

THE VOICE OF KANSAS MASONRY

# THE KANSAS MASON

Volume 53 Issue 2

Summer 2015

A Publication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Kansas



Following  
Grand Master's Installation  
He Proceeded by  
**GIVING THE CRAFT  
PUBLIC GRAND HONORS**

# FROM THE GRAND EAST

Daren L. Kellerman, Grand Master of Masons 2015-2016

## Indeed it is Exciting!

Five years ago at the Grand Lodge Annual Communication, a comprehensive strategic plan, nicknamed 'Vision 2020,' was presented and approved. It was hoped brethren would, "Catch the vision, get engaged, and help move our Craft forward." Critical areas for improvement were identified and goals were set. The image

tively pursue their desires for a better masonic experience. Excellence in Esoteric Work, Communication and Education were the stated destinations. Area Meetings were held across the state, new ritualistic awards were implemented, detailed event planning was undertaken, awards ceremonies were standardized, the Kansas Masonic Foundation began greatly expanding its program base and promotion through social

lodge now has the ability to send a full-color newsletter four times a year to all members of their Lodge. The Friends of Masons program for Lodges has been fully replaced by an all-inclusive multi-media do-it-yourself program entitled "Discovering Freemasonry!"

There are many more exciting things com-



## MISSION statement

The Mission of the Grand Lodge of Kansas is to encourage and support Freemasonry by assisting its constituent lodges to achieve success and prosperity as assets to their membership and communities.

of the Grand Lodge of Kansas and Freemasonry began to get a much-needed overhaul. (Remember: In 2010, the Kansas Mason averaged 8-12 pages in blue/black/white only.)

Four years ago, many lodges around the state started formulating their own strategic plans, communication methods were being greatly improved, the value of a quality masonic experience was actively looked at, the inaugural Leadership Academy was held and the first Affinity Lodge in Kansas was formed.

Three years ago, the plan was reviewed and refreshed by Masons from across the state and a mission statement was drafted. It was realized success would not be determined by overall number of members, but rather the quality of the members. A new membership database was put in place, high-quality modernized petitions were printed, electronic verification of criminal history on petitions was enacted and educational membership materials were provided to lodges at no charge.

Two years ago, the quest for "Excellence" was undertaken as Kansas Masons began to ac-

media outlets was started.

In 2014, the revolution in the pursuit of Excellence was in full effect. A new masonic education course debuted, the Kansas Lodge of Research was actively re-engaged, aprons were required at the Annual Communication for the first time in memory, the Kansas Mason was expanded and printed in full color, custom Kansas masonic license plates were printed, and District Deputy reports were greatly expanded to gather needed information to truly help, aid and assist all Lodges.

As 2015 starts, your Grand Lodge continues to develop and promote programs in line with the mission statement and strategic plan goals in the pursuit of Excellence, many of which are talked about within these pages. These programs and projects have the ability to directly benefit every lodge in the state AT NO COST TO THE LODGE. All new Master Masons are now receiving a welcome packet that contains an informational booklet, a temporary dues card, a lapel emblem and a welcoming letter from the Grand Master. Every

ing in this and the coming years. The pursuit of Excellence in Kansas will never end as we, the Freemasons of Kansas, continually raise our own bar, demanding more and more of our Organization in a world where expectations and standards are seemingly continually lowered and resultant output is overlooked and neglected.

Indeed it should be exciting for all of us to be active participants in bringing OUR Fraternity out of the dark and dusty corners we have let it be pushed into and to no longer let social conventions dictate to us who WE are. It should be exciting for us to tie our aprons strings and proudly show the world who we are. WE are the direct lineage to those operative and the speculative Masons who wanted more for themselves and became a band of Brothers. That sacred band, or society of Brothers, . . . well you know the rest, don't you?

On The Level

Daren Kellerman  
Master Mason

# GRAND SECRETARY

By M.W. Tracy L. Bloom, PGM, Grand Secretary

## Another Great Annual Communication's in the Books!

Brothers, on returning home from the 159th Annual Communication of the M.:W.: Grand Lodge of A.F. & A. M. of Kansas, I immediately sat down on the couch and fell asleep for about 19 hours, only to awake to a crooked neck and my dog staring at me wondering when I'd stir so I could let her out. WOW, what a great time! My only regret was, as it is each year, that there is not enough time to visit with each of you more. It's wonderful to say "Hi!" but I wish there were more time to be social. I do plan to make several visits to Lodges this coming year, some of which I've wanted to travel to for some time; this year I'm going to make the time.

Each year, for your Grand Lodge office staff and others coordinating the Annual Communication, the anxiety builds as we approach the final days, not because we aren't confident we have things covered, but we try to anticipate all contingencies. Each year there are a number of such contingencies, and we try our best to handle them behind the scenes so no one even knows it, and for the most part, I believe we've been relatively successful at doing that.

I would personally like to thank a few people who contributed greatly to the success of the Annual Communication this year. Of course, Jan Nelson and Nancy McKeever from our office both need no introduction as I'm sure you are familiar with them. Their dedication and determination in the final hours of preparation each year are second to none. Thank you, ladies! To Ashley Buss (database expert from Colorado) for his last-minute tweaks and 12-hour road trip. M.W. Rich Reichert, PGM, for his impeccable

details in the flow of the public and tiled sessions and other details pertaining to the room setups. To the registration crew, Mark Stephenson, Kendall Garten, Michael Reeves, Gary Folk and several other volunteers who contributed greatly to the overall success of getting everyone registered as quickly as possible. To the working members of Hancock Lodge No. 3111, the Grand Master's own, for their dedication and determination to move lodge furniture back and forth for the Annual Communication. And last but not least, to the hotel staff and management of the Capitol Plaza Hotel, they have been so good to work with it makes our jobs easier putting together the event. You may have heard the rumor we are out-growing the Capitol Plaza. Well, in part we might be, but we will be back there in 2016, and we will not have any restrictions on lunch or banquet seating as we encountered this year.

Thank you all!

Brothers, I have two quick additional subjects I'd like to cover in this article and both deal directly with your Lodge.

First, the Council of Administration has produced a very nice welcome packet for newly raised Master Masons. Once a new Brother is raised and it is reported to our office, we will send to him the packet, which, by the way, is the nicest welcome packet being sent to new Brothers anywhere in North America. When the

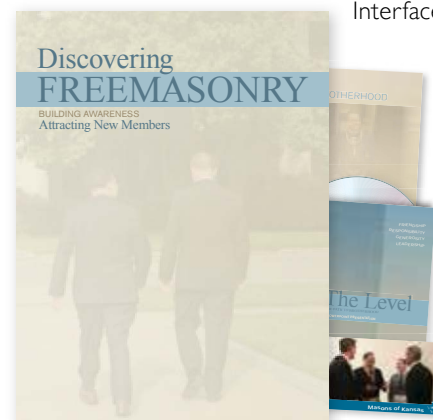
new Brother receives the packet, he will be impressed and proud he has taken the

necessary steps to become a member of the oldest, largest and most prestigious fraternal organization in the world. It is just another way to make him feel welcome and a part of something larger than self.

However, this greatly depends on the timely reporting to the Grand Lodge office of Brothers being raised. If that report arrives at our office weeks after the fact, and we send a packet to him then, he's less likely to be impressed and may perhaps feel a bit miffed. The Grand Lodge is putting forth the time and effort to assure our new Brothers receive a warm and inviting welcome packet, one that has a plethora of information. We appreciate the courtesy of a prompt notification of new Brothers, and the new Brother will too when it is delivered in an expeditious and impressive manner.

The second part of my message deals with, in part, one of the by-laws that passed at the Annual Communication, moving the reporting deadline for the lodge annual report and per capita tax payment to January 31 of each year. The reporting method for membership changes in lodges has been vastly improved by the Lodge Secretary

Interface (LSI), which is facilitated through the internet. Of course, currently we are still allowing secretaries to report by the old paper reporting method, "the monthly report form," however, that method



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*Last year I noticed the Kansas Masonic Foundation was able to give a scholarship to every student who applied. Will that be the case this year?*

The Kansas Masonic Foundation awarded more than 150 scholarships and nearly \$200,000 in 2014 through the statewide Masonic Lodges. While the KMF Board of Trustees approved additional funding for the 2015 scholarship program, it is difficult to know the extent of applications until the April 30, 2015, deadline. It does appear at the time of this writing that a significant number of requests will be received this year from both Kansas Masonic Legacies and Kansas students seeking consideration for scholarships to the six statewide colleges and universities or the identified trade schools. It is great to see the Kansas Lodges supporting this program as "their" Lodge scholarship program.

*Our Lodge donated to the recent Freemason's Charity Auction, "Sold On Helping Brothers," and I personally donated an item as well. I think this is an outstanding idea to raise funds to help our Brothers and their families in times of need. I also gave to the \$1 A Day Program and hope all of my Brothers did, as well. While I think the Kansas Masonic Foundation has developed a number of great programs, I think this one is the most important and worthy of our consideration.*

Thank you for your support. The second annual Freemason's Charity Auction was

a great success and significantly exceeded the previous year's results. One hundred percent of all donations to this fund, as well as all donations to the Kansas Masonic Foundation, go to charity. Through the generosity of Kansas Masons, KMF helped more than 20 Brothers and their families in need during 2014. Also, the \$1 Day Program was the single most successful fundraising campaign KMF has ever conducted. The "Relief" in our guiding principles of Brotherhood, Relief and Truth is alive and well is Kansas!

*I recently had an opportunity to preview the new Master Mason packet that Grand Lodge assembled, as well as the new Friends of Mason Night called "Discovering Freemasonry," and I have to say they are OUTSTANDING! Grand Lodge has outdone themselves and really notched up the look and feel of Kansas Freemasonry.*

Grand Lodge recently rolled out these two new marketing pieces during the Grand Lodge Officers Orientation and Annual Communications. Much time, work and expense went into the development of these programs led by M.W. Michael A. Halleran. This is just the beginning of a number of new initiatives you will be seeing from Grand Lodge over the next several years. These two programs have gotten the attention of many other Grand Lodge jurisdictions. As the last year's Grand Master often said, "Not Your Grand Daddy's Grand Lodge," and he sure is living up to that motto!

If you have any questions that you would like addressed on Masonry, Grand Lodge, Kansas Masonic Foundation, Kansas Masonic Home, this publication or its articles, please send your questions to [Editor@KansasMason.org](mailto:Editor@KansasMason.org) or mail to Kansas Masonic Foundation, Attn. Kansas Mason Editor, 2909 SW Maupin Lane, Topeka, Kansas 66614.

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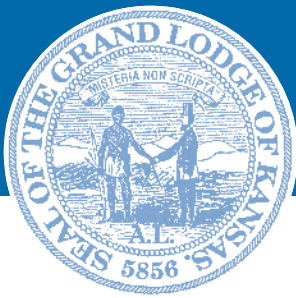
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## GRAND LODGE

By Kansas Masonic Foundation Staff

Deepens **CAMARADERIE,**  
Looks to the **FUTURE,**  
and Explores the **PAST**

“A man only learns in two ways, one by reading,  
and the other by association with smarter people.”

– Will Rogers, beloved actor, humorist and Freemason



**G**rand Master Michael Halleran spoke those words as he opened the 159th Annual Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge in Topeka, pointing to strong attendance and the importance of being active as a Mason.

“The Grand Lodge is you, and the decisions of the Grand Communication are always the decisions of those in attendance,” he said.

The Grand Lodge, which saw the installation of Grand Master Daren Kellerman, drew Freemasons from across the state to participate in decision-making and to learn about what is happening in other Lodges. But in conjunction with the seriousness and importance of the law change and officer installations, Masons also gathered to visit with their Brothers.

“I like the camaraderie, and I like to be able to help make decisions,” said longtime E. M. “Mack” Griffiths of Lawrence Lodge

No. 6, and an active York Rite Mason. “I see people that I haven’t seen in years. It gathers all of the Lodges that participate in one group, and you get to see what’s happening in other Lodges.”

Griffiths, who has been a Mason since 1988, offered an excellent example of associating with “smarter people.”

“I joined when I was 54 years old. I was at the top of my profession, and I knew I wasn’t going to go much higher,” he said. “I joined Masons because it made me use my brain, made me think, made me learn. I wanted to challenge me. It’s been a challenge.”

The energy of feeding off of ideas and concepts was present throughout the Grand Lodge. Kansas Masonic Foundation leaders Michael J. Tavares, president, and Robert Shively, executive director, shared their visions and challenges with meeting needs statewide. They discussed the communications that Masonic Brothers have seen in the last year that show how the Grand Lodge



and the Foundation work together “hand in hand for the betterment of Freemasonry.”

Shively explored a comprehensive study done to look at the general public’s knowledge of Freemasonry, and focused on important numbers. “Fourteen percent of the men in Kansas 21 years and older would be very interested in becoming a Mason,” he said the study found. “Now, let’s put that in real numbers – 125,000 men in the state of Kansas are interested in possibly becoming a Mason. Thirty-four percent of men 21 and older don’t know enough to make a decision one way or the other, and 5 percent might be interested. That’s 200,000 men today in the state of Kansas interested in Fraternity.

“The opportunity has never been greater for Freemasonry in Kansas,” he added.

Worshipful Brother John Bizzack, of Lexington, Kentucky, followed the uplifting look at the future of Kansas Masonry with a challenge to Kansas Lodges. Author of several books

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exploring Freemasonry, Bizzack said the organization has allowed the social aspects to outweigh the traditional focus and import of being a Mason.

“We’ve ended up with more members than Masons. The greatest enemy of knowing is not ignorance,” he said. “Actually worse than ignorance is the illusion of knowledge.”

Bizzack shared with the attentive audience the story of five blind men who explored an elephant, each walking away with a different concept of what it might be, based on where they put their hands. One touched the trunk, another the leg, another an ear, and one who felt the elephant’s side thought of it as a “great wall.”

“They sat for hours and argued, and obviously they were all correct from their own points of view,” he explained. “They didn’t see the elephant as a system, but as parts. We could say the same for Freemasonry.”

In adapting over the past 50 years, parts of Freemasonry have been neglected, and while the organization still functions, Masons “failed to take into account how leaving out parts would affect what it intended to do,” Bizzack said.

Expanding opportunities for education, conviviality, fellowship allowed some things to disappear, and Masons “allowed more men into the lodge that would never have been accepted,” he said. “As the system became more casual, so did the mechanics of Freemasonry.”

Throughout Freemason teachers, Bizzack said, are indicators that Freemasonry is a “system – an arrangement of individual parts so as to constitute a perfect whole. What happens when parts of the system are missing?”

*continued on page 10*





# WHY GO TO GRAND LODGE EVENTS?

By Hans Stephensen, Senior Warden of King Solomon No.10



Years ago, when I joined this beloved Fraternity, my loyalty and dedication to it was exclusive to my home Lodge. Grand Lodge sounded like some lofty group, far disconnected from the everyday workings and challenges of the blue Lodge.

For three years after being raised, I had little interest in attending a Grand Lodge Communication besides fulfilling a

mandated responsibility to be there. This month I realized just how much I had been missing.

So why should Masons take the time to go to a Grand Lodge event? If you have ever found your motivation and enthusiasm for the craft waning, or felt like you are working hard with little to show for it, Grand Lodge will help you re-charge. Of all the events, the Kansas Grand Lodge Annual Communication is the largest Masonic rally of the year. My excitement rose immediately upon being greeted by my Masonic Brothers from around the state who share the same passion for the Fraternity.

Sitting down surrounded by 400+ Kansas Brothers, I saw first-hand that the Grand Lodge of Kansas leads by setting the example, not just empty words.

I think all were grateful the Grand Lodge demonstrated the adoption of their own recommendation by doing a consent agenda, which left the focus of the event on Masonic Education. When they say our focus should be on Masonic Education, they meant it. They flew in two Masonic authors to speak to us, and we heard addresses from the Most Worshipful Grand Master Michael Halleran and the incoming Most Worshipful Grand Master Darren Kellerman. These addresses set the tone for the entire event, which could be summed up as a call to return to greatness.

Dr. John Bizzack of Lexington, Kentucky, Lodge No. 1 spoke on how Freemasonry's decline today is a result of a gradual degradation of its traditions. Introducing the Broken-Window Theory, he explained how it applied to our craft: that small digressions have a cumulative effect and if they are not dealt with promptly they will lead to inevitable decline. The traditions that have been in decline are Festive boards (table lodges), formal dress, mandated expectations, a firm guard of the West Gate, men in leadership positions who should not be there, and the mistaken belief that Freemasonry is a charitable organization first without realizing that it is in fact first and foremost an educational institution.

Dirty lodges, uninspiring ritual, casual approaches to Masonry are all reflections of what the Craft means to us. The external is a reflection of the internal state of the members of a Lodge.

"You don't become great by sacrificing principles, lowering expectations or trying to curry favor from others," he said. Dr. Bizzack finished by stating three things missing in all Jurisdictions across the United States:

- 1) Well-designed, on-going Masonic Education covering both historic and esoteric masonic knowledge.
- 2) Qualified and visionary leadership based solely on merit.
- 3) A firm guard on the West Gate.

The theme continued with author Andrew Hammer, who concurred. The solution is simple, he said, and added the key to the future is in the past and pointed to restoring our neglected traditions. Quality Lodge experiences are what made people want to join and what makes them stay. Echoing remarks from Grand Master Halleran's address, our newest Grand Master, Daren Kellerman, hit the ground running and, in his inaugural address, further demonstrated how the Grand Lodge of Kansas' sole purpose and mission is to assist all the Lodges of Kansas with increasing the quality of the Masonic experience.

Once more leading by example, Grand Lodge has re-packaged neglected programs into something we can be proud of, including Friends of Masonry night becoming the "Discovering Freemasonry" package. New Master Mason welcome packages are high-quality instead of cheap-looking paper pamphlets.

Lastly, when Grand Lodge asked all Lodges to have a Lodge newsletter, Grand Lodge has stepped up to the plate to offer its publishing experience to provide Lodges with a very simple click-and-submit online program where Lodges can just type articles and send in a picture and Grand Lodge will print them on high-quality color paper and mail them out at no cost for the Lodge.

I have attended the Leadership Academy in the past, leaving feeling pumped up and motivated. But for those wondering, the Grand Lodge Annual Communication only takes that feeling to the next level, with two days of education and Masonic excellence. Opportunities to communicate and coordinate with Brothers from other lodges are priceless. With plenty of idea-sharing, camaraderie, friendship, great food, and electric atmosphere, Grand Lodge Annual Communication is one event you want marked off on your calendar a year in advance so that you don't miss out on Kansas Masonry's return to Greatness!

## GRAND LODGE

*continued from page 8*

Ignoring things like the physical state of Lodges and lapses in practice that define Freemasonry gradually leads to a sense of decline, Bizzack said. "We've allowed Freemasonry to become less than the extraordinary (brotherhood) it was meant to be."

While innovations may not occur, many Lodges "take away" from what they're doing. "Just calling or saying we practice Freemasonry does not make it so," Bizzack challenged those attending Grand Lodge. "We cannot make fine porcelain out of bad clay."

The veteran Mason shared the knowledge that there are pockets of Lodges throughout the world that practice traditionally, and some even have waiting lists. They focus on Masonic education and a steady practice of protocols and ethics that are the basis of Freemasonry.

"Take stock," he urged the audience.

Bizzack's message of being unafraid to face the challenges facing Masonry and tackle them head on resonated with many in attendance.

Brian Byrd, Worshipful Master of Albert Pike Lodge No. 303 in Wichita, said he appreciated the solemnity of the opening ceremony, as well as the fact that it was set to music that allowed a bit of personality and even levity to relax everyone. Finding the balance of tradition, which is so critical to Freemasonry, with new ways of doing things is important.

"It was still a very formal event, still very ritualistic but with kind of that dash of fun splashed in there," Byrd said.

He added that using the word "evolve" instead of "change" might help in the way Kansas Masons approach the future.

"It's more palatable," Byrd said. "If my wife says, 'Honey, we've got to change some

things' or if my wife would come to me and say, 'I think we need to evolve in our thinking' it's very different. Words are such a powerful thing."

In attending the March meeting, Byrd said he left with the distinct feeling that the Grand Lodge is responsive.

"I think as a whole, we're evolving in the direction we need to evolve, and it seems like the Grand Lodge is listening," he said.

In keeping with Bizzack's talk, Byrd said he was struck by the point when Grand Lecturer David F. Snyder received Emeritus status.

"It was nice to see Dave Snyder get his Emeritus status after being a 29-year Grand Lecturer. There's a lot of knowledge that's getting ready to step out of a key role. That was memorable for two reasons. One, because that was much deserved, and I think they treated him with dignity and class, but, second, what it did, it really made me think, 'oh my gosh, we need to really start learning our ritual, or the next thing we know, our folks are going to go away, die away, and who's going to know it?'"

"It was bittersweet," he added. "I was happy to see him get the award. The other side of it, we just lost years and years and years -- 62 years — of Masonic knowledge, riding off into the sunset. He's a great man. He doesn't talk a lot, but when he does speak, its volumes. He's one of those guys that can sit off to the sideline, and you won't even think he's paying attention, but if you miss a word, his head will kind of lift and he'll give you a look. That's the cool thing about Dave Snyder."

Keeping that sense of history, of tradition, and practicing in the way that it was originally intended, Bizzack pointed out, is what gives meaning to Freemasonry.

# The Power of the Lodge Newsletter: MAKE IT WORK FOR YOU

“The single biggest problem in communication is the illusion that it has taken place.” – George Bernard Shaw

One of the biggest challenges in Lodge communications is finding (or coercing) someone to take ownership of putting together an informative newsletter that looks forward to upcoming events and isn't merely reporting on what happened in the past.

The idea of creating a timely, quality, custom newsletter can be overwhelming for many Brothers. But it is no coincidence that Excellence in Communication is one of the three strategic planks

of the Grand Lodge of Kansas Vision 2020 Program. The success of any endeavor in your Lodge, from conception to planning and execution, is dependent upon quality and timely communication, at each and every stage. Your Lodge's best-laid plans and programs will see less value if communication is handled poorly.

The Grand Lodge, in conjunction with the Kansas Masonic Foundation, just made the task of building a

customized, quality Lodge newsletter one of the easiest things you will do all year.

The steps to setting up the newsletter are easy and take just a few minutes. Click through the link, provided below, to upload the Worshipful Master's picture and a short

*continued on page 12*



**LODGE NAME & NO.**

**STATED MEETINGS**  
Optional Fill Form  
Optional Fill Form

**UPCOMING EVENTS**  
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## The Observant Mason

The observant Mason needs only two basic tools: Attentive ears and sharp eyes. It's interesting to observe our newly made Masons. They perceive their degree givers to be so proficient, so knowledgeable that they seem intimidated by the assumed abyss between their fresh obtained experience and the Masonic knowledge of their more informed brothers. The old guard does little to pull aside the veil of misplaced awe. Regardless of tenure, when honest with ourselves, we confess that we are all students of a Craft that is boundless in obtainable knowledge. Instead of puffing our chests at the year Entered Apprentice, we should be congratulating those joining the circle of men, all of whom should be actively seeking more light.

Embracing the curiosity of the new Mason offers many advantages. First, it encourages a new Brother to take an interest in the institution he has just joined. This is a time when he is still rationalizing the steps he has taken. He is deciding whether it is worth the time and treasure. The second advantage is that it opens a path of confidence-building co-



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## LODGE OF RESEARCH

By Herb F. Merrick, Jr., Grand Marshal, Past Master Hancock Lodge No. 311 & KMF Trustee

## The Observant Mason

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treasure. The second advantage is that this opens a path of confidence-building co-discovery for his mentor. Masonic education, prepared well and

In Kansas, we have heard recently from Andrew Hammer, Cliff Porter, Chris Hodapp, Robert Davis, Brent Morris,

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his future time and treasure. The second advantage is that this opens a path of confidence-building co-discovery for his mentor.

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message from him; provide the names of your Lodge Officers; and fill in preconfigured, drop-down boxes. You will be able to preview and submit a customized quarterly

Lodge newsletter that will be mailed to your Lodge membership (as recorded in the Grand Lodge database). The printing, postage and delivery of the newsletter are all

handled for you **at no cost to your Lodge!** The Grand Lodge sees this as a necessary investment in your Lodge and a service we owe to the membership.

## THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW!

### Where To Go To Get Started –

Go To The Grand Lodge “Secretary Portal” and click on “Lodge Newsletter.”

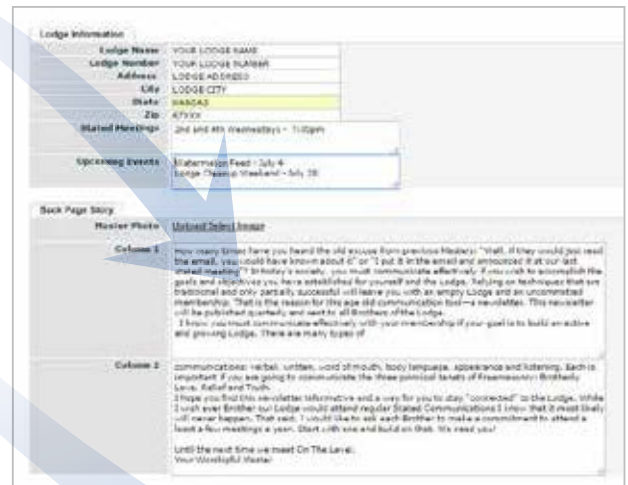
**Newsletter Requirements** – Enter as little or as much as you want, but we recommend taking the time to enter information in all of the provided sections as you are prompted.

- Upload the Master’s photo.
- Enter a couple paragraphs for the “From the Master” article.
- Enter your Lodge Officer’s names.
- Enter upcoming events. Remember, think at least three months in advance on the items you want to mention for the upcoming calendar.  
(For example, the announcement of your Lodge’s Annual Communication and Installation of Officers would need to be provided in the September edition of your Lodges newsletter.)
- Specific articles and calendar events from the Kansas Mason will also be added to the newsletter to provide a coordinated and unified message to your membership.

### Submission Deadlines

– The timing of quarterly editions is predetermined. Newsletters will be sent to your membership on June 15, September 15, December 15 and March 15.

- This schedule was intentionally planned to fall in between the editions of the Kansas Mason and provide continual communication to the membership.
- Deadline for submitting the information is June 1, September 1, December 1 and March 1. Meeting these “hard”, submission deadlines is critical.
  - You will have 30 days to enter the information for each edition:
    - May 1 – June 1 for June 15 Edition
    - August 1 – September 1 for September 15 Edition
    - November 1 – December 1 for December 15 Edition
    - February 1 – March 1 for March 15 Edition.



Please reach out to the Grand Secretary ([om@kansasmason.org](mailto:om@kansasmason.org)) with any questions. It is the deepest hope that your lodge, whether thriving or challenged in attendance, will use this valuable communication tool with your membership.

# Preparing To Serve The Craft

The 2015 Grand Lodge Retreat to help Grand Lodge Officers prepare for their Kansas Masonic service stepped outside of tradition to offer an extended two-day training that received rave reviews.

In the past, District Deputy Grand Masters would meet for a one-hour breakfast before they were installed, and then that was extended to four- and eight-hour training sessions, according to Grand Junior Warden Cole Presley.

“What we found was our District Deputies were excited about the job they were prepared to do, but they just didn't have enough time to wrap their heads around their mission and their role in the Grand Lodge,” he explained. “We thought, ‘Hey, we need some more time with these guys.’”

From that lightbulb moment, Deputy Grand Master Daren L. Kellerman and Presley worked with others to create a two-day training session that, Presley said, basically ended up being almost a 20-hour block of instruction. Scheduled for closer to 15 hours, the group was supposed to quit at 10:30 on Sunday morning but stayed until noon exchanging questions and conversation.

It was an important time to discuss goals, learn expectations, and build camaraderie.

Topics covered included everything from Excellence in Esoteric Work, Communications, and Masonic Education to Grand



Lecturers and Kansas Foundation Programs. Built into the agenda was time for networking between all Brothers and especially each of the Area Deputy Grand Masters and their respective District Deputy Grand Masters.

“As a new DDGM and my first experience at this work shop, all I can say is if the brothers before me didn't get this type of instruction, they were cheated,” wrote Lee “Tuff” Hermreck, of the Parker Masonic Lodge No. 341, on Facebook after the event. “I have attended several conferences in my profession and don't believe I can remember one that gave out the quality of materials or had as much passion on the message that

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# Grand Lodge Officers 2015-16

Grand Master	Daren L. Kellerman <i>Delphian Lodge No. 44, Garnett</i>
Deputy Grand Master	Lyn E. Beyer <i>Old Mission Lodge No. 153, Prairie Village</i>
Grand Senior Warden	B. Cole Presley <i>Millbrook Lodge No.281, Hill City</i>
Grand Junior Warden	Robert C. Talbott <i>Albert Pike Lodge No. 303, Wichita</i>
Grand Treasurer	L. Kent Needham, PGM <i>Henri Lodge No. 190, Tonganoxie</i>
Grand Secretary	Tracy L. Bloom, PGM <i>Salina Lodge No. 60, Salina</i>
Assistant Grand Secretary	Robert F. Nelson, OM <i>Emporia Lodge No. 12, Emporia</i>
Grand Chaplain	Charles L. "Chuck" Rodman <i>Alta Vista Lodge No. 357, Alta Vista</i>
Grand Orator	John E. Mowen, PGM <i>Peace Lodge No. 243, Louisburg</i>
Grand Senior Deacon	Delmus R. "Dale" Morrow, DSM <i>Belle Plaine Lodge No. 173, Belle Plaine</i>
Grand Junior Deacon	Anthony W. "Tony" Borum, OM <i>Parker Lodge No. 341, Parker</i>
Grand Marshal	Jose M. Marrero, Sr. <i>Hancock Lodge No. 311, Ft. Leavenworth</i>
Grand Sword Bearer	E. Ely Wells <i>Lebo Lodge No. 152, Lebo</i>
Grand Senior Steward	Craig A. Olson, DSM <i>Fidelity Lodge No. 106, Eureka</i>
Grand Junior Steward	James R. Burns III <i>Olathe Lodge No. 19, Olathe</i>
Grand Pursuivant	Russell B. Ingle <i>Millbrook Lodge No. 281, Hill City</i>
Grand Tyler	Victor J. Henke, Jr., DSM <i>Hancock Lodge No. 311, Ft. Leavenworth</i>
Assistant Grand Tyler	Timothy A. Fowler <i>Solomon City Lodge No. 105, Solomon City</i>
Grand Standard Bearer	Dale L. Fritz <i>Constellation Lodge No. 94, Fredonia</i>
Grand Flag Bearer	Charles W. "Smokie" Siecgrist <i>Henri Lodge No. 190, Tonganoxie</i>
Grand Musician	Dennis L. Reed <i>Topeka Lodge No. 17</i>
Grand Librarian	Michael A. Halleran, PGM <i>Emporia Lodge No. 12, Emporia</i>



## Area Deputy Grand Masters

- |                 |                   |                  |                  |                    |
|-----------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Jamie Carwell | 3 Samuel Oakleaf  | 5 Kenneth Lackey | 7 Timothy Fowler | 9 Razmi Tahirkheli |
| 2 Mikel Stoops  | 4 Kenneth Wheeler | 6 Michael Bell   | 8 Kelly Long     | 10 Gary Shipley    |

## District Deputy Grand Masters

- |                       |                      |                    |                          |
|-----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Charles Baskins     | 11 Rodney Middleton  | 21 Not filled      | 31 Casey Tillman         |
| 2 Michael Kupsch      | 12 Michael Holeman   | 22 James Kay       | 32 Paul "Buzz" Livengood |
| 3 Donald Matteson     | 13 Kim Colgin        | 23 Les Allison     | 33 Matthew Mutz          |
| 4 Raymond Gottstein   | 14 Carl Otto         | 24 Kris Brown      | 34 Not filled            |
| 5 Doug Jessup         | 15 Thomas Rigg       | 25 Bryant Devine   | 35 Alexander Leslie      |
| 6 Michael Johnson II  | 16 Robert L. Amyx    | 26 Lowell Brown    | 36 George Read           |
| 7 Kevin Reed          | 17 Jimmie Bechtel    | 27 Jerry McDaniel  | 37 Onofre "Opie" Astorga |
| 8 Lee "Tuff" Hermreck | 18 Not filled        | 28 Dahl Carmichael | 38 Michael Brack         |
| 9 Mitchell Welch      | 19 George Shuler Jr. | 29 Kevin Farlow    | 39 Gerald Clary          |
| 10 Troy Glasgow       | 20 Daniel Bostrom    | 30 Jason Gibson    | 40 Marvin Seaman         |

## Grand Lecturers

- |                     |                            |                       |
|---------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Earl E. Bryant, Sr. | David R. Neal              | Robert C. Talbott     |
| Vernon L. Butt      | Donald D. Newman, Jr., PGM | C. David Williams III |
| Ron Main            | H. Wayne Rector            |                       |

## Assistant Grand Lecturers

- |                   |            |                              |
|-------------------|------------|------------------------------|
| Andrew P. Cassity | John Crary | Delmus R. "Dale" Morrow, DSM |
|-------------------|------------|------------------------------|

## Grand Lecturers Emeritus

- |                           |                    |                     |                           |
|---------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| FA. Franklin Baldwin, Jr. | Richard R. Haefele | Robert M. Schroeder | William G. Updegrove, Jr. |
| Ronald Detwiler           | Leland G. Salts    | William W. Sellen   | J. Fred Williamson, PGM   |
|                           | Neil E. Sammon     | David F. Snyder     |                           |



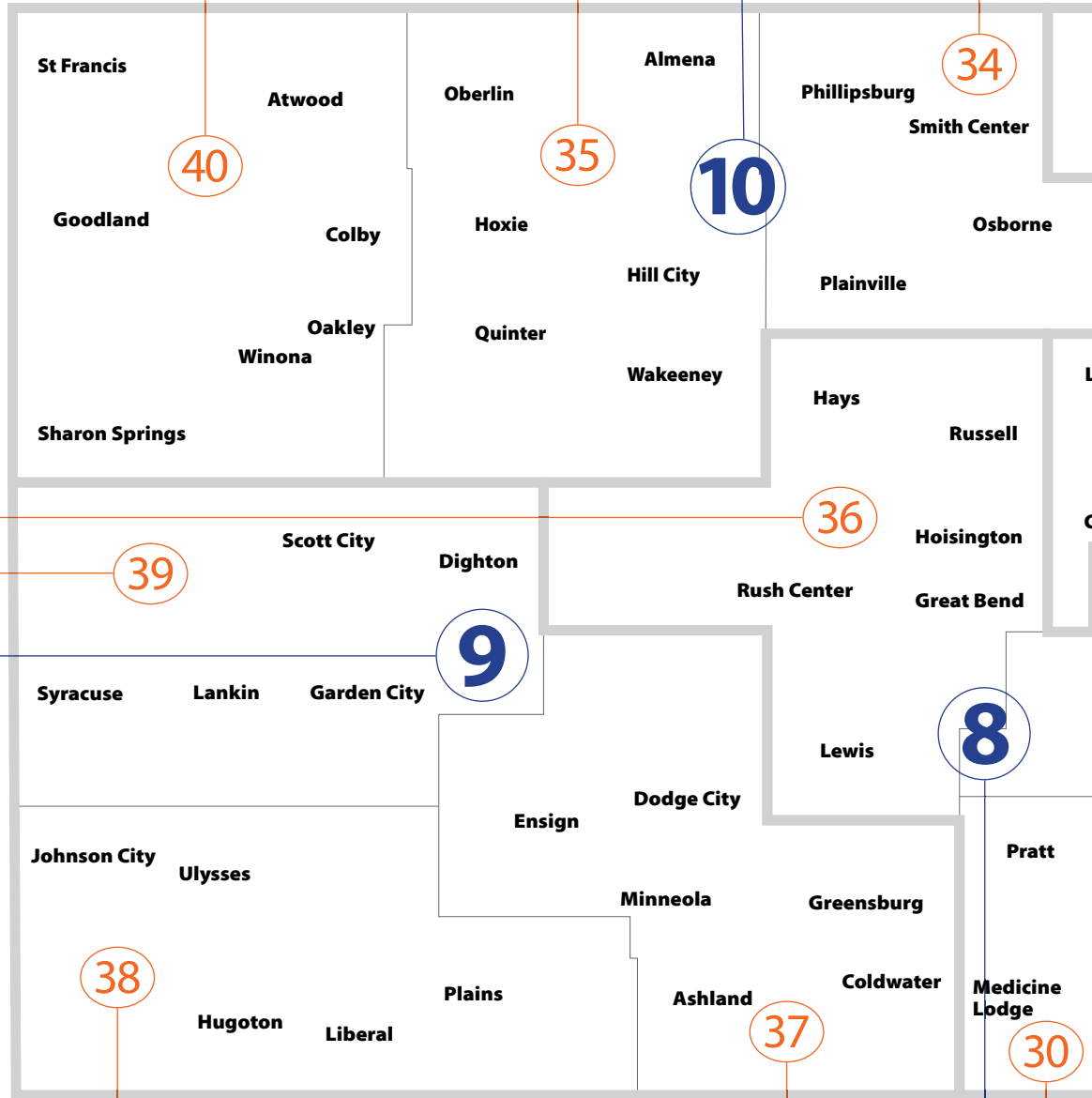
Gary Shipley



Marvin Seaman



Alexander Leslie



EMPTY

34

40

35

10

36

39

9

8

38

37

30



Gerald Clary



George Read



Razmi Tahirkheli



Michael Brack



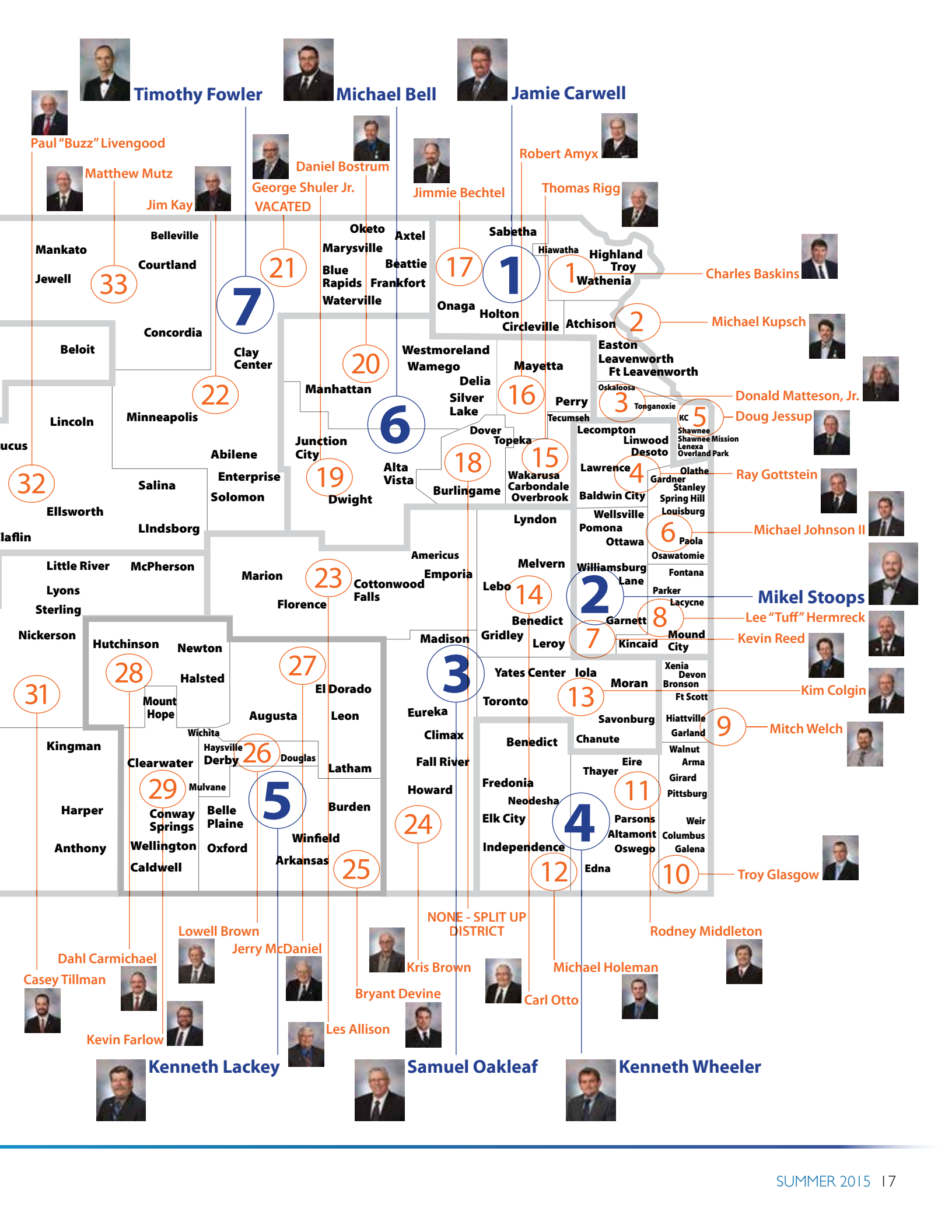
Kelly Long

Jason Gibson



# District and Area Map





# FURTHER LIGHT



◇ GRAND LODGE KANSAS  
STATEWIDE MASONIC EDUCATION  
TOPEKA MASONIC CENTER  
MAY 16 2015

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## GRAND LODGE

### Preparing To Serve The Craft

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they were sending as what was demonstrated as the brothers that did it this weekend.”

It was also the first year the Kansas Masonic Foundation Board of Trustees was invited to attend, a move that exemplified the outstanding working relationship that has been forged between the two groups.

“Because of the strategic plan and the new expectations we placed on District Deputies this year, more than any other, they left feeling better prepared to handle their new role,” Presley said of the event. “They’re no longer just a public speaker for the Grand Lodge of Kansas. We’re asking them to step up and to lead in their districts, moving from simply carrying the Grand Master’s message to taking on a leadership role.”

“I had a great time and am excited to help roll out all the Grand Lodge programs,” Timothy A. Fowler, Deputy District Grand Master for Solomon City No. 105.

The excitement expressed by Fowler and others was tangible at the February retreat and, along with the extended training, will make 2015 another successful year for Kansas Masons.

“I’ve always been an advocate that leaders are taught and not born, so the more we can prepare these guys, the better off they’re going to be when they hit the road,” Presley said. “We saw a great benefit from this retreat and we plan to continue the longer training format next year. We’ll measure the productivity from this next year, and the course may change as far as what we work on specifically with them, but the day-and-half format of getting them together is here to stay for the next several years.”

## GRAND LODGE

By B. Cole Presley, Grand  
Senior Warden



The Mission of the Grand Lodge of Kansas is to encourage and support Freemasonry by assisting its constituent Lodges achieve success and prosperity as assets to their membership and communities.

The above statement is not just a punch line. It is our mission, our focus, and our drive as the Grand Lodge of Kansas from the Grand Master all the way to you, District Deputy. Every single event or program we hold is measured against that statement before we launch it. Why is that so important? Because our Mission Statement was not drafted by the Grand Master or even the Grand Lodge. Rather, this statement was built by Kansas Masons, who gave us this mission. The end

outcome has been that with every event and program comes a way for your Lodge and not the Grand Lodge to achieve success and in many different ways!

Let me give you an update on our Strategic Plan. With a renewed focus on three distinct lanes, we are geared to achieve success with our mission not just to get it done, but for your Lodge to see Excellence.

Excellence in Communications is critical to succeed at any level. This year we are

providing three great new programs to help you see success.

### **Lodge Newsletters**

Every Lodge needs to reach out to its members. How else can you tell them what's going on a regular basis? Newsletters are a great tool to get the word out, reinvigorate inactive members and boost member participation. These

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## Achieving Excellence

*continued from page 19*

can be cumbersome and expensive to do. That's why we are offering your Lodge the opportunity to publish, in a professional format, your own quarterly communication. Offset between the Kansas Mason Magazine, this newsletter is customizable and easy to work with. All you have to do is type a few words, add a photo or two and click submit. The rest is done automatically AT NO COST TO YOUR LODGE!

## New Mason Packets

Making a good impression is not only important for prospects but for our candidates and newest Master Masons as well. That's why we've created a welcome packet, packed with information about who we are and what we do, that will be sent to them just a few days after they are raised FOR FREE! Secretaries just need to make sure they are in the database and the rest is automatic.

## Discovering Freemasonry

In 2014, the Council of Administration recognized that our Friends of Masons programs was badly outdated and needed a complete overhaul. Throughout the past year a small group of Brothers was commissioned to completely rework the program, and they developed a program that we would put up against any other Grand Lodge. It is designed to showcase Kansas Masonry and your Lodge. If you want to hold an event, simply contact Grand Lodge and request a packet AT NO COST!

Excellence in Masonic Education is critical for not only our own enlightenment but for our newest Master Masons as they begin their journeys. While the journey never ends, we have a responsibility to ensure that we can fill your educational needs.

## Consent Agenda

Finding time for education in our stated communications can be a challenge. After all, we have to read minutes, pay bills, hear committee reports and all kinds of other business, and it all takes precious time. Over the past 14 months, a Consent Agenda has been developed and tested to take care of business but also to free up time for education. See the website for a template, and ask your District Deputy how it works!

## Statewide Masonic Education Day

Our next installment in the Further Light series will be shown on May 16 in Topeka; this will cover sessions two and three and complete the course. At the time of this printing, more information about the course should be available. Don't miss it!

## Kansas Lodge of Research

The Kansas Lodge of Research is a great tool for Lodges looking for educational material. They are also looking for members who are interested in Masonic Education and History. If you have something you have researched, they want to see it!

Excellence in the Esoteric Work is essentially the heartbeat of who we are as Kansas Masons. The exhibition of the same ritual that has been practiced since 1856 is something we should not only be proud of but work to achieve perfection at.

## Proficiency Program

The stronger a Lodge's proficiency, the stronger the Lodge. That's why we have built and continue to grow the Grand Lodge Proficiency Program. By recognizing your Brother's achievements in the ritual, the Lodge has one more thing to take pride in. Talk to your District Deputy about Ritual-

ist Awards, Trice Robison and many other programs.

## Grand Lecturers

Our Grand Lecturers are the strongest resource we have when it comes to protecting and learning the ritual. They are also available for more than just the School of Instruction. Any time you want to hear a lecture or hold a class on anything ritual, reach out to them and ask them to come speak. Be sure to let them know how you feel about the new school format. Our Schools of Instruction are designed not only to teach the ritual but to ignite our passions about who we are and what we do. We can't hit that mark without hearing from you.

## Quality Presentation

So many times we focus so much on getting the ritual right, that we forget ceremonies and degrees are designed to be filled with emotion. Our challenge to you as Lodge leaders is to find a way to resurrect those feelings of solemnity to our degrees. Sometimes it's as simple as making sure our speakers aren't monotone. For others, it means darkening the lodge room. Whatever your individual fit might be, remember to bring the emotion back.

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The question cannot be ignored much longer: "What am I getting out of \$24 worth of Per Capita Tax?!" From everything listed above to our statewide events, your \$24 is aimed at ensuring your Lodge achieves excellence. Need more proof? Then get registered for our upcoming events, Masonic Education Day, the 5th Annual Leadership Academy and, of course, the 2016 Annual Communication.

It is without a doubt an exciting time to be a Kansas Mason. Brothers, don't miss out!



GRAND LODGE By Lyn E. Beyer, Deputy Grand Master

# WHY ARE YOU HERE ?

Masonry is not a social club, although we do act individually within our communities, applying Masonic principles.

We are not a charity, but as a Fraternity and a Lodge we do much philanthropy.

As you explore the question about what you're doing here, you also must question your motives for joining the Masons. We first have to understand Freemasonry to find the answers to these questions, to these dilemmas.

Freemasonry is a lifelong study of self-realization, self-improvement and self-awareness.

Our Fraternity is a philosophical lesson

meant to improve a man from the inside out. It is not about ego or power or the ability to control others. It is about learning to control ourselves – our thoughts and actions. This is how an individual becomes a better man. It is not a study of who is on top and who is not. It is all about who you become as an individual and meeting on the level.

At any Freemasonry level, we must consider ourselves as rough Ashlers. In order

to help ourselves and, thereby, help others in our Fraternity to grow, we must strive to become perfect Ashlers. In building this pyramid called Freemasonry, we know the foundation stones must be perfect Ashlers because a rough Ashler will not allow another stone to sit flat. If that happens, the pyramid will eventually crumble and fall over. If we strive to

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Why Are You Here?

*continued from page 21*

learn and to study the principles of Masonry and grow as individuals toward self-actualization and realization, we will move toward becoming a perfect Ashler. We can then help others break off their rough corners. This also does not mean every perfect Ashler will become Master of his Lodge. Yes, we need leaders, but we also need teachers and trainers. We need men of character who will build their Lodges and give them good counsel.

These things cannot be accomplished by sitting on the sidelines after you received your 3rd° and doing nothing. What you do for yourself in growth, study and self-improvement is to be shared with your Brothers. There are too few Brothers and too few Lodges that are on fire – burning with desire to learn more, do more and share more. Are

you a constructionist or an obstructionist? Do you want to help your Lodge and the Fraternity grow or do you want power and an ego trip and to be in charge? Hopefully, your motives are pure.

So once again I ask: Why are you here? If your motives are pure and fraternal, the rest will follow. There are many Brothers across the state who help Lodges and the Grand Lodge in many ways from behind the scenes because they have learned their work. They do not seek recognition – only the satisfaction that comes from building a stronger Kansas Masonry. Not everyone wants to become the man on top of the hill. Some are thrust there and accept the mantle. Others want nothing to do with it. But whether the Brother is a 3-year Mason, 40-year Mason, 50-year Mason or more, what needs to happen is that Brother needs to find the zeal to improve

himself through his learning and studies and to assist his Lodge.

Read, learn, study, teach – then rewind and do it again. Over and over and over, expecting nothing in return but the knowledge you are gaining and the self-actualization occurring within your mind and heart. Not many expect to be where they are or end up where they are. They just did the right things for the right reasons, and good things happened. You will never know what Masonry is about or realize your potential if you do not participate. If doing nothing is your goal – then do nothing. How is that working for you and your Lodge?

Self-realization won't fall out of the sky and hit you in the head. You have to work at it and want it. You have to strive to become a better you. The tools are in our lessons. The reality of it happening is in your hands.

# CANCER SCREENING CLINIC CALENDAR

## Kansas Lodges that have been approved to have Cancer Screening Clinics for the 2015-16 Fiscal Year:

Ellsworth Lodge No. 46 . . . . .	3/21/2015	Erie Lodge No. 76 . . . . .	7/18/2015
Constellation Lodge No. 95 . . . . .	4/11/2015	Anthem Lodge No. 284 . . . . .	8/22/2015
Palmyra Lodge No. 284 . . . . .	4/18/2015	Carson Lodge No. 132 . . . . .	9/12/2015
Syracuse Lodge No. 309 . . . . .	4/25/2015	Haysville Lodge No. 112 . . . . .	9/19/2015
Minneapolis No. 143 . . . . .	5/02/2015	Overland Park Lodge No. . . . .	9/26/2015
St. Francis Lodge No. 404 . . . . .	5/09/2015	Hugoton Lodge No. 408 . . . . .	10/03/2015
Advance Lodge No. 114 . . . . .	5/23/2015	Gilead Lodge No. 144 . . . . .	10/10/2015
Henri Lodge No. 190 . . . . .	5/30/2015	Euclid Lodge No. 101 . . . . .	12/05/2015
Sharon Springs Lodge No. 417 . . . . .	6/06/2015	Emporia Lodge No. 12 . . . . .	TBD
Lindsborg Lodge No. 408 . . . . .	6/13/2015	Hiattville Lodge No. 216 & Bourbon Lodge No. 268 . .	TBD
Osage Valley Lodge No. 24 . . . . .	6/20/2015	Woodson Lodge No. 121 . . . . .	TBD



# Awards From The Grand Lodge Of Kansas



One of the most important tasks we complete at the Annual Communication every year is that of recognizing the many that serve and make the work of Kansas Freemasonry possible.

The following Masons received awards from the Grand Lodge of Kansas:

*Master's Achievement Award recognizes superior performance in leadership by Worshipful Masters. Special recognition is given to those Masters who exhibit program excellence by undertaking various activities that support, enhance, and build this great Fraternity by meeting minimum prescribed requirements as well as participating in additional activities that achieve a superior performance level.*

James R. Burns III – Olathe Lodge No. 19

William G. Ladigo Jr. – North Star Lodge No. 168

Larry D. Bond – Peace Lodge No. 243

Paul R Ditty – Albert Pike No. 303

John French II – Derby Lodge No. 365

*Receiving a Gold Award for Master's Achievement were:*

Jose M. Marrero Sr. – Hancock Lodge No. 311

*The Trice-Robison Award is earned when a lodge develops certified Ritualists, achieves perfect attendance of their lodge at their District Schools of Instruction, has attendance at Leadership Academy, completes our new Masonic Education course, and is recognized by their Area or District Deputy Grand Master as proficient in all required ritual work.*

Olathe Lodge No. 19

Peace Lodge No. 243

Justice Lodge No. 457

*The Order of Merit Award recognizes exceptional meritorious service and leadership. This is the highest award to be conferred by the Grand Master.*



Right Worshipful Brother Robert F. Nelson is being recognized for this award for his meritorious and selfless service to the Grand Lodge. As a member of the technology committee and as the Assistant Grand Secretary, he has worked tirelessly behind the scene.

Updating all our electronic forms, serving as on-site IT professional as well as any other task that he has been asked to perform. What sets Robert apart is that he accomplishes each task almost without being noticed, simply working behind the scenes to make sure everything operates the way it should.

Brother Robert F. Nelson, is the Immediate Assistant Grand Secretary for the Grand Lodge of Kansas, outgoing Past Master and Perpetual Member of Emporia Lodge No. 12, AF&AM. He also held the positions of District Deputy Grand Master for District 23 and Grand representative.

*Individual leadership awards were established in 2014 to recognize those brothers who have distinguished themselves by superior achievements in furthering the strategic plan of the Grand Lodge of Kansas. The awards recognize the remarkable dedication and incredible level of leadership necessary to achieve the mission of the Grand Lodge of Kansas. Four leaders were recognized for their extraordinary achievements.*

*The Distinguished Service Medal recognizes superior achievements in three areas: Masonic Education, Esoteric Work, and Communications.*

*Three Masons to receive this award are:*



Right Worshipful Brother Perry A. Cross, Jr., Immediate Assistant Grand Tyler of the Grand Lodge of Kansas, outgoing Past Master of Clay Center Lodge No. 134, AF&AM.



Right Worshipful Brother Victor J. Henke, Jr., currently serving his second year as District Deputy Grand Master for District 2 for the Grand Lodge of Kansas, Past Master and Perpetual Member of Hancock Lodge No. 311, AF&AM.



Right Worshipful Brother Herbert F. Merrick, Jr., Immediate Grand Marshal for the Grand Lodge of Kansas, outgoing Past Master and Perpetual Member of Hancock Lodge No. 311, AF&AM. He also held the positions of Grand Pursuivant and District Deputy Grand Master of District 2.



**Casey Tillman**

# MEMBER INTERVIEW

By Kansas Masonic Foundation Staff

**Masonry has been behind the scenes for so long, we don't credit it with some of the great things we take for granted today.**

### 1. How did you first find out about Freemasonry?

My great grandfather was a Freemason and a Knight Templar. In fact, he was a member of Albert Pike Lodge and went through the York Rite in the Scottish Rite Center in Wichita. I discovered this through my great aunt (my grandfather's cousin) who was a co-Mason out of Colorado (one of the co-ed Lodges over there). She informed me as to what Freemasonry really was and it sparked my interest enough to do some research on my own. At that time I was not of legal age to join a Lodge and it fell by the wayside.

It was about 3 years ago that I became friends with Dick Sharpe, who was at that time the Worshipful Master of Cornerstone Lodge No. 219 (later he became DDGM). We spent long nights discussing Masonry, conspiracies, and life in general. He was my top line signer and is one of my biggest Masonic inspirations.

### 2. What do your friends think about your involvement?

Many of my friends have actually been inspired to petition Lodges themselves. A few, who were not interested in joining, have still expressed that our representation of the Fraternity has done it well.

### 3. Why is Freemasonry important to you?

I feel that in a world that lacks moral guidance Masonry provides a foundation which cannot be found anywhere else. I find that many religions today have lost sight of what it truly means to be a good person. I see too many organized religions focused on dictating what other people should do (wear a burka, don't be gay, don't eat pork, etc.), and instead forget that we should first better ourselves and focus on the core tenants of our faith.

### 4. Why is Freemasonry important to your community?

I don't think people see how much Masonry affects their community. Masonry has been behind the scenes for so long, we don't credit it with some of the great things we take for granted today. Hospitals, labor rights, and even democracy itself almost all have some basis in Freemasonry. Everyone knows about Shriner hospitals, but people seem shocked when I tell them just how much money Masonry puts into cancer research and other charitable organizations, both locally, and nationally.

### 5. How has Freemasonry inspired you, or how has it made you a better person?

Freemasonry has inspired me in more ways than one. Every bit of it, from the connections I make with each Brother, to the deep esoteric teachings in our ritual, I have been continuously inspired by our honorable Fraternity, and I am humbled to be a member

of it. Masonry has opened my mind and helped shape my life philosophy. I use the Masonic tools in my everyday life, and I apply the teachings of Masonry to my every action.

### 6. What do you look forward to when you attend Lodge meetings?

Simply put, the Brotherhood. My Lodge, and my District even, is very close. We are small Lodges and we all know each other. We're friends, Brothers, and even family (my brother is a Mason, and my Lodge's secretary just passed the reigns to his son). I like the energy of the Lodge, and the openness. There are things I might fear discussing outside the harmony of the Lodge, where I know I won't be judged and I won't be ridiculed for my beliefs. My Lodge is made up of men from many backgrounds, religions, and political affiliations, but when we get together, we are brothers.

### 7. What do you see as the future of Freemasonry?

I see Masonry like a pendulum. It wasn't always as popular as it was post WWII, and it will fall out of popularity again. But at this point in time I see a resurgence of young men who are looking for something that cannot be found outside of the Lodge, and thankfully, our current Brethren have kept the teachings alive so that when the time came they could be passed on to us. I feel honored to be a steward of our great teachings, and only hope I can do it as much justice as those before me have.



# FROM THE ARCHIVES

By Dylan Kuhlman, Archivist, Kansas Masonic Library & Museum

## The Work Begins — Kansas Masonic Library And Museum

To identify records and papers of enduring value

To preserve them

To make them available to patrons

—Gregory S. Hunter, *Developing and Maintaining Practical Archives*



Dylan Kuhlman

These three basic principles are the foundation of archiving, yet their simplicity in no way captures the importance of the process happening at the Kansas Masonic Library

and Museum. Creating and maintaining an archive that honors the history of the Masons is a difficult and nuanced task that, at times, seems to be a struggle on an uphill path.

Yet, we have started steadily up that path and are excited to be making great strides. As mentioned in previous articles, the Grand Lodge has ensured the collective history of the Masonic tradition in Kansas will survive for future generations, and it has achieved “historical preservation” status by the National Register of Historic Places.

We have digitized 50,000 pages of annual proceedings. We interviewed Dr. Gwen Alexander and a lead archivist at Syracuse University to determine what needs to be done to preserve our collection. The most

recent step is the hiring for my position, a full time archivist (see inset) to oversee the collection. These are great strides, but more needs to be done.

Display cases are overstuffed and being used as storage, causing damage to precious artifacts. The building environment has widely fluctuating temperature and humidity, causing irreversible damage to important materials. No policies guide what is collected to prevent the institution from being bogged down by unnecessary materials. One of the biggest problems the library faces is that we simply do not know what we have because there is no overarching inventory or database of records. Undiscovered treasures are no doubt lurking in unmarked boxes piled next to ordinary office supplies or under materials that need to be trashed, donated or recycled.

One of my personal goals as I begin to tackle these challenges is to create transparency at the library and museum so Kansas Masons know proper care and attention is being given to their historical records. This article, and those following, will be one way I hope to achieve this goal.

My initial task upon arrival at this position was to draft the library and museum’s policies—primarily, a mission statement and a collection policy. The mission statement will provide general guidance and purpose to keep our institution on track for the coming years. The collection policy is a more involved document that sets out clear guidelines for what will be collected and what we want to avoid collecting. It will guide how we accept collections from lodges and donors, and determine when we may seek to buy one-of-a-kind records. The completion of these policies will signify the Kansas Masonic Library and Museum entering the modern age of record-collecting institutions. By the time this article is published, both documents will have been completed and should be available to the public.

Even though tackling a project of this magnitude can be overwhelming, the collection at the Kansas Masonic Library and Museum has great potential. While we may not know exactly what the entire collection entails, I can speak with absolute confidence to say there are unknown treasures here, and it is worth our efforts. It just takes a walk through the small percentage of artifacts on display to confirm every effort should be made to explore the wonders hidden there.

The Kansas Masonic Library and Museum represent the collective history of the Grand Lodge, local lodges and Freemasonry across Kansas, and it will be my honor to preserve it to use today and for future generations.

*Dylan Kuhlman has been working in archives and libraries for the last six years. Originally from Dighton, a small western Kansas town, he attended Baker University where he received a Bachelor of Arts in History. He followed with a Masters in Library Science and an Archives Certificate from Emporia State University. His work experience includes positions at the University and Kansas Methodist Archives for Baker University, the National Archives and Records Administration in Kansas City and the Kansas Historical Society in Topeka. He has also done volunteer and graduate work at the Grinter Place Historic Site, The National WWI Museum, The Kansas City Public Library and the University Archives at Johnson County Community College.*

# AROUND THE WORLD

By Kansas Masonic Foundation Staff

## A Piece Of History Discovered — Boston Time Capsule

A piece of Freemason history was excavated from the cornerstone of the Massachusetts State House after having been buried in 1795 by Grand Master Paul Revere. It is thought to be the oldest American time capsule.

The small lead box was filled by the Freemason Grand Lodge of Massachusetts at the invitation of Samuel Adams, who was Massachusetts governor at the time. He asked Revere to perform the ancient Masonic cornerstone ceremony.

Robert Huke, currently Communications Director for the Massachusetts lodge, said the box includes a silver plate engraved, many believe by Revere himself, with the following inscription:

“This Corner-stone intended for the use of the Legislature and Executive Branches of Government of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts was laid by His Excellency Samuel Adams, Esq'r, Governor of said Commonwealth assisted by the Most Worshipful Paul Revere, Grand Master; and Right Worshipful Wm. Scollay, Deputy Grand Master; The Grand Wardens and Brethren of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts.”

Once the lead box was excavated, the Boston Museum of Fine Arts x-rayed it and then carefully opened it to find:

- Silver and copper coins—dating from 1652 to 1855
- Silver plaque
- Copper medal depicting George Washington
- Five newspapers
- Paper impression of the Seal of the Commonwealth
- Calling or business cards
- Title page from the Massachusetts Colony Records

Revere spoke at the ceremony when the time capsule was buried, saying, in part, “May we my Brethren, so Square our Actions thro life as to shew to the World of Mankind, that we mean to live within the Compass of Good Citizens that we wish to Stand upon a Level with them that when we part we may be admitted into that Temple where Reigns Silence & peace.”

The time capsule was opened previously in 1855, and at that point additions were made, including adding an inscription to the silver plate, this one honoring the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts leaders that year.

In total, the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts laid 75 cornerstones between 1795 and 1915. The contents of this time capsule will be on display at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts after they have been adequately preserved.



PHOTOGRAPH © MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, BOSTON

# Thank You

For Your Tremendous Support for the  
Second Annual Fulfilling Our Obligation Auction



The Second Annual Fulfilling Our Obligation – Sold on Helping Brothers, Freemasons Charity Auction reached a fantastic conclusion on March 20, 2015 at the Capitol Plaza Conference Center. The event successfully raised \$75,000 from cash pledges, including online, silent and live auction donations. 100% of the proceeds will be donated to the Freemason Endowment benefitting distressed Kansas Master Masons, their families, and Orphans.

The Fulfilling Our Obligation program is managed by the Kansas

Masonic Foundation in cooperation with the Grand Lodge of Kansas and administered through Kansas Masonic Lodges. The Freemason Endowment touches the lives of many Masons and their families, who are both in need and deserve our help. The Kansas Masonic Foundation would like to sincerely thank everyone involved for their hard work and effort in making this event a tremendous success! Thank you for your generous support for the Sold on Helping Brothers, Freemasons Charity Auction!



To apply for money from the Freemason Endowment, please contact your Lodge Secretary.

The Auction will continue to be held annually at the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge to raise future funds for Masons and their families. If you are interested in donating an item for the 2015 Freemasons Endowment Charity Auction, contact the Kansas Masonic Foundation at (785) 357.7646, or you may make a gift online by visiting [www.kmfonline.org](http://www.kmfonline.org).



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# MAKING A DIFFERENCE

By Kansas Masonic Foundation Staff

## Newly Appointed Board Trustees



**Craig A. Olson, Trustee**  
(1-Unexpired Year Term of Outgoing Board Member)

Craig Olson brings an attitude of service to the position of Grand Senior Steward. Active in his community in a variety of organizations, he embraces the Kansas Masons and its focus on self-improvement and philanthropy.

"The direction the Foundation has taken in recent years has instilled much excitement in Kansas Masonry, and who wouldn't want to be a part of this fulfilling endeavor," Olson said.

He completed three years serving the Grand Lodge of Kansas as Area Deputy

Grand Master for Area 3 and happily took on his new role during the 159th Annual Communication. Other masonic affiliations include past master and current secretary of Fidelity Lodge No. 106 in Eureka, plural member of Advance Lodge No. 114 in Florence. He also was a charter member and junior warden of the Tuscan Lodge No. 460, an Affinity Lodge.

Olson also is a member of the Wichita Scottish Rite and the York Rite, which includes Eureka No. 55, Wichita Council No. 12 and Eureka Commandery No. 45, and the River Jordan Tabernacle No. 38 of the Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests, serving as

Very Imminent Preceptor in 2014.

Olson is active in his community, serving in recent years as a board member for the Eureka City Planning and Airport Boards. He currently is president of the Eureka Foundation and has been instrumental in growing it to the point of providing technical scholarships to local students. This community foundation has a mission for bringing people and prosperity to the local community.

His roots in Eureka are well-established. Olson was born in the small Kansas town on June 19, 1963, and he makes a home there with his wife, Nancy, today. He works locally at Invena Corp., and has been with them since their inception. His day-to-day tasks involve business growth, product develop-

*continued on page 47*

## TRESTLE BOARD OF KANSAS MASONS

The Grand Lodge of Kansas,  
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# MAKING A DIFFERENCE

By Kansas Masonic Foundation Staff

## Newly Appointed Board Trustees



**Donald W. Wheeler, Trustee**  
(1-Year Term—Presidential Appointee)

On January 23, 1963, I became the third of three sons born to Bill and Vera

Wheeler on a farm outside Walnut, Kansas, joining a family with a long history of Masonic involvement. This year my parents celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary.

After grade school in Walnut and graduating from Girard High School in 1981, I attended Pittsburg State University and graduated with a BBA – Accounting in 1985. While in college, I joined Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity and was named outstanding brother in 1985.

I have been married to my wife, Sue, for 19 years, and we have three children, Melissa, Justin and Jonathan, and three grandchildren, Caleb, Gabe and Adrianna. Sue worked in the accounting field for many years then went back to college and graduated from Labette Community College. She is now a Physical Therapy Assistant in the Fort Scott area. Our daughter, Melissa, graduated from Pittsburg State with her masters in Psychology and works in Parsons. Our oldest son, Justin, is a senior at Pittsburg State and will graduate with a Diesel Automotive Engineering degree in December. Our youngest son, Jonathan, is a senior at Uniontown High School and has signed up with the Army to serve his country after graduation.

I have read in several Brothers' biographies about when they "discovered" Masonry. I cannot remember a time I did not know about Masonry. My father is a 60-year Mason

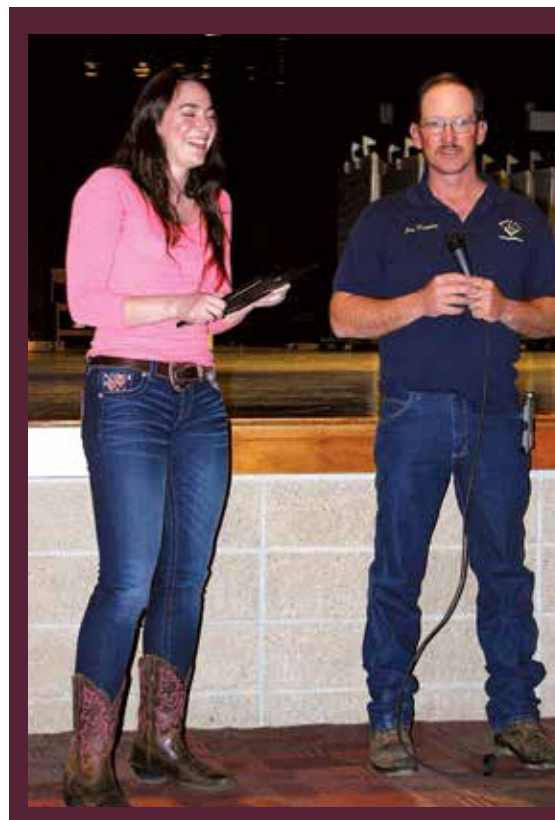
and my mother is a 60-year member of the Eastern Star. Growing up as a child, when the Lodge at Walnut had to be cleaned prior to a Star meeting, I was with Mom playing with a sword while "supposedly" vacuuming. At Vulcan, I am a third-generation Mason. Both of my grandfathers were Past Masters, my father is Past Master, and both older brothers belong to Vulcan. When you add in uncles, nephews (one is currently Master), and a cousin, half of the Brethren at Vulcan are all family members. The fifth generation is already on the ground as my parents have six great-grandsons. The oldest is six, so in 12 years we start bringing them in. The fam-

ily Thanksgiving dinner is held at the Lodge because family gatherings have outgrown the farm house.

I was raised a Master Mason in Vulcan Lodge No. 229 in Walnut, Kansas, in 1982, and served as Master of Vulcan in 2002 and 2003 and have been secretary since 2008. I became a plural member of Hiattville Lodge No. 216 in 2009 and was then elected as Master in 2010, 2011 and 2012. I have been honored to serve as District Deputy Grand Master four times (2004, 2011, 2012 and 2014) for three different Districts.

Vulcan and Hiattville are small Lodges in southeast Kansas, but they are active. Vulcan has hosted the KMF cancer screening clinic twice and screened over 100 people each time (not bad for a Lodge of 24 Brethren in a town of 220 people). Hiattville will host

*continued on page 47*



## Presentation of \$4,000 Essay Scholarship

Jim Denolm, Worshipful Master of Henri Lodge No. 190, Tonganoxie presented Grace Reilly, Tonganoxie High School with a framed copy of the page of the Spring 2015 edition of the Kansas Mason containing her top winning essay from the 2014 State Masonic Public School Essay Contest. The Grand Lodge certificate will be presented to her at an awards presentation in May.

## Will vs. Trust



Previously I wrote about the importance of creating your own estate plan and the benefits of including charities in your plan. If you currently have a will or revocable trust in place, you are already on the right track. However, it is important to remember to update your estate plan every few years to account for changes in your family, your finances, or the law.

Additionally, if you currently have a will, you may wish to consider creating a revocable trust. A revocable trust is essentially a substitute for your will, and disposes of your property in the same manner. However, a fully funded revocable trust has the added advantage of avoiding probate, a process which is public, costly, and time-consuming. Another benefit

of a revocable trust is it provides for incapacity planning by avoiding the conservatorship process, which is established through the court. The conservatorship process is essentially probate for a living person and it comes with the same drawbacks. A properly funded revocable trust will eliminate the need for a conservatorship because the trustee of the revocable trust can use the trust's assets to provide for the trust's maker and his family should he become incapacitated.

Be sure to talk to an estate planning specialist about which estate planning technique is right for you. In fact, the Kansas Masonic Foundation is sending important information about planning and opportunities to obtain help implementing your estate planning goals. The first step in the estate planning process is to learn about the options.

*As a member of Hinkle Law Firm LLC's trusts and estates practice group, Mr. Gill uses his extensive experience in business and tax matters to lead the probate and trust administration needs of the group. He is primarily responsible for guardianships and conservatorships, disability planning, post-mortem tax planning, and marital agreements. He also assists clients with estate planning, asset protection, business entity formation, and business succession planning.*

*While a student at the University of Kansas and the University of Kansas School of Law, Hugh was the recipient of a number of awards, including the Payne & Jones Award and the Wall Street Journal Award for the top M.B.A. student in finance. Today, he frequently lectures on estate planning and estate administration topics. He has been recognized by Best Lawyers in America and Kansas/Missouri Super Lawyers.*

### GRAND SECRETARY

*continued from page 3*

requires our staff to manually enter address changes, degree dates, demits, transfers, deaths and the many other membership details that need to be recorded. All that equates to time and money and, quite frankly, doesn't make good business sense when we have an extremely efficient way to receive that data already in place, via the LSI. I would encourage those Lodges that don't use the LSI to consider it; the secretary himself does not have to enter the data, as someone else can be designated to enter and submit it. I would be very happy

to work with your Lodge to make that happen.

The huge advantage for both the local Lodge secretary and our office staff is the lodge's annual report. If data is entered throughout the year with the LSI, when the annual report is generated, there should be little to no work on the report by the local lodge secretary. It's almost entirely filled out for him, with the exception of his signature, lodge seal and a few committee names. My estimated time to complete the annual report once received from a lodge using the LSI is 25 minutes tops, including putting it into an envelope addressing it, sealing it and

affixing postage. If your secretary is spending more time than that on his annual report, we can help him greatly. Yes, it will involve someone entering data from a web browser, but I bet almost any secretary who doesn't use the web or online reporting would welcome a brother helping him, especially if it will relieve frustration when dealing with year-end reporting and per capita tax calculation.

I also would like to thank each and every one of you for another opportunity to serve as the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Kansas. It is indeed my honor and pleasure to serve you, the craft of Masonry in Kansas. Thank you, Brothers!



## Enabling The Masonic Explorer In All Of Us.

Kansas Lodge of Research was established in 1982 to conduct research, gather and preserve Masonic information, supply speakers, and enhance Grand Lodge endeavors to promote Masonic Education. In this article Bro. Herb Merrick explores the background of the first master of his lodge and reveals the high 'caliber' of an Army artillery officer who received the military's most prestigious combat decoration. Perhaps your lodge has had brothers with extraordinary accomplishments.

Submit your findings to [klor@kansasmason.org](mailto:klor@kansasmason.org) or see our web page at [kansasmason.org](http://kansasmason.org).

# The Forgotten Working Tools

With the adoption of the Webb-Preston Lectures in the American Masonic jurisdictions, a specific set of Working Tools came to be accepted and used. In other jurisdictions, such as Scotland and England, these Working Tools differ.

When an English Freemason is initiated as an Entered Apprentice, his Working Tools are three. In addition to the Twenty-four Inch Gauge and the Common Gavel he is given the Chisel.

When an English Freemason is passed to become a Fellow Craft his Working Tools are four; the Plumb, the Level, the Square and the Setting Maul.

When an English Freemason is raised to become a Master Mason his Working Tools are three. In place of the Trowel he instead is presented the Skirrit<sup>1</sup>, the Pencil and the Compasses.<sup>2</sup>

### THE CHISEL

In English Masonry, the Chisel is the last of the three working tools of the First Degree. It is so imparted that the "Chisel should never leave our hand." The ritual tells us that



*the Chisel points out the advantages of education, by which means alone we are rendered fit members of every civilized society.* Additionally, it points out the advantages of education, which are a central theme of the Second Degree. There we are exhorted to extend our researches into the hidden mysteries of nature and science. Science, in that use, is the ancient word for *knowledge*, and *education* is the acquisition of knowledge. The way to both can be found by following the Winding Staircase. The workman, with the aid of a chisel, gives form and regularity to the shapeless mass of stone. Education, by cultivating ideas and polishing rude thoughts, transforms the ignorant savage into the civilized being.

The Chisel furthermore demonstrates the advantages of discipline. The mind like the diamond in its original state is unpolished, but by grinding away the external coat we are enabled to discover the latent beauty of the stone. Thus education discovers the latent beauties of the mind and draws them forth to range over the field of matter and space in order to display the summit of hu-

man knowledge, our duty to God and man.

After drawing the candidate's attention to the Chisel, we then exhort him to make a daily advancement in Masonic knowledge. He is then ready for the Second Degree.

### THE SKIRRIT

The Skirrit is a symbol of Guidance. "It ensures that the foundation of a building is straight by laying down the string as a marker." It is related symbolically to the 24-inch Gauge and the Plumb but has a specific connotation to the Third Degree. The main lesson of the Third Degree is one's mortality and immortality. The Skirrit represents the foundation of the way of life we are to follow as laid down to us by our Creator—keeping it on the straight and narrow, so to speak, using our Masonic principles.<sup>3</sup>

"In the Third Degree, the Skirrit is an implement which acts on a center pin, whereby a line can be drawn to mark out the ground for the foundation of an intended structure." Symbolically, the Skirrit points out that straight and undeviating line of conduct and



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so to Square, Level and Upright (Plumb) we add straight. One definition of the word *straight* is defined as the shortest distance between two points. In our dealings with God, our neighbor and ourselves we find that the shortest path is that which is straight.”<sup>4</sup>

“We should allow the Skirrit to remind us to start building our character on a proper foundation—namely, the many virtues of behavior found in the Masonic ceremonies and in the Holy Word of the Almighty. We should allow this tool to remind us why we should do so”—our very life **will** end “someday, and we should prepare now for what comes next.”<sup>5</sup>

### THE PENCIL



The Pencil is a symbol of Accountability. Operative Masons use the Pencil to draw up designs on the Trestle Board and to keep accounts. “In Masonic terms the Pencil reminds Masons that their words and deeds are recorded by the Divine Spirit to whom they must give an account of their actions throughout their lives.”<sup>6</sup>

“The pencil bears a relationship to the All-Seeing Eye of the Second Degree closing ceremony. The pencil reminds us that not only does the Eye of the Almighty observe whether (and how) we follow the conduct symbolized by the Skirrit, He remembers what He observes.”<sup>7</sup>

“With the Pencil the skillful artist delineates the building in a draft or plan for the instruction and guidance of the workmen. Our building has been delineated in a draft or plan for our instruction and guidance by the Great Architect of the Universe.”<sup>8</sup> It is for us to understand what is meant by each detail of the design, so that our lives, when considered in the time to come, and in the light of that plan will be judged by their conformity to that plan.

But again, because we are not operative Masons we apply this tool to our morals. “In this sense, using the Pencil teaches us that our words and actions are observed and recorded by the Great Architect, to whom we must give an account of our conduct throughout our lives.”

### THE COMPASSES

The Compasses is a symbol of Restraint and Boundaries. “A famous Masonic symbol, in operative terms the Compasses are used to determine limits and proportions of a planned structure. To a Mason, they remind him of the Divine Spirit’s unerring and impartial justice, after having laid out the boundaries of good and evil, and who will reward or punish as appropriate.”<sup>10</sup>

“The compasses symbolize what fate He has in store for us at the final hour, according to what he has recorded (symbolized by the pencil) of our behavior (symbolized by the Skirrit) throughout our existence in this Earthly life, during which we are to work with the tools of the other degrees and follow the principles of Freemasonry. Thus all three are symbols of our belief in the Creator and of an individual Mason’s religious faith.”<sup>11</sup>

“The Compasses remind us of His unerring and impartial justice. He who having defined for our instruction the limits of good and evil will reward or punish us as we have obeyed or disregarded His divine commands. They remind us to so limit our desires in every station of life that, rising to eminence by merit, we may live respected and die regretted.

Dr. Mackey tells us that the Volume of the Sacred Law gives us light on our duty to God, the Square on our duty to our neighbor, and the Compasses on our duty to ourselves, which great duty is that of circumscribing our passions and keeping our desires within bounds.

It is worthy of note that, while the Square is a rigid angle, the Compasses are infinitely adjustable. This surely suggests to us that the circles of our sympathy and understanding can be adjusted as circumstances demand. If the circle is taking in just one other, whose confidence we treasure, we must remember that his secrets we must keep as our own; if our circle is extended further it will include all the members of the Lodge, and still further it can include all members of the Craft.”<sup>12</sup>

### THE SETTING MAUL

The Setting Maul is the symbol of Deadlines and Completion. Although used in the Webb-Preston ritual the Setting Maul is otherwise unexplained in both usage and as a symbol. It is an Operative tool used to pound stones into place to close tolerances. All plans have deadlines to be met and the Work must be completed in such a way as to assure the Integrity of all are maintained.

The Setting Maul is one of the working tools of the Fellow Craft. It is a heavy wooden hammer with which the Operative Mason set (knocked) the polished stones into proper alignment. In the Third Degree, it is also the final weapon with which the Master was said to have been slain, and, therefore, it is a symbol of violent death.

This is to remind us that Grand Master Hiram Abiff faced Deadlines to complete the Temple. He gave his life when taken by the Setting Maul and kept his honor and Integrity intact. This act was the further Completion of his life.<sup>13</sup>

### THE CABLE TOW

The Cable Tow is the symbol of Constraint. It is used and mentioned in the Webb-Preston rituals, but remains poorly explained. It is an Operative tool used to haul tools and stones to the Height of the Work. Height

of the Work is determined by three factors: The skill of the Mason, the capacity of the Mason and obligation of the Mason. His skill is determined by applying his experience; his capacity is determined by the resources he has on hand; his obligation defines what he has pledged to perform and support. The Mason's skills determine the beauty of his Work, his capacity depends upon that which he calls upon from himself and from others, and his obligation is determined by the wisdom he calls upon as he travels through life.

The Cable Tow limits the heights climbed and it keeps the Mason safe. It also limits what he might take on and assures that he only burdens himself with that which he can effectively handle. It keeps him mindful of his other burdens and obligation so none suffer from his inattention.

The word originates from the Hebrew *Khabel* or the Dutch *cable*, both meaning a

rope. With its 2 ends, the Cable Tow binds a Mason to the Fraternity as well as bonds the Fraternity to the Mason.

The term "cable's length" is a measure of length used at sea defined as being 200 yards. The Oxford English Dictionary defines a cable length as "about 100 fathoms."<sup>14</sup>

According to ancient laws of Freemasonry every Brother should attend Lodge if he be within the length of his Cable Tow. Older members tell me that it is an accepted part of Masonic lore that the length of a man's Cable Tow is three miles. This was explained to the new Entered Apprentice as the distance he would be expected travel in order to attend a Stated Communication of the Lodge provided he was within three miles. At that time, three miles was considered a reasonable walking distance.<sup>15</sup> After a debate about a particular Brother's failings, one wise Mason abruptly ended the conver-

sation by stating, "It is difficult to know the length of another man's Cable Tow."



## THE LEWIS

The Lewis is the symbol of Support. The Lewis is never mentioned in the Webb-Preston ritual, and its usage and symbolism are nearly forgotten. It is a device attached to stones by Operative Masons to lift them to the Working Heights. In Speculative terms it means the son (or grandson) of a Mason because a man's son is his strength and support.

The Operative Lewis is a four-piece metal clamp consisting of two metal wedges, a metal spacer that fits between them and a pin that holds the three together. When placed between a dovetailed recess cut into the top of a stone block, called a Mortise, it is used to raise the stone. When attached properly, Masons can raise great and ponderous stones

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conveniently.

In modern terms the Lewis is to help older Masons in their time of need. By reason of their great age, older Masons should be exempted from difficult labor so as to render the close of their days happy and comfortable.

The author would like to thank Dr. John S. Nagy and his books *Building Hiram* and *Building Perpend*s for his guidance and his inspiration towards this endeavor. His concepts have been appropriated extensively, and I would be greatly amiss if I failed to acknowledge this fact.

- 1 Also commonly spelled "s-k-e-r-r-i-t"
- 2 *The Freemason At Work*. Harry Carr 1976
- 3 *The Phoenix Masonry*
- 4 Han Yang lodge #1048, part of the A.F. & A.M. of Scotland, Korea's oldest chartered Lodge, Masonic education course #3 "The Master Mason" pg 32
- 5 *The Phoenix Masonry*
- 6 *English Freemasonry: The Working Tools of a Master Mason* by Richard Aitkins
- 7 *The Phoenix Masonry*
- 8 *The Secret Power of Masonic Symbols*, by Robert Lomas pg 231
- 9 University of Bradford, *The Web of Hiram*, The Lecture of the Third Degree of Freemasonry
- 10 *Working Tools of a Master Mason*
- 11 *The Phoenix Masonry*
- 12 Pietre Stones Review of Freemasonry, Masonic Education: Online Masonic Education Course Developed by W.Bro. Kent Henderson
- 13 *Symbolism of The Three Degrees*. Oliver Street 1924 cited from Akin's manual (1908), p. 80
- 14 Approximately 605.56 feet, or 1/10th of a nautical mile
- 15 In areas that had a significant population justifying the need for more than one Lodge in a city or area, Kansas initially tried to space Lodges 10-11 miles apart—this being the reasonable distance a man could be expected to travel and return in a single day.



About the Author

Rick Carver is the Past Master of Inner Quest Lodge 456 (a Traditional Observance Lodge) and the current Secretary of Shawnee Lodge 54. He is also a member of the AASR, York Rite, Kansas Lodge of Research and some other super-secret mystical organizations with sparkling jewels and bright shiny medallions. His accolades and regalia are so awesome; they rival all but the sun. He can be reached at rickcarver@kc.rr.com

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## Welcome To The “New” Kansas Masonic Home



Exciting things are happening at Kansas Masonic Home. Listed on Wichita's Historical Register, the community has been serving

Masons and the surrounding community for over a century. Beginning in 1896 as a three-story limestone house funded by Kansas Masons and Order of the Eastern Star, its mission was to create a safe place for those in need. Though the times and faces have changed, the mission has remained the same - caring for others. The 15 acre community offers Assisted Living, Memory Care, Skilled Nursing, and Rapid Recovery Suites designed for seniors needing short-term rehabilitative care. That's a proud legacy of care, deeply rooted in Masonic tradition.

Construction is nearly complete on thrilling renovations, including Assisted Living and Memory Care which have been transformed into “households”. Assisted liv-

ing memory care residents may now choose from a Spanish Mission House or Mid-century Ranch House, both featuring front door and porch areas in unique architectural styles, all access kitchens, cozy, new living rooms, dining rooms, private dining rooms and dens. This project is aimed at making Kansas Masonic Home a true home for residents, honoring their choices and enabling them to live full, comfortable lives with 24 hour staff members to assist them through a person-centered philosophy. It is a positive and powerful step in the right direction for senior living. Kansas Masonic Home is proud to embrace the future with these exciting updates, while still holding firm to the traditions that began it all.

The community is also welcoming a new Development Director, Hervey W. Wright III. He, working alongside the Kansas Masonic Home Foundation board, will raise funds to support Kansas Masonic Home's

mission of care. He brings over 20 years of experience to the job, previously overseeing development at Friends University, raising over \$100 million dollars for endowments, scholarships, and capital improvements during his time there. Originally from Topeka, Hervey is a proud Kansan, earning his undergraduate degree from Kansas State University and his MBA from Friends Uni-



Hervey W. Wright III

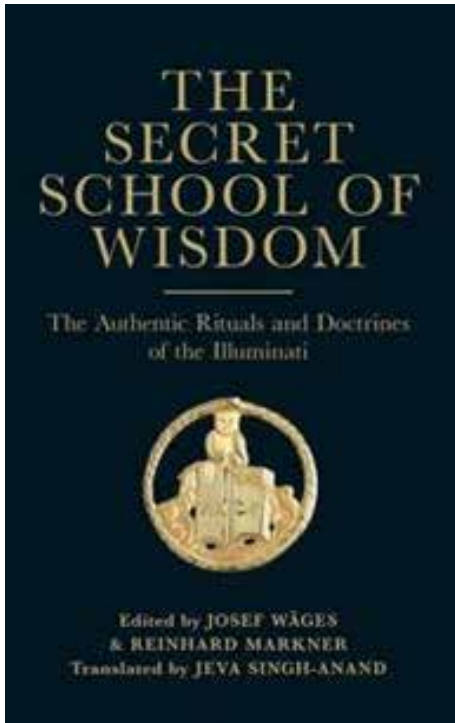
versity. “I'm excited about the chance to work with this dynamic organization,” Hervey said. “There are exciting and unique things happening here- Kansas Masonic Home has so much to offer Masons and the Wichita community. It's pretty amazing.” He

said all the new changes have the residents buzzing excitedly, and it's wonderful to speak to them every day and to see them “living with dignity and grace.” His family has a rich history of masonry, and he is in the process of becoming a Mason himself. He is sure to be an asset to the Wichita community, to Masons, and to Kansas Masonic Home.

With all these happenings, now is the perfect time to stop by Kansas Masonic Home for a visit, whether to shake Hervey's hand with well wishes or to see the renovations with your own eyes. You are sure to leave inspired. The main entrance is located at 302 S. Martinson. For questions, comments, or to learn more about Kansas Masonic Home call 316-269-7500.



## The Forgotten Manifesto of the Illuminati The Secret School of Wisdom - The Authentic Rituals and Doctrines of the Illuminati



THE STATED  
GOAL OF THE  
MOVEMENT WAS TO  
FIGHT FOR THE  
ENLIGHTENMENT  
IDEALS OF  
REASON, EQUALITY AND  
RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE.

Available from McCoy Publishing & Masonic Supply Co., Inc. at the Grand Lodge of Kansas Masonic Shop.

During the Second World War, the Nazis, feared that the Masons might pose a secret threat to their plans, raided the German Masonic lodges, smashing and stealing everything written they could find - files, lists of members and ritual texts.

Having been seized by the Red Army during the final stages of the conflict Moscow, these documents are now stored at The Secret State Archives of Prussian Cultural Heritage (GStA PK), Berlin-Dahlem: the magnificent three-winged building from the twenties. Here all the government documents of the former State of Prussia are stored.

Sitting at one of the worn desks amongst the busts of Prussian princes, watching the scholars who bend over the yellowed archives, historian Reinhard Markner sits notionless. In his hands he holds something unspeakably important. It is a document written by a young Ingolstadt professor named Adam Weishaupt, the founder of the Bavarian Illuminati. Written by hand and explosive in content; a document that reveals the true aims of its mysterious founder before the Order started.

Many conspiracy theories revolve around the Illuminati. They are perhaps among the most notorious secret societies ever to have existed, and at the same time they are perhaps the strangest. During the short period of its existence in the 18th century, they tried, largely in vain, to gain power and influence. And when they were banned and persecuted after less than ten years, that striving for power and influence suddenly no longer existed.

To this day, conspiracy theorists believe that the incredibly important members who surrounded Weishaupt, made a covenant that since then has directed world politics. Despite its official prohibition in 1785, the Brotherhood is thought to have existed until the present day. Best selling author Dan Brown played with this idea in his novel, "Angels & Demons."

Historians find it hard to curb the fantasies that are in circulation. Not least, because they struggle to explore the Illuminati with a difficult lack of sources.

Light is now cast upon the darkness of the time of origin.

But now a completely unknown document for the first time has come to light on the opaque subject of the creation of the Illuminati.

Markner, 46, is a research associate at the University of Innsbruck and a specialist in the 'Age of Enlightenment' and the history of the Freemasons. A man who recognizes the handwriting of Adam Weishaupt or Freiherr von Knigge, when he sees it:

*"Weishaupt taught his followers that true wisdom must be passed on in secret in order to protect them from censorship and persecution by the Catholic Church and the secular authorities," says Markner. This idea can also be felt in the early manuscript which he found in the course of his investigations, and which he referred to as "Protolluminatismus."*

### "School of Humanity"

When Weishaupt wrote the text, he was just in his mid-twenties and newly appointed professor of canon law at Ingolstadt. Apparently

not too busy with his teaching duties, he here calls for a hidden School of Humanity, which is to lead its members to the path of virtue.

The ideal that it aims to achieve is "the best possible education for their entire physical and mental abilities and powers." As cloudy as this goal is, the structures of the club that Weishaupt envisions are already concrete.

He imagines the meetings of the School as secret reading circles that will meet in as many cities. Members share their books and pool their resources for new acquisitions. The conspiracy is to ensure that one can also obtain controversial literature.

### All that is Needed is Recruits from the Elite.

In order to gain influence, Weishaupt relies

on infiltration. His students,"unobserved" are to mentor and influence other groups in secret. This requires strong characters, recruits from the elite. "In our school no one should be tolerated who does not either hold a public office or a profession, to be useful."

Aspirants who do not as yet have a position, must at least credibly be striving for one, to have a good chance at one. If a career is stalled, the senior members of the lodge can help out discreetly. "And the whole school is at all times to use their influence, acquaintances, and, if necessary, their money" to help a club member who is seeking an office.

"So every student should submit all news about vacancies, about individuals who might occupy them, and about how they will be

filled, to the current Vice-Rector, who will process them according to his instructions."

### A Kind of Denunciation System.

Weishaupt attaches particular importance to the continuous monitoring of its members. Each student - Weishaupt thinks only of "young men," not women - is to keep a diary and at the end of each month make a summary of it, so that "the progress of knowledge and virtue" can be reviewed.

At the end of the year, a summary of these writings must be made, including objectives for the next year. All of these documents are to be brought to the meetings of the School of Wisdom, so the members

*continued on page 40*

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SO MOTE IT BE  
ESTABLISHED 1717

**“My main crime is that I not only knew the good, or wanted it, as so many teachers have, but that I did more, and made effective preparations for its wider dissemination, and founded a school to do so.”**

know each other “to the bottom of the soul.”

A kind of denunciation system is to keep students in line. Each of them is called upon to notify the Vice-Rector of “any corruption of character” that they notice in others. If the problem is not resolved, a “criminal procedure” will be initiated, which, however, is no longer preserved in the fragment of text.

### **What is Morally Good, Decides the Direction.**

If Students of Wisdom do not feel sufficiently enlightened even to post their writings, “They must be encouraged to submit all of their writings before publication to the Pro-Rector and the censors chosen by him, and to delete everything which would cause more harm than good.” What is morally right and good will be decided by the school administration.

Illuminati researcher Markner has transcribed the words of the text from the manuscript and published it in the “Journal of the Historical Society of Ingolstadt.” He says, “This draft demonstrates the ambivalence of Weishaupt’s ideas, that would later be the problem of the Illuminati Order.”

Weishaupt was an idealist for whom the moral betterment of humanity was at heart. “But he was also a cynic about power, had no problems with it, to deceive people and to spy. His interest in serving the public proved to be subordinated to the interests of the organization.”

### **Code Name Spartacus.**

Indeed, it was this inner contradiction which was to quickly break up the Illuminati Covenant after its brief flowering. The stated goal of the movement was to fight for the Enlightenment ideals of reason, equality and religious tolerance. At first it consisted only of Weishaupt, who chose the swaggering code name Spartacus, and four students. It was confined to provincial Ingolstadt, whose university in Bavaria was regarded as comparable to leading universities such as Göttingen.

During the 1770s, however, highly educated citizens and enlightened aristocrats in the city of Munich also became aware of the club, which fit into the 18th century fashion for secret societies.

By 1780 the young Adolph Freiherr von Knigge - code name “Philo” - joined, and the Illuminati were gaining ground rapidly due to his Masonic connections. They spread out over the whole of Germany. At its height, the Brotherhood counted up to 2000 members. Celebrities such as Goethe and Herder entered. Schiller, in his “Don Carlos” in the eighties wrote about the general enthusiasm for the Illuminati and incorporated it in the figure of the Marquis of Posa.

### **Over Time, the Members Began to Grumble.**

But the more the members of the new society gained insight into it, the more they got the impression that all the fuss about

secret degrees, observances and rituals were only about oneself. That the real goal of the Order was not the higher knowledge of its followers, but the mere existence of the Order. The secret truths that the Order supposedly had, and that came from the earliest times of humanity, did not exist.

Increasingly they saw Weishaupt as an impostor, even one with an authoritarian leadership style. When the Government finally banned it in Bavaria in 1785, many had already turned away from him. Only when there was no longer an Illuminati, did the myth of an evil lodge full of powerful enemies of the State, which still lives on, unfold.

### **Weishaupt Maintained his Vision.**

Adam Weishaupt himself, after his exposure, fled to exile in Gotha, where the Elector of Bavaria could not prosecute him and the supposed rebels. Until his death in 1830, he tried to restore his ruined reputation. He admitted mistakes, and distanced himself from some thoughts he had expressed as Spartacus. But he held to his earliest vision.

In a “justification of my intentions,” Weishaupt noted that, “My main crime is that I not only knew the good, or wanted it, as so many teachers have, but that I did more, and made effective preparations for its wider dissemination, and founded a school to do so.”

The title “Illuminati” does not appear in the text. Instead, he advocated a “School of Humanity.” The draft, which a contemporary called “Weishaupt’s first Unionsacte,” contains not only the noble goals which Weishaupt’s secret society wanted to prescribe. It also provides a premonition of their own destruction.

Markner’s goal is to reconstruct all the important teachings and ritual degree texts of the Order of the Illuminati from the original documents and to publish a book.



# BOOK REVIEW

By Michael Johnson II, DDGM

## Lodge Leadership: A 5 Step Guide to Masonic Reform

By Matt Nelson, Starr Publishing: Colorado Springs, 2012

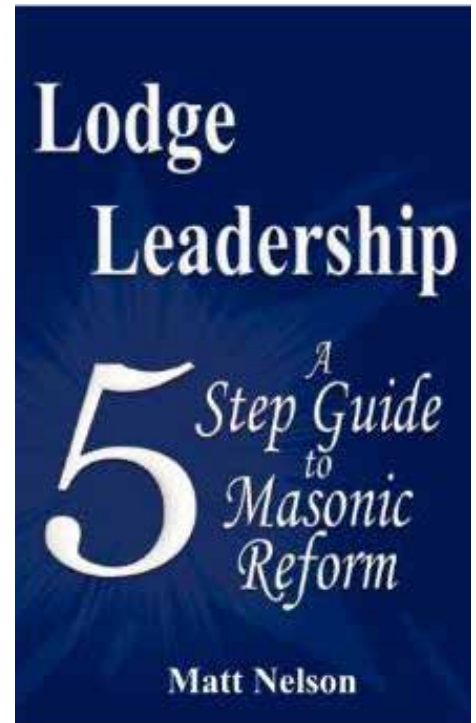
Preparing for a lodge leadership role is a daunting task. Fortunately for Masons accepting this challenge, Matt Nelson offers a step-by-step guide that introduces lodge leaders to a systematic recipe that nurtures their successful development in this venture. In *Lodge Leadership: A 5 Step Guide to Masonic Reform*, Nelson tracks a candidate's initiation into the craft and follows through to the process of becoming an effective lodge leader. In doing so, he is forthright in critiquing the craft's past fallacies and offers alternative solutions that coincide with the traditional observant lodge perspective of rebuilding through a solid foundation of excellence in investigation, mentoring, ritual, code proficiency and leadership. Furthermore, Nelson discusses in detail each of these particular points as the unique responsibility of a Mason's path to development into the lodge leadership role.

He, in fact, makes his most impassioned arguments for the personal responsibility the individual Mason possesses in navigating to the future success of the craft. Nelson delves into this concept by spending time on the ideas of personal treason and narcissism, and how the continued ignorance of their

presence in each Mason can only destroy the craft. He uses the creative allegory of describing the individual, and ultimately the lodge, as a box that contains ideas and behaviors that perpetually degrade the quality of masonry practiced within it, if left unchecked. However, there is hope in the exercise of honestly assessing one's positive and negative assets to the fraternity. Only then, by acknowledging strengths and weaknesses, can the remedy be administered and the lodge begin the healing process.

*Lodge Leadership* is an outstanding resource for Masons in their lodges. It is never too early to begin the art of inculcating the practices Nelson lays out to improve the overall leadership, and ultimately, the quality of masonry a lodge provides. By focusing on the individual stages of a Mason's path to enlightenment—the investigation, the mentor, the ritual, the code and the strategies employed by effective leaders—leadership emerges that navigates a lodge out of “the box” that so many of our brethren find themselves in.

They have subsisted in a negative atmosphere for so long they see no hope for a future of success. This point is why Nelson's book is so successful; it is a how-to book for a lodge to succeed. Without a doubt, it should be in every lodge library as a resource for the brethren.



HOWEVER,  
THERE IS HOPE IN  
THE EXERCISE OF  
HONESTLY ASSESSING  
ONE'S POSITIVE AND  
NEGATIVE ASSETS  
TO THE FRATERNITY

Available from McCoy Publishing & Masonic Supply Co., Inc. at the Grand Lodge of Kansas Masonic Shop.

# OUT AND ABOUT

By Kansas Masonic Foundation Staff

## Spreading The Word — One Lodge At A Time

Kansas Masonic Foundation scholarships are designed to help students continue on the path to higher education and are an important way our Lodges support their communities.

The Mason's commitment to offering this help to students has grown through the years, and today, the Foundation has available \$200,000 every year. The money helps young people going to in-state colleges or technical schools.

The scholarship offerings are part of the promise and heartfelt desire shown by Kansas Masons and donors to advance education for the common good and well-being of our society. Scholarships are offered in three primary categories: Legacy Scholarships, which are available to legacies of Kansas Masons; Technical School Scholarships, available for specific in-state trade schools; and General Scholarships, which are available to any Kansas residents who attend specific in-state schools.

Recently, Kansas Masonic Lodges were asked to help spread the word about these scholarships to their communities, and it has been a pleasure to see lodges do just that.

Tony Borum, Area Deputy Grand Master No. 2, took the encouragement to reach out to schools and educators to heart.

"I have sat in many Lodges as a visiting Brother over the years. I hear over and over, 'We have to find a way to get active.' Many Lodges I've visited have lamented about how little they can do in and for their communities



**But Borum said the 2012 transformation of the Kansas Masonic Foundation, and the leadership from Executive Director Robert Shively, reminded Lodges that "we don't just get respect in our community – we earn it."**

with so few funds in the treasury," Borum said.

But the problem, he said, was that Lodge members were missing opportunities that would make them active in the community. It wasn't enough to drop off the form for the essay contest or information about the Foundation's scholarships with the school secretary.

"Over and over again, meeting after meeting, month after month, year after year another missed opportunity. We waste our time. Passing off our forms to our local High School receptionists and act as if we have done all we can," he said.

But Borum said the 2012 transformation of the Kansas Masonic Foundation, and the leadership from Executive Director Robert Shively, reminded Lodges that "we don't just get respect in our community – we earn it."

So this year, Parker Lodge No. 341 pushed outside of their familiar boundaries and traveled to the Prairie View High School in Lacygne to talk about scholarships.

"We met with 38 seniors and faculty,

We showed them what Masonic charity is about," Borum said. "We presented the programs. We begged them to apply for our scholarships. We pleaded with them to write essays, and we offered to sponsor them at band camp. If we are going to claim to be leaders in our community we have to start promoting our values, ourselves and our charities."

Those passionate words from Borum spoke to Tom Schull, who sees the issue from both sides, as

a Brother in Parker Lodge and as a vocational/agricultural teacher at Prairie View. He appreciates the opportunity to promote higher education and help the teenagers in his school, but also the chance to let young people know about Masons.

"There were several kids who were already planning on attending college, and so those kids immediately began to fill the application out, and I think it probably got a lot of kids thinking about their opportunities and how there is free money out there if they will just seek it out," Schull said.

Schull said that he didn't know what the Masons were when he was growing up, and he liked the chance to put the organization in front of high school students.

"Any time we get in their vision or in their sight, where they can hear something good about what the Masons have done or do, I think it just creates interest about it," he said. "I think it is going to affect the future of the Lodge."

## Caledonia Lodge No. 459 Pipping On — One Year Later

The charter members of Caledonia Lodge No. 459 can attest that the first year of starting a new Lodge is filled with paperwork and details and more details. But it's also a time filled with exploration, new friends and connections, and a sense of camaraderie enhanced by an affinity for bagpipes.

In the Caledonia Lodge, 12 pipers have become Brothers, sharing their commitment to the Masons and also their love for the lilting tones that emanate from their pipes.

"People either love bagpipes or hate 'em," said Kelly Long, PM. "But they move everybody who hears them. And I've heard it said that when you hear the bagpipes, if it gives you goose bumps, there's some Scottish blood in you somewhere."

Building a Lodge from scratch has been a learning experience during the past year, made better by the enthusiasm the 12 charter members brought to the table.

"One of the fun things about the Affinity Lodge is we've only got a dozen members, but every one of them is an active Mason," said Worshipful Master Mark Slubowski. "Percentage wise, we get most of our Lodge members to the meetings. They're all very active."

Scheduling meetings has been a challenge, partly because the Lodge is not bound by an area and because they've sought to have meetings in different areas in the state, Long said. "It takes a little bit of advanced planning," he said.

One challenge the Lodge members have taken on with excitement is that of helping

other Masons throughout Kansas see the potential for music in their meetings. Long said music used to be a traditional part of a Masonic meeting, as did dressing up. That's something the Caledonia Lodge Masons are doing in their own special way.

"When we show up, we're in formal attire, Highland attire on top of that," Long said. "We're doubly noticed."

Slubowski agreed. "We're going to different Lodges and asking if they would allow us to come in and hold Lodges. We're seeing a



lot of different Lodges," he said. "We go in there all kilted up in our Scottish regalia, and they always like to see that, and we do a little Masonic education as well."

The education piece, Long said, is critical to Masonic meetings. The Caledonia Lodge members put together an informative presentation about the master's degree and the obligation Masons promise.

"Some of the language in it is kind of old, so we've started going through a routine of just what did you promise to do, and do you remember what you promised to do, and do you know what you promised to do," Long said. "It went over very well."

"One of the things that you like to do in a Lodge meeting is have Masonic education,

so you don't get stuck in a routine of going to a business meeting, listening to the meeting minutes being read, making sure the bills are paid, and then you close," he added. "If you take some time and do a Masonic education, that's what people are interested in, that, and just the fraternal camaraderie."

He and Slubowski said they enjoy the opportunity to share that education with other Lodges as they travel throughout the state.

And as they travel, the Caledonia Lodge Brothers are always, always piping.

The group tries, if at all possible, to meet requests from their Brothers across the state with regard to playing pipes at funerals, Long said. "We would absolutely love to be able to go to anybody's funeral anywhere, anytime, and do it free of charge, but that just isn't realistic," he said, but added that even if they can't help out on short notice, most of the pipers have connections throughout Kansas and can call to see if they can get another musician to help.

At the recent Grand Lodge, they piped Grand Master Daren Kellerman in for his installation.

Overall, this first year of determining the best way to create an active and effective Affinity Lodge has been "a blast," Long summarized. Someone who likes things to move along quickly, he had to learn patience and persistence.

"We're still in the phase of establishing our own traditions," he said. "I'd like to see our name and what we do, get spread out a little more, so that people when they talk about Caledonia Lodge, it's not 'What's that?' but rather it's 'Oh, that's the pipers' and they really are great Masons."

# OUT AND ABOUT

Courtesy of Carson Lodge No. 132



## TYLER'S SWORD LETTER

WRITTEN 12-28-1976

FROM: FLOYD S. ECORD  
P.O. BOX 188  
BURLINGTON, KANSAS 66839

TO: L. L. HORTON  
412 N. KENTUCKY  
IOLA, KANSAS 66749

---

F. HERRON, LAS CRUCES  
SECRETARY  
D. E. RODRIGUEZ, TELLER

A. J. FOUNTAIN, JR.  
MESILLA  
P. F. CAMPBELL,  
HATCH

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LAS CRUCES, N. M.

CLARENCE J. SMITH, A. M.  
DIRECTOR OF MANUAL TRAINING  
LA MESA, N. M.

ALAMOGORDO, N. M. 12-26-19

R. M. ROBINSON  
SEC. CARSON LODGE #132  
ELK CITY, KANSAS

DEAR SIR:

THE ENCLOSED ACCOUNT OF THE TYLER'S SWORD IN YOUR LODGE WAS DICTATED TO ME EXACTLY AS PER THE COPY BY MY FATHER-IN-LAW, JOHN MONFORT. I HAVE TAKEN PLEASURE IN COPYING IT AND ARRANGING IT SUITABLE FOR FRAMING IF YOU CARE TO HAVE IT SO. I THINK IT WOULD AFFORD AN INTERESTING ARTICLE FOR A MASONIC PUBLICATION AND IF ACCEPTED, THE PRINTED COPY MIGHT BE MORE SUITABLE FOR FRAMING, BUT THE SIGNATURE IS ON THE ENCLOSED, AND PROBABLY COULD NOT BE APPENDED TO ANY OTHER COPY.

RESPECTFULLY,

CLARENCE J. SMITH

"I WILL ADD THAT  
I HAVE LEFT A SIGNED  
COPY WITH HIS OTHER  
SON-IN-LAW, G. T. ROUSSEARE,  
C. F. S."

[COPY - 4/27/99 - WSB]

L. L. HORTON  
412 N. KENTUCKY  
IOLA, KANSAS 66749

THIS IS A HISTORY OF THE TYLER'S SWORD CURRENTLY USED BY CARSON LODGE NUMBER 132, ELK CITY, KANSAS. THIS LETTER WAS WRITTEN BY BROTHER JOHN MONFORT ABOUT 1920, BEING NEAR THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LODGE. AT THE TIME THE LETTER WAS WRITTEN BROTHER MONFORT WAS THE ONLY LIVING MEMBER WHO WAS PRESENT AT THE PRESENTATION WHICH OCCURRED IN THE SUMMER OF 1874. BROTHER MONFORT, WHILE NOT A CHARTER MEMBER, WAS AFFILIATED FEBRUARY 8, 1873. THE FOLLOWING WAS COPIED FROM THE MINUTES OF THE LODGE. HE WAS QUITE OLD AND FEEBLE AT THIS TIME, (NEVER HAVING BEEN A STRONG MAN) AND DIED OCTOBER 6, 1926, AT THE AGE OF 88 YEARS. I WILL LET THIS EXPLANATION ACCOUNT FOR ANY DISCREPANCIES WHICH MAY APPEAR IN THE TRANSCRIPT OF THE LETTER.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER, WARDENS AND BRETHREN OF CARSON LODGE NO. 132,

GREETINGS:

IN COMPLIANCE WITH YOUR REQUEST FOR A HISTORY OF THE TYLER'S SWORD, I RECALL THE FOLLOWING:

AT A REGULAR MEETING OF CARSON LODGE, IN THE SUMMER OF 1874, A NUMBER OF BRETHREN BEING PRESENT, BROTHER MARION SENTENY MADE THE PRESENTATION OF THE TYLER'S SWORD TO THE LODGE. IT WAS A WARM AND RAINY NIGHT, AND THE EVENING WAS PROPITIOUS FOR STORY TELLING. BROTHER SENTENY VISITED THE LODGE OCCASIONALLY, WHILE LIVING NEAR ELK CITY DURING THE YEARS 1872 -1873 - 74. AFTER CLOSING THE LODGE, BROTHER SENTENY RELATED HOW HE CAME IN POSSESSION OF THE SWORD.

HE WAS ON PATROL DUTY IN THE SWAMPS OF LOUISIANA, AND ENCOUNTERED A REBEL WITH WHOM HE EXCHANGED SHOTS TWICE; THEY CALLED TO ONE ANOTHER AND EXCHANGED MASONIC RECOGNITION. THE JOHNNY, WHO PROVED TO BE THE ADJUTANT GENERAL OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA, AND WAS ALSO A KNIGHT TEMPLAR, SAID, "I WILL SURRENDER TO YOU ONLY IF YOU WILL GIVE ME YOUR WORD AS A MASON, THAT I WILL BE GIVEN FAIR TREATMENT." THE LIEUTENANT OF THE SQUAD WAS HIGHLY ENRAGED AND PROPOSED TO HANG THE ADJUTANT IMMEDIATELY; BUT THERE WERE FOUR OR FIVE OTHERS OF THE SQUAD THAT STRENUOUSLY OBJECTED. RETURNING TO CAMP, THE CAPTAIN WAS ALSO IN FAVOR OF EXECUTION, BUT FINDING A NUMBER OF HIS MEN OPPOSED, WENT TO THE COLONEL WHO, ON BEING INFORMED OF THE CONDITIONS OF SURRENDER, SAID HE WAS IN FAVOR OF IMMEDIATE EXECUTION. WHILE THEY WERE PARLEYVUING, GENERAL A. J. SMITH, WHO WAS A KNIGHT TEMPLAR, RODE BY, AND ON LEARNING THE CAUSE OF THE DISPUTE BETWEEN THE COLONEL AND HIS MEN, SAID, "COLONEL YOU WOULD EXEUCTE A MAN WITHOUT TRIAL BY JURY, OR BY COURT MARTIAL, WOULD YOU?" AND SAID IN SUBSTANCE FURTHER THAT HE WAS SORRY THAT HE HAD AN

OFFICER IN HIS COMMAND THAT WOULD DO SUCH A THING. HE THEN ORDERED THE ADJUTANT UNDER ARREST AND PLACED HIM IN CHARGE OF HIS CAPTOR, SERGEANT SENTENY. ON THE MARCH UP THROUGH MISSISSIPPI ONE DAY, THE CAPTIVE REQUESTED MR. SENTENY TO GIVE HIM A SQUAD OF MEN TO RETRACE THEIR STEPS A SHORT DISTANCE, AS HE BELIEVED THAT HE HAD SEEN HIS WIFE IN A HOUSE THEY HAD JUST PASSED; HIS WIFE WHO HE THOUGHT, WAS IN LOUISIANA AND WHOM HE HAD NOT SEEN IN TWO YEARS. THE REQUEST WAS GRANTED AND ON REACHING THE HOUSE, A WOMAN CAME TO THE DOOR AND RECOGNIZED THE CAPTIVE, HER HUSBAND. SUCH A SCENE, HE SAID, HE HOPED NEVER TO SEE AGAIN AS THIS MEETING OF HUSBAND AND WIFE. THE SQUAD WAS COMPOSED OF MEN OF FAMILIES, AND THERE WAS NOT A DRY EYE AMONG THEM ALL. AFTER EMBRACING EACH OTHER, AND TELLING HOW SHE HAPPENED TO BE THERE, SHE EXCLAIMED, "OH, JIM, I FORGOT," AND RUNNING INTO THE HOUSE, SHE BROUGHT OUT THEIR LITTLE CHILD ABOUT A YEAR AND A HALF OLD; THEN THERE WAS ANOTHER AFFECTING SCENE.

THE SERGEANT REMINDED HIM THAT THEY COULD STAY NO LONGER AS NIGHT WAS APPROACHING, AND THEY MUST RETURN TO THEIR COMPANY. "YOU ARE NOT GOING WITHOUT ME, " SAID THE WIFE. "WAIT UNTIL I GET MY FEW CLOTHES AND THE BABY."

ON REACHING CAMP THEY HAD GREAT DIFFICULTY IN TAKING PROPER CARE OF THE WOMAN AND CHILD IN COMPANY WITH SOLDIERS AND IN A COUNTRY IMPOVERISHED AND DEVASTATED BY THE RAVAGES OF WAR. THE BROTHER MASONS ASSISTED MATERIALLY. THEY FOUND AN OLD WORN-OUT HORSE FOR THE WOMAN AND CHILD. THE HUSBAND WAS ALLOWED A LITTLE EXTRA FREEDOM, GIVING HIS WORD, AS A MASON, THAT HE WOULD NOT LEAVE THE COMMAND WITHOUT PERMISSION. THEY FINALLY REACHED NORFOLK, VIRGINIA, AND LATER WASHINGTON, WHERE THE CAPTIVE WAS GIVEN HIS LIBERTY.

HE AND MR. SENTENY WERE WARM FRIENDS, AND FOR MANY YEARS KEPT UP A CORRESPONDENCE. HE ONCE ASKED MR. SENTENY WHAT HE HAD DONE WITH HIS SWORD. HE REPLIED THAT HE STILL HAD IT AND ASKED WHAT HE WANTED DONE WITH IT. THE REPLY CAME, "MAKE A PRESENT OF IT TO SOME MASONIC LODGE FOR A TYLER'S SWORD."

"NOW, BRETHREN," BROTHER SENTENY CONCLUDED, "THE PROPERTY IS YOURS, AND LONG MAY IT REMAIN IN YOUR POSSESSION. AND MAY YOU BE PROSPEROUS. THIS IS THE WISH OF YOUR BROTHER MASON."

BRETHREN, AS THE SANDS OF MY LIFE ARE RUNNING LOW, AND AS WE ALL SHALL SOON BE CALLED FROM LABOR TO REFRESHMENT, AS WE ARE ALL TRAVELING UPON THE LEVEL OF TIME TO THAT UNDISCOVERED COUNTRY FROM WHOSE BOURNE NO TRAVELLER HAS RE-TURNED, MAY YOUR LIVES BE SUCH THAT WHEN THE GRAND ARCHITECT OF THE UNIVERSE CALLS YOU HENCE, THAT HE MAY APPROVE AND ACCEPT YOUR LABORS.

SIGNED

JOHN MONFORT

[COPY 04-27-99 WSB]

DONALD W. WHEELER, TRUSTEE

*continued from page 31*

the clinic this year at Uniontown in conjunction with Bourbon Lodge No. 268. I believe the cancer screening clinic is the best community service program we have ever offered to the public.

I have lived on a farm outside Hiattville for the past 19 years. I enjoy anything outdoors, including my garden, orchard and hunting, and spoiling grandchildren. I also enjoy traveling and attending Lodge. I've been able to sit in Lodge in Colorado and Alberta, and this summer plans are being finalized for my youngest son to take his Second Degree in England while we are on vacation.

I am a member of the Fort Scott Scottish Rite, KCCH; Mirza Shrine, past president of Bourbon County Shrine Club; and the Order of the Eastern Star.

I have worked in accounting and business management since graduation. I am currently the Purchasing Manager for Peerless Products in Fort Scott, Kansas, which is one of the largest commercial window manufacturers in the country. Prior to my current position, I was the Plant Controller for Carlisle Transportation Product Systems in Fort Scott.

CRAIG A. OLSON, TRUSTEE

*continued from page 30*

ment and managing the engineering group. Invena Corporation is a global company providing equipment, products and solutions to industries worldwide.

When he's not at the Masons or volunteering in some other capacity, Olson finds time to fish and camp. But he's an active Mason even in his free time, and one of his favorite things to do is make new friends by visiting other Lodges. He's even traveled as far away as Kauai, Hawaii.

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# ASKED AND ANSWERED

By Nolan Sump, Salina Lodge No. 60 & Oketo Lodge No. 25

## QUESTION:

Why were the three Bible verses chosen in our initiations?

— Wayne Edkin, Orient No. 51, Topeka

## Answer:

At face value, each piece of scripture in the respective degrees seems to align itself smoothly in the wording. I will give more detail on the reason for each scripture's place in each degree. In honesty, I would assume the individuals who exercised the most influence to include these passages into the initiatory work would have been 18th century authors James Anderson and

in the Masonic Order. This being the 133rd Psalm, is part of 15 Psalms between 120 and 134, which are called "songs of degrees" and were sung while ascending the fifteen steps from the court of Israel to the court of women in the temple. This passage represents the exultation of Priests and Levites returned from captivity in Babylon and united into the service of God in the sanctuary. Consecrations, always something indicative of joy and happiness, are well represented in this passage. Mackey illustrated this by explaining in detail the ointment. The precious ointment used in the consecration of a High Priest was placed upon the head in the form

of a cross, which, applied liberally, flowed down his beard and to the floor. The ceremony the new priest experiences is leaving behind the world of pain and suffering under captivity from Babylon; this alludes to the initiation a new candidate must also psychologically experience leaving the profane and dark world behind to a new world of light and truth.

To elaborate on Mackey's description, Psalm 133 denotes a new awakening, a birth, an introduction into the Masonic world for the candidate. It represents one's youth and vitality in our society; it is a rebirth of innocence and virtue, and a blessing to all who endeavor to congregate together. The 18th century authors of the initiatory work considered this a most welcoming scripture

passage to include in the first degree.

As you are well aware, the passage in the second degree is Amos 7:7 – 8, which includes the term "plumb line." Neither the origin or symbolic meaning of this piece is touched by Mackey, so I will offer my reasoning behind its insertion as the passage of this degree. The plumb-line is representative of both Operative and Speculative Masonry in that it refers to ensuring a structure is set at a 90 degree angle to the ground. Interpreting this passage, the Lord set a plumb-line amidst his people to admonish them to always be honest, show integrity, and be fair with their neighbor and most especially, the Lord. A plumb-line also represents a vertical line and with it, the peak of the day, or noon. The authors used this passage to show that it is in our prime of life when we should be most apt to live a life of fortitude and be responsible as was certainly expected of Amos' people. As the first passage illustrates an awakening of one's life, this passage was included to demonstrate that we are mature and fully conscious of our intentions toward ourselves and others.

The third degree uses Ecclesiastes 12:1-7 as its passage of choice. It should easily be noticed by Masons of all ages this is the most somber or sublime, if you will, of the three passages.

Mackey considered this passage "a beautiful and affecting selection of the body of man suffering under the infirmities of



William Preston, and invite anyone to add further light on specific Masons who inserted these passages into our work. Albert Mackey's book Manual of the Lodge from 1866, while not specifying the authors, offers more clarity on the meaning behind the insertion of the Biblical passages.

In the Entered Apprentice degree, he explains this passage teaches brotherly love

**About Nolan Sump:** Nolan Sump is a gifted facilitator for Hiawatha USD 415 and lives in Blue Rapids with his wife Monica. Ten years ago, Nolan was raised as a Master Mason in Salina Lodge No. 60. Since then, he has served as Worshipful Master of Cawker City No. 125 and is now the Master of Oketo No. 25. He is the current District Deputy Grand Master of District No. 21. In addition, Nolan serves on the Grand Lodge Public Schools Committee. You can contact Nolan with your questions at [sump\\_97@yahoo.com](mailto:sump_97@yahoo.com)



old age and metaphorically compared to a worn-out house about to fall into decay.” When writing the initiatory degrees, the authors knew this passage of scripture perfectly captured the lesson of life and death and immortality. It is meant for self-reflection of one’s accomplishments in life and remembrance of all other brothers who have preceded one in death. Its haunting words were meant not to strike fear in the hearts of Masons, but to remind them that there will be a place for them after they return to the parent dust.

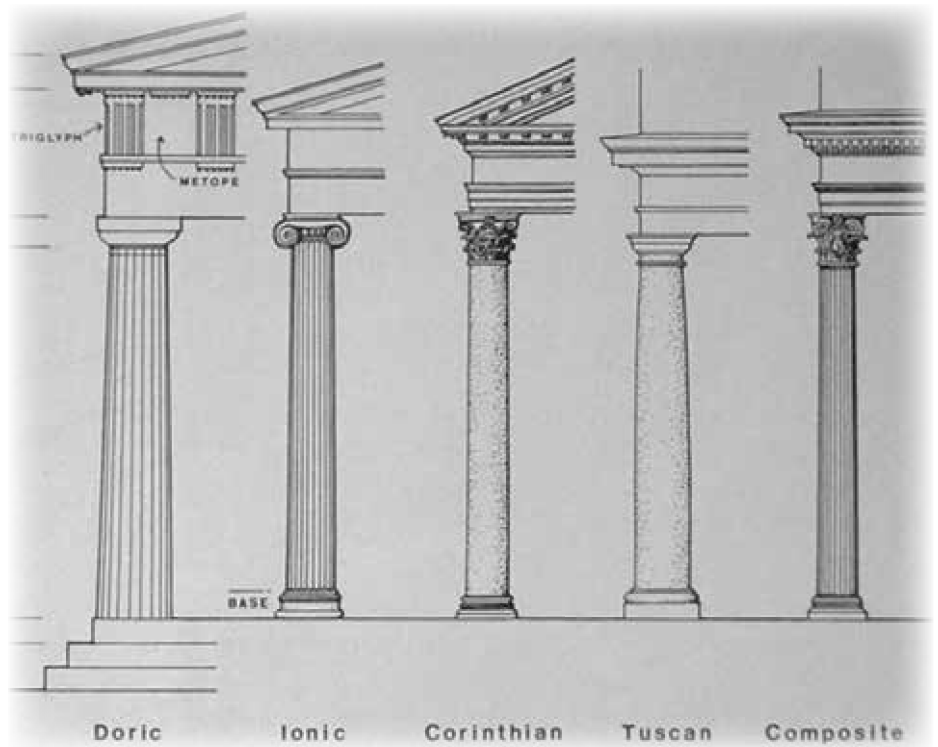
### QUESTION:

I’ve been listening to the stair lecture for some time now, and a thought occurred to me. I have Tuscan pillars on my front porch and when it is supposed to be the Doric in its earliest state, it looks nothing like the Doric at all. Which really came first, the Tuscan or the Doric?

— By The Plumb

### Answer:

With the trained eye it is easy to distinguish the Doric column from a Tuscan column due to the Doric being a shorter, stockier fluted version as compared to the smooth, straight Tuscan. Looking into Masonic documents, we find the basics of architecture, specifically, the differences between our first two orders. In Webb’s *Illustrations of Masonry*, he states while the Doric order is the oldest, the Tuscan Order is the simplest and most solid of the orders and invented in Tuscany. It is in his and Shaver’s *Masonic Monitor* where the reader can find more clarity on the five orders. What is not explained is further detail on each order. The Doric became popular during the Archaic Period in Greece between 750 and



430 BC. Examples of structures integrating this order are the Temple of Zeus and the Parthenon. The Etruscans, from which the word Tuscan is derived, lived between 750 and 500 BC on the mainland of Italy. During this time, the Tuscan Order was created in the form of columns with a stone base and wood as the composition of the pillar. Unfortunately, not much remains of Etruscan columns; regardless, research has led archeologists to believe Greek influence on the Etruscans assisted in the creation of this type of column, even if it was uniquely Etruscan in its own right. The only evidence from this is could have been the Temple of Jupiter Optimus Maximus, which was constructed at the end of the Etruscan rule. No evidence of specific Etruscan temples exists however, to determine whether the Tuscan column preceded the Doric column.

After 500 BC, the Roman Republic expanded on the peninsula and the Etruscans were assimilated into the Roman lifestyle. The concept of using Tuscan columns was

expanded upon and they were used for military structures, villa barns, and other one-story structures. It was not as popular as the other orders such as the Ionic, Corinthian, and Composite in Roman architecture in public buildings. It could be possible that Tuscan columns might have been forgotten had it not been for a book written in 1562 by Giacomo Barozzi da Vignola titled, *The Five Orders of Architecture*. As a result of this book, interest spurred in recreating structures with evidence of these orders, and the architects of the Renaissance benefited greatly from it.

Because of a lack of research methods and archeology, there is little information Renaissance authors could have provided on Etruscan influence on the Tuscan Order. Consequently, Fellowcrafts since approximately 1750 have been left with the simple statement, “the Tuscan is the Doric in its earliest state.” With a little research, we are now empowered to learn the rest of the story.

# KANSAS MASONIC FOUNDATION DIRECTORY

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## EVENT CALENDAR

<p><b>April 16</b>          Rusty Nail Degree,          Delphian Lodge No. 44 -          Garnett, 7:30PM</p>	<p><b>May 2</b>          Dedication of Isis Temple Building -          Salina</p>	<p><b>May 30</b>          125 Year Re-Dedication Ceremony -          Goodland Lodge No. 321</p>	<p><b>June 28</b>          St. John's Day Celebration -          Baldwin City</p>
<p><b>April 18</b>          Barnyard Degree -          Conway Springs</p>	<p><b>May 2</b>          Lodge of the Full Moon -          Coronado Heights</p>	<p><b>June 6</b>          Hays Steak Fry</p>	<p><b>June 28</b>          Dedication, Palmyra Lodge No. 23 -          Baldwin City</p>
<p><b>April 25</b>          100 Year Re-Dedication,          Active Lodge No. 158 - Atchison</p>	<p><b>May 9</b>          Kansas Lodge of Research Meeting          - Wichita</p>	<p><b>June 9</b>          Outdoor 3rd Degree - Baldwin City</p>	<p><b>July 21-25</b>          Kansas Masonic All-State          Marching Band Camp - Hays</p>
<p><b>May 2</b>          Consecration of Lodge Room, Golden          Rule Lodge No.90 - Topeka</p>	<p><b>May 16</b>          Statewide Masonic          Education Day          (Registration Required)</p>	<p><b>June 27</b>          Charity Shoot Event, -          Justice Lodge No. 457, McPherson, KS</p>	<p><b>July 25</b>          East-West Shrine Bowl - Hays</p>

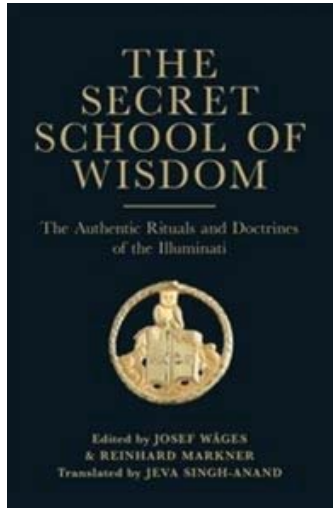
For more detailed and up-to-date information, please check the Grand Lodge website calendar at [KansasMason.org](http://KansasMason.org)

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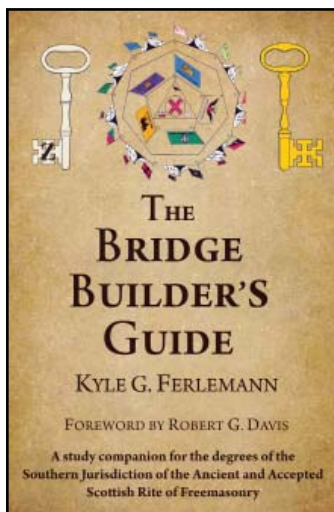
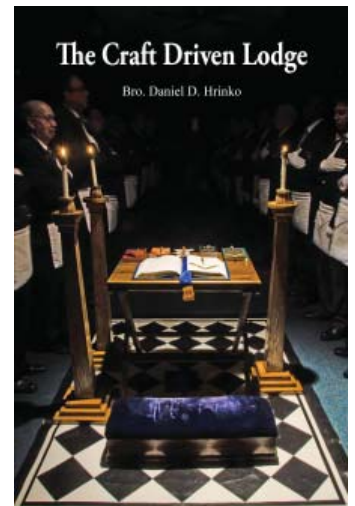
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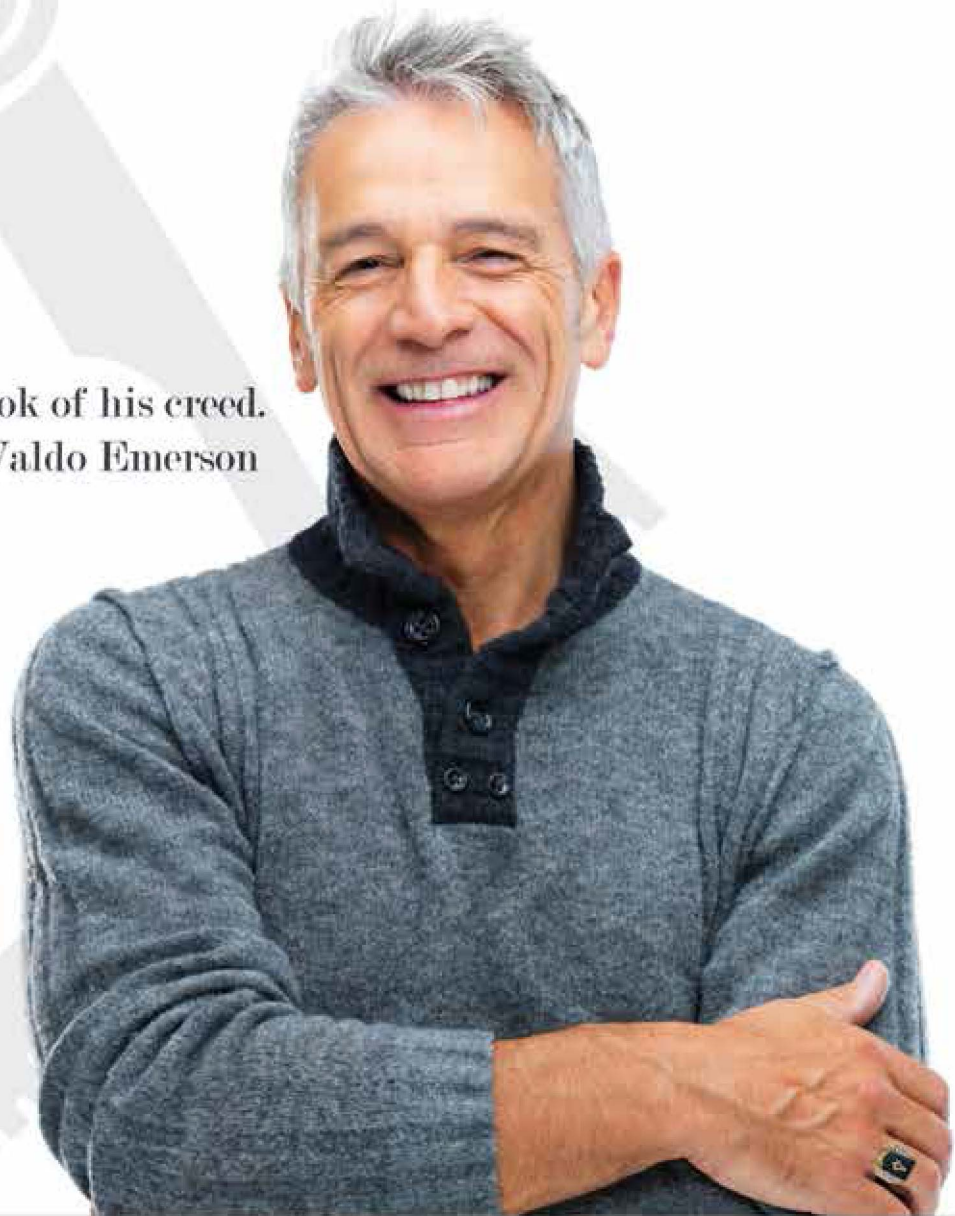


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