



# The New Mexico FREEMASON

Volume 2024 Issue 1

May 30, 2024



Grand Lodge and District Officers for 2024-2025  
Steve Almager, Grand Master of Masons in New Mexico

## In This Issue:

02 ... Opening Doors in 24  
05 ... Lodge, check; Youth, check; Community,  
GO!  
06 ... Planning for the Long Game  
06 ... Lincoln Lodge 2024  
07 ... 2024 Grand Lodge is ACTIVE  
08 ... Sacred Band of Friends and Brothers  
09 ... Rock Star and Freemason  
11 ... A Short History of Grand Honors  
13 ... Put the "ME" in Freemasonry  
15 ... Carl Berghofer, Sr. - 75 Years a Mason  
16 ... MASONICon 2024  
18 ... Quarai Ruins District Education & Degree  
19 ... DDGM District 7, as of March 2024

21 ... Ritual Resources District 4 in 2024  
22 ... (Eventful) '24 Summer at a Glance  
23 ... Southeast Start to 2024  
24 ... Unveiling the Divine Geometry of "G"  
25 ... Master Mason Patents  
26 ... The Social Square  
28 ... 2024 NM Grand Lodge Communication  
30 ... Bethel Summer '24 Chili Cook Off  
31 ... IORGNM Grand Assembly 2024  
32 ... Rendezvous 2024  
33 ... The Chapel - April/May 2024  
35 ... Arthur Dockray Tunnell  
36 ... Little Big Things That Matter

---

## Opening Doors in 24

There's a lot to be done, but we believe in "Planning your work and working the plan."



Steve A. Almager  
Grand Master of Masons

I want to start off by telling you how privileged and honored I am to be Grand Master of Masons in New Mexico. It is without a doubt one of the greatest privileges to be able to represent each and every one of you fine Brothers!

The 147th Grand Lodge Annual Communication was an absolute success. The setting at the Inn of the Mountain Gods could not have been any better. I personally want to thank Shirley and MWB Tom for this glorious Grand Lodge.

Next year, the 148th Grand Lodge Annual Communication, will be at the eye-catching and scenic town of Hobbs, New Mexico. Plans are underway to make this Annual Communication one to remember. If you are not attending these Annual Communications, you are missing some of the best fellowship you will find. Catching up with Brothers, from across the State and Nation, is by far the pinnacle of the weekend.

Brothers, we have a long road in front of us, but I know with each other, we can accomplish anything we set our minds to. Change, it seems, is foreign to us Masons. But if we plan to take Freemasonry in New Mexico to the next level, change is inevitable.

The younger generation is looking towards the internet for information on Freemasonry. They communicate via cell phones and email. This is where each Lodge must focus. If you are not currently on some type of Social Media, your Lodge will surely miss the younger generation. The Grand Lodge is currently receiving 30-45 inquiries every month from potential candidates. As you can see from the list that is sent out, most of the inquires come from the larger population areas, as expected, but they also come from the Lodges with the most web or social media presence. If you need help or have questions on this topic, please reach out and I will do my best to help. Our Technology and Public Relations committees are standing by.



Here is a list of items discussed at Grand Lodge:

1. Ray D Carpenter Lodge Excellence Award
2. Ron Brinkman Award for Ritual
3. Bring a Brother Back Program
4. Education, Education, and more Education
5. Grand View
6. Active Shooter Training

The Ray D Carpenter Lodge Excellence Award is a way to get Lodges back to work. This award is not easy, but it will be rewarding. This will also help Lodges start their Social Media presence.

The Ron Brinkman Award is for Lodge ritual. We receive individual ritual awards, but the Lodges need to be recognized for their ritual work.

Bring a Brother Back Program is a simple and straightforward way to bring back Brothers who have stopped coming to Lodge. One of our biggest drops in numbers is the Brother who pays their dues but does not come to Lodge and NPD's. This program can and will help with this.

We should never have a meeting that does not include some type of Education. We joined this Fraternity to expand our minds and reading minutes and paying bills, is not accomplishing that.

It is my goal to have ALL Lodge Secretaries or Assistant Secretaries on Grand View by the end of the year. With digital dues cards approved at Grand Lodge, it will be imperative to have the knowledge and understanding of Grand View. This is a tool that will make each Lodge more efficient and our database more complete.

In this day and age, it is unfortunate that we have to protect ourselves. Active Shooter training is necessary to keep you and your Brothers safe. Your local PD or Sheriff's department can provide you with this necessary training. We also have the luxury of Brother John Keel, trained in this arena. If you need advice or questions answered, please reach out to Brother John. He will be more than glad to assist you.

Brethren, I want to tell you, I am committed to communication. You will see numerous emails and correspondence from me. I am highly active on Social Media and use technology as a tool to make my life easier. I will be holding monthly Zoom meetings for the Craft. This is where you can ask me anything you want and if I can provide the answers, I will. I am very transparent, and the Officers of the Grand Lodge are the same. So, if you have any questions, or just want to shoot the bull, log onto the Zoom meeting, and let us chat. Click the link on the page following this Sunday evening.

I want to close this with a verse from the Bible. It is important to understand what is meant when we take our solemn obligations. We are obligating that we will keep our word to not only the Lodge, but more importantly, our God and ourselves.

**Numbers 30:2 - "If a man vow a vow unto the LORD, or swear an oath to bind his soul with a bond; he shall not break his word, he shall do according to all that proceedeth out of his mouth."**



Steve Almager is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: **Grand Masters Chit Chat**

Time: Jun 2, 2024 06:00 PM Mountain Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83204498242?pwd=6ayanWUINFqxRP2LRi5Q12PJ4i1daD.1>

Meeting ID: 832 0449 8242

Passcode: 155346

## Lodge, check; Youth, check; Community, GO!

We are working well internally, we can start intending that others see it.



Robin Justice  
Deputy Grand Master

Brethren, a new year is upon us, and one which I believe has more opportunity to grow our Fraternity than we have seen in decades.

I see Lodges doing more work than we have in a long time. We need to build the momentum we have to increase our numbers. There is a lot of work to be done, but I believe we are more than capable of excelling at doing it.

Our youth groups are working hard also. They are starting to initiate new members after a long period of decline. They are enthusiastic about their future. They need and have a right to expect support from us. They appreciate any support they do get. I want to encourage you to contact them and see what you can do to help promote Job's Daughters, Rainbow, and DeMolay. They enjoy helping us. We can do a lot to help them. Please contact your Masonic Youth Committee members to see what you can do for our youth.

I have some ideas for increasing our membership, and for getting Brothers back into Lodge who have not attended in a while. I am also interested in hearing from you about any ideas you may have to regaining these Brothers participation in Lodge.

We need to continue working on the Endowed Membership program to make it financially viable and useful for our Lodges. This is important to help improve the financial health of our Lodges.

One thing we need to do is to really ramp up our participation in our communities. Open houses, charity events, anything that can improve our visibility in our communities will help us to build our Fraternity. These events can be a great way to get inactive members to get back into Lodge. They have a lot to offer. We need to make sure they know that we understand that and appreciate what they can do to help their Lodge. We need to remind them that these are still their Lodges, and that they are needed. And while we're at it, let's go out of our way to include youth groups to participate in these events, and include the appendant bodies as well. Let's make sure our communities know we are still here, and still the greatest Fraternal organization in the world.

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

## Planning for the Long Game

Serious decisions require good information and consideration, we can create our future.



Kevin Fitzwater  
Senior Grand Warden

The Longe Range Planning Committee is a standing committee of the Grand Lodge established under Code 50 (h). As the leadership of the Grand Lodge evolves every year, it is obviously necessary to look farther ahead to at issues that may impact the Grand Lodge in coming years, assess the need for action and devise strategies to address those issues. The committee is composed of the Grand Master, Grand Deacons, Grand Wardens, Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary, headed by the Senior Grand Warden.

We are continuing to create a better way forward with the Grand Lodge Endowed Membership fund. It is disheartening and frustrating to be at the mercy of the investment climate to pay out to the Lodges as may be available each year. A solution needs to be found and there is only so far down the road that this “can” can be kicked.

Another subject will be the status of the Grand Lodge building and how and where it best serves the Craft. The University of New Mexico covets the location it now occupies. A constituent Lodge rents space behind it. How necessary is it that it be located in Albuquerque? This is a topic that has been bubbling under the surface for a while. And of course, there are and will be others.

The new leadership has recently been installed and this first meeting of this year’s committee will be held soon. As always, good and wise advice is welcome, and we are open to ideas about the future of the Craft.

---

## Lincoln Lodge 2024

Our annual get together is coming soon!

The date has been set for the Lincoln Lodge Meeting for 2024. June 15th is the date, and 5:00 pm is the meal time with the Lodge to follow.

In order to plan for food **PLEASE RSVP** to:

Scott Shafer - [zibar51@yahoo.com](mailto:zibar51@yahoo.com) or  
Richard Dunlap - [ridunlap@nmsu.edu](mailto:ridunlap@nmsu.edu) or  
Chuck Bass - [cbass60.cb@gmail.com](mailto:cbass60.cb@gmail.com)

Thanks, and hope to see you there.

## 2024 Grand Lodge is ACTIVE

Grand Lodge Communication events.

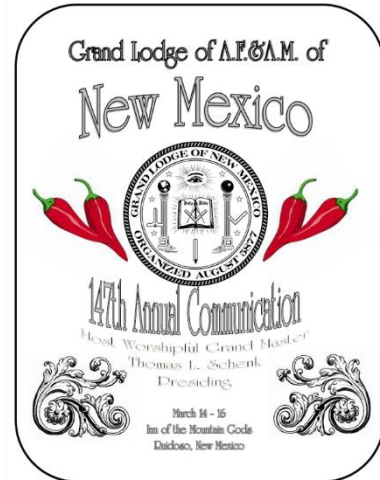


P. Tony Christophersen  
Grand Secretary

### 147<sup>th</sup> Annual Communication – March 2024

It is amazing how much actually transpires at our Grand Lodge Annual Communication. If you blink, you might miss something. We plan to have the Proceedings out in a timely manner, but here is a quick “CliffsNotes” version so that you can know the highlights of what happened in March.

We had over 150 New Mexico Masons decide the immediate future of our Grand Lodge and gentle Craft, and we also had a great deal of fun and camaraderie in the beautiful mountains of Ruidoso!



[Click to download.](#)

## Northern Regional Grand Lodge Communication

**Save the date:** Saturday, August 24, 2024

Grand Master Steve A. Almager will be conducting the Northern Regional Grand Lodge Communication at Temple Lodge No. 6 located at 3801 Osuna Rd. NE in Albuquerque, NM.

Start time will be 9:00 am, more information will be published as we near the date.



## Sacred Band of Friends and Brothers

Our experiences and obligations are our strength.



Chuck Bass  
Junior Grand Deacon

Time seems to be flying by nowadays, it has been 14 years in March since I was raised as a Master Mason. As I think about it, it seems like it was not that long ago. Reflecting on that night I wonder why it went so fast. I realized it is because I truly enjoy being a Mason, but why? What is it that makes this fraternal organization unique? I think that a large part of it for me is that each and every one of us has had the exact same experience which makes for a strong bond between us.

I also love the fact that we all live by certain obligations, it is these obligations that have been occupying my thoughts lately. Starting this new part of my Masonic journey and some of the things that have happened in our fraternity has caused me to reflect on the obligations. I know that when I took the obligations on bended knee at the altar in the presence of my Lodge and my Deity, I was not really thinking about the words I was saying, I was just trying to remember what I was told to say. Since then I have conferred a few degrees and during that time I still did not think about the words, I was just trying to make sure all the words were correct. Even in the degrees I have been just there to support my brothers, I still did not reflect on the words, I just followed along in case someone might need prompting.

This revelation has caused me to really look at the obligations that I took on bended knees. Most Worshipful Brother Bill Beckett does a Bible presentation that asks the Mason on bended knees, "that oath I took will I break it, Never." These obligations that we all took have been around a very long time. As I have reflected on these I understand that this is what makes us Masons. In the Charges of our Degrees, we tell the new Mason that if you violate these obligations you are worthy of the penalties of the obligations and that these penalties are to be inflicted by God and not by man. We also tell them that the obligations are completely binding on them and if they ever violate their obligations they may be brought to trial by their Lodge.

This is what in my opinion bonds Masons together from all over the world. I challenge every Mason to take another look at the obligations you have taken and ask yourself "that oath I took will I break it, NEVER." I want to thank you for reading this if you did, and for allowing me to jump on my soapbox. The last thought I want to leave you with, is to tell your partner thanks. Without my wife Lauri's support and sacrifice I could not follow my dreams in Masonry.



## Rock Star and Freemason

Worshipful Brother Rick Wakeman of "Yes" and Chelsea Lodge No. 3098.



Bert Dalton  
Grand Musician

Recently, a picture of rock legend Rick Wakeman in Masonic regalia caught my attention. Here is a brilliant musician who has had an unbelievable roller coaster rock star life and is still touring at age 75. In addition to his countless recordings and compositions, he is an incredible piano virtuoso with amazing technique.

Brother Wakeman was born in 1949 in Middlesex, England. His father was a pianist in Ted Heath's big band when he was in the Army. Rick started piano lessons at age 7 and took up clarinet at 12. As a teen, he attended church, learned the church organ, taught Sunday school, and was baptized at age 18. During these years he played in various bands.

He secured a place at the Royal College of Music in London with the intent of becoming a concert pianist. He found that "everyone there was at least as good as me; and a lot of them much better." He adopted a more relaxed attitude and began doing recording session work for various artists. His ability to produce what was needed on the spot led to his nickname "One Take Wakeman." He mastered electronic keyboards, including the mellotron, and recorded on David Bowie's second album. Other sessions were with Elton John and recording the piano part on Cat Stevens' "Morning Has Broken."



In 1971, Rick had to choose between touring with David Bowie or joining the progressive rock group Yes. He chose Yes, and from the success of their first recording *Fragile*, he was able to buy a new home and started a classic car collection which he rented out through his new business, the Fragile Car Collection.



Brother Wakeman created colossal projects beginning with the concept album *Journey To Center Of The Earth*. It was recorded live with his band the English Rock Ensemble, the London Symphony, and the English Chamber Choir. By 1974, his strenuous touring and recording schedule

combined with a lack of sleep, excessive smoking and alcohol use, and a wrist injury took a toll on his health and he suffered a minor heart attack.



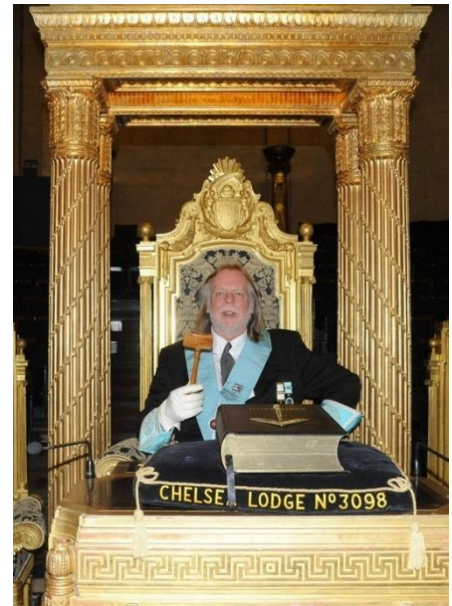
While recovering, Rick wrote a progressive-rock opera, *The Myths and Legends of King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table*. Against doctor's warnings, he resumed touring in 1975 with a concept album based on the Arthurian legends. He envisioned an inflatable castle, rock band, symphony orchestra, and two choirs. However, he learned that the Ice Follies were booked for two months into his selected venue, the Empire Pool Wembley. Not to be dissuaded,

he put the actors on skates dressed as knights and maidens.

Although the production was successful, expenses were higher than profits. Wakeman had to sell his assets, including his car collection and his house, winding up homeless and sleeping on a bench in Kensington Park. Within a year, however, he was back on his feet with a successful top-40 album based on George Orwell's 1984.

Brother Wakeman has produced over 122 solo albums which have sold over 50 million copies. In addition to his projects with the English Rock Ensemble and four stints with Yes, he has recorded with such diverse artists as Ozzy Osbourne, David Bowie, Cat Stevens, William Shatner, Deep Purple, Etta James, Elton John, and Dr. Feelgood.

Brother Wakeman joined Chelsea Lodge #3098 which is composed mainly of entertainers. His father was a member of Brent Valley Lodge #3940, and the support Rick and his mother received after his father's passing motivated him to learn about Freemasonry. He became a Knight Templar in 2011 and an honorary Member of his father's Lodge in 2019. Brother Wakeman served as 110<sup>th</sup> Master of Chelsea Lodge in 2014. He is active in other charitable and fraternal organizations and was appointed Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) in 2014.



For further information, and to hear Brother Rick talk about his thoughts on Freemasonry, there is an excellent two-part interview on Youtube for a series entitled "On The Level" - well worth watching.

---

## A Short History of Grand Honors

Masonry in New Mexico 101.



Tyler Anderson  
Grand Historian

In the first edition of the *New Mexico Monitor and Ceremonies*, there were three styles of Grand Honors prescribed, these being Private, Public, and Funeral. (*Monitor*, 1932, p.113)

The Private Grand Honors were not discussed in detail, being considered a tyled piece of ritual, given (and seen) only by Master Masons, and in very particular circumstances. Only at the installation of a Grand Master, or the visit of the Grand Master or other Grand Officers to the Subordinate Lodge could the “‘Battery’ or ‘Three times three’ [be] performed.” In this era, only Master Masons could be present at such events. Much of the verbiage used in our *Monitor* at the time was actually a paraphrase from Mackey’s *Encyclopedia*, from the

entry on “Honors, Grand.” It can be deduced that this was similar to what we use today as Grand Honors generally. However, there was also footwork involved – but since there is no description, we don’t know what that footwork was: it may have been the three steps.

Public Grand Honors were described in detail, and were incidentally also a three times three battery salute. Once again, the text in our *Monitor* paraphrased Mackey. These Honors were given by a choreography of the palms first striking the shoulders in a gesture mirroring the position of prayer, then together over the head, then falling and striking the thighs. This was repeated three times.

Funeral Grand Honors were also described, and involved no loud noise making, but rather three gestures, accompanied by words. The hands would be raised over the head, palms inward (an attention-grabbing gesture) while saying, “His spirit to God;” then the arms folded in prayer while saying “His memory in our hearts;” and finally both hands extended toward the grave, palms upward, accompanied by, “His body to the earth.”

The origins of any or all of these is probably not determinable. There are mentions of such salutes going back at least to the first edition of William Preston’s *Illustrations of Masonry* from 1772, where he mentions them in connection with the consecration of halls and at funerals. The 1805 first American edition of Laurence Dermot’s *Ahiman Rezon* mentions Grand Honors in context of consecration of a hall, the constitution of a Lodge, and at the installation of officers. Neither Thomas Smith Webb nor Jeremy Ladd Cross, from whose works our ritual fundamentally descends, seem to mention the



salutes in their contemporary editions. (Preston, 1772, pp.220, 241; Dermot, 1805, pp.53, 54, and 56)

The division of Grand Honors into Public, Private, and Funeral forms possibly began in the United States in the early 1800s. The term “public grand honors” showed up in 1820 in the Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut. In Rhode Island their 1864 annual Proceedings included a proposition by the Grand Master “recommending the adoption of certain private Grand Honors, and Funeral Grand Honors and they are adopted, as exemplified by him.” (GLCN Proceedings, 1820, p.307; GLRI Proceedings, 1864, p.24)

In the *New Mexico Monitor*, all three styles of Grand Honors were mentioned in each edition until the 1951 (fifth) edition, when the Funeral Grand Honors disappeared following the recommendation of the ritual committee at the Annual Communication of that year. Also at the 1951 Communication, Grand Master Charles Stevens discussed that the footwork of the Private Grand Honors was unnecessarily complicated, and he found that having the men attempting to perform both the (manual) battery and the (pedal) footwork simultaneously was making a mess of the whole thing. He further noted that in other Grand Jurisdictions they have no footwork. This suggests that said footwork may have been something that was, at least by 1951, if perhaps not in the past, unique to New Mexico. Both the wholesale removal of the Funeral Grand Honors, and the discontinuation of footwork from the Private Grand Honors were approved by the body. (GLNM Proceedings, 1951, pp.51, 106)

Then in the 1972 ninth edition of the *Monitor*, the Public Grand Honors also disappeared. At this point the formerly-tyled Private Grand Honors were reworded to be used at all events, “in the presence of the profane as well as the initiated.” Our Proceedings luckily include a narrative. At the 1971 Annual Communication, Grand Master B. Mell Grissom’s Recommendation #7 was that the then-*Private* Grand Honors become the *Public* Grand Honors. He further recommended that new Private Grand Honors become the performance of the due guards and penal signs of the three degrees. Conversely, the ritual committee report that year recommended that no changes be made. Facing an apparent stalemate on the issue, WB Norm Ribble (then Master of Temple Lodge) moved that the three times three be simply used as Grand Honors for any and all occasions, and that motion was passed by the assembly. (GLNM Proceedings, 1971, pp.27, 98)

## Put the “ME” in Freemasonry

Choose to act regularly, regularly, ... daily.



Gary Scott  
Grand Orator

I have enjoyed being a Freemason for nigh on 46 years now and can still remember that fateful day in 1978 when I Freely and Voluntarily *advanced one regular step* on a fruitful journey of growth, maturity, and character building with the help of my brethren and family and friends. I'm sure we Brothers have fond memories of our first introduction into a lifetime of behavioral adjustment... and look where we are today!

During my time as a Freemason, I have served in several capacities from Chaplain to Worshipful Master, to District Deputy Grand Master and District Deputy Grand Lecturer, Venerable Master of the Lodge of Perfection and Knight Commander of the Court of Honor 32° of the Scottish Rite

Valley of Santa Fe, and they all cut another stone out of the quarry.

As I conferred the degrees and performed ritual work in our craft, I was always astounded as to how our words haven't changed in our centuries of existence... words have meaning... or else we wouldn't be memorizing them. The Masonic rituals are the tools of our craft and instill the education we need to correct our corruptible ways as human beings. We pride ourselves on making good men, better men.

However, I see many men who hold the Dues Card as proof of their freemasonry membership, but they seldom attend our meetings, and at times may show up only for the supper then leave. They are good men, otherwise they would not have been accepted into our Ancient Free and Accepted brotherhood... however if they remain concealed from learning, we can NEVER make them any better than what they already are. I see that as the shame of a card-carrying, non-participating Mason.

It's one thing to say you're a Mason, but it's much better to ACT as a Freemason.... Thus, you never have to say you are one, your actions reflect that automatically. We know Brotherhood is in slow decline in-so-far as membership is concerned, but it will come down to higher Quality that is important. Remember, a Lodge is a certain number of Brothers... NOT A STRUCTURE.

I know many of you reading this article can understand exactly what I'm saying. We who attend Lodge functions are working hard in our Lodges to confer degrees, mentor initiates, provide quality education not only to the initiates, but to the whole of Freemasons in attendance.



We have been a member of historical significance since time immemorial and we will continue to exist no matter what...! But will we exist as a group of WELL-INFORMED MASONS? Our teachings are performed in the ancient manner of allegories, signs and symbols... it's a beautiful system of Morals to reflect upon.

Our esoteric meanings drive the mystery schools that attract so many young men into our fold now. Proof that we have something that others seek, but few achieve.

I can recommend two books for our Lodge officers and members to read with academic scrutiny and scholarly intent and I'm sure, if properly implemented, will continue the growth of their membership and participation in their meetings and events.

1. *Millennial Apprentices: The Next Revolution in Freemasonry* by Samuel Friedman
2. *The Seven Habits of Highly Successful Lodges*, by Tony Howard with a foreword written by Sir David Wootton, Deputy Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England.

I strongly recommend that the Officers of each Lodge in New Mexico read these books, take notes, try different suggestions, and above all pass them along to other officers coming into the chairs. Ensure the mystery of our craft exists in your Lodge.

Try to evolve your business meetings to be accomplished as efficiently as possible. See if innovative ways to cut down the discussions of bills and other mundane activities can be accomplished. After all, the Officers are elected to manage the Lodge. Post your minutes for all to read and above all communicate, communicate, communicate.

Critical to the success of the Lodge is to bring in a higher quality of education topics to spark your younger Masons and inform your older ones.

In closing, I'll simply say that if you have a current dues card, you have a moral obligation to your brothers to attend Lodge, to participate on the ritual teams, and to provide mentorship to all Masons, not just the initiates. The only way you can do that is to become a well-informed Mason so for GOD's sake come to Lodge and Meet on the LEVEL, Act by the PLUMB, and Part on The Square, as I will now leave you in the hands of these Masonic friends who will treat you with the highest regard no matter of race, color, or religion!

I'll see you at Lodge!

## Carl Berghofer, Sr. – 75 Years A Mason

Service pin and certificate presented at Bent Lodge No. 42.



P. Tony Christophersen  
Grand Secretary

At the young age of just 98 years old, our Brother celebrated 75 years (actually over 76) of service to the Craft recently. Most Worshipful Brother Jefferson H. Jordan, Jr., PGM 2015, presented the award with Right Worshipful Brother David Cordova, Worshipful Master of Bent Lodge No. 42, Right Worshipful Brother Don Carlson, DDGM for District 2 and Right Worshipful Brother Tony Christophersen, Grand Secretary at a ceremony held at the Lodge on May 20, 2024.

Worshipful Brother Carl was Initiated an Entered Apprentice on July 21, 1947, Passed to the Degree of Fellow Craft on November 17, 1947, and Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on December 22, 1947. He served Bent Lodge No. 42 as Worshipful Master in 1965 and 1977.

He was joined by his family for the event and gave Bent Lodge an opportunity to celebrate their Senior Past Master, as well as their senior living member. Serving as a Freemason as long as most hope to live, our Brother is a great example of dedication to the Craft.



## MASONICon 2024

Build yourself to build our Gentle Craft.

### All Events Held at:

Ballut Abyad Shrine Center  
6600 Zuni Rd. SE Albuquerque New Mexico 87108

[\(Click here to get directions\)](#)



Harry W. Jenkins II  
District Deputy  
Grand Master  
District 4  
Chairman:  
MASONICon

### Friday, June 21

#### TABLE LODGE

**\$10 cost, payable at the door Cash or Check only**

5:00 PM Social  
Cash Bar will be open

6:00 PM Dinner  
BBQ Dinner with all the fixings

#### Keynote Speaker:

Jim Cole, Sovereign Grand Commander  
Southern Jurisdiction - Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite

### Saturday, June 22

8:30 AM Opening by MWB Steve Almager, Grand Master of Masons in New Mexico

9:00 – 9:45 AM “The Path Forward: Empowering the Future of Freemasonry” - Ms. Linda Patch, Executive Editor, *The Northern Light*

10:00 – 11:00 AM "Security Awareness", Bro. John Keel

11:00 – 12:00 PM Lunch at Food Trucks in front of the Shrine

**Afternoon:** Five (5) presentations available per time block  
(Download Current Schedule Here)

Please register at: <https://shopeasycart.com/store.php?store=nm-shriners>



# MASONICON



## MASONICON Table Lodge

Friday, June 21 – Social from 5:00 – 6:00 PM Dinner at 6:00 PM

Ballute Abyad Shrine 6600 Zuni Rd. SE Albuquerque NM 87108

\$10 cost, payable at the door Cash or Check only

BBQ Dinner with all the fixings

Cash Bar will be open

Please register at: <https://www.shopeasycart.com/store.php?store=nm-shriners>

**Keynote Speaker:** Jim Cole, Sovereign Grand Commander of the Southern Jurisdiction of the Scottish Rite



## MASONICON

Saturday, June 22 – 8:30 AM

Ballute Abyad Shrine 6600 Zuni Rd. SE Albuquerque NM 87108

Opening by MWB Steve Almager, Grand Master of Masons in New Mexico

# Quarai Ruins District Education & Degree

District 5 Joint Communication June 2024.



James D. Combs  
District Deputy  
Grand Master  
District 5

Join District 5 Lodges on  
Saturday, June 29, 2024

Food - Fun  
Education  
Outdoor Degree



Greg Stihel  
District Deputy  
Grand Lecturer  
District 5

A Great Time Will Be Had By All!

122 Manzano Quarai Rd, Mountainair, NM 87036

Lunch: 2:00pm  
Lodge: 5:00pm



**District 5  
Joint Communication**

June 29, 2024  
2:00pm

Salinas Pueblo National Monument  
Quarai Ruins

## DDGM District 7, as of March 2024

Why I became a Freemason.



Clayton Kuehn  
District Deputy  
Grand Master  
District 7

"Why did you become a Mason?" I have heard this question more times than I can count over the last almost thirty years. The first answer that comes to mind is curiosity.

I only gave that answer a little thought until I attended the 147th Grand Lodge communication at Inn of the Mountain Gods in Ruidoso, New Mexico, in March 2024. This thought was triggered when the Grand Master recounted memories of his grandfather and how he "carried himself differently" than other adult males who knew growing up.

That struck me because I never even knew that any man in my family, either on my father's or my mother's side, was or ever had been a Mason. Growing up as an Army brat in the late 1950s through the early 1970s, that was never discussed. If it was, I was never around to hear about it.

Growing up, I saw the Square & Compass emblem on certain buildings, but I never gave it much thought as I never saw anyone there or any activity whatsoever, and the buildings always seemed to be closed. Back then, discipline was the order of the day, and not wanting to get in trouble for trespassing, I just kept on walking.

As a soldier in many places worldwide, I saw that same emblem, and my curiosity grew. I still needed to learn what that emblem meant and what went on inside those buildings. I have always had an analytical mind, and I started laying the pieces out so they made some sense. I noticed that the men who entered these buildings did so quietly but with a definite and distinct purpose. I noticed that most of them wore a ring with that same emblem. At the time, I thought it was just some schoolboy fraternity or something. Little did I know then that I had only started to scratch the surface of something far more significant than I could ever imagine.

One day, in the fall of 1993, while stationed at Ft Campbell, KY, I saw a civilian at the post message center with whom I had interacted on several occasions. I was there when he arrived, and I noticed that same Square & Compass emblem on his car's rear windshield. It was then that curiosity got the better of me. I finished my business inside and went looking for his office. I just came out and asked him what that emblem was about. I did not know it then, but I had just taken my first step in Freemasonry.

As this man was a Tennessee Mason and I lived in Kentucky, he could not get me into a Lodge, but he knew someone who could. That someone was not a block from my unit and just happened to be the Fort Campbell Lodge 946 F&AM Secretary. We walked in, and my friend told this man, "I think that this man would make a good Mason." He handed me a petition. I filled it out, turned it in, and waited.



A couple of weeks passed, and I get a phone call asking if a couple of men could stop by my quarters to have a "talk" with me and my wife. The conversation was light and very informal. It was nothing like the interrogation I had supposed it to be. They asked me what I did as hobbies. I told them I like hunting, fishing, playing with computers, and cooking. Their eyes lit up as big as saucers. My wife then mentioned that her father, also an Army veteran (Korean and Vietnam era), had sometimes worn "a funny-looking red hat" when he went out. Funny, she had never mentioned that before, but I just let it go.

Another week went by, and I heard nothing. Then, out of the blue, I got another call asking if I could be at the Lodge on Tuesday evening. I will always remember that day—7 December 1993. It was that evening that my life changed in a way I had never imagined.

Due to a couple of things, called life and the Army, five months elapsed before I received my Master Mason Degree. These degrees are always done on a Saturday evening in this Lodge. I thought I was prepared for what was about to happen, and I could not have been more wrong. All the events of that evening were so burned into my mind, to this day, I can remember them all as if they had just happened five minutes ago.

I retired from the Army in July 1995 and drove over the road in a flatbed. The unpredictability of my schedule really put a damper on my Lodge attendance. For over eighteen years, between driving, moving around, going to college, and moving some more, I was lost when it came to Freemasonry.

I had a very close second cousin whose father had been a Mason. She had always told me that I needed to get back into the Lodge. Several years later, I met a man in North Carolina who happened to be a Scottish Rite Mason with whom I had many conversations about Freemasonry. This man was one of those who, like my own grandfather, when he starts talking, you shut up because, in spite of yourself, you are going to learn something. He, too, told me that I needed to get back into the Lodge.

In May of 2013, I took another massive step in my life. I packed up everything and moved from Florida to New Mexico. When I arrived, I finally took the well-founded advice from those two people, got back into the Lodge, and never looked back.

During this fantastic journey, I discovered that Freemasonry is about one thing—service. I learned this concept even before I became a soldier. Service before self is a life lesson I have always lived by.

Over the years, I have told many people that if you remove the pretty uniforms, the pretty jewels, and the fancy titles, Freemasonry boils down to one essential thing—helping other people. Helping a brother or anybody else when they are down should not be a handout but a hand-up. That is why I became a Mason.

## Ritual Resources District 4 in 2024

Create and utilize resources to make ritual a more prominent priority.



Brian Moss  
District Deputy  
Grand Lecturer  
District 4

I cannot properly express how pleased and honored I am to be able to serve my brothers in District 4 as the District Deputy Grand Lecturer. It was one of the proudest moments in my Masonic journey when MWGM Steve Almager called me up and offered me this chance to help the craft. I know that I am up to the challenge and I am looking forward to a great year. Part of my responsibilities is to be the liaison between the District 4 Lodges and our Grand Lecturer MWB Jonathan Andrews. I cannot wait to be sitting with my brothers and work on the craft that sets us apart from other fraternities and enjoy the brotherly love I have come to know throughout this district and the state.

Over the course of this year, I will be traveling to my Lodges and handing out ritual section cards and pins to our members to recognize their accomplishments. I will also be available to Lodges and individuals to help with putting sections on the books and with improving their ritual work. I encourage each and every brother to work on their ritual and turn in some sections to earn those pins. Brothers can also complete sections to help their Lodge earn the Ron Brinkman Lodge Ritual Award which will be reinstated this year. Please note that a section turned in for their individual recognition does not count towards the Ron Brinkman Award.

Putting on great ritual for your candidates is not the only reason you should be reviewing your ritual. It is a great way to learn more about the important moral lessons contained in each degree. Whether doing ritual work and putting on degrees is or is not your passion, it is important for everyone to know and understand this ritual work. One cannot practice outside of the Lodge the tenants of Freemasonry if they do not fully understand the great moral lessons contained within it. I also suggest talking with all your brothers about the lessons contained within the ritual. It is a truly special thing to see a brother find a part of the ritual that they do not understand and then turn to their brothers for understanding. Sometimes it leads to a lesson for the brother. Sometimes it leads to the realization that no one knows and decides that it needs to be researched further, and maybe even turned into a lecture or presentation. And sometimes it leads to a great discussion where several brothers come together and share their understanding and ideas, knowing that they can safely share their thoughts without fear of ridicule.

One of the items that MWB Andrews has discussed with me and the other DDGLs is that we are to be a resource to help with the education and coordination of ritual, at your request, and that we are to avoid performing ritual ourselves. I am going to work with each Lodge to see about setting up a communication method so that each Lodge can reach out to the whole district if you need help with filling positions in a degree. I believe that with proper communication we can all work together as brothers and help our Lodges grow stronger.

Another way our Lodges can grow stronger is by using me as a resource to help your Lodges. MWB Andrews has changed the DDGLs to hold Lodge of Ritual Instruction and Lodge Officer Training for any Lodge that requests it. I can give these presentations at a regular communication, so the largest number of Masons are present, or as a monthly program. These can be tailored to the needs of each Lodge and can be held more than once a year if needed.

I will also be working on setting up a time when all the District 4 Lodges can come together to hold a Master Mason ritual workshop. These are an excellent opportunity to gain a greater understanding of Masonic ritual, its use within the Grand Lodge of New Mexico, and to see how they can improve their personal ritual proficiency and delivery.

I am very excited to be able to serve each of the Lodges of District 4 this year in helping with ritual training, practice, proficiencies, and sections. Please feel free to reach out to me with anything you need or with any questions you might have.

## **(Eventful) '24 Summer At a Glance**

Keep it on your calendar.

|               |                              |                                   |
|---------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 06/01/2024    | Lodge of Research – Visit    | Chapman Lodge (Las Vegas)         |
| 06/02/2024    | Grand Master’s Chit Chat     | Zoom - Online                     |
| 06/15/2024    | Annual Lincoln Lodge Meeting | Lincoln County Courthouse         |
| 06/15/2024    | Bethel 4 Chili Cook-Off      | Sandoval Lodge (Rio Rancho)       |
| 06/21-22/2024 | MASONICon                    | Ballut Abyad Shrine (Albuquerque) |
| 06/26-30/2024 | NM Rainbow Grand Assembly    | Albuquerque                       |
| 06/29/2024    | District 5 Outdoor           | Quarai Ruins (Mountainair)        |
| 07/11-13/2024 | NM DeMolay Conclave 2024     | Albuquerque                       |
| 08/10/2024    | NM Masonic Rendezvous 2024   | Aztec Lodge (Las Cruces)          |
| 08/24/2024    | Grand Lodge Regional         | Temple Lodge (Albuquerque)        |

**If your event is not listed, PLEASE get it to us so we can get the news out!**

## Southeast Start to 2024

Lodges are strong and active!.



Richard Glenn  
District Deputy  
Grand Lecturer  
District 8

Greetings from Southeast New Mexico. I am happy to report the Lodges in District 8 are busy and buzzing with Masonic activity.

Through a joint effort, the Lodges of Southeast New Mexico and West Texas, held the annual Hilltop Degree at the Shoemaker farm near Post, TX. This yearly tradition takes place the first weekend of May and always proves to be an exciting experience; and this year was no different. Even the rain didn't dampen the spirits of those who were there.

Eunice Lodge 67 had an Active Shooter Seminar planned for April and a Table Lodge scheduled for June. Eddy Lodge 21 raised a Master Mason earlier this year and they have two candidates ready for their Fellow Craft Degrees. They have an Entered Apprentice who is studying for his EA Proficiency and should be ready for his FC Degree by June. The members of Eddy Lodge meet a couple of times a week to practice ritual and degree work.

Lovington Lodge 46 held a Fellow Craft Degree on April 4, and are also planning an Open House sometime this May.

Roswell Lodge 18 raised a Master Mason earlier this year. They initiated a candidate on March 27 and voted on another petition during the April Regular Communication. They have an EA working on his proficiency and should be ready for his FC Degree in the coming weeks.

Felix Lodge 29 surrendered its charter last December, and while it is unfortunate for a Lodge to close, several members moved their membership over to Roswell Lodge 18, and I am proud to say they have made Roswell Lodge 18 an even stronger Lodge. We are happy to have them.

Although it is still early in the year, I have had a chance to make two official visits, and I am happy to say that the Lodges in District 8 are healthy and strong. I am excited to visit the rest of the Lodges in district 8 and report on their activity in the coming months.

## Unveiling the Divine Geometry of “G”

The Triangular Path to Alphabetical Revelation.



Daniel Chico  
Sandoval Lodge

In the grand tapestry of linguistic evolution, the letter "G" stands as a testament to the intricate dance between ancient alphabets and divine symbolism. While modern convention may place "G" as the seventh letter in the English alphabet, its true essence transcends mere alphabetical order. Journeying through the corridors of linguistic history, we uncover a profound revelation: "G" is not just the third letter technically; it embodies the very essence of the divine.

In the hallowed scripts of ancient Hebrew and Greek, "G" emerges as the third letter, a position imbued with significance and reverence. In Hebrew, "gimmel" symbolizes divine grace and generosity, while in Greek, "gamma" serves as the cornerstone of mathematical and philosophical discourse. The presence of "gimmel" and "gamma" as the third letters in these ancient alphabets lays the foundation for understanding the primordial significance of "G."

But the mystical allure of "G" extends beyond its linguistic origins, intertwining with sacred geometry to unveil a deeper truth. When the divine takes shape, it often manifests through symbols and archetypes. In the realm of geometry, the triangle reigns supreme as a symbol of stability, balance, and divine unity. It is within this sacred shape that the concept of God finds expression, transcending language and culture to convey a universal truth.

As we explore the symbolic significance of the triangle, we uncover a striking parallel: the letter "G" embodies the triangular essence of the divine. When God takes geometrical form, it is often depicted as a triangle, representing the harmonious union of three divine aspects: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. In this light, "G" assumes a transcendent identity, equating to God in both form and symbolism.

From the mystical teachings of ancient mystics to the esoteric traditions of secret societies, the divine significance of "G" reverberates through the ages. In Freemasonry, for instance, "G" adorns the center of the Masonic emblem, symbolizing the Great Architect of the Universe and the guiding force of creation. Here, "G" serves as a focal point for spiritual contemplation, invoking the divine presence through its sacred geometry.







In the labyrinth of language and symbolism, "G" emerges not merely as a letter but as a vessel for divine revelation. Its triangular form echoes the timeless truths of sacred geometry, uniting the earthly realm with the divine cosmos. Whether as the third letter in ancient alphabets, represented by "gimmel" and "gamma," or the embodiment of God in geometric form, "G" invites us to contemplate the mysteries of existence and embrace the transcendent power of language and symbolism.

In conclusion, the letter "G" transcends its humble position in the alphabet to embody the divine essence of sacred geometry. From its origins in ancient scripts to its symbolism in mystical

traditions, "G" invites us to ponder the infinite mysteries of the cosmos and recognize the divine presence that dwells within the fabric of language and symbolism.

## Master Mason Patents

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.](#)



## The Social Square

Why Masonic Lodges should embrace Facebook.



Burx Norrod  
Senior Warden  
Sandoval Lodge

In the digital age, where connections are made with the click of a button and information travels at the speed of light, Masonic Lodges find themselves at a crossroads. Traditional secrecy and privacy are essential tenets of Masonic principles, but the time has come for Lodges to embrace the benefits of modern technology. One way to bridge the gap between traditional and contemporary communication is by establishing a Facebook presence. Here are a few reasons why Masonic Lodges should consider creating a Facebook page:

**Foster Community Engagement:** Masonic Lodges play a vital role in fostering a sense of community among their members. A Facebook page provides a platform for Lodges to extend their reach beyond the physical meeting space. Members can share updates, events, and accomplishments, creating a virtual space that enhances the bonds of brotherhood.

**Transparent Communication:** Transparency is crucial in building trust and dispelling misconceptions. A Facebook page allows Masonic Lodges to communicate openly with their members and the broader community. Regular updates, event announcements, and educational content can demystify the fraternity, ensuring that accurate information is readily available.





**Promote Educational Initiatives:** Masonry places a strong emphasis on education and personal development. A Facebook page serves as an excellent tool to share educational content, articles, and resources related to Masonic philosophy and history. This not only benefits members but also educates the public about the positive impact of Masonry on individuals and society.

**Recruitment and Visibility:** Attracting new members is essential for the continued growth and vibrancy of Masonic Lodges. A Facebook page provides a platform to showcase the Lodge's values, activities, and contributions to the community. Potential candidates can learn more about the fraternity and its principles, making the decision to join more informed.

**Event Promotion and Coordination:** Masonic Lodges host various events, from charitable activities to educational seminars. A Facebook page streamlines the process of promoting these events and facilitates easy coordination among members. Event pages, RSVP features, and post-event discussions contribute to a more organized and engaging experience.

**Historical Preservation:** Masonic Lodges have rich histories, often dating back centuries. A Facebook page can serve as a digital archive, preserving the Lodge's historical milestones, photographs, and stories. This not only honors the past but also helps connect current members with the traditions that form the foundation of the fraternity.

**Global Connection:** Freemasonry is a global brotherhood, and a Facebook page allows Lodges to connect with other Lodges around the world. Sharing experiences, collaborating on projects, and fostering international relationships can enrich the Masonic experience for members and contribute to a global sense of unity.

While Masonic Lodges hold onto their timeless traditions, embracing technology, particularly through a Facebook page, can enhance the fraternity's impact and relevance in the 21st century. By leveraging the power of social media, Lodges can strengthen their sense of community, communicate transparently, and contribute to the positive image and understanding of Freemasonry in the modern world.

Please visit Sandoval Lodge's recently created Facebook page at <https://facebook.com/sandovalLodge76> and 'like', 'follow', and comment. We will do the same in return.

---

## 2024 New Mexico Grand Lodge Communication

A Traveling Man's Report Volume V.



John Keel  
Junior Warden, Sandoval  
Lodge w/ Jeff Russ

Fraternal Greetings Brethren! This volume of A Traveling Man Report covers the MW Grand Lodge of New Mexico 147<sup>th</sup> Annual Communication held in Ruidoso March 14<sup>th</sup> through the 17<sup>th</sup>. This Annual Communication was a blast and I had a great time enjoying the fellowship with brothers from around the state as well as from other grand jurisdictions across the country and even Central and South America.

The event was held at the gorgeous Inn of the Mountain Gods which is nestled in a valley just outside Ruidoso, NM next to a beautiful lake. The serene setting was a great choice for our meetings, and I cannot think of many places in our state that would match the beauty and splendor of the location. It is easy to be refreshed each morning and evening with such grandeur to look upon from the balconies at this hotel, which is a good thing because I definitely needed the refreshment after so much lost sleep due to enjoying other refreshments and fellowship with our brothers!

Speaking of refreshments, our hospitality suite, run by the very capable RWB Harry Jenkins, stayed well stocked with everything our brothers needed, from food and snacks, to spiritous libations, and especially, the good company and lively discussions from the brethren. The hospitality suite was perfectly located as well, just off the main lobby, making it easily accessible from the conference center, casino, or guest rooms.

The conference center itself was a short walk from the rooms and had a great amount of space for everything we needed. It made for a great location for all of the events. The check in table run by RWB James Overfelt with help from Brothers Jeffery Russ and Jonathan Muniz, was easy to get to and helpful throughout the weekend.

There was also a lot of great food to be enjoyed locally. Though we didn't have the greatest experience at Wendell's Steakhouse the first night, I heard they really stepped up to ensure everyone had a great meal the subsequent nights. Sampling the local food options in Ruidoso was a fun experience though and the Log Cabin restaurant became our breakfast spot for every morning after the amazing meal we had on the first day there. I highly recommend it. Also of



note, was the Rio Grande Grill and Taproom, which had some amazing foods prepared New Mexican style. I recommend the Green Chile Chicken Alfredo!



The Grand Lodge sessions started Thursday with the Secretary and Treasurer’s meetings. Grandview was highlighted as one of the biggest takeaways and I learned quite a bit about the new system. The evening was full of fun conversation at the happy hour and the Grand Master’s Reception. Afterwards, many of us enjoyed more fellowship at the hospitality suite and throughout the hotel.



Friday morning started with a great public opening and then the formal opening of the MW Grand Lodge of New Mexico. The National Sojourners of New Mexico, led by Kit Carson Chapter President RWB Harry Jenkins, presented the colors and Brother Anthony Uchello gave a great recital of the “Toast to the Flag”. Among the distinguished visitors were MW Grand Masters from several states or their representatives to include from Mexico’s Cosmos Grand Lodge and Paraguay’s Grand Lodge. MW Grand Master of Masons in New Mexico,



MWB Thomas Shenk, gave a heartfelt Grand Master’s address to all assembled and the Brothers of New Mexico elected the Grand Lodge officers for the ensuing year. The installation of officers went well and we all welcomed MWB Steve Almager as our new Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons in New Mexico. The awards banquet in the evening was a great time to continue connecting with brothers from around the state and beyond. We had a great meal and fellowship all around.

Saturday morning began with a memorial service for our brothers who have laid down their working tools and joined the Celestial Lodge above. After a short break, we resumed labor and were able to continue with the business of the Craft. In all, the sessions went very smooth and I believe we continue to be in good hands as we move forward. Saturday evening saw more festivities and fellowship at the after party and many of us stayed up until the early hours of the morning enjoying great conversation.

The weekend was a great time and I thoroughly enjoyed all the fellowship with each of you brothers this year. I thank all of you who have read and complimented these articles as well! If you haven’t been to an Annual Communication, you’re missing out on a great time so, please consider joining us in Hobbs next March!

## Bethel Summer '24 Chili Cookoff

Bethel 4 Chili Cook-Off and Dessert Auction June 15.



**\$0**  
5 and Under

**\$5**  
Kids 6-11

**\$10**  
11 yrs +

**Saturday  
June 15<sup>th</sup>  
12:00PM**

# Bethel 4 CHILI COOK - OFF & Dessert Auction

What comes with your purchase:  
Chili samples from contestants  
3 tickets for 3 categories to vote:  
1. Kid Friendly 2. Hottest 3. Best Overall

There will be lots of tasty desserts for the auction.

---

# IORGNM Grand Assembly 2024

Rainbow Annual Grand Assembly.

TRAVEL IN SEARCH OF  
YOUR POT OF GOLD AT



## *New Mexico's Grand Assembly*

INTERNATIONAL ORDER OF THE RAINBOW FOR GIRLS

Miss Chloe DeWees, Grand Worthy Advisor

Albuquerque, New Mexico

June 26-30, 2024

Register at [www.gonmrainbow.org](http://www.gonmrainbow.org)



# Rendezvous 2024

First Four Lodges Annual Celebration.

# RENDEZVOUS 2024



## FIRST FOUR LODGES

MONTEZUMA LODGE #1

CHAPMAN LODGE #2

AZTEC LODGE #3

FORT UNION LODGE #4



**AUGUST 10, 2024**

**AZTEC LODGE #3**

### ITINERARY

9:00AM HISTORIC CEMETERY TOURS

11:30PM LUNCH

1:00PM PRESENTATIONS

FRIDAY SOCIAL AT A LOCATION TBD

## GET IN TOUCH!

E: [AZTECLODGE03@GMAIL.COM](mailto:AZTECLODGE03@GMAIL.COM)  
M: 575-642-3032

180 E. BOUTZ ST.  
LAS CRUCES, NM





---

## The Chapel – April/May 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.”

| <i>Brother</i>                 | <i>Home Lodge</i>            | <i>Deceased</i>  |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Freddy Eugene Papworth</b>  | <b>Roswell Lodge</b>         | <b>3/5/2024</b>  |
| <b>John Robert Smedly Sr.</b>  | <b>Bent Lodge</b>            | <b>3/10/2024</b> |
| <b>Melvin J. Schwartz</b>      | <b>Temple Lodge</b>          | <b>3/11/2024</b> |
| <b>Douglas L. Holbert</b>      | <b>Sacramento Lodge</b>      | <b>3/16/2024</b> |
| <b>Morris D. Stagner</b>       | <b>Clovis Lodge</b>          | <b>3/18/2024</b> |
| <b>Paul Winston Black</b>      | <b>Socorro Lodge</b>         | <b>3/18/2024</b> |
| <b>Doyal Gayle LaRue</b>       | <b>Clovis Lodge</b>          | <b>3/20/2024</b> |
| <b>Lewis L. Auerbach</b>       | <b>Socorro Lodge</b>         | <b>3/23/2024</b> |
| <b>Robert M. Speer</b>         | <b>Deming Lodge</b>          | <b>3/28/2024</b> |
| <b>Jerry Ray Stricklin</b>     | <b>Montezuma Lodge</b>       | <b>4/5/2024</b>  |
| <b>Michael Max Albersmeyer</b> | <b>Sacramento Lodge</b>      | <b>4/5/2024</b>  |
| <b>Lloyd H. Englebrecht</b>    | <b>Animas Lodge</b>          | <b>4/10/2024</b> |
| <b>Lloyd H. Englebrecht</b>    | <b>Animas Lodge</b>          | <b>4/10/2024</b> |
| <b>Jerry Ray Stricklin</b>     | <b>Montezuma Lodge</b>       | <b>4/22/2024</b> |
| <b>Jasper A. Shoemaker</b>     | <b>Valley Lodge</b>          | <b>4/23/2024</b> |
| <b>Ronald Drew Tussey</b>      | <b>Union Lodge</b>           | <b>4/25/2024</b> |
| <b>William T. Stradley</b>     | <b>Hobbs Lodge</b>           | <b>4/30/2024</b> |
| <b>Ernest L. Burton</b>        | <b>Animas Lodge</b>          | <b>5/1/2024</b>  |
| <b>James Lyndel Hendren</b>    | <b>Temple Lodge</b>          | <b>5/2/2024</b>  |
| <b>Earl W. Diggs</b>           | <b>Eddy Lodge</b>            | <b>5/3/2024</b>  |
| <b>Earl W. Diggs</b>           | <b>Eddy Lodge</b>            | <b>5/4/2024</b>  |
| <b>Harry A. Pecotte</b>        | <b>Silver City Lodge</b>     | <b>5/4/2024</b>  |
| <b>Harvey A. Lewis</b>         | <b>Sacramento Lodge</b>      | <b>5/6/2024</b>  |
| <b>Merle D. Koepke</b>         | <b>Aztec Lodge</b>           | <b>5/7/2024</b>  |
| <b>Charles R. Spicher</b>      | <b>Temple Lodge</b>          | <b>5/8/2024</b>  |
| <b>Theodore N. Truske</b>      | <b>Hiram Lodge</b>           | <b>5/9/2024</b>  |
| <b>Bruce Alan Baily</b>        | <b>Sandia Mountain Lodge</b> | <b>5/12/2024</b> |



|                        |                   |           |
|------------------------|-------------------|-----------|
| Harvey Enos May        | Silver City Lodge | 5/15/2024 |
| Arthur Dockray Tunnell | Clovis Lodge      | 5/16/2024 |
| Theodore J. Schweitzer | Sandoval Lodge    | 5/20/2024 |
| Larry John Brownfield  | Hiram Lodge       | 5/28/2024 |

### 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.](#)

Please let us know if there are additions to the list above. We will add them in subsequent issues. Please keep these Brothers' families in your thoughts and prayers.

## Arthur Dockray Tunnell

Past Grand Master of Masons in New Mexico 2007.



## Arthur Dockray Tunnell

**Past Grand Master of Masons in New Mexico 2007**

**February 25, 1951 – May 16, 2024**

MWB Art was first initiated in Artesia Lodge No. 28 on March 22, 1973, Passed to the Degree of Fellow Craft on April 25, 1973 and Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on June 12, 1973. He was a member of both Hobbs Lodge No. 63 and Clovis Lodge No. 40. Art and his wife Diane lived in Clovis but he was very well known throughout the state. He had been fighting a long bout with cancer and he laid down his earthly working tools at 9:30 on May 16, 2024. He will long be remembered as a very generous, compassionate, and giving man... **a Mason!** Godspeed, MWB Art.

---

## Little Big Things That Matter

The “Extra Mile” has benefits that make the extra work and time worthwhile.



Stephen Balke  
Editor

I recently looked at a Brother that I have been coaching and said “You ok with me doing an experiment with your degree?” He said yes and we worked together to make invitations to his Master Mason Degree and proceeded to invite the heads of the petitionable Masonic bodies in New Mexico, the Lodges in the District, and most importantly, those who have impacted him. These invitations came from the Lodge, but he was a part of the entire process.

The invitations went out over a few days between two and three weeks before the degree. Several Brothers contacted me in response, all commenting on the idea of the invitation positively, most giving regrets that they had a previous obligation that prevented their attendance.

Previous to last year, I kept hearing about how Estancia Lodge is on its last leg and can barely make quorum. There were twenty-six Masons there welcoming Richard Hargentrater as the newest Master Mason at the end of that night.



After all was said and done, we found a few things that could have made it better.

- More lead time would have allowed for others to make it a part of their schedule.
- A program for ladies/family members would have been more inclusive (especially for travelers that brought their wives).
- Alternates for the degree parts and more practices would have made for less “on the fly” adaptations.

In short, more time and planning would have made this an even better event.



Even with lessons learned, Brother Richard had an outstanding experience.

As a project manager, my motto quickly became “at 70% prepped, start” because in the technology field you don’t often find projects where you can plan completely, and any project that lasts longer than six months is likely to see several advances in hardware, software or industry standards – it moves that fast. The challenge is that our ritual events are treated more as a “process” than events; while this may work to provide a successful presentation in a Lodge that does it often, what happens when it’s been three years since the last time these Brothers did this degree? Then there’s the real question: after each degree, does your Candidate feel like the latest in a series, or do they say “WOW, all of those men that I have grown to know and respect have done so much – JUST FOR ME!”

As a parent, I learned that what I said better match what I do – IN THEIR EYES – or it falls on deaf ears. This means that I must remember to seek to understand their perspective before choosing my response to any situation (still working on it, by the way). Not only that, but if I want them to think something is important, I should expect to dedicate time and effort to it, ensure my attitude toward it is positive, and cheer ANY progress (again, it’s their perspective that matters). Our Candidates – no, wait – Our Brothers deserve the same attention and consideration. Remember – Candidates are both YOUNG in the Craft and may have the added gap of having had many life experiences that have negatively changed their point of view.

Everything in Masonry takes time and effort when done to the best of our ability. Masonry teaches us to take that time and focus on Friendship, Morality, and Brotherly Love. Instead of figuring out how to “get it done,” would we mitigate most of our challenges by figuring out how to “make it a GREAT memory and Good event?”

---

A special shout to Worshipful Brother Tyler Anderson – THANK YOU for taking the time to recommend editing improvements! I learned a thing or two and we have a much better product. And, as usual to my Lady, Michele, who reviews work, provides photos, and encourages me in every effort.

---

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