported on the BOD members and their terms.

Unfinished Business & New Business: None

Miscellaneous: **RWM Overfelt** asked that he would like a five-year trend with the matching funds amounts. WM Detrow stated he can get that information.

WB Detrow offered some info about the new Districts and how that effects the BOD members. With 11 Districts, the BOD members rotated with: Districts 1,2,3; next year Districts 4,5,6,7; nest year Districts 8,9,10,11. The new rotation should be similar, Districts 1,2; Districts 3,4,5; Districts 6,7,8.

WB Detrow gave an update about the Maui Hawaii donation by the MCF and the matching funds from the lodges and the MCF for another donation.

WB Detrow offered that WB Lawson’s terms will be over at the Annual MCF Session, so a new Chairman will have to be elected.

MWB Hathaway gave a benediction. The meeting ended at 8:47a.

MASONIC CHARITY FOUNDATION				
STATEMENT OF DISTRIBUTIONS 2023				
Lodges			Widows Sons Chapters	
Montezuma Lodge No. 1	\$5,000.00		OES Chapters	
Union Lodge No. 4	\$5,000.00			
Silver Lodge No. 8	\$4,750.00		Silver City Chapter No. 3	\$300.00
Socorro Lodge No. 9	\$2,849.00		Adah Chapter No. 5	\$800.00
Mimbres Lodge No. 10	\$3,000.00		Alamo Chapter No. 11	\$900.00
Deming Lodge No. 12	\$2,900.00		Lovington Chapter No. 35	\$700.00
Animas Lodge No. 15	\$1,705.00		Los Alamos Chapter No. 63	\$500.00
Chama Lodge No.17	\$1,543.00		Turquoise Chapter No. 71	\$1,000.00
Roswell Lodge No. 18	\$5,000.00			
Eddy Lodge No. 21	\$1,000.00		Total Chapter	\$4,400.00
Lebanon Lodge No. 22	\$2,250.00			

Sacramento Lodge No. 24	\$1,000.00		Amaranth Courts	
San Juan Lodge No. 25	\$2,631.00			
Felix Lodge No. 29	\$2,700.00		2023 TOTAL	
Clovis Lodge No. 40	\$5,000.00		DISTRIBUTIONS	\$84,131.00
Bent Lodge No. 42	\$4,072.00			
Lovington Lodge No. 46	\$570.00			
Tularosa Lodge No. 49	\$1,547.00		Donations - HAWAII-Maui	\$20,000.00
Mount Moriah Lodge No. 54	\$1,070.00		MCF Matching Funds	\$7,050.00
Hobbs Lodge No. 62	\$2,605.00		Lodges Matching Funds	\$7,050.00
Bethesda Lodge No. 64	\$1,476.00			\$14,100.00
Eunice Lodge No. 67	\$5,000.00		TOTAL DONATIONS	\$34,100.00
Mesa Lodge No. 68	\$5,000.00			
Valley Lodge No. 69	\$1,200.00			
Malpais Lodge No. 71	\$1,500.00			
Sandoval Lodge No. 76	\$4,851.00			
Zia Daylight Lodge No. 77	\$1,100.00			
Four Corners Daylight			Total Lodge Distributions	\$116,649.00
Lodge No. 80	\$1,000.00		Total Widow Sons	\$6,904.00
Edgewood Lodge No. 82	\$2,412.00		2019 TOTAL	\$121,005.00
Lodges	\$79,731.00		Total Lodge Distributions	\$65,013.00
			Total Widow Sons	
			Distribution	\$100.00
			Total OES Distribution	\$6,224.00
			2020 TOTAL	\$71,337.00
			Total Lodge Distributions	\$55,328.00
			Total OES Distributions	\$4,625.00
			2021 TOTALS	\$59,953.00
			Totals Lodges Distributions	\$85,995.00
			Totals OES Distributions	\$6,200.00
			2022 TOTALS	\$92,196.00

MASONIC CHARITY FOUNDATION
STATEMENT OF DISTRIBUTIONS 2023

Lodges			Widows Sons Chapters	
Montezuma Lodge No. 1	\$5,000.00		OES Chapters	
Union Lodge No. 4	\$5,000.00			
Silver Lodge No. 8	\$4,750.00		Silver City Chapter No. 3	\$300.00
Socorro Lodge No. 9	\$2,849.00		Adah Chapter No. 5	\$800.00
Mimbres Lodge No. 10	\$3,000.00		Alamo Chapter No. 11	\$900.00
Deming Lodge No. 12	\$2,900.00		Lovington Chapter No. 35	\$700.00
Animas Lodge No. 15	\$1,705.00		Los Alamos Chapter No. 63	\$500.00
Chama Lodge No.17	\$1,543.00		Turquoise Chapter No. 71	\$1,000.00
Roswell Lodge No. 18	\$5,000.00			
Eddy Lodge No. 21	\$1,000.00		Total Chapter	\$4,400.00
Lebanon Lodge No. 22	\$2,250.00			
Sacramento Lodge No. 24	\$1,000.00		Amaranth Courts	
San Juan Lodge No. 25	\$2,631.00			
Felix Lodge No. 29	\$2,700.00		2023 TOTAL	
Clovis Lodge No. 40	\$5,000.00		DISTRIBUTIONS	\$84,131.00
Bent Lodge No. 42	\$4,072.00			
Lovington Lodge No. 46	\$570.00			
Tularosa Lodge No. 49	\$1,547.00		Donations - HAWAII-Maui	\$20,000.00
Mount Moriah Lodge No. 54	\$1,070.00		MCF Matching Funds	\$7,050.00
Hobbs Lodge No. 62	\$2,605.00		Lodges Matching Funds	\$7,050.00
Bethesda Lodge No. 64	\$1,476.00			\$14,100.00
Eunice Lodge No. 67	\$5,000.00		TOTAL DONATIONS	\$34,100.00
Mesa Lodge No. 68	\$5,000.00			
Valley Lodge No. 69	\$1,200.00			
Malpais Lodge No. 71	\$1,500.00			
Sandoval Lodge No. 76	\$4,851.00			
Zia Daylight Lodge No. 77	\$1,100.00			
Four Corners Daylight			Total Lodge Distributions	\$116,649.00
Lodge No. 80	\$1,000.00		Total Widow Sons	\$6,904.00
Edgewood Lodge No. 82	\$2,412.00		2019 TOTAL	\$121,005.00
Lodges	\$79,731.00		Total Lodge Distributions	\$65,013.00
			Total Widow Sons	
			Distribution	\$100.00
			Total OES Distribution	\$6,224.00
			2020 TOTAL	\$71,337.00